

Be the Bold

John Wesley Taylor V, president

WHAT WOULD YOU DO TODAY IF FEAR wasn't holding you back? What if you knew, without question, that God was cheering you on?

Imagine hearing God whisper, "This is your moment!" But somehow, that voice gets drowned out by fear. Fear of failure, of rejection, of chasing a dream too big.

But what if boldness, rooted in faith, is the key to your greatest impact?

Flash back to 1901. Our founders took a leap, packing up Battle Creek College and planting it in Berrien Springs. There were no guarantees. Just faith, grit and courage. That audacious move birthed the campus we know today. Their courage shaped this place. Their God-filled boldness changed everything.

Now, it's our turn. This is our moment to break the mold and be the bold. Not in a reckless or showy way but with a boldness rooted in faith. The kind that listens to God's call and chooses courage over fear.

How do we live boldly? Here are three game changers.

Dare to Act

Boldness isn't just dreaming; it's doing. It's standing up for truth, pursuing God's call and living faith unapologetically.

Peter stepping onto the waves. David facing Goliath. Daniel praying with his window open. None of these actions were safe. All were bold.

God has a plan for your life, but it often requires holy boldness to pursue it. Your bold step might be launching a ministry, sharing your faith or simply speaking up. Don't let the "what if" freeze you. 2 Timothy 1:7 reminds us, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (NKJV).

So, take that risk. Trust God's lead. Start small, but start now. Your bold step could spark something eternal.

Dare to Connect

Boldness is also about people—the quiet courage of love. It takes boldness to notice the overlooked and build bridges that others might avoid.

Jesus' life was a master class in reaching out to others. His connections changed lives.

Acts 4 shows that when the early church built strong connections, they shook the world with Spirit-filled power. Because when you dare to connect, you reflect the heart of God.

Ask yourself: What bridge could I build? Who needs my kindness today? Where is God calling me to start a bold conversation, to authentically share His love?

Dare to Change

Boldness leaves a legacy. Our namesake, John Nevins Andrews, stepped onto a ship in 1874 to serve as the first Seventh-day Adventist missionary. His courage launched a worldwide movement.

We, too, are called to shift the world: meeting needs, lifting lives and communities. Maybe that means supporting a student's mission trip or funding a scholarship. Maybe it's stepping into leadership or service in your own community.

Like Esther, who acted "for such a time as this" and flipped a nation's fate, your bold move matters. Dare to shape eternity.

What does it mean to "be the bold"? It means taking the risk for God's kingdom, trusting He equips those He calls and believing your next step, however small, can carry eternal weight.

The legacy of Andrews University is bold people who dared to act, connect and change the world.





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Cover: New Student Vespers, Aug. 22, 2025 Photo credit: Eben Espinosa (current student)

TOP RIGHT PHOTO: Nikolay Stoykov / Adventist Media Exchange (CC BY 4.0) BOTTOM RIGHT PHOTO: Courtesy of Jane and Charles Cutting



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X 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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Department of Music receives instrument donations

Including a Kawai Grand Piano and Klop Continuo Organ

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY'S DEPARTMENT of Music has recently received several generous donations in the form of instruments. These instruments are housed in Hamel Hall and the Howard Performing Arts Center and will be used by various music students, faculty members and performers.

Most recently, a Kawai Grand Piano was donated by the Fairplain Presbyterian Church, previously located in Benton Harbor, Michigan. The donation was given in honor of Vladimir Slavujevic, an Andrews alumnus and the longtime music director of the church.



Earlier in the year, a Klop Continuo Organ was donated by the Rhoads family on behalf of the late Donald Rhoads, former chair of the University's Department of Mathematics.

A Steinway Grand Piano was donated in 2023 in memory of Phyllis Staples, a talented pianist and longtime resident of Berrien Springs, Michigan.

In addition to the gift of physical instruments, the Department of Music has also received numerous donations toward its Steinway fund, which raises money for additional Steinway-branded pianos used for educational and performance purposes.

Max Keller, chair of the Department of Music, shares that the department is very grateful for the high-quality contributions it has received, noting, "We have all of our rooms and all of our spaces filled now, which is fantastic!"

Carlos Lugo, a music performance graduate student, has found the recent donations helpful for his learning experience. He shares that he has used the Kawai Grand Piano, and he finds it comfortable with a "refreshing sound," perfect for practice and performance.

"Sometimes arts are disregarded by other budget priorities," says Lugo. "Investing in the arts is investing in our soul. Donors should know that what they do is so beneficial for us, music students. They are investing in our talents so that we can succeed and change the world."

Senior Aiko Ayala, whose music performance degree is concentrated in piano, expresses "great joy" in being able to use the quality donations. "Knowing that people care about my education makes me feel more confident in pursuing my goals as a musician and servant of God," she says. "It also motivates me to try new things without worrying too much about limitations of instruments [or] finances. Therefore, donations are vital and appreciated for music students like me, who like to go beyond and above the standards, so that we can change the world one note at a time."







Donations contribute to lasting change

Through updates to campus facilities

OVER THE SUMMER. SEVERAL KEY

updates to campus facilities were carried out. "Sometimes the work of transformation is incremental," says Donald Bedney, vice president for University Advancement. "In our case, Andrews University has benefited from the steady 'behind the scenes' support and completion of several meaningful projects. We thank the Lord for the generosity of our donors and for the time and effort put into much of the work by Andrews staff members and willing Maranatha volunteers."

In the Howard Performing Arts Center, a new set of curtains has been installed as a result of the "Raise the Curtain" campaign. The three-year initiative raised approximately \$100,000 to replace the original curtains and mechanisms, which were showing signs of wear and no longer operating consistently. The new curtains have been color-matched and are made from a higher-quality fabric. They can now be controlled electronically from the audiovisual technicians' workspace, eliminating the need to go backstage for adjustments between ensemble performances. Performers at the center have commented on the improved sound control and acoustics of the space, and the positive aesthetic appeal of the curtains continues.

"We want to do what we can to facilitate a better experience for all of our students and employees at Andrews University."

A variety of improvements have been made to the main floor of the James White Library, with the goal of turning it into a collaborative learning space for students and employees. Aided by \$15,000 from University Advancement and some additional institutional funding, outdated reference book displays were removed, old carpeting was replaced and walls were repainted. Beginning with these physical refinements, staff members hope to make the entire library an inviting space for focus and connection. Future improvements, including further carpeting, painting and furniture replacement, are also in the process of being planned and funded.

Renovations to Lamson Hall continued this summer, resulting in 49 improved living spaces for students. Generous donors provided \$1.2 million to fund this multi-year project to update the women's residence hall. This was the second year that Maranatha Volunteers

International partnered with the University to replace bathroom facilities, change carpets, add new paint and provide movable desks. Volunteers worked over a four-week period to prepare the living spaces for the 2025–2026 school year, and many residents currently benefit from the enhancements. Plans are in process for the project to move forward in the coming summers.

Timber Ridge has undergone several updates to convert it from a community apartment complex into student housing. Friends of the University provided a \$3 million gift for renovations, which have included replacing cabinets, appliances and carpets; installing vinyl flooring; painting walls; and gutting and replacing bathrooms. Over the past few months, workers have aimed to complete renovations to the first wing and to install general security and safety measures. When completed, the renovated facility will provide an additional 85 housing units.

"We are so thankful for all of our partners who have helped us in upgrading our facilities all across the campus this year," says Glenn "Chip" Meekma, chief financial officer. "We want to do what we can to facilitate a better experience for all of our students and employees at Andrews University."

Discipleship Center updates

New director leads summer intensive

THE ANDREWS UNIVERSITY DISCIPLEship Center (AUDC) began officially operating this summer, starting with a discipleship intensive from July 27–Aug. 15. To help lead the center's programs, director Alanna Rodriguez Merlos recently joined the team.

"From an early age, I had a sensitive heart for God," Alanna shares. "Growing up in an Adventist home in rural Michigan, I was first discipled by my parents and then by my Pathfinder leaders, who deepened my desire to know Him."

Alanna describes her path to ministry as "nontraditional." A first-generation college student, she tried different schools and programs, juggling full-time work and finances. Eventually, God's providence led her to a missionary training program at the University of Michigan, where she learned about a group of Seventh-day Adventist students from Battle Creek College who had established a house on the secular campus as a place of influence.

Encouraged by this piece of history, Alanna completed the training program and began visiting campuses across Michigan. At each, she worked to strengthen the faith of Adventist students in secular environments. She recalls, "Many were in a spiritual war zone, yet I saw that with community, they could stay faithful, grow in their identity in Christ, and share their faith with others. God showed me that one of my gifts was creating such community wherever I went."

Alanna later attended Michigan Tech-

nological University, where she served as chaplain and graduated with a degree in communication and cultural studies. She went on to work in youth and Pathfinder ministries; teach English at Battle Creek Academy; and serve on the North American Division executive committee, during which time she obtained a master's degree in TESOL from Western Michigan University.

Although the heart of Alanna's ministry has been discipling Adventist students on public campuses, she followed God's call through prayer to Andrews University. She arrived in May, ready to help launch the Discipleship Center's newest program: Ignite.

The three-week discipleship intensive for high school juniors and seniors and incoming college freshmen allowed students to earn college credit while deepening their walk with God. "Its four components—academic, outreach, devotional life, and community—create a holistic experience," Alanna explains. Participants in the program's first cohort were deeply affirmative of the experience, sharing that it was an answer to prayer and communicating a desire for a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Alanna's vision for the Discipleship Center is that, through initiatives like Ignite, it will build bridges across campus, initiating life-transforming encounters with God. "It takes a village to disciple our young people, helping them grow in their relationship with God and remain grounded in their Adventist faith," she



"We believe that the heart of discipleship is found in relationships."

says. "In the short time I have been here, I have experienced divine appointments almost every day, and I clearly see God leading on this campus."

Scott Ward, executive director of the Discipleship Center and chair of the Department of Discipleship, adds, "We believe that the heart of discipleship is found in relationships. Jesus said that all the law and the prophets can be summed up as, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind; and your neighbor as yourself.' We truly believe that going beyond participating in programs and facilitating belonging in community and forming identity in Christ can help our students, and the greater Adventist church, to find mission and purpose that changes the world."



FROM TOP, L-R:
Ignite participants
with Rodney Palmer,
chair, Department of
Religion & Biblical
Languages ■ Ignite
participants ■
Alanna Rodriguez
Merlos, director,
Discipleship Center

Top and far left photos courtesy of Alanna Rodriguez Merlos



Summer graduation

DURING ANDREWS UNIVERSITY'S

From Aug. 1-3

summer graduation, 86 students were awarded undergraduate degrees, and 185 students were awarded graduate degrees. Overall, nearly 200 students received their degrees in person. The weekend's events included a Friday evening Commencement service, a Baccalaureate service on Sabbath and two Commencement services on Sunday morning. Additional academic

and cultural programs took place

throughout the weekend.

On Friday, Aug. 1, Jacques B.
Doukhan, senior research professor of
Hebrew and Old Testament exegesis
at Andrews University, presented the
Commencement address for the College
of Education & International Services
and the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. His talk was titled "When
Wisdom is All That is Left." A prolific
scholar and writer, Doukhan has written
over twenty books, some translated into
several languages, and currently serves
as general editor of the Seventh-day Adventist International Bible Commentary.

The Baccalaureate on Sabbath, Aug. 2, titled "Soaring," was delivered by G. Alexander Bryant, president of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists and vice president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Before being elected to his current role, Bryant served the church as a pastor, temperance director, Youth/Pathfinders/National Service Organization director, superintendent of education and executive secretary.

L. Ann Hamel, psychologist, offered the Commencement address, titled "What's Next?," on Sunday, Aug. 3, for graduates of the College of Health & Human Services. During the program, she was also honored















with the President's Medallion for her service and leadership. After serving as a missionary for over a decade, Hamel has spent her career as a missionary care coordinator, educator and consultant, fostering the mental and spiritual health of others called to mission service.

Glenn Russell, professor emeritus of religion at Andrews University, spoke for the Commencement service honoring graduates from the College of Arts & Sciences and College of Professions. His talk was titled "Give Me a Sign." Over the course of his career, Russell has been a driving force behind student engagement in global missions, and his messages of service, faith and Christ-centered education have reached both local and global audiences.

Loren Hamel, former president of Corewell Health in Southwest Michigan, was presented with an honorary Doctor of Business Administration during the service. Throughout his over 40-year career in health care leadership, Hamel has demonstrated a passion for strategy, respect for data and dedication to achieving health equity. He has also served the Andrews University community in several capacities, including as clinical professor of nursing, president of the Alumni Association and member of the Board of Trustees.

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

FROM TOP, L-R: A graduate celebrating on Sunday ■ Jacques B. Doukhan presenting at Friday Commencement ■ G. Alexander Bryant speaking at Baccalaureate on Sabbath ■ Speaker Glenn Russell at a Sunday Commencement ■ President's Medallion recipient and speaker L. Ann Hamel at a Sunday Commencement ■ Honorary degree recipient Loren Hamel ■ Graduates posing for a photo on Sunday ■ Commencement in the Andreasen Center for Wellness

Summer conferences at Andrews

Connecting with colleagues

THIS SUMMER, ANDREWS UNIVERSITY hosted numerous conferences, including those highlighted below, that navigated meaningful conversations impacting Adventist education, health care, research and beyond.

Andrews held the ninth annual Adventist Bioethics Consortium Conference on May 12 and 13, where presentations and discussions took place under the theme of "Know Mission, Know Margin." The theme was directly inspired by the phrase "no margin, no mission," which explores how to provide financially sustainable and equitable services to struggling communities.

Presenters covered a variety of topics, including hope, belonging, artificial intelligence, organizational culture, health equity and ethics. Several students and educators also participated in a research poster session on pure and applied science. The conference's objective was to inspire Seventh-day Adventist and faith-based health care organizations and schools to address concerns involving marginalized communities, pursuing their Christ-ordained mission to serve all humankind and "make disciples of all nations."

"Global Issues, Local Impact" was the theme of the 13th annual Adventist Human-Subject Researchers Association (AHSRA) Conference, which took place from June 25–28. The conference served as a space for Adventist academics, students and researchers from around the world to discuss and learn about various human-subject research ventures and best practices.

Keynote speakers included Philip Jenkins, professor of history at Baylor University, and Katia Garcia Reinert, associate director of Adventist Health Ministries. The conference also included a Sabbath panel discussion about the 2023 Global Church Member Survey and a sermon by Dwight Nelson, Seventh-day Adventist evangelist and author.

"This gathering affirms our belief that rigorous research—rooted in









compassion, ethics and faith—can contribute to healing, justice and growth in our communities," shares Petr Činčala, AHSRA president, associate professor of world mission, and director of the Institute of Church Ministry and Doctor of Missiology program.

The 13th biennial Seventh-day Adventist Business Teachers Conference took place from June 29 to July 3. Themed "Adapting to a Changing World: Challenges for Small Businesses," the conference featured plenary presentations, worship sessions and group discussions with participants from around the world.

"The objective of this conference is to gather together Adventist business teachers for them to create networks and exchange their research to learn from one another," says Lucile Sabas, conference coordinator and associate professor of finance and economics.

Presentations covered topics such as moral values, creativity and innovation, product and employee inclusivity, and international markets. In addition to learning skills to pass on to their students, participants were equipped to engage with the developing business world as innovators and entrepreneurs.

From July 17–19, Andrews hosted the annual **Adventist Conference on Family**

FROM TOP, L-R: Adventist Human-Subject
Researchers Association Conference ■
Adventist Conference on Family Research
and Practice ■ Adventist Bioethics
Consortium Conference ■ Seventh-day
Adventist Business Teachers Conference

Research and Practice (ACFRP). Under the theme "Celebrating Creation: Marriage, Family, and the Sabbath," Adventist professionals gave presentations on what a biblical lifestyle should look like in a contemporary context.

The ACFRP featured six plenary presentations and several breakout sessions over the three-day gathering, targeting family life leaders, pastors, students and professionals. Discussion topics included creation and transformation, student resilience, marriage and romantic relationships, the Sabbath, and family.

Jasmine Fraser, assistant professor of discipleship in lifespan education and director of the PhD program in discipleship and lifespan education, shares, "[The ACFRP] provides opportunities for continuing education, mentorship, research exposure, and real-life application in ministry and clinical settings. It's open to individuals across backgrounds who are committed to making a difference in homes and communities."





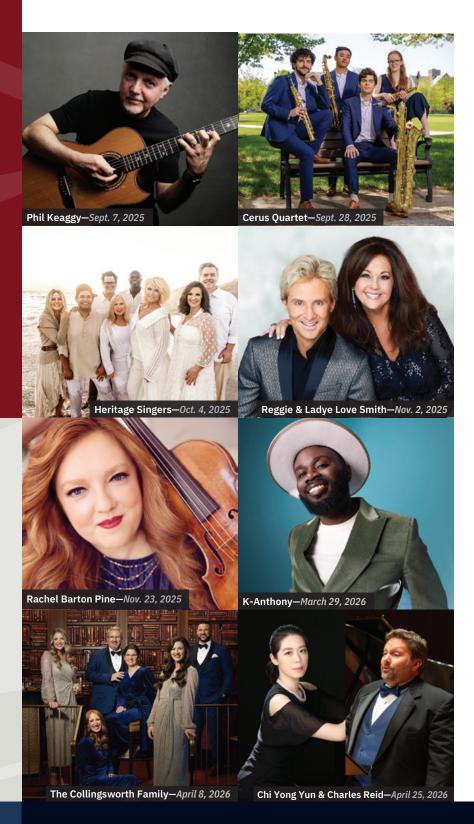
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Jonathan Fetrick joins CFE team

Began role as University chaplain in July

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY WELCOMES

Jonathan Fetrick to the Center for Faith Engagement (CFE) team as University chaplain. In this role, Fetrick is responsible for enriching the spiritual life, faith development and pastoral care of the University community. Together with a dedicated team of spiritual leaders, he will work to build a vibrant community of faith, foster whole-person growth and further the mission of Andrews University.

President John Wesley Taylor V says, "We look forward to the energy, experience and spiritual passion Chaplain Jonathan Fetrick brings to this role, and we are confident he will be a powerful and compassionate presence among us."

Fetrick's vision for chaplaincy is one of collaboration—coming alongside students, faculty and staff to empower them as faithful disciples who disciple others. He says, "I am passionate about connecting students with God's mission, message, and people and about equipping and sending people out for Christ. Andrews, in a fascinating way, is a representation of the world church. We have an opportunity to impact the mission of God in this world in a very distinct way."

Fetrick holds a bachelor's degree in theology from Southern Adventist University and a Master of Divinity from Andrews University. He is currently completing a Doctor of Ministry at Andrews with a focus on discipleship strategies. Returning with his wife Michelle, also an Andrews alum, Fetrick is excited to be back on the campus where their journey together began, along with their four children. For the past eight years, he served as pastor

of the Wisconsin Academy Church. Prior to that, he served for 11 years in the Washington Conference, both as a pastor and youth pastor.

Growing up in a very spiritually focused environment, Fetrick found regular opportunities to participate in ministry, including on mission trips, through literature evangelism and at summer camps. These provided numerous ways for him to express his faith and share it with others. In college, with the advice of mentors and time spent in thought and prayer,

"I am passionate about connecting students with God's mission, message, and people ..."

Fetrick clearly felt God's leading to pastoral ministry.

Now, as University chaplain, Fetrick's dream is that the Center for Faith Engagement is effective in raising conversation with faculty and staff about how to best help students become disciples. He says, "I know how to be a disciple of Jesus as a pastor because that's who I am. But I don't know how to do that as a nurse, mathematician or counselor. While there is a lot of overlap, there is also nuance that is important. Our faculty and staff bring expertise to that."

He adds, "From the student standpoint, my objective would be to empower students to disciple other students and to give them the opportunity and tools to take things at Andrews to the next level for God."

Fetrick looks forward to leading the Center for Faith Engagement team. He says, "I can only do so much for God on my own. I need to pour into the lives of those who are discipling students and equip them to lean into discipling even more for God. Part of equipping comes from creating a framework, part from building a culture of discipleship, and part from simply a realization of conversations and relationship around being a Seventh-day Adventist Christian."

He continues, "The real crux is discipleship multiplication—someone being a disciple in such a way that what they have with Jesus overflows. Disciples make a lifelong commitment to work alongside other people to do something more for God together than they can do on their own."



GRADU

J.N. Andrews Medallion recipients

Jacques B. Doukhan, James Ford and Glenn Russell were honored

DURING THE SUMMER 2025 GRADUATION

weekend, three faculty members received the prestigious J.N. Andrews Medallion. Jacques B. Doukhan was honored at the Commencement for the College of Education & International Services and Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary on Friday, Aug. 1. James Ford and Glenn Russell received recognition at the College of Arts & Sciences and College of Professions Commencement on Sunday, Aug. 3.

■ Jacques B. Doukhan, senior research professor of Hebrew and Old Testament exegesis, was honored for his ongoing contributions in interfaith dialogue and his faithful example of biblical scholarship.

"I am very honored to receive this award. My life has been fulfilled in searching the Hebrew text of the holy Scriptures which touches everything in life, is so rich, profound and complex, and yet so personal and simple," Doukhan says. "This has been and still is a humbling and exciting adventure, a privilege to share in my classes and my writings."

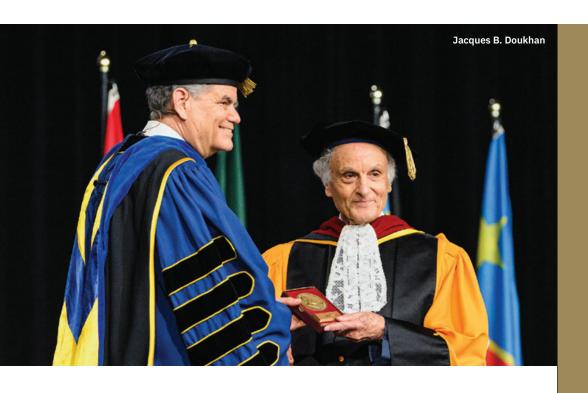
Doukhan holds a bachelor's degree in Hebrew from the University of Strasbourg, as well as master's degrees in theology from the Adventist Seminary, Collonges-sous-Salève, Hebrew from the University of Strasbourg, and Egyptology from the University of Montpellier. In 1973, he obtained a doctoral degree in Hebrew language and literature from the University of Strasbourg, and in 1978, he completed a Doctor of Theology in theological studies at Andrews University.

From 1970–1973 and from 1978–1980, Doukhan worked as a professor at the Adventist Seminary, Collonges-sous-Salève. He served as a pastor from 1974– 1976 and became an ordained minister in 1978. Later, in 1980, he became president of the Adventist Seminary at Mauritius, where he also taught Hebrew and Old Testament.

In 1984, Doukhan became a professor at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, where he also served as director of the Institute of Jewish-Christian studies and leader of the Hebrew-Adventist congregation Beit B'nei Shalom. Known for his thoughtful modeling of Christian scholarship, he has brought vast knowledge, passion and philosophical depth to his roles.

In addition to numerous articles and reviews, Doukhan has written more than twenty books. He has served as editor of journals, a magazine and several collective books and is currently the general editor of the new Seventh-day Adventist International Bible Commentary series.

Doukhan is married to Lilianne, and they have one daughter, Abigail.





AI10N 2025

■ James Ford, associate professor emeritus and former associate director of the Center for Adventist Research, was honored for his dedication to preserving the history of the Seventh-day Adventist movement and to sharing that knowledge with hundreds of students.

Ford earned his Bachelor of Arts in history from Andrews University in 1980. He went on to study at the University of Maryland, College Park, receiving both a Master of Arts in American history and a Master of Library Science in 1982. He married Diane Arnold and they have three children: Heather, Jonathan and Karen.

His career began at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, where he worked for nine years. He spent his first year reorganizing their central library and then worked in the archives and records center.

In 1991, Ford joined the Andrews University faculty as curator of the Adventist Heritage Center. Between 2000 and 2003, the Adventist Heritage Center formally merged with the Branch Office of the Ellen G. White Estate to create the Center for Adventist Research. Ford served as its associate director until his retirement on June 30, 2025.

James Ford

During his tenure, Ford guided the center into the digital age. In 1991, he helped computerize its card catalog system, and in 1998, he launched a digitization program so material could be preserved and freely accessed online. By his retirement, the center's holdings had nearly tripled in size.

Ford developed numerous policies to ensure that the center was managed and operated according to best practices in the industry. His work was rewarded in September 2019 and January 2025, when the Center for Adventist Research was awarded with the Center of Excellence certification from the General Conference.

Many publications on the history of Adventism have been produced, in part, because Ford faithfully preserved, organized and made accessible their source material. His legacy will continue to shape the church's collective memory for generations to come.

Glenn Russell, professor emeritus of religion, was honored for his exceptional commitment to Christian education, global mission and spiritual mentorship.

"I was totally surprised and humbled by this award, especially considering the outstanding individuals who have received this recognition in the past," shares Russell. "It has been my privilege to serve at Andrews Academy and Andrews University for the past 40 years. Years ago, Jesus pulled me like a branch from the fire, and all good things in my life are due to God's mercy and grace."

Russell was born in Egypt to missionary parents and raised in Beirut, Lebanon. He is a graduate of Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University), holds a Master of Divinity from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University and completed a Doctor of Ministry from Trinity International University.

Russell spent 10 years as a pastor before he became a religion teacher at Andrews Academy from 1985 to 1999. He then joined the Department of Religion & Biblical Languages at Andrews University, where he taught for over two decades, also serving with distinction as department chair. His outstanding contributions to the Andrews community have been recognized with numerous honors and awards.

Throughout his career, Russell has been a driving force behind student engagement in global mission. In 2005, he directed the University's first undergraduate global evangelism campaign and subsequently took students to a variety of countries for evangelistic campaigns. He continues to lead annual mission trips to Honduras and Lebanon.

Russell has also served the wider church as host of the Bible program Scriptural Pursuit and is the author of two books on religion for secondary Bible curriculum in North America. His voice and vision have reached local and global audiences through sermons, articles, television series, and presentations at camp meetings, youth congresses and educational institutions.

Russell is married to Sharon, and together they have two adult children and three grandchildren.

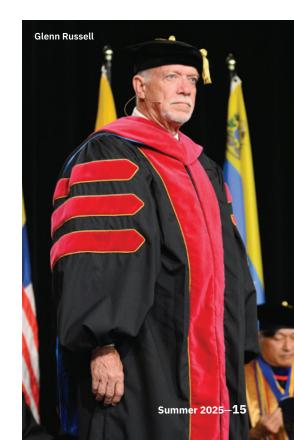




Photo courtesy of Katharine Van Arsdale

Van Arsdale receives Associated Church Press award

For collaborative project with the Lake Union Herald

A SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN BY ANDREWS UNIVERSITY'S Center for Adventist Research and the Lake Union Herald won the 2024 Associated Church Press Award of Excellence in the Marketing and Social Media category for Event Promotion/ Marketing Campaign/Brand Awareness. Creator Katharine Van Arsdale, associate director of the Center for Adventist Research, has worked with Debbie Michel and Katie Fellows at the Lake Union Herald since February 2022 to produce the project.

The campaign highlights images from Lake Union history once a month in the Lake Union Herald's social media and Thursday e-newsletter. The project draws from the photographic collections shared by the Center for Adventist Research and other contributors through the Adventist Digital Library. Van Arsdale explains that the project's goal is "to increase support and collaboration between Andrews University and the Lake Union Herald ... and to create engaging, rewarding social media posts that uplift and inform Adventists in the Lake Union and beyond."

Each photo is carefully selected and captioned by Van Arsdale. "I endeavor to cycle through so that all people in the Lake Union will see their communities represented in the history posts," she shares. "To fill in [caption] details ... I search the archives of the Lake Union Herald in the Adventist Digital Library until I find issues around the time of the event. I almost always find a news article that gives us a peek into the past with fun details."

The award and positive reception of the project were a pleasant surprise to Van Arsdale. "I like this project because I see it as an opportunity to connect Seventh-day Adventists in the Lake Union," she says. "It's a chance to deepen our sense of community and identity across time and space. While pausing for a moment over a picture of the past, I hope that our readers see something or someone they recognize while also learning something new."

Kuryliak wins Scholar of the Year award

From Ukrainian Institute of Arts and Sciences

BOHDAN KURYLIAK, PROJECT AND EVENT MANAGER at the Center for Adventist Research at Andrews University and associate professor in the Department of Theology at the Ukrainian Institute of Arts and Sciences, has received the Scholar of the Year award from the institute after successfully defending his doctoral dissertation "Preterism, Idealism, Historicism, or Futurism? Interpretative Issues of the Apocalypse and Its Reception in Antiquity and Late Antiquity" at the University of Zurich.

Kuryliak has comprehensive experience in theological and philosophical research and has over 10 published articles in peer-reviewed journals. His dissertation focuses on biblical hermeneutics—the study and methodology of interpreting biblical texts—concerning the book of Revelation as an apocalyptic text.

"To some extent, all early Christians combined preterist, idealist, historicist and futurist perspectives. Although commentators used different combinations of hermeneutical approaches, none denied the prophetic nature of the Apocalypse and its connection to history. The findings of the study highlight not only the enduring relevance of Revelation's symbols in various contexts but also the role of exegetical diversity in reflecting the book's profound theological dimensions," he explains.

Kuryliak's recent completion of doctoral studies follows an extensive educational background, including a Bachelor of Theology from the Ukrainian Adventist Theological Institute, a Bachelor of Philosophy in religious studies from the Ukrainian Institute of Arts and Sciences, a Master of Religious Studies from the National University of Ostroh Academy, and a Master of Arts in religion and post-graduate certificate in Ellen G. White and Adventist studies from Andrews University. While pursuing his PhD, he also spent time at Aarhus University in Aarhus, Denmark, and the University of Oxford in Oxford, England, as a visiting scholar.



A providential path

Tom Goodwin retires after 31 years at Andrews

DURING HIS JUNIOR YEAR AS A THEOLOgy major at Southern Missionary College, H. Thomas "Tom" Goodwin took a course on theology and science. "I just fell in love with biology," he says. "Through a series of experiences that I now view as providential, I was able to add a second major in biology, with most of my sciences in my senior year."

Tom wasn't sure how to move forward, though—whether to become a "scientifically informed pastor" or a "theologically informed biologist." He says, "I'll never forget the advice of one of my college mentors, Dr. David Steen (who went on to become my chair for many years at Andrews!): 'God doesn't care so much what you do as how you do what you do.' That counsel really released me from the anxiety I was experiencing. I was able to move forward with the decision to become a biologist without a sense of guilt. And I've never regretted that decision. Never."

After completing his BA with two majors at Southern (now Southern Adventist University), Tom earned an MA in biology at Loma Linda University and, during this time, filled in as a biology instructor for one year at West Indies College (now Northern Caribbean University). He then went on to complete a PhD in biology at the University of Kansas before joining the faculty of Loma Linda University.

A few years later, in 1994, Tom began working at Andrews University. He started as an associate professor of paleobiology before serving as professor of paleobiology beginning in 2001. From July 2012 to 2018, he was also chair of the Department of Biology.

Tom loves to learn and loves to teach and has aspired to do both well. He has greatly appreciated the support of his colleagues over the years and has been blessed by Andrews students. "Most of our biology students really want to learn," he says. "I always love it when, during my teaching or mentoring, a student gets

that 'aha' moment and lights up: 'Oh, now I see!' That brings me pure joy! It's been so rewarding to be a part of their educational journeys."

He adds, "What I'm most proud of is the way my students and advisees have gone on to have meaningful, serviceoriented careers in diverse areas and the privilege I've had to play a small part in this process. As examples, some of these former students are now serving as mission doctors, professors of biology at multiple institutions, professors in other departments at Andrews and as my primary care doctor!"

Now, Tom serves as senior research professor of biology. In retirement, he will continue his studies in the paleobiology of ground squirrels and other Ice Age creatures, but he will miss the daily interactions with students in and out of the classroom.

He and his wife, Joanie, will stay in Berrien Springs for the time being. They plan to travel more, including to see their daughters and other family members, and will stay involved with their church.

Tom says, "I'm very thankful that Andrews has provided, for me, an environment where I can be fully engaged in my profession—as a teacher and as a biologist in the field of paleobiology, as a scientist and Seventh-day Adventist. I have overall had a lot of support and freedom to do this work, hopefully well."

"I always love it when, during my teaching or mentoring, a student gets that 'aha' moment and lights up: 'Oh, now I see!'"



Photo courtesy of H. Thomas Goodwin

Contributing to the mission

James Ford retires after 34 years at Andrews

IN 1991, JAMES "JIM" FORD ACCEPTED a position at Andrews University as curator of the Adventist Heritage Center in the James White Library. He had previously worked at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Office of Archives and Statistics.

He says, "My work at the General Conference, while not the same as I eventually did at Andrews, was related and, as it turns out, provided a strong background for aspects of my later work. God leads in wondrous ways."

At Andrews, Jim worked as curator until 2003, when he transitioned into the role of associate director for the newly formed Center for Adventist Research. The position involved most of his existing curator tasks while adding on some new responsibilities, such as management of the growing team of staff and students.

Over the years, Jim was a key contributor to a number of developments, including digitization of the James White Library's catalog, growing the Center for Adventist Research into the largest collection of research

materials on Adventism, digitization of the center's resources, and helping in the development of the Adventist Digital Library. He also successfully advocated for compact moveable shelving in the Center for Adventist Research, essentially doubling the storage space available, and assisted in the creation and development of the Andrews University Archives & Records Center, which protects Andrews' legal, fiscal and historically significant records.

Jim most appreciated the opportunity to contribute to the work of the church around the world by helping future church workers and frontline gospel workers complete their academic programs and by providing resources for researchers globally. He was always motivated by the idea presented in Luke 19:13, which

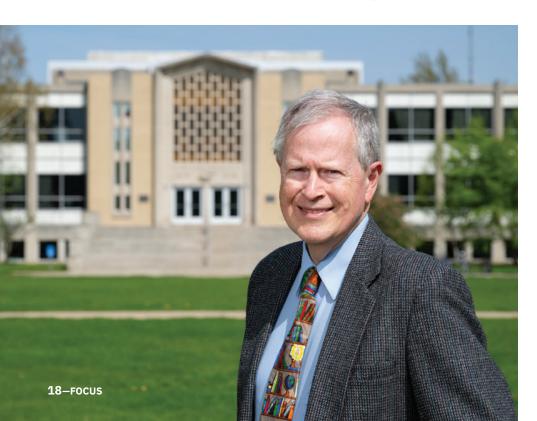
He was always motivated by the idea presented in Luke 19:13, which says, "Occupy till I come" (KJV). says, "Occupy till I come" (KJV). Jim notes that this is often translated as continuing to do business or working until the end.

"Many ask why we collect and preserve old paper and outdated media," he says. "We are 'occupying' or continuing to do our business. We long for the coming of Jesus, but until then we keep on supporting the needs of researchers in studying how God has led our movement in the past. ... Many have been encouraged to persevere and push forward today and remain faithful as they see how God did indeed work in our past."

Jim deeply values the colleagues, at Andrews and beyond, that he interacted with over the years. "It was great being able to attend meetings of my Adventist colleagues and know they looked to Andrews as the leader in the work of preserving Adventist heritage. This was partly due to strong administration support but also due, in part, to my own efforts to maintain strong professional library practices," says Jim. "It was also good to get to know a number of wonderful people, fellow faculty/staff and students, some of whom became friends and colleagues later."

In retirement, Jim would like to continue preparing resources that aid Adventist research, whether at the Center for Adventist Research or elsewhere. He looks forward to more time with his children and grandchildren and to traveling with his wife, Diane—combining mission work and sightseeing, as they have done several times over the years.

"It has been a blessing to work for Andrews University," says Jim. "More than half of my life has been spent in Berrien Springs between a sojourn with my parents when I was small, four years of college and 34 years as a member of the faculty. I feel I have contributed in at least a small way to the advancement of the mission of the University and of the Adventist church."



A natural fit

Steven Nash retires after 33 years at Andrews

STEVEN "STEVE" NASH WAS BORN THE same year Emmanuel Missionary College became Andrews University—and while his parents lived in a one-bedroom house that stood where the Andrews Custodial Services building is now located. Later, after his family moved out of the area, he returned to Andrews for three summers while his father completed a master's degree. They also often stopped at Andrews while on trips to see family back in Michigan. "I always envisioned that I would attend Andrews University," says Steve.

Steve did attend Andrews, pursuing a BBA in management in the School of Business. He met his wife, Karen Koliadko, also a student at Andrews, and when they graduated in 1983 they decided to stay in Berrien Springs.

Steve began his career at Heritage Bank, then joined the staff at Andrews in 1985. "I have a passion for young people to get a Seventh-day Adventist education," he says. "Working at Andrews University was a natural fit."

Steve spent his first years at Andrews working in the industries, which employed students. He served as business manager at College Wood Products, then business manager for Apple Valley and treasurer/secretary for Apple Valley Natural Foods, Inc., when they were owned by the University. When Andrews sold Apple Valley, Steve continued working for the new owners.

In 2004, he transitioned back to work at Andrews University, this time for the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary as director of seminary business. Part of his role involved managing scholarship and emergency funds, and Steve learned to navigate the challenging intersection of people and finances, gaining confidence in speaking up for others. He also taught an annual seminary class on "Church and Personal Finance."

In January 2020, Steve began serving

as assistant vice president for Facilities Management, overseeing Custodial, Grounds, Plant Service and Transportation. In addition to navigating COVID-19, the Facilities team upgraded the Campus Center Rec Center, Dining Services, Chan Shun Hall lobby, Lamson West lobby and the nursing simulation labs. The team also planned the initial session of Lamson Hall room/bathroom suite upgrades in conjunction with Maranatha Volunteers International.

Up Day," an on-campus opportunity for faculty and staff to volunteer to beautify the campus.

Steve is grateful for the friends he made at Andrews and for the faculty and staff that mentored him. "There are so many faculty, staff and students from so many countries that I enjoyed hearing their stories."

In retirement, Steve and Karen will remain in their Berrien Springs home but also plan to travel in their motor home.



Steve liked the challenge of striving to keep aging campus buildings and infrastructure functioning smoothly. He says, "I really enjoyed working with the 40 Facilities staff. There are some incredibly gifted staff working at Andrews, and with their work and a lot of prayer, things keep functioning."

Three years ago, Steve was also able to develop and implement "Change It

They hope to be involved with some mission projects and share the message of Jesus' soon coming with everyone. They also look forward to more time with their children and grandchildren.

Steve says, "My wife and I have been blessed to have lived and worked in this community our whole professional lives. I thank God for this wonderful Christian community!"

Lifelong learning

Scott Moncrieff retires after 37 years at Andrews

SCOTT MONCRIEFF GREW UP WITH A LOVE FOR

books. In his junior year of college, he discovered that the English degree meant he could do a great deal of reading books and talking about them with others. "That sounded pretty good to me," he says.

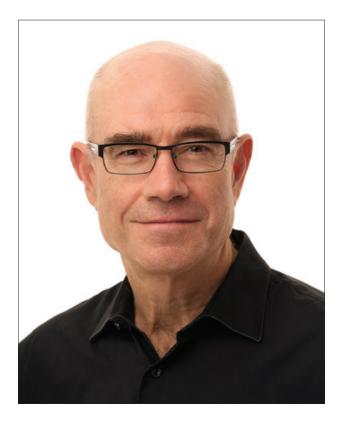
He went on to earn a BA in English at Pacific Union College, an MA in English at Andrews University and, in 1988, a PhD in English at the University of California, Riverside. That fall, he began serving as a professor of English at Andrews University—a role he held for the entirety of his career.

"It's been a privilege to help many talented writers along the developmental path, by giving them a safe space to write, and by taking their writing seriously and doing my best to give them useful feedback and encouragement," Scott says. "Seeing my students (and former students) getting published and further developing their writing abilities has been inspiring."

Scott has greatly enjoyed teaching and the time spent with wonderful colleagues and students in the Department of English. He feels enriched by meeting and working with many other students, faculty and staff across campus, too, from all over the country and all over the world. "I really like the international community at Andrews, students, faculty and staff, tucked into an otherwise obscure little Midwestern town," he says. "I like feeling like I'm part of a United Nations here where we think globally, not nationalistically."

He continues, "Living around people from all over, I became much more aware of how we can get trapped in cultural bubbles and think that the way we grew up doing things is the 'natural' or best way." When asked about other things he valued at Andrews University, Scott says, "I have experienced the joy of being part of a worthwhile mission that required the cooperation of many people to make it happen. I have thrived by being part of a culture of lifelong learners."

"I'll miss stepping into the classroom, never knowing what good surprises might happen in the chemistry of a learning community."



In addition to his classroom teaching, Scott worked as faculty advisor for The Student Movement for 16 years, supporting students in putting out a quality newspaper to serve the campus. He has also enjoyed playing bass for the Cardinal Number jazz ensemble for almost 25 years. He says, "I really like learning and thinking about how learning works with different skills from writing to music to sports."

Scott has carried his love for learning into retirement. He is doing a daily French lesson on Babbel and plans to start baking bread again with hopes to improve as a baker. He is enjoying more time for exercising, reading, practicing piano and bass, and home projects. He also looks forward to doing English language tutoring on an ongoing basis.

Scott and his wife, Lilia, plan to remain living locally, as they have deep roots both with the University community and with their church. They hope to enjoy some travel and spend more time with friends and family.

Scott will miss his regular interactions with both colleagues and students, though. "I'll miss walking up the sidewalk to Nethery Hall, knowing I have a place and a mission in there," he says. "I'll miss stepping into the classroom, never knowing what good surprises might happen in the chemistry of a learning community."

PHOTO: David Sherwin

EN ER Amarathon journey STEPOF THE WAY



Jane and Charles Cutting graduated from Andrews University in June 1962. Jane earned a Bachelor of Science in home economics, and Charles completed a Bachelor of Arts in zoology. They had married with one year of undergraduate work left at Andrews, and after graduation and further education, they went on to careers as a dietitian and dentist, respectively.

Over the years, Jane and Charles moved multiple times—including for military service, employment, and mission service. Their family grew to include three daughters: Cheryl Ann, Shelly Sue and Carey Lynn.

Jane and Charles also took up a long-term, long-distance interest: **running marathons**.

Photos courtesy of Jane and Charles Cutting

LOVERS PAUL MASSON SAN FRANCISCO MARTO FRANCISCO MARTO FRANCISCO MARTO FRANCISCO MARTO



FROM TOP:

Charles and Jane at the San Francisco Marathon in 1983 Charles and Jane at a Missoula Marathon in Montana

by Jane Cutting

was born in Huntington,
Long Island, New
York, but moved to
Battle Creek, Michigan,
when I was 18 months old. I
graduated from Battle Creek
Academy and went on to
Emmanuel Missionary College
(EMC), which became Andrews
University while I was there.

Charles was born in Los Angeles, California, primarily living in California except for a brief time in South Bend, Indiana, and Berrien Springs, Michigan. He graduated from La Sierra Academy and went to La Sierra College for a year and a half before also attending EMC.

Charles and I met at EMC, became friends and dated a little by 1959. During Christmas vacation that year, Charles hitchhiked to Florida to visit some longtime family friends.

My family spent every Christmas vacation in Florida with my grandparents. In 1959, we happened to attend a Friday evening meeting at the Seventh-day Adventist church in Orlando. Who should also be there but Charles!

My parents were happy to see him, and my dad offered him a ride with us back to Michigan instead of him hitchhiking. He gladly accepted. After that trip, we kept dating. We got engaged during the next Christmas vacation and were married on Sept. 3, 1961, in Battle Creek.

Charles was drafted into the Army and, after graduation from Andrews in 1962, we moved to Texas and Washington, D.C., for his service. In 1964, we returned to school—I did a dietetics internship while Charles attended Loma Linda University. He graduated from dental school in 1968, and we lived in Utah and Michigan before moving to Colorado. We had always been active and especially enjoyed hiking over the years.

In 1972, Charles attended American Medical Association meetings in Denver. One of the speakers was Kenneth Cooper, who had worked with the Air Force troops to get them running and later became the "father of aerobics." Charles was so impressed with the presentation that he came home and said, "We have to start running!"

So we went in search of shoes. There were no running shoes available at that time. Instead, we got some tennis shoes and began running a mile around our neighborhood every morning—rain, sunshine or snow. We kept up the one or two miles a day for several years.

In 1974, we moved to Africa, having accepted a call to mission service working in dental clinics. We spent six months in Rhodesia, which later became Zimbabwe. Then we moved to Malawi for six years. The dentists remodeled and updated the dental clinic, and they trained their own national dental assistants. We also did a lot of "bush" clinics out in more remote areas, often under a big tree. During the years that we lived in Africa, we continued to keep up with our running.

In 1980, we moved back to California to be close to Charles' mother, who was in poor health. We were living in the Loma Linda area, and Charles saw an advertisement for the Loma Linda Lopers. He decided to check it out and see what their fitness program involved. He found out they were training to do the Honolulu Marathon in December. He didn't have any intentions of doing a marathon but thought it would be nice to have more people to run with.

I kept up with my two miles a day in our neighborhood. Then Charles told me it's easier to go five miles than two miles because you are just getting warmed up in two miles. I started going farther and discovered he was right.

Charles had been putting in all the training to do a marathon so decided to go to Honolulu to do the marathon with the Lopers. I said I would go along and cheer them on because the farthest I had ever run was eight miles. But the Lopers talked me into doing the marathon, too. They said, "You've been running a lot, and you can finish it."

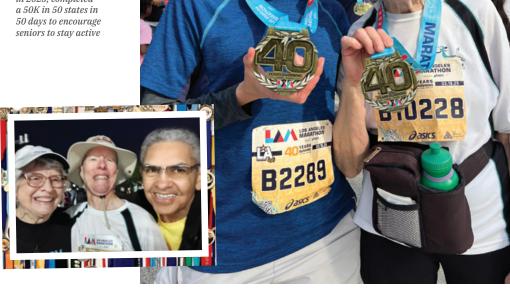
Honolulu leaves the course open until the last runner comes across the finish line. I had hiked Mount Whitney, which was 22 miles round trip at high elevation, so I knew I could finish the Honolulu route and agreed to give it a try.

I was able to run the first 15 miles and then alternated running and walking the rest. But I finished faster than some of the Lopers who had trained all year for it—my time was five hours and 35 minutes. I was quite sore after the marathon for a few days. Later, I decided to train

"At this point,
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training run for the
next marathon."

FROM TOP:

Jane and grandson Caden at the 40th Los Angeles Marathon ■ Jane and Charles at a Los Angeles Marathon with Ron DuPreez who, in 2025, completed a 50K in 50 states in 50 days to encourage



for the following year's Honolulu Marathon, and I completed it in four hours and 34 minutes.

We started doing other marathons, mainly around California. I did my personal best marathon in San Diego in 1985 with a time of 3:53:39. Charles' best time was 3:46.

We qualified for the prestigious Boston Marathon, which didn't begin until noon. By race time, it had been a long time since we ate. Back then, we didn't have a lot of snacks or gels or electrolytes to use along the way. Charles was hypoglycemic and slowed down a lot. I ended up beating him by seven minutes. For the majority of the marathons we have done, he has beaten my time. But there have been a few times that I came in ahead of him.

At this point, we were going all over the country to do marathons in many of the major cities and also in some more remote areas. I liked doing a marathon a month to use it as a training run for the next marathon.

Then we decided to work on doing a marathon in every state. We spent a couple weeks in New England and got all those states. Our daughter and her husband were planning a trip to Alaska and Canada on their motorcycle in 2004. We thought that sounded like fun, so we got a motorcycle and went with them. It was about an 8,000 mile trip with frequent stops to rest and stretch and buy gas, etc., but it was fun. We put our bikes on the ferries and went up through the Inside Passage. We took time out to do a marathon in Anchorage, Alaska.

After we retired to northern Idaho in 2005, we were able to take marathon trips crisscrossing the U.S., doing several marathons along the way. It took a lot of planning to fit in as many as we could. We were also able to visit many friends and family on our trips in between marathons.

In 2008, we met our goal of completing marathons in all 50 states—Arkansas was our last state. That didn't stop us from doing more marathons, though. We have done several marathons in Canada, including in Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Niagara Falls. Auckland, New Zealand, and London, England, are the only two marathons we have done outside of North America, although we have been on all the continents and traveled in 85 countries.

When the Los Angeles Marathon started in 1986, the Loma Linda Lopers switched to training for that race instead



"Charles got started doing marathons before I did, and he has done 222 marathons and 50K races. I have done a total of 194 marathons and 50K races."

of the Honolulu Marathon. We did that first Los Angeles Marathon and kept doing it every year because it was convenient and close by while we were living in Southern California.

When we retired and moved to Idaho, we had already done the first 20 Los Angeles Marathons. We decided to keep going back to LA each year for the marathon, and now it has been 40 years since it began! Unfortunately, Charles had some health issues which prevented him from doing the 40th year on March 16, 2025. But I was there. For the last four years or so, I have been the oldest female to have done all the Los Angeles Marathons. I plan to do the LA Marathon every year in March, and I will try to keep it up as long as I am able. There are still 86 of us who have done all 40 years of the LA Marathon. Ten of us are women.

We have done so many marathons, it is hard to say which one is a favorite. Joining the 50 States Marathon Club was fun because we would get to see a lot of the same people at so many of the races. Some marathons have beautiful scenery, like on the North Carolina coast, in the California Redwoods, in the mountains

outside of Salt Lake City, in Coeur d'Alene, in Yakima Valley in Washington, at Big Sur in California, and along the Gulf Coast of Texas.

Then others are very interesting because they take you through famous and historical places such as Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Boston, Portland, San Francisco, Las Vegas, San Diego, Chicago, Seattle and Los Angeles. We sort of favor the Los Angeles Marathon because we have the history of doing it for 40 years. Its course has changed a number of times over the years, but it always includes downtown Los Angeles, Little Tokyo, Chinatown, Olvera Street and Hollywood.

It's also been a joy to watch the athletes in the next generations of our family. Carey's husband Greg has done several Ironman triathlons and a lot of marathons and other athletic events. He loves riding his bike and has done 100 and 300 milers for some events. Our grandson Kyler did his first marathon with us in Los Angeles when he was 16 in 2022, and he also did his first half Ironman triathlon here in Coeur d'Alene in June this year. Greg did that one, too. Our grandson Caden did the Los Angeles Marathon when he was 16 in 2025 with me. Cheryl's husband Kent did a marathon in Singapore when he was about 17, while attending Far Eastern Academy. So we do have a few athletes

A Marathons x 26.2 miles lus 4.4 mile = 1000 miles

Charles got started doing marathons before I did, and he has done 222 marathons and 50K races. I have done a total of 194 marathons and 50K races.

We try to be an inspiration to others and encourage everyone to stay as active as possible for as long as possible so they can enjoy life to the fullest.

God promises to be with us always in everything that comes our way. And He has been with us all the time, no matter where we are. We thank Him daily for His loving and protective care and for solving issues so we can carry on with our lives and our duties.

in our family!

Andrews at the GC Session

The 62nd General Conference (GC) Session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church took place in St. Louis, Missouri, from July 3–12, 2025. The global gathering brought together church leaders, delegates and members from around the world to conduct official church business, elect leadership and seek God's guidance for the mission of the Adventist church.

Andrews University faculty, staff and students served at the session in a number of ways, including as delegates, pages, musicians and Andrews booth representatives.

Here are some of their stories.



University Singers at a worship service

PHOTO: Tor Tjeransen / Adventist Media Exchange (CC BY 4.0)

St. LOUIS 2025 62nd GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION



"The GC Session truly gave me a taste of heaven. The diversity of members from 212 countries reflected the biblical vision of people from every nation, tribe and language standing before God's throne."

-PAULETTE JOHNSON



Ingridy Ramos, undergraduate student, psychology

I served at the GC Session as a page, working at the Information Booth on the main floor near the Exhibition Hall. My responsibilities included assisting attendees with questions about the program, navigating the building and finding local information. By far, the most frequent question



Photo courtesy of Bordes Henry Saturné

was how to log in to the Wi-Fi! I also helped people locate the Dome (where all the main programs happened), purchase meal tickets, and recover lost and found items. My shift ran from 7:30 a.m.–2:15 p.m. with a lunch break. During that time, I remained at the booth, ready to guide visitors and ensure they had a smooth and enjoyable experience.

One of the most meaningful moments for me was helping an older gentleman find his way to the Dome. When he struggled to locate it on his own,

I walked with him to the stadium. He was so grateful that he returned to the booth daily just to greet me, and on the last day, he gifted me a book he had written. That encounter reminded me of the personal impact even small acts of service can have.

Beyond these interactions, the GC Session was spiritually profound. Witnessing hundreds of people worship together, feeling God's presence during the sessions and seeing the church actively spreading its mission gave me a deep sense of belonging and trust in God's care. This experience was a blessing, filled with new connections, joyful reunions and a powerful reminder of God's work in His church.

Jan Pickett, graduate enrollment coordinator

I currently work as a graduate enrollment coordinator in the Office of Graduate Enrollment. At the GC Session my role, along with three other coordinators, was to answer any questions from visitors to the booth about graduate programs at Andrews. We also encouraged visitors to complete a digital interest form so that we could send more information by email. Our goal was to educate those who may not have realized just how many programs we offer, showing them how they could achieve their academic pursuits both in person and online.

I attended the GC Session several times when I was younger. However, attending as a participant in the Exhibit Hall was very different! For me, the GC Session was always a place where I could reunite with people who were spread out all over the country. This year, I was able to stand in one spot and not only greet many people that I knew but meet many more people from all over the world that I would not have met otherwise. I was able to reunite with former classmates, colleagues and student workers. One of the highlights was finding out that one of our former student workers had published a book.

I remember one day, as I arrived at the Exhibit Hall a little early, I stood at the door, looked out over all that I could see and thought to myself ... this will be one of the joys of heaven: people meeting and reuniting for eternity.

Photo courtesy of Jan Pickett



Steven Manoukian, director of Development

The Andrews University booth at the General Conference Session had a steady flow of alumni passing through from all over the world. Over the course of 10 days, our team shared 600 padfolios as gifts to alums. Even when we ran out



Photo courtesy of Steven Manoukian

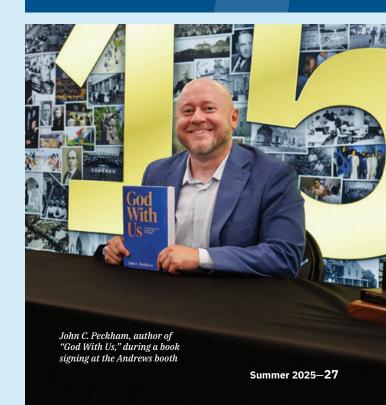
of padfolios, however, it did not stop alumni from coming by to talk, update their contact information and share their Andrews experiences.

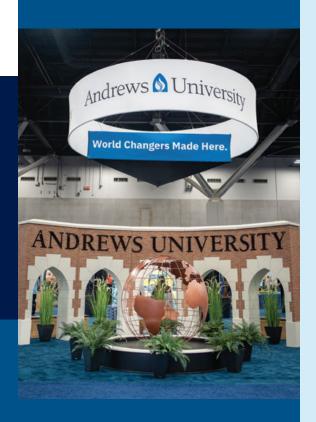
It was beautiful and special to hear different accents from across the globe share stories. I learned how the Lord is using our graduates to impact their communities. Alumni shared about their love

for Jesus and how Andrews University provided them with a high-quality education.

What touched me the most was the love that our alumni have for Andrews University. Dr. Jason Goliath (BS '93) summed it up well, sharing, "My dad graduated from Andrews, my wife and I graduated from Andrews, my son recently graduated from Andrews. Andrews means a lot to us—I love Andrews."

During my 10 days at the booth, I realized that Andrews University has truly been a place where students have received a quality education and where they have had their faith affirmed and strengthened. Now they are in every part of the world, impacting their communities.





The Andrews University booth

Andrews University's booth at the 2025 GC Session provided a unique opportunity to visually represent the Andrews story for the world church.

- Planning meetings started in January 2024.
- Ron Zwar, who has created the Andrews booth for GC Sessions since 2005, led the booth design.
- Construction of the booth took three days at the Exhibit Hall in St. Louis, Missouri.
- The completed booth measured 50 feet by 50 feet.
- A display of 124 flags was set up beside the globe and entrance replicas (introduced in 2010).
- The Andrews logo and tagline "World Changers Made Here." were featured on a two-tier, hanging sign with a 21-foot diameter.
- The booth highlighted six main areas:
 Andrews University Press, the Seventh-day
 Adventist Theological Seminary, Graduate
 Enrollment, Undergraduate Enrollment,
 Alumni Services, and Global Campus.
- Six 70-inch screens played looping videos.
- A team of more than 50 Andrews employees staffed shifts at the booth.
- Events at the booth included a book signing and a graduation.

Elsie Mokaya, graduate student, organizational management

In June, I was invited by Professor Stephen Zork to sing with the University Singers at the GC Session. Our choir sang with the mass choir on Sabbath and then as a group on Sunday evening. Additionally, Professor Charles Reid was leading the song services and asked us, his students, to help lead congregational singing on Sunday afternoon.

Our main goal was to share a message of hope through music, echoing the theme of "We Have This Hope" sung throughout the session. Professor



Photo courtesy of Elsie Mokaya

Stephen Zork selected "A New Jerusalem" by Kyle Pederson, a piece that adapts text from Revelation 21:4–5 and reflects on a future with no more pain, tears or sickness. The choir repeatedly sang the powerful words, "I am making all things new," offering a reminder of the hope we have as we long for our heavenly home.

I'm originally from Kenya, and my mother's singing group happened to perform the same weekend. It was special seeing familiar faces and connecting

with friends and the community from home. It always amazes me how many different people come together to work for a common goal—to share Jesus wherever we go.

Music is such a powerful ministry, and I am always blessed to hear and see different people share their talents. The diversity of music and languages was a blessing, as was witnessing people praying backstage before performances. Seeing the GC president personally encourage his team reminded me how music and ministry unite people in powerful, humbling ways.

Sonia Badenas, associate professor of French, and **Davide Sciarabba**, assistant professor of religion

This summer, we felt privileged to serve Andrews University in St. Louis at the 2025 General Conference Session. At the Andrews University booth, we dedicated four to five hours each day to welcoming visitors and guiding



Photo courtesy of Sonia Badena

them through their "Andrews" experience. Our primary mission was to warmly greet attendees and assist those interested in learning more about our programs—whether undergraduate, graduate, seminary or Griggs—by directing them to the appropriate representatives.

A highlight of our service was connecting with Andrews alumni. We distributed the special 150th anniversary pin to honor their connection to the University. In collabora-

tion with Andrews University Press, we also had the privilege of sharing "God With Us" by John Peckham, which was gifted to every delegate.

What made this experience especially rewarding was the energy and enthusiasm we witnessed. Alumni returned with fond memories, while future students expressed excitement at the prospect of beginning their educational journey with us. Again and again, it became clear that Andrews holds a special place in people's hearts.

Our ability to serve in four languages—English, French, Italian and Spanish—allowed us to welcome a diverse community, assist many individuals and form meaningful new connections. At the same time, we were delighted to reunite with old friends from around the world.

Above all, it was inspiring to see our Andrews colleagues united by a common purpose: helping others discover and pursue their dream of becoming part of the Andrews family, preparing to seek knowledge, affirm faith and change the world.





Paulette Johnson, dean of libraries

This year, I had the privilege of representing Andrews University as a delegate at the 62nd GC Session in St. Louis, Missouri. For delegates, work began months before the session, with online orientation and reading materials to familiarize us with protocols, reports and discussion topics. My first task was to help select members of the Nominating Committee, which recommends officers, leaders and the session's agenda.

Each day started with worship. Morning business sessions followed, where delegates discussed and voted on personnel, policies and plans for the church. After extended meal breaks, sessions resumed until evening. The day concluded with another worship service filled with music, devotionals and reports from around the world.

I was deeply moved by the church's commitment to mission and unity. This was evident in the recurring theme of service, the anticipation of Christ's return and the pledge, "I Will Go!" I left knowing that I helped shape the church's leadership and policies for the next five years, convinced that our representative form of governance works and that God guided the decisions made.

The GC Session truly gave me a taste of heaven. The diversity of members from 212 countries reflected the biblical vision of people from every nation, tribe and language standing before God's throne. The GC Session is more than a business meeting; it's a spiritual experience, a global family reunion and a reaffirmation of our faith and shared mission. I returned home inspired, challenged and hopeful for the future of our church.

Photo courtesy of Paulette Johnson



"Again and again, it became clear that Andrews holds a special place in people's hearts."

-SONIA BADENAS & DAVIDE SCIARABBA

FROM TOP, L-R: President John Wesley Taylor V addresses GC Session attendees ■ An Andrews booth visitor poses for a photo ■ The Andrews University Press display at the Andrews booth ■ The Global Campus display at the Andrews booth ■ A student in the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary graduates from Andrews at a special ceremony held at the Andrews booth





Photo courtesy of Bordes Henry Saturné













Among our new students coming through First Stop during New Student Orientation on Monday, Aug. 18, more than 80 identified themselves as Legacy students—students with a parent and/or grandparent who attended Andrews. The Office of Alumni Services celebrated this legacy connection by taking photos of the students and/or families.













Marvin Harold Bort (BMus '67) passed away on May 8, 2025, in Modesto, California. He spent his adult years sharing his love of music with his students and his community. He played for ten years in the Modesto Symphony and served as choir director and handbell director for decades at the Modesto Central Seventh-day Adventist Church. He is survived by his wife, Barbara (BS '66, MA '67); sister, June; daughters, Shelly and Jennifer; granddaughters, Elizabeth and Audrey; and many friends and students whom he loved.

Sakae Kubo (BA '47, MA '54, BD '55, former faculty) passed away at home from natural causes on April 16, 2025, in Bakersfield, California. He was born on May 8, 1926, in Honolulu. Hawaii.

Sakae attended his high school senior year at Emmanuel Missionary College (EMC) Academy in 1944, then attended EMC (now Andrews University).

He became a minister in Hawaii and later pastored in Southern California. In 1955, he returned to Andrews University as an instructor of biblical languages, then served as an assistant professor of biblical languages for undergraduates before teaching in the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. He later was an associate professor of New Testament and professor of Greek and New Testament at the seminary.

In 1968, Sakae completed his Master of Science in library science while a professor at Andrews University, then taught in the Andrews Religion Department and served as the seminary librarian.

Sakae earned a total of five

advanced degrees—a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Divinity and Master of Arts from Andrews University; a Master of Science in library science from Western Michigan University; and a Doctor of Philosophy in New Testament and early Christian literature from the University of Chicago.

In 1978, Sakae became dean of the School of Theology at Walla Walla College (now Walla Walla University). He also served at Newbold College as president and at Atlantic Union College as vice president for Academic Affairs and dean of the college.

He published 18 books between 1965 and 1999. His "A Reader's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament" is still widely used by New Testament scholars, students and ministers and has been translated into dozens of languages.

Sakae and his wife Hatsumi retired in 1989 to Chico, California.

Sakae is survived by his wife of nearly 77 years, Hatsumi Sakai Kubo (BS '66, MA '70); three children, Wesley Kubo (Tracy), Charlene Bainum (BA '75) (Bruce) and Calvin Kubo (BA '79) (Sally (AS '79)); ten grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.



Victoria "Vickie" Ann Boling (MAT '80), 84, of Laurel Hill, Florida, passed away peacefully at her home on April 6, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.

Vickie was born on Dec. 27, 1940, to the late Jesse and Katrina Ortiz in Goodland, Kansas. She was the youngest of seven children. Vickie married her dear husband, Paul Boling (MDiv '80), on May 13, 1973. They started their life's journey, inspired and led by God Himself.

Vickie attended Union College, now Union Adventist University, between 1958 and 1959. She played clarinet in the school band. Vickie earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Southern Adventist University and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Andrews University.

Vickie will be remembered as a faithful wife, friend and supporter of Paul's ministry. She was active in every church they served. She served in Pathfinders, as Children's Choir director, as a Decorating Committee member and as fundraiser for a new church building. Several times in their ministry, Vickie entertained church members in their home, even having a sit-down meal for 30 church officers. Vickie served as Women's Ministry director of the Texas Conference from June 1. 2001-March 31, 2003.

Vickie had a great love for music. Someone could bring up a certain subject and it would immediately remind Vickie of a song she learned as a child. Vickie loved her Lord. She will be terribly missed by her family, friends and especially by her husband, Paul.

Vickie was predeceased by all her siblings.

She is survived by her loving husband, Paul; four children, Colleen Ross of Phoenix, Arizona, Richard (Theresa) Boling of Mount Vernon, Ohio, Angie Boling of Destin, Florida, and Ron Boling of Destin, Florida; a step-daughter, Paula (Mike) Sanchez of Killbuck, Ohio; and four grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Linette Sue (Sutton) Kelley (BA '68), 81, of Worcester, Massachusetts, passed away on April 3, 2025, surrounded by her loving family at the Jewish Healthcare Center.

She was born on June 25, 1943, in Yale, Michigan, to the

late Russell E. and Zelma Orlaine (DeVries) Sutton. Linette grew up in Holly, Michigan, and was a graduate of Adelphian Academy in Holly and Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. She raised her sons in Lancaster, Massachusetts, and lived many years in Sterling and Worcester, Massachusetts.

Linette cherished time spent with her family, especially when gathered at her home for birthdays, eating tostados or celebrating Christmas, which began in early September for her. She found great joy in walking, playing with her grandchildren and spending time outdoors, with one of her favorite spots being the top of Mount Wachusett in Princeton, Massachusetts. Linette saw the good in people, and her spirituality was based on her connections to those around her. She had an inner strength and an outer laughter that she shared generously with those around her.



Linette lived in a wonderful and fulfilling community surrounded by many dear friends at Eisenberg Assisted Living (part of the Jewish Healthcare Center) for over three years. She spent her final weeks under the loving care of many nurses and staff members at the Jewish Healthcare Center.

Linette was predeceased by her parents as well as sisters, Edith Sutton and **Barbara Munson** (BA '63).

She is survived by her sons, Sean Kelley (Julie) and Ryan Kelley (Una); her former husband, Michael Kelley; her beloved grandchildren, Neil, Max, Maryn, Abigail, Jack and Colin; her great-grandson, Theodore; her siblings, Dorothy Knecht, Ardith Trubey (BS '62) (Ed (BS '62)), Christina Peterson (Kris), John Sutton (Janice) and Glenn Sutton (Kathleen); and many nieces, nephews and close friends.



Monte Sahlin (former faculty), 76, passed away peacefully in Kettering, Ohio, on April 2, 2025, surrounded by his loving family.

Monte began his ministry with the Seventh-day Adventist Church at the Voice of Prophecy. Then he became the director of urban ministries in Los Angeles, California, Washington, D.C., and Boston, Massachusetts, followed by pastoring in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Worthington, Ohio.

Monte served in the newly formed North American Division (NAD) from 1987-1998, leading the development of church ministries and beginning the semi-annual church ministry convention for union and local conference departmental leaders. He particularly enjoyed the transformation of the inner city program and **Adventist Community Services** into a first-rate professional agency. The United States government honored his national disaster response program collaboration with an Outstanding Public Service Award in 1995.

From the NAD, Monte became the vice president for Ministries for the Columbia Union in Columbia, Maryland, from 1999–2007. Monte pioneered social research within the Adventist church and the use of survey data in the development of ministries and ministry tools. He directed more than 130 research projects and authored 26 books and more than 100 research reports and articles over his career.

He served as an adjunct professor for Andrews University (who awarded him an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in 2023) and for the Tony Campolo Center for Ministry at Eastern University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Monte retired from denominational employment in 2014 after working in the Ohio conference coordinating metropolitan ministries and research and development projects. His ministry continued as executive director for Adventist Today for eight years, concluding in 2020.

His research and writing continued until just weeks before his death.

Monte is survived by his wife, Gretchen; brother, Chris; daughters, Stephanie, Melissa and Najwa; grandchildren, Zeke, Zoe, Alex and Marco; and many friends and close colleagues.



Walter Bruce Wrenn (former faculty) died on March 29, 2025, in Granger, Indiana, after a long battle with cancer.

Bruce was born Nov. 9, 1950, to Winona and Walter Wrenn. Bruce met Jan (BSW '91), the love of his life, when he was 15. He and Jan were married on June 12, 1971, after his sophomore year at Auburn University. When he graduated in 1973, he enrolled in Northwestern University's MBA program. Upon graduation, Bruce worked as a market analyst for the Upjohn pharmaceutical company.

Bruce joined the School of Business faculty at Andrews University in 1978 and completed a PhD in marketing at Northwestern University in 1989. He served as faculty at Indiana University South Bend from 1989 to 2008, then returned to Andrews as the J.N. Andrews Endowed Chair of Marketing.

Among his more than 100 scholarly and professional publications and presentations are 16 books. Bruce also served on the editorial review board of several scholarly journals and consulted with numerous organizations on marketing matters.

Bruce received citations recognizing excellence in research, teaching and service. He served as an expert witness to the Federal Trade Commission, subject matter expert in marketing to the American Management Association and a marketing mentor in the Harvard Business School's ManageMentor program.

He was co-founder and editor of the Scriptural Foundations for Business series published by Andrews University Press.

Bruce was a longtime member of Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan. He dearly loved his God, wife and family, golden retrievers, and a multitude of close friends. His family, friends and former students knew him as a warm, generous man with a quick wit and smile.

He was preceded in death by his father, mother and sister, Kitty.

Bruce is survived by his wife, Jan, emerita professor of social work at Andrews University; sister, Joan George; and nephews and nieces, Steven, Stephanie, Michael and Winona.



Dianna Lynne Connors (BA '70), 77, passed away on March 22, 2025, in Dayton, Ohio. Born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, she grew up in Oshawa, Ontario, and later made her home first in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and then Lacombe, Alberta.

Dianna graduated from Andrews University with a BA degree in behavioral sciences in 1970. She was active in the Student Association and lit up every room with her beauty, bright mind and effervescent spirit. She enjoyed engaging her wide group of friends in poetry readings, as well as theological and political discussions.

Dianna completed an MA in counselling psychology from Western Michigan University in 1975 and worked at Battle Creek Adventist Hospital from 1975 to 1990, eventually becoming the head administrator for the Child and Adolescent Unit. After she and her family moved to Lacombe, Alberta, she joined Loma Linda University's Canadian campus as administrator of their graduate-level Marital & Family Therapy Program, rising to lead administrator until the program's closure in 2013.

In 2016, Dianna moved from Alberta to Kettering, Ohio, and married Tom Robbins after rekindling a deep friendship from their college days, where Dianna had been campaign manager for Tom's successful

Life Stories

run for student body president. They had nine years of happiness together, a major portion of which was dominated by a fight against metastatic breast cancer. Dianna was known for her warm spirit and her ability to bring people together. Those who knew her fondly remember her love of poetry, philosophy, nature and spirituality.

Dianna was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Anne Connors, as well as her siblings, Ken, Frank and Arlene.

She is survived by her husband, Tom; her children, Gillian, Colleen and Jack; the father of her children, John; her children-in-law, Martin and Melissa; her bonus kids, Jennifer and Amanda; and her siblings, Gail, Bob and Alan (BA/BA '65).



Victor "Vic" Charles Hilbert Jr. (BMus '64, MA '66), 86, passed away peacefully on Jan. 29, 2025, at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing, Michigan. He was born on May 7, 1938, to Victor C. Hilbert Sr. and Sara E. Hilbert.

Vic pursued a music major at Atlantic Union College. His rich voice graced the television program "Faith for Today" as bass in the quartet from 1960 to 1962.

In 1962, Vic and his wife Jan moved to Andrews University, where he earned a Bachelor of Music in music education. Vic then taught choral and voice for six years at Shenandoah Valley Academy. He also worked on his MA degree for three summers at Andrews, earning a master's degree in music.

In 1970, Vic became principal at Spencerville Junior Academy. He continued to pursue higher education, and in 1980 he graduated from the College of St. Thomas with his educational specialist degree.

In 1984, Vic embraced a new calling as fire chief for the Delta Township Fire Department in Michigan. Then, in 1991, the State of Michigan Department of State Police Emergency Management Division authorized Vic as a professional emergency manager.

He also served within the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs and as president of the Western Michigan Fire Chiefs Association. In July 2007, Vic was awarded the prestigious Michigan State Fire Chief of the Year Award.

Vic was an elder at the Lansing Seventh-day Adventist Church. He used his gift of music by directing the church choir, singing solo and with other musicians, and forming the Lansing Chorale.

Vic was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Theodore Hilbert, and sister-in-law, Sandra Hilbert; and his sister, June Hilbert Harris, and brother-in-law, Ronald Harris.

Victor is survived by his loving wife, Janet Hilbert; children, John Kevin Hilbert, Pamela Sue Hilbert Sock (Larry) and Jeffrey Todd Hilbert; grandchildren, Eric, Jack and Jagger; great-grandchild, Brody; and many nieces and nephews.

ALUMNI CALENDAR

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.



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When you fund a charitable gift annuity with Andrews University, you get more than the satisfaction of supporting our mission. You also get fixed payments—for life. You may enjoy significant tax benefits as well, including a deduction in the year of your gift and future payouts that are partially tax-free. If you're interested in supporting Andrews University while enjoying the benefit of a dependable income, call or email us to learn more.

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Rosie Nash, BA '60 Retired realtor and dedicated Neighbor to Neighbor volunteer.



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 $During\ New\ Student\ Orientation, international\ students\ gathered\ for\ food\ and\ fellowship\ at\ the\ home\ of\ Frances$ $Faehner,\ vice\ president\ for\ Campus\ \&\ Student\ Life,\ and\ David\ Faehner,\ vice\ president\ emeritus\ for\ Advancement.$

PHOTO CREDIT: Eben Espinosa

