

FOCUS

THE ANDREWS UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

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Be the Best

John Wesley Taylor V, *president*

WHAT IF BEING “THE BEST” ISN’T ABOUT chasing perfection, crushing the competition or climbing fastest to the top?

What if being our best is simply about *faithfulness* to the calling God has placed on our life?

Think of Joseph, the dreamer with a brightly colored coat whose life took some unexpected and brutal turns. Betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery, imprisoned under false accusations—his life seemed to be a series of misfortunes.

But what sets Joseph apart isn’t the adversity that he faced. It’s how he responded. Rather than giving in to bitterness or despair, Joseph chose faithfulness. He worked diligently and trusted God.

The result? Genesis 39:3 says that God was with Joseph and gave him success in everything he did.

Joseph’s narrative didn’t end in obscurity. In a divine turn of events, he rose to become the second-in-command of Egypt. His faithfulness didn’t just change his story. It saved an entire nation.

What is our playbook to be the best?

1. Our best, not theirs. Being the best isn’t about being better than everyone else. It’s about being the best version of you and being faithful with what God has entrusted to you.

Remember, God has a custom plan for you. Jeremiah 29:11 says that He has your future on lock.

So, ask: “*What is my unique spark?*” Lean into your distinctive voice and own what makes you *you*.

Faithfulness is the goal. Excellence follows.

2. Growth beats perfection. Being the best isn’t about being flawless. Peter, Jesus’ right-hand man, fell short spectacularly, denying Jesus three times. But Peter grew and became an effective leader. His failure didn’t disqualify him. It formed him.

Life is sometimes messy. But being the best isn’t about perfection, it’s about progress. Every challenge is an opportunity to grow into your best self. And Philippians 1:6 promises, “... He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion” (NIV).

On this journey of growth, aim for *sustainable excellence*. That includes rest—key to peak performance and avoiding burnout. So, flip the hustle narrative. Being the best requires recharge time. That is one of the amazing benefits of the Sabbath principle: We rest to excel.

3. Faith fuels our best. Here is the secret sauce: Your best self runs on faith.

Take Esther—she didn’t chase fame, but when her moment came, she stepped up, prayed up and saved her people (Esther 4:14). As you pursue your calling, keep it connected to the big picture. Colossians 3:23 says, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord ...” (NIV).

Be the best for something greater than yourself. And remember, being the best isn’t all on you—lean on God. Philippians 4:13 declares, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (NKJV).

Start your day with this prayer: “God, be my strength and help me step into this day with confidence.” Then trust Him, like Joseph and Esther did, and watch Him move.

Here is the challenge: *What is one step I can take today to be the best and to fulfill God’s calling in my life?*

Write it down. Commit to it. Pray over it.

Remember, you are crafted to fulfill God’s unique plan—with excellence!



FOCUS

THE ANDREWS UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

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Faith in Every Step



Employee Awards

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Andrews continued commemoration of its historical milestones.

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Andrews employees were recognized at a special event on March 25.

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by Becky St. Clair

Three international students share their stories of courage and calling.

Cover: Neema Wereje, who completed a Bachelor of Business Administration in management, at the Commencement service for the College of Health & Human Services and College of Professions on May 4, 2025
Photo credit: Darren Heslop (BFA '12, current staff)

Top photo courtesy of Walter Serna Velásquez



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Visit Andrews University's YouTube channel to view Faith360 programs, Week of Prayer, spring graduation and more.
andrews.edu/go/youtube

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AndrewsUniv

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Letters are always welcome.

To ensure a range of viewpoints, we encourage letters of fewer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for content, style and space.

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Campus Update

Thousands of Andrews Study Bibles dedicated

For Pentecost 2025

ANDREWS STUDY BIBLES WILL BE USED this year in public evangelism meetings as part of Pentecost 2025, an initiative of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. On April 10, on the campus of Andrews University, the first 8,000 Andrews Study Bibles were dedicated before shipment.

The special edition of the Andrews Study Bible, called the Outreach Edition, has been the standard gift or presentation Bible in Adventist evangelism since its original release in 2012. The Andrews Study Bible is unique among evangelism resources because it contains more than 12,000 study notes and a one-of-a-kind, in-depth linked reference note system highlighting the great themes of the Christian faith. This makes it highly popular with evangelists

introducing new believers to a comprehensive system of Bible truth.

"We are told that more than 5,000 Pentecost 2025 evangelism events will take place in the North American Division during the year," says Ronald Knott, director of Andrews University Press. "Andrews is honored to be supplying this outstanding Bible for those events that we know will bless thousands."

Participating in the dedication were L.S. Baker Jr., associate director, Andrews University Press; Rebekah Gordan, customer service manager, Andrews University Press; Ronald Knott, director, Andrews University Press; Tim Madding, director, North American Division Evangelism Institute; and John Wesley Taylor V, president, Andrews University.



L-R: L.S. Baker Jr., Rebekah Gordan, John Wesley Taylor V, Tim Madding, Ronald Knott



Andreasen Indoor Triathlon, Feb. 23

LIFE ON CAMPUS



Proximity Vespers, Easter Service, April 18

Health Professions Job Fair, Feb. 10



Master Guide Toolbox, Feb. 7-8



Lunch & Learn Crochet, March 7



Gymnastics Homeshow, April 11-13



22nd Annual Music & Worship Conference, Feb. 13-15



Student Involvement, Leadership & Activities "Wrapping It Up" Party, April 24



Spring graduation

From May 1–4, 2025

DURING ANDREWS UNIVERSITY'S spring graduation, 291 students were awarded undergraduate degrees, and 402 students were awarded graduate degrees. Overall, about 693 students received their degrees in person. The week-end's events included a Friday evening Commencement service, Baccalaureate services on Sabbath morning and two additional Commencement services on Sunday morning. Other academic and cultural programs occurred throughout the weekend. For the first time, all Commencement services took place in the multipurpose hall of the Andraesen Center for Wellness.

On Friday, May 2, John Peckham, research professor of theology and Christian philosophy at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, spoke at the Commencement service for the seminary and the College of Education & International Services. His talk was titled "Do Not Lose Heart."

During the Friday evening service, E. Edward Zinke was recognized with an honorary Doctor of Divinity for his support of theological dialogue, especially in areas of faith and science, and use of Scripture as the foundation of education. Zinke has contributed regularly to the theological thinking of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church and has philanthropically supported numerous educational and theological conferences, symposia, scholarships and publications.

At the same service, Paul Brantley was distinguished with an honorary Doctor of Pedagogy for his commitment to improving educational resources and providing continued support for educators and students. Throughout his career, Brantley



FROM TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: John Peckham at Commencement on Friday ■ Honorary degree candidate Terry Shaw ■ Honorary degree candidate E. Edward Zinke ■ Honorary degree candidate Paul Brantley ■ Meredith Jones Gray at Commencement on Sunday ■ Ivan Williams at a Sabbath Baccalaureate

has helped establish several key resources for Adventist educators and provided transformational leadership in Adventist health care and at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

On Saturday, May 3, Ivan Williams, vice president of strategy and leadership and director of the Ministerial Association for the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, offered the address "No Regrets" for the Baccalaureate services.

On Sunday, May 4, at the 8:30 a.m. Commencement service, Terry Shaw, president and chief executive officer for AdventHealth, gave the address "Lighting the Way" for graduates of the College of Health & Human Services and College of Professions. He was also recognized

with an honorary Doctor of Business Administration for his support of the development of new leaders within Adventist health care and his dedication to whole-person health. For over four decades, Shaw has led AdventHealth through significant transitions and innovations, coordinating many of the organization's philanthropic initiatives in support of higher education.

Meredith Jones Gray, professor emerita of English at Andrews University, delivered the address "Commencement 1879 and the 'Golden Chain of Truth'" at the 11:30 a.m. Commencement service for graduates of the College of Arts & Sciences.

Central graduation events are available on the Andrews University YouTube channel.

Office of Mission & Culture

Initiatives and events

THE OFFICE OF MISSION & CULTURE, which operates under the Office of the President, is responsible for providing spiritual, administrative and academic leadership; promoting the mission and core values (well-being, integrity, innovation, trust, humility, justice, compassion) of Andrews University; and extending the “unity in diversity” vision, resources and programs across the University. Within the context of the mission and values of Andrews and the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the office also fosters and affirms a University community and campus culture that values and actively supports diversity.

To this end, the Office of Mission & Culture has introduced a renewed focus on Shabbat. Shabbat is a rest that pervades an individual holistically and manifests itself in a peace that positively impacts vertical and horizontal relationships—an individual’s walk with God and others. This emphasis contributes to a heightened sense of value and worth, a healthy mental outlook and increased physical well-being. Together, these things serve to strengthen relationships and build a stronger community as those at Andrews continue to seek knowledge, affirm faith and change the world. Working closely with the Faculty and Staff Senates, among others, the Office of Mission & Culture is creating actionable steps to bring these hopes and dreams to fruition.

There has also been a renewed emphasis on creation care. The Creation Care Council (CCC) was established by President John Wesley Taylor V to promote a culture of creation care and environmental stewardship on the Andrews University campus and beyond, in fulfillment of the divine commission to care for the earth. Focal points include finding ways to utilize renewable sources, make the campus more energy efficient, reduce waste and implement a recycling program, promote conservation, enhance

the biodiversity of the campus, promote environmental care and help solve real-world problems.

Creation care connects many who live in Southwestern Michigan. This reality was reinforced on May 22, during a meeting between Andrews University administration and members of the Pokagon Band of the Potawatomi, headquartered in Dowagiac, Michigan. This meeting built upon existing efforts to form a mutual relationship between neighbors who care for God’s creation.

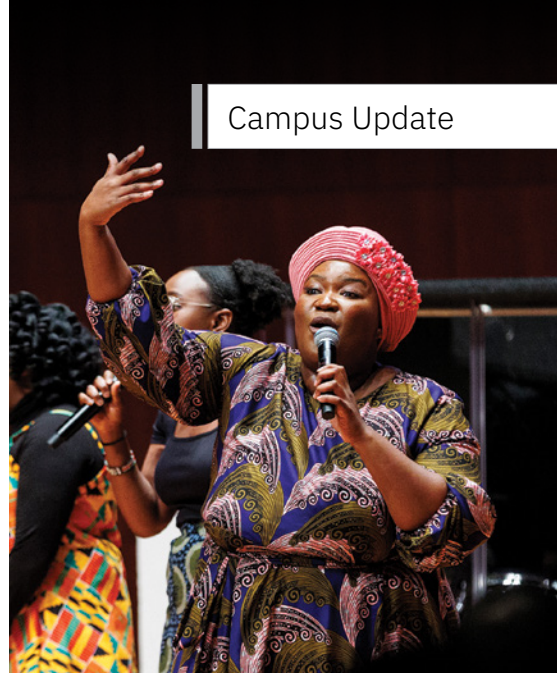
The Office of Mission & Culture also supported multiple cultural events on campus during the spring semester. During the Martin Luther King Jr. Day program on Jan. 20, a picture of and plaque honoring

“More than highlighting the rich diversity that Andrews offers, these cultural events speak to the outreach that many of the groups conduct throughout the Michiana region and surrounding states.”

Bernadine Archer, the first African American female graduate of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, were unveiled. They were placed alongside tributes to African American luminaries Elders Charles Bradford, E.E. Cleveland and Charles Brooks.

Heritage month celebrations commemorated Black History Month (February), Women’s History Month (March) and Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (recognized at Andrews in April). Then, during graduation weekend services, several campus cultural groups conducted their stole ceremonies.

Willie Hucks, DMin, assistant to the president for Mission & Culture, says, “More than highlighting the rich diversity that Andrews offers, these cultural events speak to the outreach that many of the groups conduct throughout the Michiana region and surrounding states. Andrews University recognizes that cultural expression works best within the context of missions.”



FROM TOP: Black History Month, Feb. 22 ■ Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jan. 20 ■ Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, April 4 ■ AULA Stole Ceremony, May 3

International Center for Trauma Education & Care

Continues to reach individuals and communities around the world

THIS SPRING, INITIATIVES BY THE International Center for Trauma Education & Care took place both in person and online and provided Andrews student interns and assistants with meaningful career-related experiences.

Ingrid Slikkers, executive director of the center, says, “The center has had the opportunity to facilitate a variety of trainings this year. Locally, we worked with the Berrien County Juvenile Court Division. We did on-campus trainings, and we trained the student missionaries before they headed out overseas. We’ve presented Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) Caregiver training, specialized educator trainings and suicide prevention training. We’ve also assisted pastors and educators throughout the North American Division and women’s ministry leaders at Babcock University in Nigeria. So really, it’s what God brings us if a request is made.”

The center’s interns and assistants help with and facilitate a number of the initiatives. Intern Serika Charles Delfish led a virtual trauma awareness training for 402 people—all pastors, elders, ministry leaders and congregation members belonging to the Upper Hill and Kijauri Seventh-day Adventist Churches in Kenya.

She says, “Facilitating the Kenya training was an opportunity to serve and a

profound experience of growth for me as an intern. It deepened my understanding of what it means to lead with humility and presence. I learned to hold space for difficult conversations, even when the answers weren’t simple. ... Above all, I was reminded that trauma-informed care is not just a concept to teach—it’s a way of being. It’s recognizing the inherent dignity in every person and believing in the possibility of restoration. The people of Kijauri exemplified that belief. And because of them, I carry it into every space I serve.”

In March 2025, Lisiane Umuhire, a graduate assistant at the center, went with a team of Andrews University students and two Center for Faith Engagement representatives on a trip to a children’s home in Bolivia. Umuhire led trauma awareness trainings for student missionaries working there and for the local Bolivian staff who cared for the children.

She says, “These trainings introduced foundational concepts about how trauma impacts child development and behavior

“I learned to hold space for difficult conversations, even when the answers weren’t simple.”



FROM TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: Berrien County Juvenile Court Division training ■ Bolivia trip ■ TBRI training ■ Kenya training ■ Specialized educator training

Photos courtesy of International Center for Trauma Education & Care

... It wasn’t just about theory—it was about giving them tools they could use immediately, in moments of stress, conflict or emotional shutdown.”

Umuhire also helped shape and implement a trauma-aware Vacation Bible School for the children. “Watching the kids respond to the activities—sometimes cautiously, sometimes with laughter—was a reminder that healing doesn’t happen all at once, but it begins in safe, intentional spaces,” she says.

Slikkers believes that international care is one of the most important services the center offers. She says, “We have a platform to be able to share information that people otherwise wouldn’t have had. It’s an honor and a privilege to be able to do that.”





Giving Day 2025

A story of generosity

THIS YEAR'S GIVING DAY, HELD APRIL 10–11, was a resounding success. Nearly \$35,000 was raised across more than 25 projects thanks to 120 generous donors. Contributors included both new and returning supporters.

Several areas—the Department of Biology, the Department of Mathematics, the Global Campus Study Bible project and the J.N. Andrews Honors Program—led in engaging Giving Day participants. The Honors Program even exceeded its \$5,000 goal.

A few weeks before Giving Day, L. Monique Pittman, director of Honors, asked



Maxine Umana, Honors administrative assistant and recruiter, to promote the effort on Instagram and TikTok. Umana rallied 15 Honors students to create nine dynamic, engaging videos. “There was a lot of energy among the students,” Umana shares. “They worked hard to get things done well and on time.”

The passion was contagious—parents of Honors students donated to the cause, reflecting the program’s positive impact on their children. One student summed it up perfectly: “I want to help Honors reach our goal. I love it here—it’s so much fun.”

Giving Day’s success was also driven

by strategic storytelling, video content, countdowns on the website, and targeted outreach via email, WhatsApp and social media. Faculty, staff and their families made up a significant portion of donors, and younger alumni responded especially well to student-driven content.

Steven Manoukian, director of Development, says, “With Giving Tuesday set for Nov. 4, 2025, the University is already laying the groundwork for even more collaboration, improved communication and streamlined donor data. If this spring is any indication, the future is bright—and generous.”



Campus Update

Andrews conference highlights Anabaptist movement

In honor of movement’s 500th anniversary

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY HOSTED THE “Anabaptist Conference: Living the Christian Life” from April 3–5, 2025. The conference brought together Mennonites and Adventists to “reflect on the past, engage with the present, and envision the future of Anabaptist traditions, emphasizing their enduring impact on Christian faith, peacebuilding, and communal living.”

Abner Hernández, assistant professor of church history, co-organized the event with Davide Sciarabba, assistant professor of systematic theology and ethics. Colleagues from Goshen College and the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary were invited to participate in the conference.

The first keynote speaker, John Roth, PhD, gave an address on the history and impact of the early Anabaptist movement. Roth is the project director for “Anabap-

tism at 500” and professor emeritus of history at Goshen College.

The second keynote speaker, Regina Wenger, PhD, educational curator at the Mennonite Heritage Center, examined the legacy of the Anabaptist movement in early education and its intersections with local communities.

Throughout the weekend, scholars engaged with the historical significance of Anabaptism and how the Adventist and Mennonite movements adopted its principles. The Anabaptist movement’s emphases on discipleship, community and peace were given center stage.

Sabbath morning featured a worship service titled “Re-Creating Community: Worship of Anabaptists and Adventists” led by David Williams. After lunch, breakout sessions and presentations resumed. John



Regina Wenger

Reeve’s closing plenary, “Bridging Centuries, Building Faith: Insights from the Anabaptist Conference,” encapsulated the impact of the conference.

Hernández shares, “The conference offered a profound occasion for theological reflection, historical remembrance, and spiritual renewal.”

Hyve conference promotes innovation at Andrews

From March 27–29, 2025

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY HOSTED THE third annual North American Hyve International Conference, a gathering where students, entrepreneurs, ministry leaders and businesspeople networked with fellow innovators and pitched their ideas. For Andrews, the conference built on innovation efforts, such as the University's annual Innovation Week, that take place throughout the year.

The collaborative efforts of Hyve International, led by founder and president Jesse Zwiker, and Andrews University's Center for Innovation & Entrepreneur-

CEO of CleanMiles, who emphasized the importance of crafting a business around the best interests of customers, and Dani Cruz, an entrepreneur and finance major at Andrews University, who underscored that having adequate time for religious and home life should be a priority.

On Thursday night, the Hyve Inter-Collegiate Pitch Competition took place, where student entrepreneurs from various Adventist universities competed to receive funding. The winners included Adventist Movies by Leonardo Aguilera (Andrews University) in first place, Fortify

The second day of the Hyve conference continued with panel discussions, networking opportunities and a keynote presentation by business owner Curtis Letniak. In the evening, a vespers service opened the Sabbath and featured a performance by award-winning Christian singer and Andrews graduate student Kevin Anthony Fowler (stage name K-Anthony).

Several entrepreneurs shared testimonies of how God helped them and how they were ultimately able to bless others in their ministries and businesses. David Asscherick, an ordained Seventh-day Adventist minister and director of Light Bearers Ministry, then delivered a message about the biblical figure Boaz, whom he described as an excellent example of what it means to be a godly person in business.

Discussions on how to be a better Christian businessperson continued on Saturday. Various talks and panel discussions explored how to provide business training for individuals and leaders in the Adventist church while still keeping the focus on meaningful ministry.

After sunset, the Hyve Startup Pitch Showcase took place, where entrepreneurs competed for financial awards from successful Adventist innovators and businesspeople. Sean Sutton of Bible Bricks was selected by the investors as the winner, and the audience choice award went to Andrew Gonzalez of Radical Homes.

Soto emphasizes the value of Hyve, especially for young Adventists who hope to balance entrepreneurial success and their faith. "Doing business and entrepreneurship does not have to be completely devoid of their religion or their spiritual connection with God," he says. "They can be combined so that you could do business with a purpose."

Students from the Andrews University Action Group, Seminary Student Forum and School of Business Administration actively participated in the Hyve conference, both as entrepreneurs and as volunteers. They supported registration booths and ensured that guests were cared for. Kato Golooba-Mutebi, finance major, notes, "The importance of an event like Hyve and why we brought it to Andrews was to also bring it to a place where we are also trying to work on the future. I think Hyve is building the future of Adventist business."



ship, directed by Matías Soto, produced a meaningful conference weekend of fellowship, education and professional development. Through various workshops and programs on campus, entrepreneurs shared their experiences and advice on how to cultivate a strong business that glorifies God.

"It exceeded my expectations," says Gael Rutayisire, international business and French major. "I met a lot of people, investors, start-ups, and they know what they want."

Attendees began their conference experience on Thursday morning with presentations by Lydia Matiushenko,

"I think Hyve is building the future of Adventist business."

Storage by David Kapiniak (Burman University) in second place and Hint of Michigan by Alex Butnaru and Evan Keyes (Andrews University) in third place.

On Friday morning, Adventist entrepreneur Gary Rayner gave a keynote address on the biblical principles of business. Citing texts like Ecclesiastes 9:10, he shared that genuine care for others should be an entrepreneur's leading motive in business.



FROM TOP, L-R: Site of original Administration Building ■ Wind Symphony performance ■ Burying the time capsule ■ George Knight ■ Denis Fortin



Celebrating 150 years

Commemorating Andrews University's historical milestones

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY'S SESQUICENTENNIAL celebrations continued throughout spring semester 2025. On Feb. 11, a special notice was sent to the campus community from the 150th Anniversary Committee recognizing the date's significance—150 years since the naming of Battle Creek College on Feb. 11, 1875.

From March 10–12, 2025, a series of scholarly presentations titled “Pioneering Through the Decades” was shared on the history of Andrews University. Speakers included Kevin Burton, Denis Fortin, George Knight, John Wesley Taylor V and Gilbert Valentine.

On March 11, 2025, the 150th Anniversary Committee commemorated the beginnings of the Seventh-day Adventist Education Society. The society was established on March 11, 1874, with the express purpose of forming a college. In recognition of the anniversary, the committee commissioned a flag to be flown over the U.S. Capitol. That flag

and a certificate were presented to the University and will be displayed in the James White Library.

The same day, the Andrews community was invited to Buller Hall to fill a time capsule that is set to be opened in 50 years, during the University's 200th anniversary. Suzanne Hayes, project manager for the 150th Anniversary Committee, began the program with a brief welcome and introduction. After a viewing of a commemorative 150th anniversary video, Chaplain Prescott Khair delivered a devotional message and offered prayer.

Representatives from different University entities presented items of significance for the capsule. Hayes, on behalf of the committee, added an Andrews University Press special edition of “Christ's Object Lessons” by Ellen G. White and the recently published second volume in the Andrews Heritage series, “Forward in Faith,” written by Meredith Jones Gray, professor emerita of English. Hayes also contributed an anniversary pin and sticker; tickets to a Sesquicentennial Gala that occurred earlier in the year; a skein of wool from sheep at the Andrews University Agriculture Education Center used to create commemorative 150th anniversary blankets; and updated scores of the school song, “Our Andrews U,” recently revised by Max Keller, chair of the Department of Music.

Anthony Bosman, chair of the Department of Mathematics and chair of the

Faculty Senate, provided a University-branded mask as a reminder of Andrews' resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic, a 150th anniversary Christmas ornament, and a graduation tassel with the Andrews 150th anniversary seal. Darius Bridges, assistant dean for Student Involvement, Leadership & Activities, presented a flyer from the 2025 AUnited program celebrating cultural diversity and a special anniversary print edition of *The Student Movement*. Maxine Umana, administrative assistant for the J.N. Andrews Honors Program and member of the Staff Senate, completed the capsule's contents with a printed Sam's Chicken recipe.

After the time capsule was filled, the group moved outdoors to the site of the original Administration Building. The Andrews University Wind Symphony gave a special performance of “Our Andrews U,” then President John Wesley Taylor V gave a brief welcome and shared a few words on the meaning of the event. The time capsule was placed in the ground, and President Taylor deposited the first shovelful of dirt over it. Attendees were then offered the opportunity to participate, as well, until the capsule was completely buried. The event made local news when it was covered by ABC57.

A plaque at the site will read: “Founded in Faith, Forward in Mission. On Founders' Day, March 11, 2025, a time capsule was placed here in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Andrews University. May this time capsule be opened during the University's 200th anniversary year 2074–2075 unless preempted by The Blessed Hope. ‘Even so, come, Lord Jesus!’”

“May this time capsule be opened during the University's 200th anniversary year 2074–2075 unless preempted by The Blessed Hope. ‘Even so, come, Lord Jesus!’”

School of Nursing unveils remodeled simulation lab

Made possible through support from AdventHealth

THE ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL of Nursing has taken a significant leap forward in nursing education with the unveiling of its newly remodeled Skills and Simulation Lab. This upgraded facility, made possible through generous support from AdventHealth, aims to provide students with an immersive and technologically advanced training environment that mirrors real-world health care settings.

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony held on March 3, 2025, in Marsh Hall, AdventHealth Endowed Chair of Nursing Barbara Harrison reflected on the transformative journey that led to the remodeled lab. She shared that the initiative began in September 2023 when the University identified a potential funding opportunity to enhance its nursing training facilities. Following meticulous planning, the proposal for the new lab received approval in March 2024 and construction began in July.

When students returned in August, they were welcomed into a completely reimagined learning space. “The look on their faces was priceless,” said Harrison. The renovation introduced a spacious, state-of-the-art simulation lab, which consists of a seven-patient bay area, 30-seat classroom and specialized simulation suite. The suite includes three patient rooms, a medication room and a dedicated debriefing area.

University leadership, students and faculty were joined by representatives from AdventHealth and the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists to celebrate the grand opening. At the ceremony, President John Wesley Taylor V linked the new space to the ministry of Jesus Christ. “Healing and teaching were central to Jesus’ ministry, and this facility embodies those principles,” he stated. “This lab is not just about skills development; it’s about shaping nurses who will extend Christ’s healing ministry in their careers.”

The facility features cutting-edge technology, including advanced audio-visual systems, a new Pyxis MedStation, upgraded crash carts and improved EKG machines. The additions also include

multiple next-generation simulation mannequins equipped with artificial intelligence, lifelike movements and conversational speech capabilities, which allow students to practice responding to a range of medical scenarios.

Senior nursing student Tsitsi Pazvakawambwa shared, “When I first started this program, our simulation lab was outdated, and we often had to improvise. Now, with this state-of-the-art facility, students have access to realistic, high-quality training tools that will significantly enhance their learning experience.” She added, “I’m incredibly grateful for what they will offer future nursing cohorts.”

AdventHealth played a pivotal role in making this vision a reality. In recognition of their invaluable partnership, Taylor presented Olesea Azevedo,

AdventHealth’s chief administration officer, with a “Legacy of Leadership” gift—a replica of the J.N. Andrews sculpture—representing the University’s mission and shared commitment to health care excellence.

Azevedo remarked, “Nursing is a calling, and as Adventists, we believe in a different kind of health care—one that goes beyond physical health to focus on whole person care. A health care that is focused on one’s mind, body and spirit. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with Andrews University to extend this care to more communities. Jesus has called us to this mission, and we are committed to fulfilling it.”

Sara Kim, chair of the School of Nursing, shared, “The importance of simulation is that students are able to practice skills in a low-stress environment, which enables them to do their best once they enter real clinical settings.” She explained, “This space allows our students to gain confidence and refine their abilities before they ever step into a hospital.”

As the School of Nursing continues to expand its resources and elevate its standards, this new simulation lab stands as a testament to the University’s dedication to training compassionate, skilled and mission-driven health care professionals.

“This space allows our students to gain confidence and refine their abilities before they ever step into a hospital.”



STEM teams receive instrumentation award

To benefit classes and research

THE ANDREWS UNIVERSITY Department of Biology and Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry have been awarded several instruments for protein purification and analysis. Andrews, designated as a Minority Serving Institution (MSI), received the award from the Department of Defense Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institution Research and Education Program. Pursuit of this funding opportunity was led by Peter Lyons, professor in the Department of Biology, who serves as principal investigator for the department's research on proteolytic enzyme activity.

Lyons is one of 98 university researchers across the United States chosen to receive an instrumentation award to enhance and develop their institution's research and educational programs. "The equipment needs addressed through this funding opportunity will enhance research by providing safe but technolog-

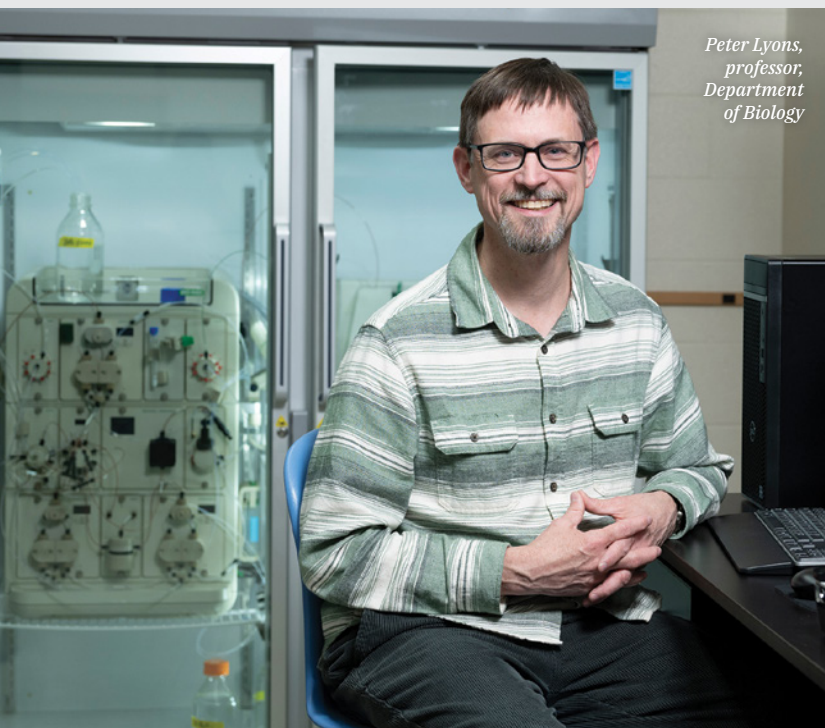
ically advanced systems for our undergraduate students to develop and fine-tune research laboratory skills, while becoming proficient in research design, data collection and reporting," says Lyons.

The instruments awarded include a Fast Protein Liquid Chromatography (FPLC) system (BioRad), a general-purpose Chromatography Refrigerator (Fisher Scientific), and a DiGit Duo system (LICO). Lyons explains the need for these instruments, sharing, "Protein purification is presently done in our labs using gravity or centrifugation methods. While effective, these methods are slow and yield small amounts of product."

Award funds have also enabled the purchase of a refrigerated centrifuge (Eppendorf) and a SpectraMax M5 Multi-Mode Microplate Reader.

Several classes will utilize the equipment for laboratory exercises and as part of course-based undergraduate research experiences.

*Peter Lyons,
professor,
Department
of Biology*



Andrews University hosts ehuddle 2025

From Feb. 24–26

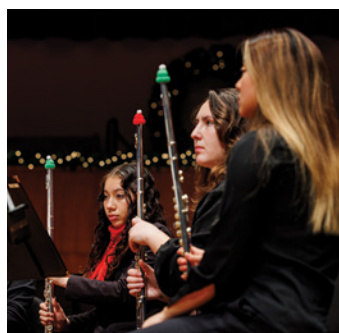
THE EHUDDLE IS THE ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE Pastoral, Vision, and Leadership Evangelism Team, led by the Ministerial Association of the North American Division (NAD) of Seventh-day Adventists. The team holds division-wide collaborative conversations on evangelism, outreach and church growth and receives feedback and input from the field.

José Cortés Jr., associate ministerial director for evangelism, NAD, says, "We came to Andrews University to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the ehuddle and the launch of the division-wide Pentecost 2025 initiative—not just with pastors and leaders from across North America but with the next generation of ministers: our seminary students, theology majors, and faculty. With over 300 in attendance and joined by thousands more around the world via livestream, we gathered for one purpose—to be inspired by the stories of what God is doing through ordinary people and courageous churches who are loving the lost, reaching the unreached, planting new congregations, and breathing new life into existing ones."

Overall, pastors and church leaders from various levels and regions of the church in North America shared overwhelmingly positive feedback on the event. They expressed appreciation for the location, food, presentation topics and uplifting conversations. This year also marked the first time that modalities in both English and Spanish were offered.

Gerardo Oudri, associate director for resources, Ministerial Association, says, "Above all, we hope that many leaders, as well as churches, will be impacted by this gathering so God's kingdom will continue to grow in North America and many more people will choose to become followers of Jesus."

Photo courtesy of José Cortés Jr.



L-R, FIRST ROW: Lake Michigan Youth Orchestra, Dec. 8 ■ Department of Music Ensembles Christmas Extravaganza, Dec. 8 ■ Ruth Murdoch Elementary School Vocal Christmas Concert, Dec. 18 ■ **SECOND ROW:** Sunday Music Series: Hein Jung & Chi Yong Yun, Jan. 26 ■ Wind Symphony Winter Concert & Southwestern Michigan College Brass Band, Feb. 1 ■ Howard Center Presents: SELAH, Feb. 2 ■ **THIRD ROW:** Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition, Feb. 8 ■ Howard Center Presents: The King's Singers, Feb. 10 ■ Choirs: Chasing Away the Blues Concert, Feb. 22 ■ **FOURTH ROW:** Sunday Music Series: Euclid Quartet, Feb. 23 ■ Department of Music Showcase Concert, Feb. 27 ■ Department of Music Music Festival Concert, March 1



L-R, FIRST ROW: *Wind Symphony Vespers Concert: Sing Praise!*, Feb. 28 ■ *Sunday Music Series: Andrews University Composers Concert*, March 9 ■ *Howard Center Presents: The Katinas*, March 30 ■ **SECOND ROW:** *Choirs Spring Concert: Paradise Promised*, April 5 ■ *Wind Symphony Spring Concert: Scenes of Summer*, April 12 ■ *Singer/Actor Studio Opera*, April 14 ■ **THIRD ROW:** *Symphony Orchestra: WAUS Thank You Concert*, April 19 ■ *Howard Presents: Carla Trynchuk and Elena Braslavsky*, April 20 ■ *K-Anthony and Friends*, April 25 ■ **FOURTH ROW:** *Lake Michigan Youth Orchestra*, April 27 ■ *Ruth Murdoch Elementary School Spring Instrumental Concert*, May 13 ■ *Ruth Murdoch Elementary School Spring Vocal Concert*, May 20

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J.N. Andrews Medallion recipient

John Peckham was honored

DURING THE SPRING 2025 graduation weekend, John Peckham, research professor of theology and Christian philosophy at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, received the prestigious J.N. Andrews Medallion at the Commencement service for the seminary and the College of Education & International Services on Friday, May 2. Peckham was



honored for his commitment to instilling a love of scripture in his students and his ongoing mentoring in theological research.

"I am humbled and deeply grateful to receive the J.N. Andrews Medallion," says Peckham. "It is a great privilege to serve as a member of the seminary faculty."

Peckham obtained bachelor's degrees in accounting and administration from Atlantic Union College

in 2003 and received his Master of Divinity and PhD in systematic theology from Andrews University in 2005 and 2012, respectively.

He pastored in the Indiana Conference before, in 2009, he began teaching religion at Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Texas. In 2012, he was honored with the Educator of the Year Award from Southwestern.

He joined the Andrews seminary faculty in 2013, where he has made a significant impact upon the student population and his fellow professors. For his excellence in teaching and scholarship, Peckham received the Daniel A. Augsburg Excellence in Teaching Award in 2016 and the Siegfried H. Horn Excellence in Research & Creative Scholarship Award in 2019. In addition to his work at the seminary, Peckham served for the

John's passion is studying and proclaiming the beauty and truth of biblical theology and the incomparable love of God that it manifests.

past two years as associate editor of the Adventist Review.

Peckham's work has been widely published, including over 50 articles in academic and popular journals, 20 chapters in edited books, 60 scholarly papers and 10 books. His passion for scholarship is evident to all, and his articles have been featured in the Trinity Journal, Philosophia Christi, Perspectives in Religious Studies,

Themelios, Andrews University Seminary Studies and more.

Some of his most recent books include "Why We Pray: Understanding Prayer in the Context of Cosmic Conflict" (Baker Academic, 2024), "God's Love and Justice" (Pacific Press, 2024) and "God with Us: An Introduction to Adventist Theology" (Andrews University Press, 2023). Several of his publications have been recognized by the Readers' Choice Awards, WORLD Magazine and the Christianity Today Book Awards.

Other books Peckham has written include "Divine Attributes: Knowing the Covenantal God of Scripture" (Baker Academic, 2021), "The Doctrine of God: Introducing the Big Questions" (T&T Clark, 2019), "Theodicy of Love: Cosmic Conflict and the Problem of Evil" (Baker Academic, 2018), "Canonical Theology: The Biblical Canon, Sola Scriptura, and Theological Method" (Eerdmans, 2016) and "The Love of God: A Canonical Model" (IVP Academic, 2015). He is also the co-editor, with R.T. Mullins, of the "Studies in the Doctrine of God" book series (Cascade).

In addition to his scholarship, Peckham has actively served his community and church, including as a member of the General Conference Executive Committee, General Conference Leadership Council, Faith and Science Council, Biblical Research Institute Committee and more.

He is married to Brenda, a registered nurse, and they have one son, Joel, their pride and joy. John's passion is studying and proclaiming the beauty and truth of biblical theology and the incomparable love of God that it manifests.

Recognition & Awards Ceremony

Faculty honored for work with students

THE ANNUAL RECOGNITION & Awards Ceremony on Thursday, April 24, recognized student scholarship and honors as well as exemplary leadership in student employment and extracurricular activities. Several faculty members were also recognized.

Kristin Denslow, associate professor and newly appointed chair of the Department of English, and **Tom Goodwin**, professor of biology, received Teacher of the Year awards from the Andrews University Student Association. The designation followed a poll of the undergraduate student body that asked students to nominate a faculty member who goes beyond the classroom, serving as a mentor, a friend and an exceptional educator who leaves a lasting impact on students' lives.

Denslow taught several courses during the 2024–2025 school year, including College Writing, Approaches to English Studies, and Literature for Children. She was also the co-leader for a faculty book club on Teaching with AI and co-sponsor of the Andrews University Theatre Wing. Since joining the Andrews faculty in 2022, she has actively served both the University and its surrounding community.

"Receiving this award was such an honor for me," she shares. "The influence of my Andrews University professors shaped the teacher I am today because I learned the values of relationship-rich education, learning in community and sharing your passion for a subject with the next generation. ... I have had the privilege of working with talented, interesting, engaging students, and the act of reading, writing and thinking together every semester continues to bring me so much joy."

Goodwin led the classes Foundations of Biology I, Scientific Communication, and Historical and

Philosophical Biology. Additionally, he chaired the Professional Recommendations Committee, helping students apply to professional schools.

"I love teaching, so this award is especially meaningful," he says. "This year was somewhat nostalgic as my last year as a full-time faculty member at Andrews. My last day of lecturing of spring semester was especially memorable—I was awarded the Teacher of the Year award in the morning, then led my final class discussion in the afternoon. The latter was quite an emotional experience!"

During the ceremony, **Anthony Bosman**, associate professor and chair of the Department of Mathematics, was also honored with the Undergraduate Research Mentor Award. Each year, Andrews University recognizes faculty mentors for their excellence in mentoring undergraduate research students. This award was established in 2015 by the dean of the College of Arts & Sciences.

Bosman has been a dedicated mentor to students engaging in research. In the summer of 2024, he led a mathematics research experience for undergraduates that brought together several students from Andrews University and peer universities. The students were able to present their findings at the nation's largest mathematics conference. He shares, "It was a joy seeing students grow into scholars by engaging an unsolved problem, making original contributions and communicating their findings to others in the mathematics community."

Bosman adds, "Andrews is unique among our peer universities for the amount and quality of undergraduate research happening here. It is a privilege to work with such talented students who advance the boundaries of human knowledge as they seek to love God with all their minds."



Kristin Denslow



Tom Goodwin



Anthony Bosman

Conclusion of CAO search process

Wagner Kuhn begins new role



AFTER A RIGOROUS AND prayerful search process, University administration formally announced that Wagner Kuhn has been selected as Andrews University's new Chief Academic Officer (CAO).

Reflecting on his new role, Kuhn shares, "As CAO of Andrews University, I will seek to cultivate a Christ-centered academic environment that reflects our commitment to God, dedication to academic and professional excellence, and passion for service. In alignment with the Andrews University mission, our academic program will emphasize the transformative power of an Adventist education that is rooted in Scripture."

Kuhn brings over 30 years of distinguished service to the

Seventh-day Adventist Church across three world regions to this position. He holds a PhD in missiology, and his early career included roles as a pastor, a publishing department leader and an executive director for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency. He later served as an associate director of the Institute of World Mission and as professor and chair of the Department of World Mission at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. Most recently, he served as associate dean and director of postdoctoral programs at the seminary.

Kuhn says, "My vision is that we at Andrews University, especially faculty and students, will walk forward together, united in the same purpose and mission of the Master Teacher. This vision calls for a community that edifies one another, fostering a culture of mutual respect, empathy, encouragement and accountability."

He adds, "Thus, Andrews University is a place where faculty inspire students to think creatively and act compassionately, where staff create an environment of support and excellence, and where administrators lead with wisdom and humility. Together, we seek to honor our Creator and Savior, intentionally cultivating an atmosphere where faith and learning flourish and where every individual is empowered to fulfill their God-given potential."

Conclusion of VP SEMC search process

Bordes Henry Saturné begins new role

BORDES HENRY SATURNÉ HAS ACCEPTED THE CALL TO serve as Andrews University's new vice president for Strategic Enrollment, Marketing & Communication.

Henry Saturné brings over three decades of service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church across three world divisions. His early career included roles as a pastor, radio station general manager, educator and school principal. He later served as a superintendent of schools, college vice president for enrollment services, university vice president for student life, and chair of the Andrews University School of Leadership.

In addition to his administrative leadership, Henry Saturné is a sought-after speaker and has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals. He is passionate about sharing God's love with others and equipping the next generation of leaders.

Henry Saturné shares, "I embrace this new role with the conviction that Andrews University has the potential to grow regionally, nationally and internationally. We are looking forward to implementing the best professional practices and leveraging cutting-edge technology to propel the institution to the next level. In close cooperation with our dedicated staff, distinguished faculty, successful alumni, committed administration and supportive board, we hope to create a synergy that will contribute to steady enrollment growth. With God, everything is possible."



A personal calling

Randy Graves retires after more than 28 years of service to Andrews

“I HAVE ALWAYS ENJOYED HELPING others learn,” says Randall “Randy” Graves. “I determined my senior year in high school that I wanted to be a high school science teacher to help others prepare for science-related careers. That goal broadened to helping students enter college and successfully pursue whatever career God is calling them to.”

Randy began his career at Upper Columbia Academy as a science teacher and assistant boys’ dean. During that time, he saw an article in the Journal of Adventist Education about Andrews Academy being named a National Blue Ribbon School. “I felt then I would very much like to work at Andrews Academy,” he says.

Ten years later, after completing a master’s degree and gaining further experience in the field of education, Randy was offered the position of principal at Andrews Academy, a role he held from 1996 until 2001. He especially enjoyed providing meaningful experiences for students both through on-campus events and through travel on senior class trips to Colorado and Wisconsin.

In July 2001, Randy transitioned into work at Andrews University. He first coordinated distance education and advised students in the School of Education before moving into the role of associate director of Enrollment Management. From 2005 until 2012, he worked as the

director of Recruitment Services, then the associate vice president for Enrollment Management.

In August 2012, Randy was hired as vice president for Enrollment Management, with the role later expanding into the position of vice president for Marketing & Enrollment Management and International Student Services.

Most recently, he served as director of the Bridge to Success Program from August 2020 until his retirement on Jan. 1, 2025.

Over the years, Randy assisted in several initiatives to improve Andrews facilities and processes. These included the remodel work at Andrews Academy in the 1990s and the remodel of the Enrollment offices in the Administration Building in 2018.

“No matter what academy, high school, college or part of the world that students have come from ... they each have a very interesting story, and it is a privilege to have even a small part in that ongoing story.”



He also helped develop the preVue online registration program for incoming freshmen and the Andrews Partnership Scholarship.

“The faculty and staff teams I worked with have been an invaluable part of the ongoing successes we experienced,” Randy shares. “The working relationships that have become lifelong friendships, along with influencing students’ lives and helping them move forward to their professional and personal calling in life, are what I am most thankful to have been a part of. I am particularly grateful for the leadership opportunities given to me at Andrews University by Stephen Payne, Dr. Niels-Erik Andreasen and Dr. Andrea Luxton.”

Randy especially appreciated the diverse backgrounds of his students and fellow employees. “The experience of working with people from all over the world here at Andrews has had such an important impact on my life,” he says. “No matter what academy, high school, college or part of the world that students have come from to be a part of the Andrews University program, they each have a very interesting story, and it is a privilege to have even a small part in that ongoing story.”

During retirement, Randy plans to spend more time with his wife, Mary Ann, children and grandchildren, who all live nearby. He continues to contribute to the University as a freshman recruiter and advisor for the School of Education.

He says, “These many years being part of the Berrien Springs and Andrews University communities have been such a blessing to my family and to me. I’ve learned that you can do whatever God has called you to do.”

Tari Popp retires

After more than 43 years of service at Andrews



THERESA “TARI” POPP BEGAN HER ANDREWS UNIVERSITY journey as a student. She attended all four years as an undergraduate in the School of Business and, during that time, worked as a student employee in Payroll. She graduated in 1981 with a BS in accounting and was hired as a junior accountant in Andrews University’s Financial Records office, where she later became a senior accountant.

In 1992, Tari was invited to join the Advancement team as a trust accountant in the Office of Planned Giving & Trust Services. Then, in 2004, she accepted the position of director of Planned Giving & Trust Services, a role she held until her retirement in 2025. She also held the title of corporate secretary for the University from 2015 until her retirement.

“I have always been driven to treat people with respect and to let them know by attentive listening that they have

value,” says Tari. She found this approach especially important as director of Planned Giving & Trust Services, where she helped individuals navigate the process of establishing estate plans.

“I learned that everyone carries burdens in some way or another,” she says. “I also learned, especially working with a more mature/experienced age group, that everyone wants to be appreciated and valued for their contributions in life.”

She adds, “I have felt the responsibility to represent our office, the Seventh-day Adventist Church and God well. I’ve never wanted to reflect poorly on any of the three. I have thought of that often when I am interacting with trustees/donors or those in the community I do business with.”

Throughout her career, Tari attended many funeral services and found that she never left a service without wishing she had known that person better. “I was also blessed to hear our message of hope over and over again,” she says. “That positively impacted me a lot when my husband, Doug, passed away a year ago.”

Tari has been grateful to be part of an organization with such an impact on the global Seventh-day Adventist Church. She has appreciated the many opportunities for personal spiritual growth, too, including as a member at Pioneer Memorial Church and through opportunities to serve, like Change Day.

Change Day allowed her to see firsthand how Andrews students—coming from a variety of backgrounds and experiences—wanted to grow spiritually and make a differ-

“I will miss both colleagues and donors who, like me, love Andrews so much and focus on making it a better place.”

ence in the world. “I was always so delighted and amazed at the large group of students that showed up first thing those mornings with the desire and energy to impact our community,” says Tari.

She witnessed that same type of drive in the faculty and staff she worked with and says, “I think I have been most impacted by their determined effort to bring their best to work each day. I will miss both colleagues and donors who, like me, love Andrews so much and focus on making it a better place.”

In retirement, Tari will stay in the Berrien Springs area for now and looks forward to regularly connecting with friends and family, especially her daughter, son-in-law and two granddaughters. She plans to simplify her life, tap into her creative side and travel more.

The next level

Brian Wong retires

AS A PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY AT ANDREWS UNIVERSITY, Brian Wong's focus has been to help students reach higher academic and professional heights. "It feels good that I have a small part to play when I see a student getting into various medical, dental, physical therapy or nursing programs and they come back to tell me that they appreciate the academic and spiritual preparation they had from our lab and class," he says.

Brian joined the Department of Biology in 2016, serving for over eight years until his retirement on Jan. 1, 2025. Previously, Brian was a professor of biology at Caribbean Union College in Trinidad and Tobago for seven years. He also spent five years at a K-12 school in Macao, China, where he was missionary principal and taught biology to 11th and 12th graders.

From a young age, Brian was eager to advocate for the intricacies of Creation. Now, he says, "Whether it be teaching general biology, anatomy and physiology, or microbiology in the classroom ... or advising pre-med and pre-dent students, I see it all as a platform to share the love of biology and the Designer and Creator God."

In addition to his regular classroom re-

sponsibilities, Brian is passionate about cancer prevention research. In particular, he has enjoyed working with Andrews undergraduate students on his projects. "I am always excited to see students finding new things and getting excited about their findings, especially when they enjoy cancer research more after attending and presenting in international cancer meetings," he shares.

In the laboratory, Brian and his students explored and demonstrated the effectiveness of phytochemicals found in certain Chinese herbs to induce pro-apoptotic proteins in various cancer cell lines. Their findings have contributed to studies on colon, prostate, breast, brain and pancreatic cancers, and the students have been inducted into the American Association for Cancer Research.

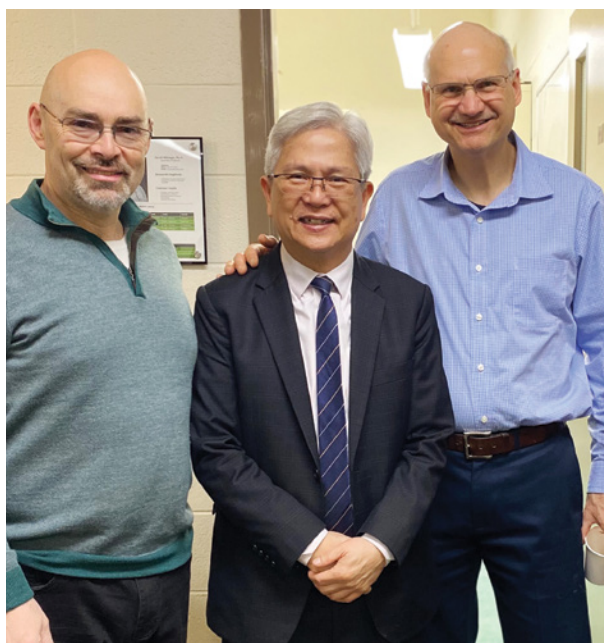
Brian expresses appreciation for the outstanding professional support provided by the Andrews community. He describes the school environment as being both "awarding and spiritually uplifting," especially when working with colleagues or hearing about students' spiritual experiences. In retirement, he shares that he will miss both the inter-

actions and encouragement he received from students and colleagues.

In the future, Brian, his wife Teresa and their son plan to spend part of the year in their new Lincoln, Nebraska, home and the rest in Hong Kong, living in Brian's old family home. He plans to renovate that home, attend continuing education courses in Chinese medicine in Hong Kong, volunteer for different workshops at his home church and represent Andrews in various student recruitment seminars by Hong Kong Adventist College. He expresses that after a year or two of settling into his new retired life, he is open to answering more calls to serve in Adventist colleges, secondary schools or churches.

Inspired by Romans 10:14 and Isaiah 6:8, Brian has spent his 40-year career answering the call to serve God's children. He shares, "Offering the most strenuous academic preparation and instilling the love of Jesus and His ministry to every student has always driven my entire professional life in education."

"... I see it all as a platform to share the love of biology and the Designer and Creator God."



Photos courtesy of Brian Wong

Following God's lead

Dennis Hollingsead retires

WHILE WORKING AT ANDREWS UNIVERSITY, Dennis Hollingsead had a framed photo in his office with a quote from Genesis 45:8: "It was not you who sent me hither, but God." Although he never anticipated a career at Andrews, his answer to God's direction led him to over 20 years of dedicated service to the University.

Dennis' connection to Andrews began when he was a student. After graduating from Pacific Union College with a bachelor's in music education, he went on to obtain a master's degree in music from Andrews in 1975. Later, he completed a master's in library science from Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Following his graduation from Andrews, Dennis spent several years as a painting contractor in Mankato, Minnesota. He also worked at Shawnee Mission Medical Center, developing curriculum and training computer systems. His path led back to Andrews when his wife, Candice Haas Hollingsead, was appointed department chair for Teaching, Learning & Curriculum at the University.



In 2002, Dennis was hired as administrative assistant to Patricia Mutch, vice president of Academic Administration. While working in this position, he helped create the first shared online calendars to coordinate conference room scheduling in the Administration Building. He also made key pieces of the Andrews University Working Policy available online and helped collect faculty rank and tenure information into a trackable and maintainable spreadsheet. "I appreciated the leadership of Dr. Patricia Mutch," he comments.

Four years later, Dennis became executive assistant to the provost, Heather Knight. He served in that position for two years before transitioning to the Office of Development as prospect management officer in 2008. "I learned to be much more outgoing and talkative with others," he reflects of his various roles, noting that he also learned how to emulate several of God's character traits, including patience and long-suffering.

Throughout his time at Andrews, Dennis appreciated collaborating with many exceptional student workers. In addition to the quality of his colleagues, he valued the extended campus community and the spiritual offerings on campus. "I was positively impacted by the ministry of Dwight Nelson," he shares.

In his final role before retirement, Dennis was named interim director of Development in 2023. There, he helped donors provide financial

"What makes Andrews University stand out to me is the worldwide impact it has had. I will miss being part of a worldwide educational, mission-focused system."

assistance for students in need, supporting the educational journeys of the Andrews community. He shares, "What makes Andrews University stand out to me is the worldwide impact it has had. I will miss being part of a worldwide educational, mission-focused system."

In the future, Dennis plans to continue woodworking projects, reading, and publishing children's stories. During the summer, he will enjoy sailing and working in the garden. He and Candice have moved to North Dakota, where they are engaged in mission outreach. He affirms, "My life has been and continues to be guided by God and His direction."



EMPLOYEE AWARDS CELEBRATION

Forward in Faith

On Tuesday, March 25, 2025, the Employee Awards Celebration took place in the Howard Performing Arts Center. University employees were honored for their years of service as well as excellence in service, teaching, research and creative scholarship, wellness, and faith engagement.



Hosts Anthony Bosman, chair and associate professor in the Department of Mathematics, and Simona Mills-Pitcher, assistant chaplain in the Center for Faith Engagement, began the evening with a prayer and welcome. Then, between award segments, they led attendees on a journey through Andrews University history via an interactive “AU Trivia Show.”

At the end of the program, Bosman and Mills-Pitcher shared a special tribute to Andrews University from the State of Michigan that commemorated the University’s 150th anniversary and acknowledged its accomplishments, growth and valuable contributions to the Southwest Michigan community.

During closing remarks, President John Wesley Taylor V said, “Paul wrote to Philemon, ‘I thank my God because of

you.’ And tonight, that is our heartfelt sentiment on behalf of each of those who have received special recognition and awards. We thank God for you. But those who have been recognized this evening are just a sample—a sample of the wonderful Andrews University family and the dedication, the commitment, the excellence that each of you bring. Thank you for being part of Andrews.”

The program concluded with prayer and a ringing of the Battle Creek Bell.

For written tributes and images for all award recipients, visit andrews.edu/services/hr/employeeawards.

To learn more about Andrews University’s 150th anniversary year, visit andrews.edu/150.

YEARS OF SERVICE



5

Back Row, L-R: Lloyd M. Hamilton, Karen Rodrigues, Paulette Johnson
Front Row, L-R: Keila Diaz-Hernandez, Kaitlyn M. Del Valle, Carlene M. Roper, Wendy L. Baldwin, Alla Pichugina

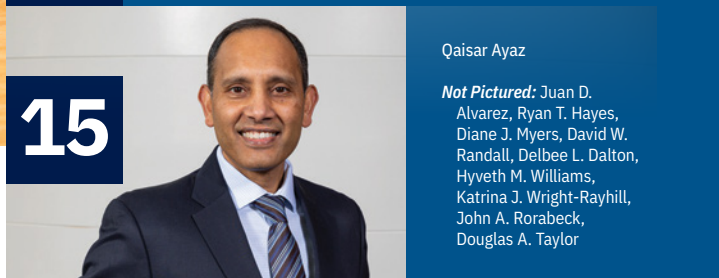
Not Pictured: Cassandra Ameson, Florencio Arroyo-Medina, Erica Fernanda Zaccariotto Batista, Jean Cadet, Daniela Cincala, Danny Fisher, Jasmine Fraser, Abner Hernandez, Christina Hunter, Florita Lee, Valencia Mawuntu, Sorin Mincinoiu, Mayra Castellanos Pasillas, Alia Pellegrini, Amy Rosenthal, Pablo Seidel, Jerome Skinner, Phillip Stone, Andrew Tompkins



10

L-R: Jiyeon Stuart, Lori Imasiku, Esther Penn

Not Pictured: Dixon Anjejo, Vlatko Benko, Donald Bedney, Stephanie Carpenter, Bryan Conklin, Anneris Coria-Navia, Brenda Francis, Oliver Glanz, Gustavo Gregorutti, Rhoda Johnson, Wendy Keough, David Logan, Lilian Lopez, Ryan Orrison, Sheila Penrod, Quentin Sahly, Christian Stuart, Shannon Trecartin, Deirdre Wilkens



Qaisar Ayaz

15

Not Pictured: Juan D. Alvarez, Ryan T. Hayes, Diane J. Myers, David W. Randall, Delbee L. Dalton, Hyveth M. Williams, Katrina J. Wright-Rayhill, John A. Rorabeck, Douglas A. Taylor



20

Back Row, L-R: Beverly A. Brown, Karl G. Bailey, Martin F. Hanna, Wagner Kuhn, Roy Villafane

Front Row, L-R: V. Kelly Youngberg, Cynthia D. Caballero, Cynthia K. Birney, Juliette D. Horton, Stephanie J. Vilela

Not Pictured: Paul Z. Gregor, Yun Myung Oh, Randy J. Siebold

AWARDS & RECOGNITION



25

Back Row, L-R: Ranko Stefanovic, Kevin Wiley, David Sherman
Front Row, L-R: L. Monique Pittman, Ben Maguad, Gina Pellegrini
Not Pictured: Martin Bradfield, Vernon Byrd, Karl Hubin, Sharyl Turon



Wellness Champion Award:
Katherine Koudele

Faith Engagement Awards (L-R):
Frances Faehner, Rodney Palmer



30

Back Row, L-R: H. Thomas Goodwin, Roy Gane, Erich Baumgartner
Front Row, L-R: Elizabeth Oakley, Emma Tenorio



Siegfried H. Horn Excellence in Research & Creative Scholarship Awards (L-R):
Vanessa Corredera, Ranko Stefanovic



35

L-R: Curtis VanderWaal, Arlen Springer
Not Pictured: Lori Adler

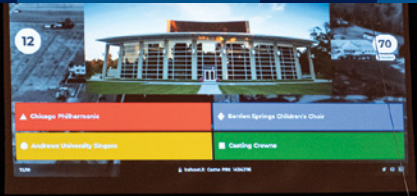
45

L-R: Donald Smith, Margarita Mattingly



Daniel A. Augsburg Excellence in Teaching Award: Tammy Shilling

Adjunct Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award: Iriann Irizarry de la Cruz



Hosts Simona Mills-Pitcher and Anthony Bosman



Staff Excellence in Service Awards (L-R): Jennifer Burrill, Darren Heslop, Cristina Wilson

Congratulations to the runners-up in the Excellence in Service category: Monique Sarcona, John Beal, Erica Bradfield, Rodrick Snow, Katrina Wright-Rayhill, Noe Velez

J.N. Andrews Service Award: Jonathan Sommer

AU 150

Spring 2025—25

Faith in Every Step

*Courage and calling
in the international
student experience*

by Becky St. Clair

Photos contributed by featured students

For many international students, the decision to study in the United States is more than an academic pursuit—it's a leap of faith. It means leaving behind family, comfort and familiarity in pursuit of something bigger: growth, calling and purpose. At Andrews University—a campus known for its diversity and deep spiritual roots—students from across the globe arrive not only with suitcases and transcripts but with stories. Stories of trust, hardship, perseverance and the quiet confidence that they are exactly where God wants them to be.

Colombia: A Promise Kept

When Walter Serna Velásquez and his wife, Angela Rios, were expecting their second child, the doctor delivered some painful news. “He told us the pregnancy was no longer viable and our baby was going to be born with malformations,” Walter Serna recalls. “The chances of both my wife and child making it through the childbirth process were only 2%.”

Desperate, and clinging to the hope of the omnipotence of God, Walter Serna made a promise: If God would spare the lives of both his wife and child, he would serve the Lord for the rest of his life. They opted to continue with the pregnancy, and eight months later, Angela spent 26 hours in labor.

“God was good,” Walter Serna says. “He brought both my wife and son through the labor alive.” Samuel Matías was born healthy—“perfectly formed by God,” Walter Serna says. It was then he admitted to his wife he had made a bargain with God.

After quoting Ecclesiastes 5:5, “It is better not to make a vow than to make one and not fulfill it,” Angela made an admission of her own: She, too, had made a promise to God all those months ago.

“She told me her promise had been to educate and raise our son knowing Christ, and with a healthy, biblically based diet,” Walter Serna recalls. Together, they agreed they needed to fulfill their promises to God. “That is how I ended up quitting my job and enrolling in the theology program at the Adventist university in Medellín, Colombia.”

Not long after finishing his degree, Walter Serna was serving in an eight-church district in the Colombian jungle, each church accessible only by riverboat, when he was approached by a friend he’d met while studying theology a few years prior.

“He asked if I was interested in further study to achieve my master’s degree,” Walter Serna says. “I said I was but

Walter Serna Velásquez, his wife and their children



had no idea where to do that. He immediately suggested Andrews University.”

Though acquiring visas was a daunting process, Walter Serna knew God would provide. Walter was right. The visas came through, and Walter and his family arrived at Andrews University in December 2024.

Like Walter Serna, Mary Fe Villegas also faced life-changing decisions rooted in faith. But instead of ministry, her calling came through music.



Walter Serna in Colombia

Peru:

A Musician's Test of Faith

"I was born into an Adventist home," says Mary Fe, "and even though my parents aren't musicians, they always cared a lot about giving me a good musical education." When she was nine years old, Mary Fe started lessons at the National Conservatory of Music, a prominent university in her home country of Peru. At 12, she won an audition and was selected for a special scholarship given by the government to exceptional music students. "The idea is that students selected for this program go directly into the university when they finish secondary school," explains Mary Fe.

There was, however, a problem: The classes for this program were held on Sabbath.

"Even though people said it was a great opportunity for my future in music, I didn't accept the scholarship or continue in the program," Mary Fe says. "My family and I believed that God was going to open a door for me to study music another way."

Mary Fe continued studying privately with teachers from the conservatory, feeling God's guidance throughout the years. "I truly believed it was His plan for me to continue in music," she says.

In January 2023, Mary Fe was looking forward to auditioning for the university. She'd been preparing for years and was ready. "When I checked the audition dates, however, they were all on Sabbath," she shares. "This had never happened before; they had always been during the week in prior years." Mary Fe and her family talked to the conservatory director, even bringing a letter from the church, but the conservatory would not change the audition dates.

"There was nothing we could do," she recalls. "At that point I felt so alone. All those years preparing, feeling God showing me His hand through everything, and now there was no way for me to continue studying. I was so discouraged." People told Mary Fe she was wasting her chance to audition, that this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. "They said my faith was going to take me nowhere, but I decided to keep trusting," she says. "If God had led me through all those years, He wasn't going to let me down now."

So Mary Fe began looking for Adventist universities with violin performance degrees. Unfortunately, none of them were in South



Mary Fe Villegas

"God worked in amazing ways, and I could see His hand working in every small detail."

America, and studying abroad was financially impossible for her.

"I prayed to God to show me something, to give me a sign to continue studying music if that was still His plan for my life," she says. "That's when I found out about the Dare to Dream Scholarship—a full ride at Andrews University to study music."

Mary Fe applied for the scholarship, and in June 2024 she was notified she had been selected as a recipient. Then began the difficult process of obtaining a passport and visa—a document she was told would be impossible to receive before the end of the year.

"God worked in amazing ways, and I could see His hand working in every small detail," she shares. Within a few weeks, she had both documents in hand and was headed to Michigan, arriving on campus in August 2024, just in time to start fall classes.

While Mary Fe's challenges centered on staying faithful to the Sabbath amidst career pressure, Irakoze Ndahayo Benie Kenia from Rwanda was shaped by legacy, logistics and the quiet persistence of a family dream.

Rwanda:

A Legacy Fulfilled

Kenia grew up in Rwanda, one of four children born to parents who were both businesspeople. As the firstborn of the family, she was encouraged to take education very seriously. “My dad once dreamed of attending Andrews University, but due to financial limitations at the time, he was unable to,” Kenya explains. “He made it his goal to ensure at least one of his children would one day study there.”

With a background steeped in business and education, Kenya felt naturally drawn toward a career in business. She pursued an extended diploma in business and technology education in high school, which focused on practical and career-oriented skills. This provided a strong foundation in marketing and entrepreneurship.

“My parents’ guidance, especially their shared experiences in the world of business, played a major role in that decision,” Kenya explains. “They inspired me to go deeper into understanding how the business world works.”

Following a pace that worked for her, Kenya completed high school at the age of 16. As she began exploring university options, one school stood out to her above the rest: Andrews University. “As an Adventist, I appreciated its commitment to faith and education,” she says.

She continues, “My dad’s interest in Andrews was of course important to me, but I was genuinely drawn to its values and academic reputation. I knew Andrews was right for me; I just had to figure out how to get there.”

Visa delays and limited appointment availability meant Kenya’s plans to study in person on the Michigan campus had to shift. “With the help and support of Dr. Glynis Bradfield,” she says, “I enrolled in the Global Campus program and began my studies online in spring 2025.”



Irakoze Ndahayo Benie Kenya

Called From Every Nation

Students like Walter Serna, Mary Fe and Kenya are just a few among many. Andrews University is home to students from 105 countries, making it one of the most internationally diverse universities in the U.S. Each student brings with them unique perspectives, shaped by culture, language and lived experience. These diverse voices don’t just enrich the classroom—they shape the campus community in powerful ways.

Though their paths differ—through music, ministry or business—the transition to studying at an American university brings common challenges. Whether facing language barriers, homesickness, extreme weather or navigating online classes, each of these students had to reorient their lives in profound ways.

The Cost of the Call

“The language is different, the culture is different, even the weather is different,” Walter Serna points out. “We did not know how to face the cold, and we had never seen snow. We didn’t know how to

live in this new climate, and we had no idea where to shop for what we would need.”

When he attended his first class, Walter Serna left very discouraged because he couldn’t understand very much of what the professor said. “Adjusting was very hard,” he says. His children, ages 11 and 6, also struggled to get their bearings in a new culture.

Distance from the familiar can be painful, and the differences can seem insurmountable. “Being far from my family and learning how to do everything alone was emotionally very difficult,” Mary Fe admits. “Everything from the way people interact, the food and the schedule is new and sometimes scary.”

Even when one gets to stay home, the international student experience can be overwhelming. “I’ve had to learn a lot in terms of discipline and time management, to say nothing of the courses themselves,” Kenya says.

Following Faith’s Lead

Yet, through it all, Walter Serna, Mary Fe and Kenya say they’ve known they are following God’s plan for their lives.

“God has always been the One guiding the life of my family,” says Walter Serna. “Yes, we left behind a life of comfort for one weighted with the unknown, but we did so trusting that God had something better for us.”

Coming to Andrews University was Walter Serna’s first time in the United States—a dream fulfilled. “When I saw the entrance to campus with the globe and arches, I cried,” he shares. “I couldn’t believe how good God had been to make this dream of ours a reality.”

From the timely acquisition of passports and visas, to welcoming,

“My dad once dreamed of attending Andrews University, but due to financial limitations at the time, he was unable to. He made it his goal to ensure at least one of his children would one day study there.”



*Walter Serna (center), his family
and members of their church family*

helpful people who made the transition to American higher education easier, Mary Fe reaffirms she's seen God's hand in everything.

"Whenever it looked like the way was closed, He always sent a solution," she says. "At one point I was so connected with God, so at peace with His will for me, that I knew that even if I didn't get the scholarship, my experience had served to bring me closer to Him, and that was all that mattered. I realized I didn't have anyone in the world who could love me more than Him, and that everything I am, everything I do, is for Him and because of Him."

The impact of a faith-centered learning environment is felt even from a world away. Through discussion boards and group projects, Kenia has had opportunities to interact with other online students, professors and advisors, all of whom have encouraged and supported her.

"Studying at Andrews and being part of the Andrews family has been a special experience," Kenia says. "I have grown spiritually and academically, and I'm so grateful for this opportunity to study with an organization which reflects my values. God brought me here, and I trust that He will continue guiding my path forward."

From Calling to Commitment

Through the seminary's Hispanic Club, Walter Serna has formed meaningful relationships and a sense of home. He now serves on the club's board of directors and leads a small group aptly named "Home."

Mary Fe is part of the Andrews University Symphony Orchestra, has been preparing to share special music at church and has made personal connections with others in the Department of Music. "That has been particularly special for me," she says. "I love that music lets me express feelings I can't explain with words. It's more than just playing an instrument; it's sharing something from the heart, and it allows me to connect with others and with God."

As a Global Campus student, Kenia remains connected to Andrews primarily through her coursework, so especially appreciates the emails, newsletters and spiritual messages shared by the University. At home, her extracurricular activities involve helping with the family business and engaging in small community entrepreneurship initiatives. "Studying marketing at Andrews has definitely influenced the way I approach these activities," she says. "I now think more strategically and apply what I learn in real-life situations, which has helped me contribute more meaningfully."

Peace in the Promise

"When I arrived at Andrews University, even though I was nervous, I felt peace," says Mary Fe. "I knew God had led me here, and I was exactly where I needed to be."

As a young man, the first Bible Walter Serna purchased in Colombia was the Andrews Study Bible. "I knew Andrews University had an incredible reputation for being a good school—for being God's school," he says. "But I never thought I would get to experience it for myself. Allowing God to be my guide has shown me His love and power, and through this experience I've learned to depend on Him more than I ever have before."

While Kenia has not yet been on the Berrien Springs campus of Andrews University, she truly feels like part of the Andrews family. She says, "The professors are supportive and approachable, and the faith-based content woven into my classes makes me feel spiritually connected. It's comforting to know that I'm growing both academically and spiritually alongside others who share similar values, even from across the world."

The journey to Andrews University is rarely simple for international students—but it is sacred. The faithful steps of students like Walter Serna, Mary Fe and Kenia are a reminder that education is not only about academic success but also spiritual growth, courage in uncertainty and the deep joy of finding purpose. These stories enrich the University community and testify to a truth greater than any syllabus: When students follow God's leading, He not only provides the way—He walks it with them.

"My time at Andrews hasn't been easy, but it has been full of growth," Mary Fe says. "It's not just about learning my chosen field of study, it's about learning to depend on God. Andrews wasn't in my plans, but God made it part of His, and that's the best part of the story." ■

Becky St. Clair is a freelance writer with nearly 20 years of experience writing and editing for the Adventist church. She currently lives in California.

REGIONAL EVENTS | SPRING 2025

We were so pleased to visit with many valued alumni and friends during our recent travels, including those featured here. It's our favorite time of the year—reconnecting with longtime supporters as well as making new friends. If we missed you, we hope to see you next year!

Photos courtesy of Raelene Brower



Asheville, North Carolina
Monday, March 3, 2025
Hendersonville Seventh-day Adventist Church

Special thanks to alum Charlie Ferguson (MDiv '74, DMin '01) and his wife Sharon who offered the use of the Hendersonville, North Carolina, church fellowship hall. We enjoyed a lovely luncheon catered by Charles Coffey (att.) and Patty and Artem (MDiv '16) Dmytriiev in early March. The event was hosted by Raelene Brower (att.), director of Alumni Services, and Hayden Baldwin (BS '24), prospect management officer and data steward, Office of Development.



Seattle, Washington
Sunday, March 9, 2025
Hilton Garden Inn Seattle/ Bellevue Downtown

We enjoyed reconnecting with alumni and friends who we had not visited since COVID! We shared Sunday brunch in downtown Bellevue with about 30 in attendance. The event was hosted by Raelene Brower, Steven Manoukian, director of Development, and Donald L. Bedney II (MDiv '90, MSA '91), vice president for University Advancement.



Loma Linda, California
Sunday, March 16, 2025
Loma Linda University Centennial Complex

We had beautiful weather and enjoyed food and fellowship at Loma Linda University's Centennial Complex. More than 150 alumni and friends joined us for a delightful evening! The event was hosted by Raelene Brower, Steven Manoukian, Donald L. Bedney II and Elynda Bedney (MSA '98), assistant vice president of Student Financial Services.



Las Vegas, Nevada
Monday, March 17, 2025
Omelet House

Alums and friends from the Las Vegas area enjoyed a recent informal gathering, sharing food and fellowship together with Donald and Elynda Bedney.

Save the Date

SEPTEMBER 25–28, 2025

Alumni Homecoming Weekend

HONOR CLASSES—1955, 1965, 1975, 1985, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2020, 2025

Will you be a member of an upcoming honor class?
Start planning now to partner with us to make Homecoming more meaningful for both you and your classmates. If you're interested in serving as a reunion leader or willing to volunteer in any capacity, please contact the Office of Alumni Services at 269-471-3591 or alumni@andrews.edu.

Getting involved is a great way to make a difference!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please visit alumni.andrews.edu/rsvp to register for and get up-to-date information on future Regional Events. To be sure you are connected to Andrews and can receive direct invitations, please update your contact information by emailing alumni@andrews.edu or calling the Office of Alumni Services at 269-471-3591.

Who are alumni? If you've graduated, attended, worked or taught at Andrews University, we consider you alumni! And if you're a parent or a potential student considering Andrews, you're invited to be our honored guest.

Julia Cristina Miranda (née Cáceres Thomann) (former staff), 81, of Berrien Springs, Michigan, passed away on March 22, 2025.

Born in El Espejo, Chile, on June 18, 1943, she immigrated to the United States as a young woman. She settled in Berrien Springs, where she met and fell in love with Alcides Miranda. The two were married on April 4, 1971. Al and Julie, as she was affectionately known, were members of the Village Seventh-day Adventist Church for many years and, in recent years, were members at the Eau Claire Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Julie loved Jesus and was an example of His love to all who met her. She loved to share His message with others and was engaged in various outreach activities with her church. Throughout her life, she touched everyone who met her with her gentle kindness, warmth and a beautiful smile. She was nurturing and a natural caregiver, and she ran several adult foster and nursing homes in her younger years.

With a love for flowers, pink and all things frilly, she spent many years making floral arrangements for important moments in her loved ones' lives. Julie was a gifted artist, and she loved to paint and draw.

She worked at Andrews University for many years at Lamson Hall. She also worked at the University as an arts and crafts instructor, which she fondly remembered as her favorite job.

Julie was preceded in death by her parents, Orlando and Marina Cáceres, as well as her siblings: Victor, Norma, Iris, Nora and Carlos.

Julie will be lovingly remembered by her husband of 53 years, Alcides Miranda; daughter, Jessica; sons, Alcides

Jr. and Allan; son-in-law, Gregory; and daughters-in-law, Bronwyn and Kiera. Julie will be deeply missed by her nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

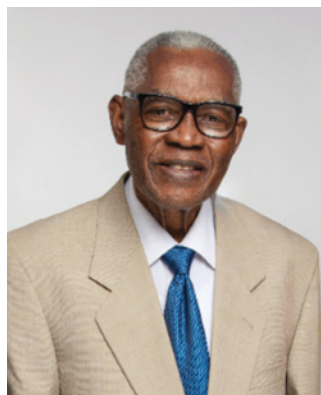
She is also survived by her sister, Graciela Cáceres, and many cousins, nieces, nephews and extended family members.

Emilie Oosterwal-Tilstra (former faculty), of Berrien Springs, Michigan, passed away on Jan. 10, 2025, at Caretel Inns St. Joseph at the age of 94.

Emilie was born July 7, 1930, near Dortmund, Germany, to Sjoerd "George" & Martha (Böbisch) Tilstra. She attended Newbold College of Higher Education in England. On Oct. 31, 1957, she married Gottfried Oosterwal in Rotterdam, Netherlands. After living in Indonesian New Guinea, the Philippines and the Netherlands, the Oosterwals settled in Berrien Springs. Emilie taught upholstery and woodworking at Andrews University before setting out on an entrepreneurial endeavor. She was active in the Berrien Springs community as the owner of Blossomland Flower Shop for over 20 years. After retiring from her flower shop, Emilie volunteered at Neighbor to Neighbor in Berrien Springs and was part of the Antiquarians of St. Joseph. She enjoyed flowers as an avid gardener, was a voracious reader and loved to travel. Emilie had a heart of gold and enjoyed being around children and animals.

Emilie was preceded in death by her parents and her siblings, Emma, Karl, John, Fred, Ruth, Bill and Elfriede.

Emilie is survived by her daughter, Verona Valentine; sons, Dantar Oosterwal and **Erik** (BS '90) (**Susan** (AS '86)) **Oosterwal**; grandchildren, David Valentine, Audrey (Robert) Miller, Eva (Mason Bailey) Oosterwal, Erik-Philip (Kayla) Oosterwal and Matthew (Kate) Oosterwal; great-granddaughter, Sophia Oosterwal; and brother, Adolf Tilstra.



Roy Israel McGarrell (MA '81, PhD '90), 91, of Apopka, Florida, died Dec. 18, 2024. He was born Feb. 7, 1933, in Friendship Village, Guyana.

After earning his Teacher's Diploma from the Ministry of Education in 1955, he taught at the Enmore Government School from 1955 until 1959.

In 1959, he enrolled at the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC) to pursue an Associate of Arts in theology. In 1962, he was ordained and credentialed as a minister of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

On June 25, 1962, he married the love of his life, Shirley Ann Martinborough. Together, they had three children: André, Fern and Faith-Ann.

After one year as principal of the Georgetown Seventh-day Adventist Elementary and Secondary Schools, Roy became a district pastor. In 1970, he returned to USC and completed a Bachelor of Arts in theology in 1972.

From 1972 to 1976, he served as education and stewardship director of the Guyana Mission. In 1976, he was elected the first president of the Guyana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

In 1980, Roy began studying at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, where he earned a Master of Arts in systematic theology and a Doctor of Philosophy in religious education.

In 1989, he returned to USC as a professor before serving as dean of the School of Theology and Religion from 1995

until 2004. He also served as an associate pastor for the university church, was on numerous committees and boards, and received several awards and citations. He mentored a generation of pastors, denominational directors and administrators across the Caribbean, the Americas and the global Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Roy was predeceased by his wife of 60 years, **Shirley Ann McGarrell** (BA '83, MA '85, PhD '00); son, **André Roy Fenton McGarrell** (BSMT '84); and siblings, Emily Simon, Edna Henry and Reuben Crossley McGarrell.

He is survived by his daughters, **Fern** (BS '87) (Carl) **Hudson and Faith-Ann McGarrell** (AS '91, BA '93, MA '95, PhD '07); daughter-in-law, Grace (André) McGarrell; grandchildren; and many beloved extended family members.



William "Bill" G.C. Murdoch Jr. (BA '70), MD, died Dec. 13, 2024, in Loma Linda, California. He was born in 1949 in Sydney, Australia.

Bill graduated from Andrews Academy in 1967 and Andrews University with a biology major in 1970. In 1973, he earned his medical degree from Loma Linda University School of Medicine and completed his psychiatry residency there in 1977. He completed a Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship at the University of Michigan Medical Center in 1979. He stayed to teach and practice at the University of Michigan until 1986.

He married Jeanne Kinzer

in 1979, and they had one daughter, Emily.

Bill returned to Loma Linda University in January 1986 to teach in the School of Medicine. One of the highlights of his years as chair of the Department of Psychiatry and medical director of the Behavioral Medicine Center (2005–2022) was seeing a Fellowship in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry become a reality at LLU.

He was still working full time when he was found to have a rare cancer at the end of September 2024 and died in December.

Bill was also serving as a member of the Andrews University Board of Trustees at the time of his death.

At Loma Linda University's Homecoming 2025, Bill was awarded the LLU Alumnus of the Year Award (posthumously) for his contributions to LLU.

Bill is survived by his wife, **Jeanne Kinzer Murdoch** (BS '71); daughter, **Emily Elizabeth Becker** (BS '04); son-in-law, **Dr. Ryan John Becker** (BT '04); and grandchildren, Olivia, Robbie and Nicky. His older siblings also survive: brothers **Dr. Lamont (Becky) and Dr. Floyd** (BA '63, MA '64) (Ly-netta) **Murdoch** and sister **Dr. Marilyn (Cliff) Murdoch Herrmann**. He leaves many nieces and nephews and Murdoch and Rittenhouse cousins.

Geraldine "Gerry" Hill (former faculty) died Dec. 9, 2024. She was born Aug. 26, 1923, in Buffalo, New York.

Gerry completed pre-nursing studies at Atlantic Union College before she began nursing school at New England Sanitarium and Hospital, graduating in 1944.

After a year of practicing nursing in Buffalo, New York, she enrolled at Walla Walla College, where she graduated in 1947 with a BS in nursing education. While there, she met and married **Raymond C. Hill** (BS '49) in 1946. As her husband finished his college

work at Andrews University, she taught pre-nursing classes (1947–1949) before their first child was born.

After about two years of school nursing at Newbury Park Academy, Gerry and her family moved to Lansing, Michigan, for Ray to attend graduate school. They then carried out a 10-year term of mission work at Mountain View College in the Philippines.

Returning to the U.S. in 1963, Gerry worked at a hospital near Berrien Springs, Michigan, for eight years, then worked for one year at the student health center at Andrews University until the family moved to Ohio in 1972.

Gerry taught nursing at Kettering College of Medical Arts for 13 years, officially retiring in 1985. She continued part-time work at Kettering Hospital for the next 13 years.

In 2003, Gerry and Ray moved to Tillamook, Oregon. Gerry kept busy with volunteering at the Community Service Center, teaching Sabbath School lessons, reading, knitting, crocheting, cooking and traveling.

In 2021, at age 98, Gerry decided to give up housekeeping and moved back to Michigan. She lived at White Oaks Assisted Living, where she greatly enjoyed being around people and making new friends until her death.

She was predeceased by her husband, Ray, of 58 years; two sisters, Janet Dryburgh and Joan Sutter; and one brother, Milt Sutter.

Survivors include her children, **Marge (Lorance) Van Tassel**; **Calvin** (BS '72) (Jaimy) **Hill**; **Brad** (BS '78) (Cathy) **Hill**; and **Sherrilyn Hill** (BS '81). She is also survived by eight grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and siblings, Donald Sutter and Judy Wright.

Enoch Daniel Hurd (BBA '94), 52, of Ringgold, Georgia, passed away on Oct. 25, 2024.

Enoch was born in Chisholm,

Minnesota, on Feb. 16, 1972, the son of Rosalie Buglino Hurd and the late Frank Hurd. He earned his bachelor's degree from Andrews University. Enoch proudly served as a Collegedale Police Officer since 2009. He was a successful entrepreneur and will always be remembered for having a generous heart. Enoch was a dedicated father to his three girls. He enjoyed being a pilot and racing.

In addition to his mother, survivors include his three daughters, **Hannah (Hunter) Rougeau**, **Kelsey Hurd** and **Rylee Hurd**; four siblings, **Melissa (Les) Derfeler**, **John Hurd**, **David Hurd** and **Esther (Ross) Keys**; two nieces, **Laura Ionashku** and **Eden Keys**; three nephews, **Ben Stevenson**, **Jared Stevenson** and **River Keys**; several great-nieces and nephews; and many cherished friends.

Carol Anne Crider (BA '69, former faculty), 78, died in Mesa, Arizona, on Oct. 10, 2024, after a fall.

She was born April 21, 1946, in Tehran, Iran, the third child of missionary parents, **Charles** (MA '51, former faculty) and **Jean** (former faculty) **Crider**. During her early years, her family lived in several places in Iran, the United States, Iraq and Lebanon. After settling initially in La Sierra, California, she graduated from Thunderbird Academy in 1964 and Andrews University in 1969.

After teaching elementary school in Michigan for several years, she obtained a master's degree in library science from Western Michigan University. She then joined the faculty at Andrews University, working and teaching in the James White Library, primarily in the cataloguing and reference areas.

She suffered serious injuries in an automobile accident in the early 1980s. After several years during which she sought medical solutions, she was granted a disability retirement. After retirement, she made her

home with her parents in Mesa, Arizona, where she was active in her local church, continuing volunteer work to the extent that she was able. She was also the primary caregiver for her disabled niece. She formed many friendships during her time at Andrews and later in Mesa. She was a gentle soul, with kindness for all, and a special aunt to many people, related or "adopted."

Her parents both predeceased her, **Charles** in 1992 and **Jean** in 1999.

Carol is survived by her sisters, **Sharon McPherson** of Santa Clara, Utah, and **Dawn Moser** (att.) of Hartford, Michigan; brother, **Charles Crider** (BA '70) of Battle Creek, Michigan; and niece, **Linda Moser**, of Mesa, Arizona. She has numerous other nieces and nephews throughout the United States.



Emil "Pete" Warn Peterson (BA '53), MD, died of natural causes in his home on Aug. 25, 2024, on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. He was 92.

Emil was born on Feb. 7, 1932, in Battle Creek, Michigan, to his parents **Albert Edson Peterson** and **Esther Virginia Pearson Peterson**. He graduated from Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) with a BA in chemistry in 1953, from Loma Linda University with an MS in biochemistry

in 1954 and from Loma Linda University with an MD in 1958. He completed a residency in pathology at Indiana University Medical Center in 1963. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1956 until 1992, retiring with the rank of colonel.

In 1970, Emil joined the pathology group at Kettering Medical Center (KMC) in Kettering, Ohio, where he served as director of Clinical Pathology and taught in the Pathology Residency Program and the School of Medical Technology. While at KMC, he served on the Board of the Community Blood Center (CBC) from 1975–1994. He was interim medical director of the CBC from 1993–1994 and was medical director of Kettering Medical Center from 1984–1996.

Emil was preceded in death by his adopted son, Paul Warn Peterson.

Emil married his first wife, **Janeth Mae Scanlon Peterson** (BA '53), on March 6, 1955. She passed away Nov. 27, 2012. He married Barbara Camille Cain Ellison Peterson on Feb. 7, 2016.

He is survived by his wife; his daughter, Lynn Ellen Peterson, of Bluffton, South Carolina; his sisters, Ann Herin and Mary Helen McKearn; and two grandchildren.

Marilyn L. Delinger (BA '67, former faculty) of Powell, Wyoming, passed away on July 21, 2024, at Spirit Mountain Hospice House following a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. She was 79.

Marilyn was born on Dec. 31, 1944, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to George and Blanche Johnson.

She spent eleventh and twelfth grades at Wisconsin Academy in Madison. She was not only the valedictorian of her class but a standout athlete.

Marilyn graduated from Andrews University with a bachelor's degree. She went on to obtain a master's degree in dietetics and served as a professor of nutrition and dietetics at Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University), Loma Linda University and Andrews University. She was also a member of the association now known as the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

It was while she was teaching at Loma Linda University that she met her future husband, **John Delinger** (MDiv '85). They were married in Calimesa, California, on June 19, 1977.

John's service as a pastor took the couple across the country. They lived in California, North Carolina, Alaska and Montana before reaching Wyoming.

Marilyn also served in ministry, spending 12 years as the children's ministries coordinator for the Montana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

In her free time, Marilyn's

hobbies included traveling and collecting pins, rocks and stuffed animals, including water creatures. She was also an avid reader, talented musician and gifted artist.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents, George and Blanche Johnson; her brother, David Johnson; and her sisters, Janet Cobb and **Delores Ferree** (BA '51).

She is survived by her husband, John; her son, Jonathan Delinger; and her son, **Timothy** (BS '08) and his wife **Lynn Delinger** of Cherry Valley, California.



Cecil L. Lemon (BMus '63) died April 9, 2024. He was born Sept. 2, 1932.

Cecil lived a full life. He was a music instructor at Cedar Lake Academy, Greater Baltimore Academy and in two public schools, which he considered his mission field.

He was involved with many music organizations, directed choirs in several churches, was a soloist for 45 years at the Holy Comforter Lutheran Church,

and sang with the Baltimore Opera Company for several seasons. He also provided many private piano and voice lessons over the years.

Cecil served his country as a medic during the Korean War. He was stationed in Salzburg, Austria, where he studied music at the Mozarteum.

He was a proud Andrews alumnus and was delighted to have been able to attend his class's 60th anniversary in fall 2023. His siblings also attended Andrews: **Roy Lemon** (BA '54) (deceased), **Vivian Lemon Hatcher** (BS '79) (deceased), **Duane Lemon** (BA '65, MA '74) and **Beverly Lemon Zacharias** (MMus '83).

His Celebration of Life was a Military Tribute and Music Celebration of Life to honor him and his love of music. Cecil had a military funeral and was laid to rest in the local veterans cemetery.

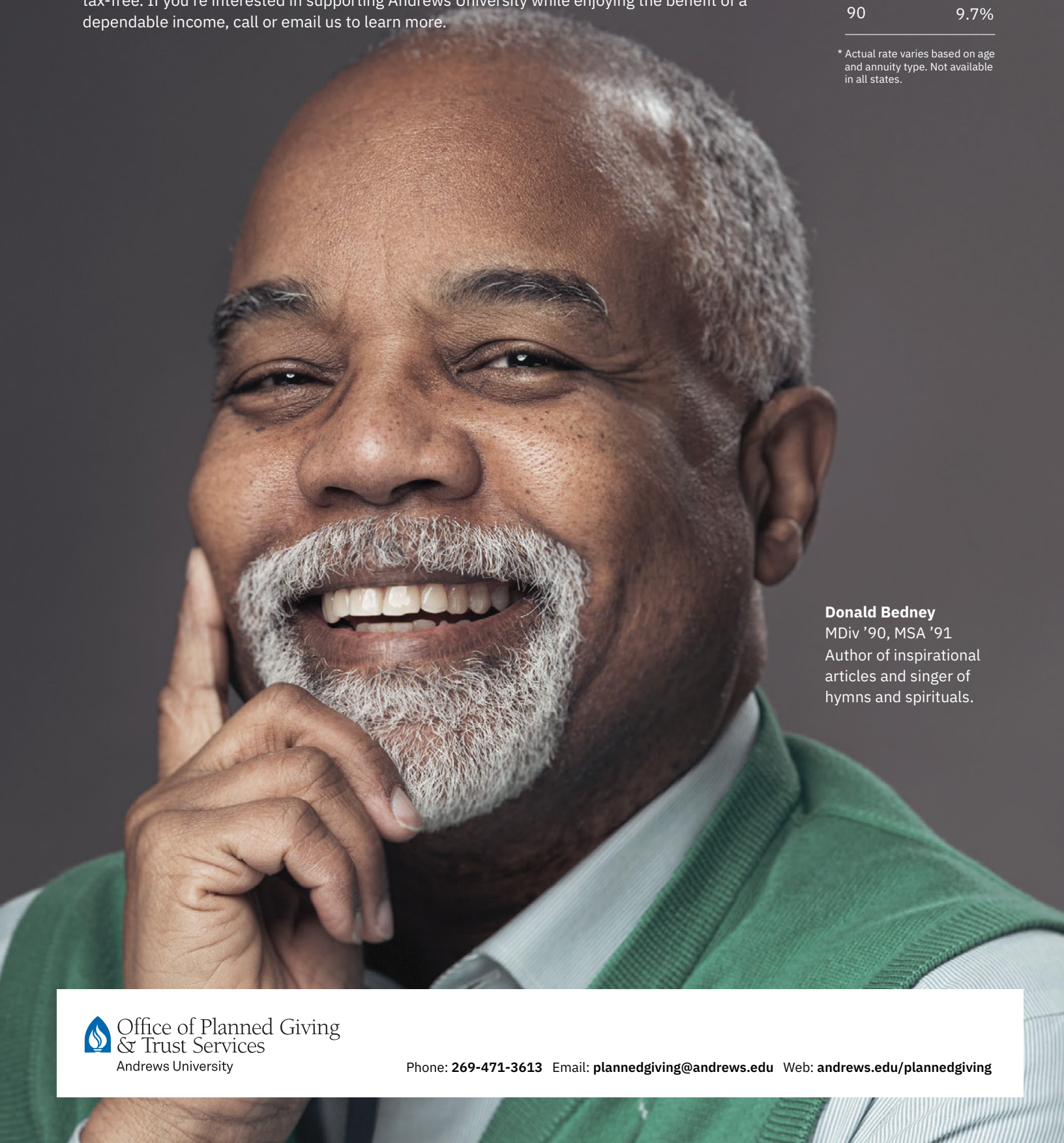
Cecil is survived by his wife, Ingrid (Miller); four daughters, Kellie Rodman, Theresa Berry, Traci Lemon and Elizabeth Zimmerman; eight grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; two siblings, Duane Lemon and Beverly Lemon Zacharias; and many nieces and nephews, plus a host of worldwide friends.

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Age	Payout rate*
70	5.9%
80	7.6%
90	9.7%

* Actual rate varies based on age and annuity type. Not available in all states.

A close-up portrait of an older Black man with a white beard and mustache, smiling warmly. He is resting his chin on his hand. He is wearing a green sweater over a light blue collared shirt.

Donald Bedney
MDiv '90, MSA '91
Author of inspirational
articles and singer of
hymns and spirituals.



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*For spring graduation 2025, Commencement services were held in the Andraesen Center for Wellness for the first time.
Photo credit: Ramiro Quero*

