





CONTENTS

SOMETHING BETTER

"Something better" is the watchword of education, the law of all true living. . . . Lead them to behold the One "altogether lovely." When once the gaze is fixed upon Him, the life finds its center. The enthusiasm, the generous devotion, the passionate ardor, of the youth find here their true object (Education, 296).

In this issue you will read about the valueadded benefits of Adventist education, including teachers who provide a Christ-like example and reasons to be proud of the academic quality of Adventist education that is building leaders. This upcoming academic year six new schools will open their doors. Lighthouse on the Prairie (p. 8) tells about a school that opened last year and how God has provided and blessed. Mission trips are an integral part of many students' school experiences (p. 9). Don't miss that story! Students everywhere face bullying—hear how one conference is leading the way in eliminating it from their schools. Finally, you will see how students are making witnessing and service a central part of their lives, resulting in receipt of the Caring Heart Award.

"Something better" is what Adventist education is all about!

-LOUANN HOWARD, associate director of education for the Mid-America Union

ON THE COVER

Photo taken in Florida by Timothy Floyd during Senior Survival weekend.



Q&A with a recent graduate

Q: Who is a teacher that has made a lasting difference in your life?

A: There are so many teachers who can influence and impact someone's life through four years of high school. But there are a few that always stand out.

Pastor Ric Meyerpeter has been that person for me. He gives me biblical counsel and helps me challenge my beliefs. He is an inspiration to me because he has shown me, in the classroom and by example, how to put God first in every decision I make. More than any other man I know he exemplifies Christ-like compassion. Every time I see Pastor Ric on campus, he has a beaming smile and a word of encouragement. He treats every student as his brother and best friend, regardless of their previous history.

It has been more beneficial to me than I could ever say to have him in my life for four years. His guidance in my life, in class and in personal conversations, has helped me tremendously in my mission trips to India and Nepal and every other area of ministry I get involved in.

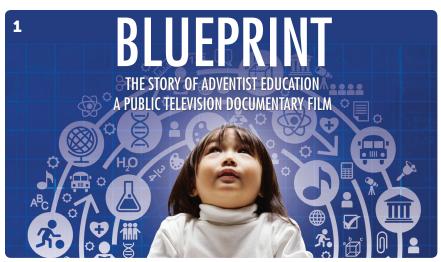
He has shown me, through the way he lives his own life, how to be an honest, respectful, Christian man living for God. He has set a glowing example of the Christian man I want to one day become.

-CALEB HAAKENSON has completed 12 years of Adventist education. He plans to attend Union College and study business and religion.





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AOVENTIST

Being Proud (in a good way)

...be proud of your Adventist education." These words were spoken by Dr. Reginald Burton as he addressed Union College's graduating class during last May's commencement. He reflected on his own iourney from Amarillo Junior Academy to Enterprise Academy to Union College to the medical school at Loma Linda University. "I often compared my educational preparation with those who went to larger and better funded schools," he said. "My education was never lacking and was often superior." Burton is a leading trauma surgeon, having studied at some of the nation's most prestigious institutions, now practicing at Bryan LGH in Lincoln, Nebraska.

His words came as no surprise to me since I have heard similar statements often through my years in our church. His testimony is backed by a solid research project known as Cognitive Genesis. That study offered many enlightening conclusions. Some of us predicted the test scores of Adventist students would be higher than national norms, since private education frequently leads the world of public education when the nation is taken as a whole.

What was remarkable to me was that no matter when in her/his development a student joined an Adventist classroom or campus, improvement began immediately; and the longer the student remained in our schools the better s/he did.

Bottom line—the school system your church operates, at a large cost, yields a return on investment both in this life and in the kingdom to come that makes it very worthwhile. As Dr. Burton said, you can be proud of your Adventist education.

So here's my question

Why are not more of our eligible children in our schools? Surveys reveal a variety of answers ranging from convenience to lack of information to cost. And in the minds of some, there remain questions of quality.

The matter of convenience is a tough one. We simply cannot put schools in every neighborhood where our church members live.

We can, however, do better at presenting up-to-date information (see resources on opposite page).

No doubt cost is a serious factor. Balancing the budget, whether in our families or in our local or regional institutions, is not easy. There are only three ways to do it: Increase income; decrease expense; or a combination of both

On the income side: With current enrollment levels. many if not most of our schools have the capacity for more students. If our enrollment were to increase significantly, our costs per student could be reduced slightly, or at least not increase. And any reduction would be welcome. Some of our schools are looking for new streams of revenue to partially offset tuition costs, and that is laudable. Also, this would be a good time for setting up operating or capital endowments to assist with the long-term development and support of our schools. And for those who wish for immediate results, there is the Worthy Student Fund in most of our churches that can always use a bit more.

On the expense side: As I sit with our conference committees while our educational staff reviews academy spending plans, I can assure you the treasurers in our schools at every level have learned to live within razor thin margins. Budgets have no fluff and no wiggle room. Where cuts can be made, they are. But most of the time cutting further is not a viable option. My hat is off to our

treasurers who continually find ways to "make it work."

It is a huge breath of fresh oxygen when an unexpected gift comes in to a given school. Often when that happens terms like *providence* or *miracle* are employed to express appreciation.

As you consider the school year soon to begin, I would urge you to consider putting your children, or helping your grandchildren, into an Adventist classroom. If you are not in that category I would invite your prayers and your generosity. Both are investments in eternity.

Thomas Lemon is president of the Mid-America Union.



EOU(ATION:

Building Future Leaders

n the fall of 1957 (yes, that dates me, but that's OK) when I entered first grade in Union Springs Adventist Elementary, I was scared and shy. So shy that I was unwilling to raise my hand to use the bathroom, and the worst happened liquid under my desk.

Though my education started poorly, the good memories are there: The teacher who introduced us to the insides of dead animals. such as a lamb, a chicken and a cow's eye I carried around in my lunch box. The teachers who would come to our home and just relax with us. The teacher who, at the end of the year, made time during the last day to individually pray for each of us and request Jesus to develop in us the skills she could see.

All these things are the value-added benefits of Adventist education, things very uncommon in the public system. Adventist education is not just what is contained in the lesson plans. It also includes the moments when the teacher seizes the opportunity to point our youth to Jesus and His loveto nudge the student to a full understanding of the need to remain close to Him during the good and very bad.

Utilizing available resources

In his editorial (opposite) Elder Tom Lemon addresses some of the barriers confronting families making the decision whether to place their children into Adventist schools. He mentions four: cost, convenience, lack of information and quality.

For those thinking that the average yearly cost of elementary tuition (\$3,300) or \$16,000 to attend a boarding academy is impossible, let me share that our schools and churches across the Mid-America region collectively raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for student aid each year. If you want your student in an Adventist school, there is almost always a way to do it.

We only have strong influence over our kids' minds once, and for a short few years. Who is influencing the development of right and wrong ideas and attitudes in your kids? Moses said he would not leave Egypt without taking their young with them. Are we willing to risk having young minds influenced by someone who does not agree with or uphold our beliefs?

We now live in a world that expects convenience, yet it is surprising how we can obtain most things we want if they are a high enough priority. No, we do not have schools in every community where there is an Adventist child, but there are ways to direct those young minds to Jesus just the same. The Adventist Learning Community is a growing source of resources for all church ministries: www. adventistlearningcommunity. com. This source does not provide a complete school curriculum, but will provide parents with resources to use with their student who is attending a public school.

The North American Division has produced promotional print materials for conference schools to use in informing constituents: adventisteducation.org/ resources/marketing.

For digital promotion, each school in the NAD has a simple website through Adventist School Connect that can be personalized. The URL to access these sites is cumbersome, but schools can purchase their own URL relatively inexpensively through sites such as godaddy.com and register. com. There is likely someone in your church or school community who would maintain the site.

Demographically the number of potential Adventist students is also declining. Many of our schools have become mission schools because of the number of students from the community attending. So what will happen to our schools as the enrollments keep declining? I do not have the knowledge of God to know that. But I do know He is blessing in big ways in our schools, both tiny and large. And as I walk the grounds of our campuses, I am confident in the future leaders I see there.

> John Kriegelstein is director of education for the Mid-America Union.



Stoweng Kender and by Constance McCormick, superintendent of education for the

n January 2014, Adventist

educator and school counselor Mindy Salvers approached me with a proposal: "Would you like to provide Olweus Bullying Prevention training for all your schools across Minnesota?" She then described a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to partner with the Center for Conflict Resolution operating from La Sierra University at Riverside, California, to receive training and extensive supplies for each school made possible by a grant from Versacare, Inc., a lay-Adventist foundation working in cooperation with Adventist Risk Management.

I had previously read about the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program in Adventist Review. I remember trying to be cool and deliberate while listening to Mindy, but then found myself saying, "Of course! How do we get started?" At the February Teachers' Inservice training we brought a proposal to the teachers who would be implementing the program.

After receiving their collective response ("This is a no-brainer!") we began to lay plans for intensive two-

day training sessions in four locations across the state of Minnesota. Teachers were encouraged to bring a team of constituents and parents to serve as members of each school's Bullying Prevention Coordinating Committee. Even though attendance at the August training sessions was expected of educators, I was thrilled to see lay people using vacation time to attend the training seminars.

With grace and dignity

Salvers quickly won people over with her compassionate approach to this sensitive topic. As our trainer, she modeled traits being advocated in the Olweus program: grace and dignity. Workshop attendees were led to relive times as children when they felt bullied, neglected or on the outside looking in, and tears evidenced the pain they felt. With no one wanting this trauma repeated for today's children, attention was guaranteed for the full two days of training.

Following training, Mindy regularly consulted with

each school. She found something to affirm in their initial efforts, and encouraged them toward further program implementation.

In the end every school was prepared to launch a kick-off event. Leaders at Stone Ridge SDA Christian School in Duluth chose the theme *Stop* Bullying Now! and introduced the program to students and their families with a corn roast on the school grounds. Students also hand-printed their own T-shirts and created a video clip to share with church members. When parents from two families in the community heard about the program and how it was being integrated into the curriculum, it became a significant factor in their decisions to transfer their children to Stone Ridge.

Minnetonka Christian Academy implemented a *SuperFriends* theme. John Nicholson, a local lacrosse referee, demonstrated the use of protective gear to students, thus inaugurating a catch phrase: "When the big bad bully comes near, I'll be wearing my *SuperFriends*

gear." Spirit Week activities included dressing for careers of helpfulness, such as nursing and veterinary medicine.

One year's impact

Throughout the 2014-15 school year, students in Minnesota's K-12 schools have been systematically taught to recognize bullying, and to become defenders of the victims rather than casual bystanders. While the first topics of the class meetings cover bullying, they move on to discuss aspects of friendships and other relationships by inviting students to learn about each other. Giving students time on a regular basis to listen to each other develops qualities of tolerance, respect and love. These features of the program deter bullying and other negative behaviors that detract from learning and interfere with spiritual development. Consequent to the class meetings, Principal Rayleen Hansen of Southview Christian School in Burnsville noted a decrease in student behavioral issues and an increase in parental support.





The Olweus Bullying Prevention program has been implemented in all Adventist schools across the Minnesota Conference.







Duluth teacher Rudy Carlson (pictured above) commented, "This is the best behavioral modification program I've ever seen. The Olweus program is relevant and enduring. It's been great to see our kids 'self-correct' their attitudes on the playground as well as in the classroom. I plan to make the Olweus program a permanent fixture here at Stone Ridge. Who wouldn't? It makes my job a whole lot easier!"

Leading the way

With state legislation requiring Minnesota public schools to have anti-bullying programs in place, but only suggesting such for private schools, Minnesota K-12

Adventist Education is the first private school system within the state to make a comprehensive effort toward the eradication of bullying. This initiative was highlighted in the western Metro communities' Sun Sailor News (2/27/15).

Minnesota is also first in the North American Division to implement the Olweus program conference wide. In gratitude for the magnitude of such a gift to our schools, I wrote to Dr. Richard Pershing, director of the Center for Conflict Resolution: "School morale seems to be way ahead of where it was. I'm hearing reports of children modifying their words and actions to be kinder and gentler, and I am more than pleased...We are

hopeful that these students will grow into adults who recognize the difference between 'soft answers that turn away wrath' and words that incite anger and resentment. Churches and work places will ultimately benefit from the skills and attitudes these children are developing."

Pershing replied: "You are the first person to spontaneously recognize what the Center is here to do. We had to start with the schools because they are the lifeblood of our Adventist community of faith. The Center is now presenting sessions on conflict resolution for pastors at the NAD ministerial conference in Austin and they are working with the HMS

Richards Divinity School at La Sierra University to have conflict resolution course work included in the MDiv/ MA programs, just as we now have an emphasis in conflict resolution available in the MBA program offered through the Zapara School of Business. We will be introducing pastors to the offering from the Center to put on conflict resolution seminars for their congregations and for conference leadership teams."

In Minnesota we are thankful to Mindy Salvers and to the Center for Conflict Resolution for the reminder to engage in kinder and gentler Christian behavior whether we are elementary-aged or a little older.

ighthouse on the Prairie

by Jodie Aakko,

grades 1-8 teacher at Lighthouse Adventist Christian School during the 2014-15 school year

he story of Adventist education in northeastern Colorado is a beautiful testimony of the fact that nothing is impossible for a church with prayers and dreams.

With the nearest Adventist school 60 miles away, Ft.
Morgan's dedicated parents bused their little ones to Brighton and back. The days were long, but the parents knew that Adventist education was worth it. Then two years ago the Ft. Morgan Church opened a multi-family home school organization that met in the church's extra Sabbath school rooms.

This was just the beginning of what God had in store. On Aug. 20, 2014, Lighthouse Seventh-day Adventist Christian School opened its doors as an official conference school, and 18 excited young scholars began using the extra rooms in the church building, filling the school to capacity. Together the Adventist churches of Yuma, Akron, Sterling and Ft. Morgan began partnering to educate their children for eternity.

Miracles spawn growth

As we look back on our first year at Lighthouse, we see that our Lord is larger

than the flood of problems we encountered as we prepared our classrooms. God did not allow water to harm our computers, nor remodel delays to slow our progress, nor inspections to shut our doors. Facing great expenses for computers, desks, supplies and books, we trusted God and prayed for His provision, and He worked through friends, nearby schools and yard sales to supply our school with modern computer desks, cushioned rolling desk chairs, nearly new computers and flat screens for each student. and enough books to fill our entire library. And what about a playground and a gym? That prayer was answered before it was ever asked; the students walk four short blocks to use the city's recreation center, playfields and playground.

Lighthouse students have participated in many local events and service projects, and even took second place in the city's Christmas parade. To make sure the school's doors are open to all God's children, tuition rates are capped to a very low amount (less than half of other private schools in the area), and financial assistance is promised to all in need.

We believe that multi-grade classrooms are the best school





setting for academic, social and spiritual growth, and it has been wonderful to see the students flourish this year in their relationships with Jesus and each other at Lighthouse. Truly, God's miraculous support of our school and students this past year has been so awesome and has happened so often that there isn't enough space to detail all the ways that God has blessed us.

Fulfilling our mission

The miracles during this inaugural year enabled precious students to meet Jesus as their best friend and to use

their knowledge, skills and understandings to serve God and humanity. In faith we are looking forward to expanding next school year by adding a second full-time teacher (Karen Reinke) and a science lab for an anticipated student enrollment of 25.

Adventist education in northeastern Colorado is truly a journey of faith, prayer and miracles. As we trust God we can see His work in this final movement—a movement in which our youth will be trained as leaders who will help prepare the world for Jesus' soon return.



haring Light Actors the Sea

by Gary Russell, principal of Sunnydale Adventist Academy

ichael Kern doesn't regret participating in Sunnydale Adventist Academy's mission trip to Livingstone, Zambia last spring, even though it means he may need to undergo surgery later this summer. Unfortunately, the first morning on the job site for building a primary school campus Michael re-broke his arm, originally injured on Christmas Day of 2014.

SAA staff members quickly took Michael to the Livingstone hospital, where his arm was X-rayed and placed in a plaster "cast" that was really more of a splint. Despite his pain, by noon Michael was back on the job site. That evening Michael preached at his assigned site he never missed a meeting.

Between Feb. 25 and March 18 the Sunnydale team preached eight evangelistic meetings, built two churches, two Sabbath school structures and 13 buildings for the primary school. Onehundred-fifty baptisms resulted from the meetings.

When the team returned home Michael's arm was placed in a new cast. Prayers are ascending that it will heal properly and not require additional medical care.

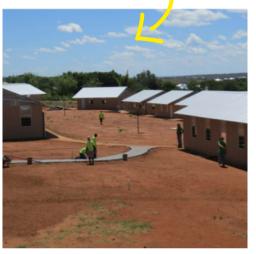
Construction begins on school in Zambia





Even with a broken arm, Michael didn't miss a single meeting!

12 days later





Preaching team: 8 meetings 150 baptisms

(aring Heart Awards

Each school vear, senior academies in the North American Division select a iunior or senior student with a strong citizenship record, a personal commitment to witnessing and service, and an overall positive influence on their campus to receive a \$500 scholarship, a plague and an engraved Bible.



Campion Academy

Anahi Saenz is a senior who has demonstrated service through her life and will continue that mission as she pursues a nursing degree from Union College. Anahi served as a resident assistant her senior year in the dorm helping girls with homework, dorm worship and personal life issues. She volunteers to help in the cafeteria on busy weekends, writes encouraging notes, and participated in two international mission trips to Costa Rica and Dominican Republic where she helped with building projects and translating sermons into Spanish. No matter the circumstance, Anahi is hard working, caring, friendly and goes above and beyond any task given her.



College View Academy

Taylor Hillhouse was chosen as this year's recipient because he is a caring young man with a happy and helpful heart. He always has a big smile and friendly greeting for anyone he meets in the hallway. You will often see Taylor holding a door open for someone or cleaning up a mess that someone else left behind. He is kind and respectful to his teachers, administrative staff and others in positions of authority. Taylor cares enough to do his best on every task set before him, as evidenced by his good grades.



Dakota Adventist Academy

Caroline Haveman

has been a student at DAA for the last three years and has been actively involved in spiritual leadership on campus through music, testimony and organizing activities. Being spiritual vice president for the Student Association team this year has also given her the opportunity to help set a spiritual vision for the year. She has been actively involved in extracurricular art, music, gymnastics and sports groups. She also served as a resident assistant in the girls' dorm.

for 2014-15



Maplewood Academy

Christopher Turner is a four-year senior from Bellevue, Nebraska, Chris has a beautiful heart and a genuine desire to help others. His kindness shines through his quiet acts of servicewaking up at 5:00 am to shovel snow from the sidewalks, running the sound system for events without being asked, offering a helping hand in any way he can. Students and faculty recognize Chris' effective, caring leadership and strong work ethic. Chris served as senior class president, Boys Club vice president, a Campus Ministries team member, and also played on the basketball team and gymnastics team-all while maintaining a place on the high honor roll.



Midland Adventist Academy

Senior **Sara Pope** truly has a caring heart for others. She has given hundreds of volunteer hours in various departments at Shawnee Mission Health during her high school career. She is also very active in her home church in Kingsville, Missouri, where she serves on the music committee and is a church time buddy to a young child with special needs. In his nomination, one teacher wrote about Sara, "she is one of few who volunteers to pray in class and she is always a positive, reallife example of a pure, modest, Christian young lady."



Mile High Adventist Academy

Katherin Gonzalez was chosen by the staff for her dedication to spreading the gospel of the love of Jesus. She has been on multiple mission trips, has recruited her peers to attend as well, and spent countless hours translating the sermon PowerPoint presentations into Spanish, Mile High Academy is proud to have Katherin, and loving students like her, as a part of their school.



Sunnydale Adventist Academy

Caleb Haakenson was selected for this award based on his mission experiences in India (three years) and Nepal (one year), preaching the gospel message. He is also an encourager to his fellow students and a leader on campus. Caleb is a friend to all students and will continue to be as he studies business and religion at Union College this fall.

Collins Appointed Message **Magazine Director**

Getting the message out



Pastor Gary S. Collins, pictured with his wife, Loretta, will serve as the new director of Message magazine, a bi-monthly religious publication with a readership of 40,000.

astor Gary S. Collins' passion in ministry is prayer, evangelism and Christian education, which he has focused on while pastoring the Sharon Church in Omaha, Nebraska. His new role at Message magazine will continue to contribute to evangelism in the Central States Conference.

When asked about his goals as Message director, he said, "I want our churches to see the value Message has in their personal outreach programs and I want each church to use Message magazine in effective, relevant and unique ways to spread the gospel."

Collins added that we so often fail to understand how important something is to us until it is gone. "The invitation to take this post gives me a unique opportunity to work with my conference to keep Message a viable and flourishing tool for our

outreach programs," he said.

Members have an important part to play in purchasing subscriptions for their friends and families. Business owners, in and outside of the church, have also sponsored large numbers of subscriptions to be distributed within our community. According to Collins, just the other day the owner of a steel company purchased \$300 worth of subscriptions. Several of these large contributions help us get the message out.

Collins has authored The Kidz Amazing Bible Lessons and Awakening the Sleeping Giant. He is happily married to the former Loretta D. Woodson of Birmingham, Alabama. They are the proud parents of two beautiful daughters, Shanta' and Jordan.

Brittany Winkfield is communication director for the Central States Conference.

Year of Evangelism Initiatives Launch

Evangelism is telling people about God's grace. Discipleship is helping them walk in it.

Sharing our faith in Jesus with a non-Christian friend is a privilege and anyone can do it well. Several events are taking place around Central States during this Year of Evangelism as we continue working to fill the world with disciples:

Pastor Roosevelt Williams—Grand Avenue (MO) June 14-27

Elder Carlton Byrd—St. Louis, MO, beginning July 19

Luis Mota-Iglesia Adventista Central (IA) July 25-Aug. 1

Pastor G. Alexander Bryant—Linwood Boulevard Temple (MO) July 25-Aug. 15

Calvary (IA)-Aug. 2-16

Elder Rico Hill—New Beginnings (KS) Aug. 15-20

Pastor Ever Garcia—Iglesia Adventista Hispana Sioux City (IA) Aug. 22-29

Sharon (NE)-Aug. 30-Sept. 12

Pastor Charles Osborne—Denver Park Hill (CO) July 26-Aug. 8, 16-29, Sept. 6-19

Pastor Douglas—New Life (MO) Aug. 2-22

Pastor Roosevelt Williams—New Missionary (KS) Aug. 23-Sept. 5

Youth Congress Equips for Servant Leadership









Photos: Emmitt Slocumb and Toyin Alabi

ver 500 youth, young adults, youth ministry leaders, and parents recently converged in St. Louis, Missouri for the Central States Conference 2015 Youth Congress. Their mission was to power up through worship, sharpen up with ministry and life skills training, suit up for service to the community, and build one another up through fellowship.

Delegates shared the love of Christ with residents, tourists, business owners and public servants in creative ways. During the Amazing Race of Kindness on the Delmar Loop, youth serenaded shoppers on the street with poetry, prayed for business owners, placed coins in expired parking meters, and gave cookies to

police officers, postal workers and librarians.

Participants learned how to be everyday heroes on God's team in workshops and breakout sessions. Workshop topics included prayer, making godly decisions, becoming an entrepreneur, money management, interacting with the police, Girl Talk, Guy Talk, Pathfinder honors, parenting skills and developing youth ministries.

For Friday night and Sabbath morning worship, gospel recording artists Piaget Long and Robert Tribitt wrote and dedicated a theme song titled Young Heroes. Sermons by Pastor Michael Kelly II also emphasized the Young Heroes theme. In his sermons Iron Man, Guardians of the

Galaxy, and Captain America, Pastor Kelly challenged youth to make a difference in the church, in their circles of influence, and in the world. Twenty-five teens and adults became young heroes of faith by accepting Christ as their Savior.

Concurrently, Kids Kongress featured special activities for children ages 4-12. Coordinated by **Teondra** Lyles of Happy Choices, Kids Kongress was titled From Villain to Hero and engaged children with worship, music, community service, storytelling and more.

"Youth Congress wasn't just an event; it was a leadership development opportunity," explained Pastor Darriel Hoy, CSC youth director. "We're

equipping a new generation of servant leaders who understand that God is calling them to transform our world. By allowing God to live in them, our youth are young heroes who share the good news of salvation, stand for truth and justice, help people in trouble, and give our world

To see pictures of Young Heroes: Youth Congress 2015, visit the Central States Conference Youth Ministry Facebook page at facebook. com/cscyouthsda. To purchase Pastor Michael Kelly's Young Heroes sermons, visit the conference's website at central-states.org.

Darriel Hoy is youth director for the Central States Conference.

Community Presents Musical Drama

Christ's passion—not just Easter fare



Jesus and Judas: "You betray me with a kiss?"

ow the Knee, a musical drama created by Chris Machen and arranged and orchestrated by Richard Kingsmore, was presented April 24, 25 and 26 at the Open Arms Christian Fellowship in Thief River Falls, Minnesota. Open Arms

is a Seventh-day Adventist Church pastored by **Dave Fish**. The 70-plus-member cast and choir of Bow the Knee was mostly comprised of community members and graduates from the church's CHIP program hosted over the years.

According to an article in the Northern Watch, the theme of the script, written by Machen and Kimberly R. Messer, "is the biblical account of the Roman centurion whose servant Iesus healed. The musical storyline, however, presents a more expansive timeline beginning before the birth of Christ and extending to His second coming."

Bow the Knee was first performed a decade ago, but that didn't keep the audience from returning; the church was packed each night of the presentation.

Pastor Harold Chin of the Mandan and Turtle Lake churches in the Dakota Conference played the part of Jesus and the disciple John. He was also a guest musician, as were Pastor James and Kaylene Venegas of the Jamestown and Cleveland churches. Their son, Daniel, was part of the choir, along with Dakota Adventist Academy girls' dean, Mindy Juhl, and her daughter, Alea.

Chair director Kari **Lindemoen** told the Northern Watch: "Musicians and actors who are passionate about the level of music they are achieving (and even more enthusiastic about the message being portrayed) inspire my creativity and restore my confidence in what such a diverse group can accomplish. All of us involved in its preparation look forward to sharing this compelling story with the community."

Jacquie Biloff is communication director for the Dakota Conference.

27th Annual Women's Retreat

Speaker: Wanda Davis

- Commissioned minister
- Degrees in social work and
- Advanced training for chaplaincy
- Preaches throughout the U.S. and abroad
- Appears on TV and radio
- Writes articles



Campus Ministries Sharpens Focus

Just Jesus—back to basics



he idea isn't revolutionary—quite the opposite. It's about going back to the basics. It's about simplicity. It's about Jesus. Just Jesus.

Pastor Ricky Melendez

is new on the scene—new to North Dakota, new to Jamestown, new to North Dakota State University and University of Jamestown, new to pastoral ministry, and new to public campus ministry. A 2014 theology graduate of Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska, Melendez didn't know when he was hired by the Dakota Conference that he would be building a ministry from the ground up.

While attending Union College Melendez and ministry partner Tyler Morrison started a Sabbath school called Jesus at the Center. When close friend Abner Campos took it over, the group was renamed Just Jesus.

When Pastor Melendez arrived in North Dakota he

was given opportunity to initiate campus ministries on college and university campuses statewide and to bring all campus ministries in the Dakotas under one title.

"It's like throwing spaghetti at a wall—try it and see what sticks," Melendez admits.

He began the ministry of relationship building, which led him into a partnership with UJ Religious Life leaders. Soon after, things began to happen at the university.

One group began as a small Bible study in an apartment on the University of Jamestown campus, and has now grown into a strong group that is more like a family, acting as a support system for Melendez as well as a team serving together in facilitating larger campus and community outreach events.

The unified hands of this group coordinated the No Greater Love benefit concert that took place on campus in February. Together they collected dozens of bags of



toys and clothing, 142 pounds of food, and raised \$1,071 in cash—all donated to the Jamestown Salvation Army.

Jamestown isn't the only place Just Jesus is on the move. In Fargo another group meets on Friday nights. There are also plans for a coffee shop church at Café Delight across the street from the NDSU campus. Pastor Melendez has begun working with students at the University of North Dakota as well.

The vision for Just Jesus is one that reaches into the future and is self-sustaining. A Just Jesus Conference is scheduled at Dakota Adventist Academy Aug. 7-9. Conferences like this play a key role in fulfilling that vision. This is where

students partake in ministry for themselves, and also learn how to take the grassroots approach back to their own campuses, communities and friend groups, thereby fostering spiritual growth on a wider scale.

The mission of Just Jesus Adventist Campus Ministries is "...to ground university students in Christ, to grow them in Christ, thus empowering and equipping them to go out as disciples of Christ."

The focus is not denominational, it is not exclusive, and it is not complicated. The focus is and always will be Just Jesus.

Brooke Lietzke is the University of Jamestown student chaplain.

Volunteers Help Strike Out Hunger



Church member and community volunteers assisting with the mobile pantry are: (front row l-r) Kent Dunwoody, Sarah Dunwoody, Marcia Hemmers, Erin Pingel, (back row) Richard Schwarz, Jeff Johnson, Mark White and Sue Ahlers

s a means of battling hunger and food insecurity in Clay County, the Spencer Church is partnering with the Food Bank of Iowa to provide service to hungry Iowans.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines food insecurity as being uncertain of having, or unable to acquire, enough food to meet the basic needs of all household members because of insufficient money or other resources. In Clay County food insecurity affects one in seven households.

The Spencer Church hosts a quarterly mobile food pantry on their property. A mobile pantry is a farmer's market style distribution targeted toward counties with a need for additional pantry service.

"I learned of this program in October of 2014 and thought it would be a great opportunity for our church to serve the community," said Spencer pastor Kent Dunwoody. "After church board approval we had many in our small church volunteer to help with the first distribution in February where we helped 116 households. We received many thanks from the people who we served, as well as compliments on how organized our first food pantry was."

Two pantry distributions have been held this year and two more are scheduled for August and November.

Michelle Hansen is communication/Sabbath school director for the Iowa-Missouri Conference

St. Louis Youth **Host Week of Prayer**

"God Wants Us Back!"



Event organizer Lushomo Chambwa speaking during the first annual youth week of prayer hosted by St. Louis area churches.

his past March the St. Louis Central Church hosted the first annual areawide youth week of prayer. Young people from churches throughout the St. Louis region gathered together to pray, preach and praise God. Lushomo Chambwa, a member at St. Louis' Emmanuel Church, organized the event.

The week's theme was STL Together and the motto was St. Louis, Missouri, God wants us back! Each night a young person shared messages from God's Word and influenced others to develop their relationships with God. The evenings also included skits, games and a unifying time of prayer.

Since the week of prayer coincided with the virtual outreach program promoted by Generation of Youth for Christ, the group decided to pass out tracts in one of the

busiest areas of the city. One man who accepted a tract stood out. He said that his dad used to take him to an Adventist church in Detroit. He had since stopped going, but had not forgotten the experience. He said he spent a lot of time fixing other people's problems, but still had his own. A couple of the young people offered encouragement and prayed with him.

On Sabbath a young girl who had been interested in baptism for some time decided to make her commitment to Jesus public. The area youth leaders were inspired by the events of the week of prayer and are hoping to do more in the city of St. Louis.

Geoffrey Ikpeama is an elder at St. Louis Central Church in Missouri.

Music Festival Builds Community



he Iowa-Missouri Conference Education Department sponsored its annual Music Festival hosted on the Sunnydale Adventist Academy campus last April. This highlight of our educational system brings students from all over the conference to work together on music and interact socially.

This year's theme was Serving, Reaching, Saving. Students from 14 conference schools and one public school participated, along with eight homeschoolers and 17 Sunnydale Academy students—all blending their voices to create a 147-member mass choir under the direction of Stephen Zork, choral director and music professor from Andrews University.

The students performed a variety of songs from

various genres. Students also combined their musical talents to create a large hand bell/chime choir directed by Cathi Wilson, former music teacher at Sunnydale. A combination of elementary and academy students formed the festival band under the direction of Kurt Miyashiro, professor of instrumental music at Union College. The weekend speaker for this event was Buell Fogg, assistant chaplain for Union College.

Family members, friends and community folks attended the Sabbath afternoon individual school performances, followed by the Festival Concert that was live streamed online this year for the first time.

Joe Allison EdD, is education superintendent for the lowa-Missouri Conference.





Pantry Offers Choices for Celiac and Allergy Sufferers

First such food pantry in the country



Paul Lyons, Emily Brown, Karen Miller and Amy Goode cut the ribbon to officially open the ReNewed Health Food Pantry in Overland Park, Kansas. Also pictured (back, l-r) are Douglas Elsey and Chanda Nunes, New Haven pastors; John Treolo, conference community services director; and Douglas Carruthers, New Haven community services director.

t's a fact: Adults and children dealing with food allergies or Celiac disease spend more than four times as much for allergy-friendly and gluten-free products as those who are not allergic to certain foods. ReNewed Health Food Pantry, recently opened at the New Haven Church in Overland Park, Kansas, offers free "safe" foods to help people make ends meet.

"Families should not have to choose hunger over health," said Amy Goode, one of the founders of ReNewed Health. Another co-founder, Emily

Brown, envisions ReNewed Health setting the standard for pantries of this nature, not only in Kansas City but across the nation.

Both Amy and Emily have children about the same age with similar food allergies.

According to Chanda Nunes, associate pastor at New Haven, this is the first food pantry of its kind to open in the nation. "We are so excited and blessed to have this powerful ministry in our church," Nunes said. "We believe this will not only be a powerful ministry for

our church, but also for the community as they become involved."

Karen Miller, a retired dietitian and another co-founder, said that manufacturers, stores and a gluten-free bakery donate much of the pantry food. "What we are providing are the core items that families need to put together a meal," Miller explained.

To qualify, families need a physician's note or lab results verifying allergies to certain foods. They also must demonstrate financial need.

During a ribbon-cutting ceremony opening ReNewed Health, Paul Lyons, president of the Overland Park City Council, said, "This is the kind of thing that makes our community better. It's good to see a group of people like you and a church like this looking out and saying 'what can I do to help others."

For more information go to www.foodpantries.org/li/ renewed-health.

John Treolo is communication director for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference.

KANSAS-NEBRASKA

CONFERENCE NEWS

Harper Church Now has Room for Fellowship



Ken Enochs (left) expresses appreciation to Paula and Shaun Hicks, the general contractor for the Harper Church's building project. Also pictured are Donovan Foster and Travis Forde, pastor.

fter months of planning and hard work, members of the Harper Church, located in Harper, Kansas, recently celebrated the opening of their new fellowship hall. They also invited the community to a special open house and service of dedication.

Travis Forde, who pastors the Harper Church as well as the Wichita South Church, remarked how much he appreciates the Harper members in their continued efforts to reach out to the community. "This new addition will make a big difference." he said.

The church honored **Shaun Hicks**, general contractor, for his diligence in going above

and beyond the necessary work. His wife, **Paula**, and children attended church for the first time on the day of the dedication, and the congregation presented them with a thank you gift basket.

After the service Hicks cut the ribbon during the ceremony, which was followed by the first Sabbath dinner in the new fellowship hall.

This beautiful church had only five members before the plan to revive it was originated. God has certainly blessed; now an average of 20-30 members attend every Sabbath.

Ken and Linda Enochs are members of the Harper Church.

Another 1st Place for College View Pathfinders



College View Church's two Pathfinder Bible Experience teams from Lincoln, Nebraska were awarded 1st place rankings at the North American Division PBE Competition in Keene, Texas. These teams also won 1st place at the Kansas-Nebraska Conference and Mid-America Union levels, thanks to the dedicated parents and support staff and the Pathfinders who studied so hard and long.

KS-NE Conference Calendar

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT www.KS-NE.org

July 17-19 Central Nebraska Camp Meeting
Camp Arrowhead

Speakers: Ron Carlson & Paul Marlow Concert: Roger Binder Family camparrowheadneb@aol.com

July 24-26 Hispanic Youth Congress

Broken Arrow Ranch robpaucorrea@hotmail.com

July 31- TLT Pathfinder Leadership Aug 9 Training

Yellowstone National Park, WY tsager@ks-ne.org

Aug 12 Schools Resume

Aug 28-29 New Haven Church 60th Anniversary Celebration

Speakers: Elliot Smith, Luke Self &

Michael Halfhill

Concert: Margie Salcedo-Rice newhavensda@gmail.com

Students Raise Funds for Nepal

It is better to give...



Students and staff at Minnetonka Christian Academy raised \$520 in three days to contribute to ADRA's relief efforts following the earthquake in Nepal.

s. Schebo's grades 1-4 class at Minnetonka Christian Academy had been praying and thinking about the people of Nepal since the massive earthquake struck in April. As a class they decided to challenge themselves to raise \$50 in three days for the relief efforts.

But they didn't stop there. The students then challenged the other classes in the building to each raise \$50 so they could send \$200 to the Adventist Development and Relief Agency.

The students were inspired

to break into their piggy banks, to ask grandma and grandpa for a few dollars, and maybe even ask some friends and relatives.

Through the leadership of Ms. Schebo's class the students and staff at MCA raised more than double their goal for a total of \$520!

Their initiative reflects the truth of John 13:35: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

At the time of this writing, Kari Schebo taught at MCA.

MWA Concert Inspires Hope



he church was gathered and a candle was lit to signify the start of the Sabbath. As the Maplewood **Academy Spring Concert** began I was touched by the words of this song:

Make me a servant Lord; give me a willing heart. May all I do be done for you. Cleanse me and fill me anew.

How fitting that these young people sang a prayer song. You could tell it was sung from deep down in their hearts. I looked at them and thought, Here is the church now alive—the church's leaders for tomorrow.

Some of the students were seniors, soon to enter the world or go to college. I wondered, *Are they prepared* for the challenges ahead? Then I heard them sing:

I want to walk worthy, Lord, my calling to fulfill. Please order my steps and I will do your blessed will.

The world is ever changing but you are still the same. If you order my steps I'll praise

How true that this world is changing! When I was

growing up, there were no cellphones, no electronic notebooks, no YouTube, no Facebook, no Twitter, no Netflix, no 24 hours of TV programming. The old prophet predicted a lot of frantic running to and fro, people trying to figure out what's going on in the world around them, and knowledge increasing (Dan. 12:4, KJV).

By the end of the concert I was confident in the future of the church. With the assurance expressed in the young people's music, I know that the Lord will order their steps, make them willing, control their hearts and carry them in His embrace.

As they sang the final song—a theme song for many generations of Adventist students—I thought it must still be as powerful as when it was first composed:

No time to tarry here, no time to wait . . . Brother, oh fare ye well, for I'm on my journey home. Sisters, oh fare ye well, for I am on my journey home.

Brian Mungandi is communication director for the Minnesota Conference.



Communication **Training Promotes Gospel Sharing**



Jones to Pastor Hutchinson Church

Pastor Michael Jones is prepared for colaboring with God to inspire others in living for Christ.

he Minnesota Conference Communication Seminar brought together church communication secretaries serving our local churches to learn new technology and the legal issues that can impact their ministry. The seminar looked at changes in Christianity today and how these changes influence our organizations and can sharpen the way we communicate and deliver the gospel message. The seminar also addressed changes in policies that govern and protect the church.

Attendees learned how Adventist Church Connect, an entity supporting North American Division church websites, has changed over the years and how its websites can be customized to reflect a local church's demographics and/or mission. ACC provides design, training and website support to all NAD churches at no cost.

Seminar presenters addressed the conventional thinking that social media is for young people by exploring the trends and challenges in social media and offering new perspectives on how social media can be used for evangelism, promoting church events, and having small chat

This seminar was the first part of a three-phase media training. Phase 2 was scheduled during camp meeting and focused on using the lens of a camera to communicate the gospel. Phase 3, dealing with video production, will be coming in August or September.

Our goal is to give church leaders the knowledge and tools to develop their local church's communication program while also showing how internet technology can be used to share far and wide what their congregations are doing.

Brian Mungandi is communication director for the Minnesota Conference.

astor Michael Jones is the new pastor of the Hutchinson Church on the campus of Maplewood Academy, succeeding Pastor Wayne Morrison.

Pastor Iones has been in the Minnesota Conference since 2005, serving first in the Pipestone district. He began training at the seminary in 2010 and returned to Minnesota after graduating in 2013. He previously served the Dodge Center district.

Jones says he received his spiritual call to pastoral ministry in 2003, transitioning from a teaching profession with the clear understanding that "pastoral ministry is not just a gift and a calling; it's a vocation that requires skill, devotion, endurance, ability and wisdom." He also understands that in pastoral ministry you are dealing with people, co-laboring with God to inspire and motivate others to live for Christ. Jones has learned with experience that ministry is not an easy task and success only comes when one is willing to depend on the Lord, spend time in prayer and in the study of the Word and be willing to be Spirit led.

We welcome Pastor Jones and his wife, Aquarius, and son, Josiah, to the Hutchinson Church.

Brian Mungandi is communication director for the Minnesota Conference.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

CONFERENCE NEWS

Young Entrepreneur Creates Lip Balm Business



Madelyn uses the beeswax from hives on her family's hobby farm to make organic lip care products.

adelyn Swelstad from Grand Junction. Colorado has an aura of "making a difference" about her. She is a student in the Young Entrepreneur Academy, an extracurricular program through the Chamber of Commerce in Grand Junction. This young entrepreneur presented her business plan last March and asked for startup funding in front of a panel of 14 investors, including the city mayor.

At age 11, she is this year's youngest Saunders Scholar recipient in her area. Using beeswax from her family's bees, she has created a line of lip balms with interesting

flavors such as Lemon Pound Cake, Mint Moiito and Mocha, which she markets through her company, Mad Lips. Each flavor includes organic coconut oil, regional beeswax, vitamin E oil, and high-quality essential oils.

The project's beginnings are explained on Mad Lips website: madlipslipcare.com.

The idea was developed as she joined the YEA, a program that helps middle and high school students start and grow their own businesses.

Madelyn's family owns four active beehives. She explains the process of making lip care products on her website: "To get the beeswax to make the lip care, the honeycomb is

first harvested from the hives and put in a machine called a centrifuge. This machine separates the honey from the beeswax. The wax is then boiled down to get pure wax. It floats to the top and hardens when cool. The beeswax and other ingredients are put together and melted. It then is poured into the tubes and the labels attached."

Madelyn recently returned from Phoenix after competing in the regional semi-finals. The Daily Sentinel "Biz Buz" quoted the officials with the Young Entrepreneurs Academy Western Regional competition stating that Madelyn "returned with renewed dedication to growing her customer base and increasing the sales of her lip care products."

Randy Mills, Grand Junction Church pastor, said, "It is an awesome achievement of one of our young people. She is an inspiration." With her creative skills, Madalyn will likely be in the news again.

Rajmund Dabrowski is communication director for the Rocky Mountain Conference. Kathy Swelstad assisted with this article.

Families Celebrate **Graduations**



Autumn Kaime and Ashley Wenberg were all smiles on May 24 as they graduated from Campion Adventist Academy in Loveland, Colorado. Graduation ceremonies in the week that ended May 24 provided a rich experience for hundreds of students from schools in the Rocky Mountain Conference.

Three levels of ceremonies for students and their families were held by kindergarten, elementary or 8th grade classes and senior academies. The church operates 23 schools in the region.

The conference's goal for all graduates is that "they would be solid in their choice to serve God and man and that their commitment to the values and teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church would be firm," said Lonnie Hetterle, education director for RMC.

Leadership **Changes at** Campion



Donavan Reeder is assuming the role of principal after having served as dean of boys for 29 years.

raduation of the 2015 class at Campion Adventist Academy was the last for its principal, Spencer Hannah. He leaves his position after three years of service.

Lonnie Hetterle, education director for the Rocky Mountain Conference, said, "As Spencer and his wife, **Eva**, transition to the next chapter of their lives and service, on behalf of the education ministry and church leadership, we express our gratitude and wishes of God's continued blessings."

The Board of Campion Academy voted on May 19 to appoint Donavan Reeder, Campion's vice-principal, as the school's new principal as

Reeder, who was born in Loveland, Colorado, is

no stranger to Adventist education. His father, Merlin Reeder, was a teacher at HMS Richards School. "We then moved to Campion where my dad also taught and was assistant boy's dean. When I was four we moved to Utah where I grew up," said Reeder. His college education took him to Andrews University and to Walla Walla University where he graduated with a BA in communication media and a minor in religion.

His service in education has been connected to Campion for 31 years—two years as assistant boy's dean and 29 as head dean. His teaching experience included sophomore Bible class, as well as several communicationrelated subjects including videography and speech. "Like my grandfather, Clarence Reeder, I was also a sponsor of the school newspaper," he

Donavan and his wife. Donna, have a daughter, Jessica Reeder, who teaches at Mile High Academy.

As he steps into his new leadership role, Reeder says that in his service he will "seek God's leading and communicate the values, mission and vision at Campion to the staff and students."

Rajmund Dabrowski is communication director for the Rocky Mountain Conference.

Remembering **Gerry Chapman**

A man of strict integrity



ocky Mountain Conference staff members, along with other friends and family, continue to remember the legacy of Gerry Chapman, director of trust services since 1997. Born and raised in Loma Linda, he spent more than 43 years in pastoral ministry in Iowa, Colorado, New Jersey, Ohio and Illinois.

A memorial service was held February 7 at Denver South Church. Gerry was honored for his many years of faithful service, which continued in spite of his own battle with illness.

Gerry's pastor, Ramon Ulangca said, "Gerry's legacy of service in the Rocky Mountain Conference was one of total commitment and sacrifice for the cause of Christ and the welfare of His church. His quiet demeanor masked a steely resolve based on clear convictions that consistently guided every decision he made."

Rick and Joan Rosvall give a sample of Gerry's service to his clients in this statement: "Gerry was a very caring and out-of-the-ordinary servant. We can't say enough great things about what this man did for us."

Gerry's colleagues have commented on the strength he showed, never missing a day of work until his last two weeks. "It was apparent to all of his co-workers," said Bill Hay, associate to Gerry, "that Gerry was a man of strict integrity. He placed faithfulness to his convictions and responsibilities ahead of everything else on earth."

Gerry's passing was a great loss for the staff of the Rocky Mountain Conference and an even greater loss for his family. Our prayers continue for those who survive him; his mother Margaret Chapman; wife Pat Chapman; daughter and son-in-law Jennifer and Eric Bishop; son and daughter-in-law Patrick and Emily Chapman; and grandchildren Ava, Olivia and Allison.

Carol Bolden is administrative assistant in the Communication Department for the Rocky Mountain Conference.

Expanding the Classroom

Shared courses between sister colleges help improve academic offerings



Sarah Dawson and Lexi Dossenko listen to a professor from Southern Adventist University lecture in their History Topics: WWI course. Part of the Adventist Education Alliance joint course offerings, the history class is team taught by professors on all three campuses.

ince discussions began between Union College, Southern Adventist University and Southwestern Adventist University about forming the Adventist Educational Alliance two years ago, the three schools have sought ways to collaborate to not only save money, but provide the best possible educational experience for students on all three campuses.

One of the early fruits of the Alliance began this past school vear in the form of shared courses between the three schools.

These offerings have included parasitology, taught by Union graduate and Southwestern biology professor Amy McHenry. Likewise, a high level math course taught by a Union

adjunct professor was offered to students at Southern.

Using innovative technology, distance learning allows a professor at one campus to teach an interactive course with a live classroom on their own campus and an online classroom at the other two. Students in the online classrooms still sit in a classroom, watch the live lecture on a video monitor and interact with the instructor and students in the other classrooms.

Malcolm Russell, vice president for Academic Administration, has taught many classes at Union including, in his area of expertise, Middle East history and politics. During the Spring 2015 semester he shared that knowledge with

the other two campuses in a course marking the centennial of World War I.

Opportunities and challenges

Russell believes distance learning has many advantages, but also recognizes some marked differences from teaching a strictly local class. For one, the video and audio transmission over the Internet can cause a delay, sometimes making class participation difficult. "Discussion has to be more formal, slower and more controlled," he said.

McHenry from Southwestern agrees this is likely the biggest challenge. "It's much more difficult for me to ask students to discuss a question in small groups of two or three and circulate around the room to help them understand the concept."

While students appreciate the opportunity to take additional courses, they see the limitations, too.

"I think you need to be a self-motivated student to do well in these classes," said Sarah Dawson, senior history major taking the WWI course partially taught by Russell.

"We have an advantage because one of the teachers is here on our campus," explained Lexi Dossenko, junior history education major also taking the WWI course. "If we have questions, we can just talk to Dr. Russell. It's not

as easy for some of the other students."

Because Southern Adventist University had already developed some online courses, their staff helped train professors at the other two schools to teach multiple classrooms at the same time.

Both Russell and McHenry see the ultimate advantage to students on all three campuses. "I think it's a great opportunity for our departments to share faculty expertise," McHenry said.

"Offering our students access to courses we can't teach on our own enables us to enrich student learning," Russell agreed.

In the long run, Russell believes the program will provide a cost savings, too. "Suppose Southwestern and Union together hired a sociologist or anthropologist?" he asked. "One could be located in Lincoln, the other in Texas. It will also give us more faculty in broader areas."

Distance learning does require technological dexterity, and for now, the learning curve is steep. However, as technology continues to improve, professors and students may soon participate in distance learning without a second thought.

Natalie Bruzon is a senior communication major at Union College.

Design by Numbers

Union graduates first computing major with web design emphasis



In December 2014 Cid Coto became the first computing major to graduate with the new minor in web design. Because of internship experiences and connections built at Union College, he immediately started a job as a web developer at Lincolnbased Sandhills Publishing.

or **Cid Coto**, the digital world isn't just about ones and zeros, or servers, networks and hardware. As Union College's first computing major to graduate with the new web design emphasis, the December 2014 graduate understands that when it comes to computers, form is just as important as function.

In today's world of constant connectedness, web design has become increasingly vital. Coto feels called to serve others by helping to solve problems, create beauty and visually organize the World Wide Web. "The Web is now how we do business, practice medicine and stay in touch with those we care about most," Coto explained. "A web designer has to ensure the site is understandable and enable interactions to take place."

In the months before his graduation, Coto attended several career fairs. Because of his contacts there, he landed his first job as a graphic designer at Sandhills Publishing. This international company is headquartered in Lincoln, Nebraska and serves industries such as agriculture, heavy machinery and construction.

At Sandhills Coto's main responsibility is to accommodate client requests for website changes and maintenance. On a daily basis, Coto uses the skills he learned at Union such as HTML and CSS coding, as well as industrystandard tools such as Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator. He also credits his writing courses at Union for preparing him to meet the professional standards of his job, where grammatically accurate communication is just as important as technical skill.

Building practical experience

Before completing his degree at Union, Coto interned as a web content manager for Eden Valley Institute of Wellness

in Colorado. There he was in charge of all the writing, photography, videography and website design for the nonprofit organization. "I was a one-stop shop," Coto laughed.

But while he was stretched during that summer, he believes his web and graphic design classes at Union prepared him well for the experience. Class projects like building a WordPress site from scratch taught him how to manage a work assignment from beginning to end.

Coto is also grateful for his time working as a student photographer, video cameraman and web developer for the Marketing Communications department at Union. Each of these roles gave him problem solving experiences in real-life situations.

Before coming to Union, Coto earned a two-year degree in computer science at a community college in Wyoming. But a bachelor's degree was his ultimate goal. Coto has always been drawn toward the web design field because it combines aspects of computer programming with the instant visual results of design.

Learning to learn

Coto is grateful not only for the skills he learned in his web design classes, but also for the close friendships he made at Union. He first came to Union because he wanted to associate with peers and mentors who shared his beliefs. Those friends and mentors would later influence the way he viewed the world and his role in it, both professionally and personally.

While redesigning Eden Valley's website, Coto was asked to research the organization's satellite missions. To do this he had to read through several years of archived publications and later write about them. He laughed as he remembered he had never expected to use the research skills he learned in college, but for projects like this they proved valuable.

Beyond work-related research and design, Coto credits the influence of Ben **Barber**, one of his instructors and work supervisors, for his desire to continue learning for its own sake. "He inspired me to become more of a reader than I already was," he explained. "It's amazing how much information is out there."

Overall, Coto feels his career path has been a spiritually guided one. "I am still on this journey," he said. "It doesn't end when you leave college, but if it were not for college, specifically Union, I know my experience would have been different."

Brittany Wren is a freelance writer who also works in the Records Office at Union College.

Cancer Diagnosis Inspires Art Therapist



Artist Carrie Field (center) gains support and encouragement for her work from Nancy Kimminau, infusion nurse, and Karen Homan, front office coordinator.

ince childhood, Carrie **Field** has possessed a love for art and helping others —two passions that have ultimately shaped the person she is today.

In high school, Field was introduced to art therapy and ultimately earned a Master of Science in art therapy and counseling psychology in 2011. She has always enjoyed using art to help people work through challenges such as an illness or loss of a loved one.

In August 2014, Field quickly realized the important role that art would play in her own healing journey after being diagnosed with metastatic Her-2 positive breast cancer. Committed to staying

lighthearted during a difficult time, Field began creating her own artwork.

"Art helped me heal day after day, week after week," said Field. "I used it as my own tool for personal battle."

While undergoing treatment at the Shawnee Mission Cancer Center. Field met financial advisor Jaime Orlich, who helped her to secure new art supplies through a non-profit organization called Sy's Fund. To show her gratitude, Field used the supplies to create a beautiful painting that is now permanently displayed in the infusion room at SMCC.

"Carrie has had an excellent response to systemic therapy that has allowed

her to stay very active and participate in some of her favorite activities including biking and painting," said Prasanth Reddy, MD, who serves as Field's oncologist. "Her positive spirit and outlook on life have been infectious—she has served as an inspiration to myself. our staff and a number of our patients."

Knowing firsthand the benefits that art therapy provides to cancer patients, Field began thinking about how she could be instrumental in getting others involved and decided to approach SMCC about the creation of a formal art therapy program for patients.

"Throughout my cancer experience, I have learned the importance of relying on faith, trusting in God and giving back to those who helped me," said Field. "My long-term goal is to be on the other side of the chair and guide people through their treatment using the healing power of art."

SMCC associates have been very supportive of Field and the mental and spiritual benefits her program can offer to patients. According to Reddy, part of SMCC's mission is to improve physical, emotional and spiritual health.

"We have a number of avenues that incorporate spirituality into patient care," said Reddy. "We believe that

art enhances the healing environment and are very supportive of Carrie's efforts to start an art therapy program at the Center."

Reddy is not the only one offering support to Field. Orlich worked with her to develop budget requirements for the program and The Foundation for Shawnee Mission Medical Center is now collaborating with Field to formulate a plan as well as funding and a start date, which is tentatively scheduled for late summer or early fall.

Like the recent addition of gynecologic oncologists Lowell Byers, MD; Michelle Dudzinski, MD; and Brenda **Shoup**, MD, the art therapy program represents another way that Shawnee Mission Health focuses on serving the whole patient—a practice that has long differentiated SMH from other healthcare providers.

"The atmosphere at the Shawnee Mission Cancer Center is positive and driven to provide not only the best and most advanced cancer care but in a very comfortable, caring and personal environment," said Shoup.

To learn more about the Shawnee Mission Cancer Center and to view patient videos, visit ShawneeMission. org/cancercenter.

Jackie Woods is a writer for Shawnee Mission Health.

Centura Welcomes Dr. Shadle



Dr. Eric Shadle is the new director of the CREATION Health program for Adventist Health System's Rocky Mountain Region. Having served as both a physician and a pastor, he merges his passions for lifestyle medicine and ministry in his new position.

entura Health is pleased to welcome **Dr. Eric Shadle** as the new director of the CREATION Health program for the five Denverbased hospitals in Adventist Health System's Rocky Mountain Region.

"The past 30 years of my career have been spent preparing to serve in this position," said Dr. Shadle, who originally started his journey in the late 1970s as a theology major at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Sensing a call to study medicine, he switched to Loma Linda University School of Medicine, graduating in 1982 and establishing himself over the next 20 years as an OBGYN physician, first at Bethesda Navy Hospital, then in the Philippines, and finally in Rockford, Illinois.

In the 1990s, Dr. Shadle began to incorporate natural remedies and lifestyle medicine options to complement the traditional medical techniques he had employed for years. With encouraging results, he began suggesting dietary and lifestyle changes for his patients and became increasingly convicted of their value to modern medicine.

During the same decade, another calling returned to Dr. Shadle's heart that hearkened back to his days as a theology student, and he accepted a call to serve as a lay pastor for his local congregation. Eventually, he transitioned to full-time pastoral ministry, accepting a call to pastor for the Upper Columbia Conference in Richland, Washington in 2004.

Dr. Shadle's decades-long passion for combining ministry and lifestyle medicine made him the perfect candidate to bring the Adventist health message to the employees and communities touched by the five Adventist hospitals in the Denver area. "I know the Lord has used me at each stage of my career, but it seems like

everything is coming together with this new position," he said.

The CREATION Health program is based on the eight principles of the Adventist health message, with CREATION serving as an acronym for Choice, Rest, Environment, Activity, Trust, Interpersonal Relationships, Outlook and Nutrition. Originally developed at Florida Hospital in Orlando, it was designed with local churches and their affiliated communities in mind. Over the years, its focus has grown to embrace employee and public health as well.

Scientific approach to lifestyle modification

CREATION Health is already well underway on all five Centura Adventist hospital campuses, with 250 "health coaches" currently operating in the numerous departments throughout the system. The primary objective of the program is to engage employees in health-related challenges and activities that will motivate positive lifestyle changes.

Dr. Shadle brings a scientific approach to the program. He plans to have 50 community members participate in a two-phase lifestyle modification program study based on the CREATION Health principles. During the first phase, all participants will go through a six-week, eight-session

program, complete with biometric studies before and after. The participants will then be randomized into two subgroups for phase two of the study. Over the next eight months, the first group will participate in monthly followup presentations based on each letter of the CREATION acronym, with access to a supporting lifestyle website called Caféwell. The second group, which will serve as a control group, will have access to the Caféwell website alone. Biometric studies will help identify connections, if any, between the followup programs and sustained lifestyle changes among the participants.

"We are so pleased to have Dr. Shadle join our team," said Morre Dean, group president for Centura Health's South Denver Adventist Hospitals. "He is already making a marked difference in the short time he's been here. We are looking forward to being one of the healthiest hospital systems anywhere. I hope that the excitement coming from the CREATION Health program will spill over into the neighborhoods we serve."

This article was submitted by Stephen King, senior vice president for the Rocky Mountain Adventist Health/ Centura Health, where he serves the five Adventist hospital campuses in Colorado. It was written by Mark Bond.

FAREWELL

Albertson, Scott R., b. May 15, 1961 in Minneapolis, MN. d. Apr. 22, 2015 in Coon Rapids, MN. Member of Andover Church. Survivors include wife Christi; children Amanda Adler, Chase and Mikayla; parents; grandmother; 1 sister.

Aldridge, Julie, b. Aug. 17, 1967 in Hastings, MI. d. Feb. 27, 2015 in Elk Creek, MO. Member of Willow Springs (MO) Church. Accompanied in death by husband Garold. Survivors include daughter Mica; stepson Trenton; parents; 4 brothers.

Boyer, Bonnie Lou, b. Feb. 7, 1930 in Hastings, NE. d. Apr. 6, 2015 in Scottsbluff, NE. Member of Scottsbluff Church. Preceded in death by husbands Clyde and Richard. Survivors include daughter Lisa Griffith; stepdaughter Marcia Ketchum; stepson Curtis Boyer; 1 sister; 8 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren.

Bover, Richard L., b. Nov. 8, 1930 in Bayard, NE. d. July 17, 2013 in Scottsbluff, NE. Member of Scottsbluff Church. Preceded in death by first wife Willa; 1 brother. Survivors include wife Bonnie (now deceased); daughter Lisa Griffith; son Curtis; 1 sister; 6 grandchildren; 5 greatgrandchildren. Served in the U.S. Air Force.

Bragaw, Malvern "Ray," b. Sept. 4, 1932 in Kansas City, MO. d. Jan. 22, 2015 in Long Lane, MO. Member of Bolivar (MO) Church. Preceded in death by first wife Elsie Palmer; son Mike Brand; 2 siblings. Survivors include wife Naomi; daughter Patty Byrd; sons Tim and Paul Bragaw and Jay Brand; 1 sister; 5 grandchildren; 3 greatgrandchildren.

Cotton, Pansy, b. Apr. 19, 1921 in Clarkton, MO. d. Jan. 20, 2015 in Cedar Rapids, IA. Member of Cedar Rapids Church. Preceded in death by husband George; 8 siblings. Survivors include daughters Vonda Sultan, Arlinda Cotton and Barbara Williams; 3 siblings; 5 grandchildren.

Harrison, Beulah, b. Jan. 13, 1925 in Winterset, IA. d. Feb. 15, 2015 in Winterset, IA. Member

of Winterset Church. Preceded in death by husband Frank; son Lloyd; 4 siblings; 1 grandson. Survivors include daughter Bonnie Klippenes; sons Donavon and Ronald; 4 sisters; 10 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; 1 great-greatgrandchild.

Howell, John A., b. Aug. 22, 1941. d. May 21, 2015 in Phoenix, AZ. Member of Piedmont Park (NE) Church. Preceded in death by 1 brother. Survivors include wife Judy; daughter Victoria Wahlman; sons Phil, Greg and David; 3 sisters; 14 grandchildren; 9 greatgrandchildren.

Sharon-Corbin, Hazel L., b. Apr. 22, 1909 in Wichita County, KS. d. June 26, 2013 in Columbia, MO. Member of Mexico (MO) Church. Preceded in death by first husband Ora Sharon; second husband Reuben Corbin; daughter Irma Hoyt; 1 sister; 1 grandson. Survivors include daughter LaVern Stocker; sons Eldon and Charles Sharon; stepdaughters Susan Corbin and Cathy Burton; stepson Don Sharon; 16 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; 2 great-greatgrandchildren.

Snyder, James R., b. Nov. 22, 1925 in Gage County, NE. d. Mar. 2, 2015 in Hood River, NE. Member of Kansas-Nebraska Conference. Preceded in death by 5 siblings. Survivors include wife Ruth; daughter Ritha; sons Russell and Roger; 4 siblings; 4 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren.

Wheeler, Harold, b. Feb. 23, 1926 in Carroll County, MO. d. Jan. 29, 2015 in Macon, MO. Member of Moberly (MO) Church. Preceded in death by first wife Betty. Survivors include wife Joy; daughter Kay McWilliams; sons Keith and Kim; stepchildren Larry Graves, Neal Foster, Randy Foster and Margy Barnes; 1 brother; 10 grandchildren; 2 greatgrandchildren.

To submit an obituary visit outlookmag.org/contact. Questions? Contact Raschelle Hines at 402.484.3012 or raschelle@outlookmag.org.

Colorado	July 3	July 10	July 17	July 24	July 31
Denver	8:31	8:29	8:26	8:21	8:14
Grand Junction	8:44	8:42	8:38	8:33	8:27
Pueblo	8:26	8:24	8:20	8:16	8:09
Iowa					
Davenport	8:40	8:38	8:34	8:28	8:21
Des Moines	8:52	8:50	8:46	8:40	8:33
Sioux City	9:06	9:04	9:00	8:54	8:47
Kansas					
Dodge City	9:06	9:04	9:01	8:56	8:50
Goodland	8:17	8:15	8:12	8:07	8:00
Topeka	8:52	8:50	8:47	8:42	8:3
Minnesota					
Duluth	9:06	9:02	8:57	8:50	8:4
International Falls	9:19	9:15	9:10	9:02	8:5
Minneapolis	9:03	9:00	8:55	8:49	8:4
Missouri					
Columbia	8:38	8:36	8:33	8:28	8:2
Kansas City	8:48	8:46	8:42	8:37	8:3
St. Louis	8:29	8:27	8:24	8:19	8:1
Nebraska					
Lincoln	9:02	8:59	8:56	8:50	8:4
North Platte	9:19	9:17	9:13	9:08	9:0
Scottsbluff	8:33	8:31	8:27	8:21	8:1
North Dakota					
Bismarck	9:40	9:37	9:32	9:25	9:1
Fargo	9:25	9:21	9:16	9:09	9:0
Williston	9:58	9:54	9:49	9:41	9:3
South Dakota					
Pierre	9:29	9:26	9:22	9:15	9:0
Rapid City	8:39	8:37	8:32	8:26	8:1
Sioux Falls	9:11	9:09	9:04	8:58	8:5
Wyoming					
Casper	8:47	8:45	8:41	8:35	8:2
Cheyenne	8:35	8:33	8:29	8:24	8:1
Sheridan	8:57	8:54	8:50	8:43	8:3

Colorado	Aug 7	Aug 14	Aug 21	Aug 28	Sept 4
Denver	8:06	7:58	7:48	7:38	7:2
Grand Junction	8:19	8:11	8:01	7:51	7:40
Pueblo	8:02	7:54	7:44	7:34	7:2
Iowa					
Davenport	8:13	8:03	7:53	7:42	7:3
Des Moines	8:25	8:16	8:05	7:55	7:4
Sioux City	8:38	8:29	8:18	8:07	7:5
Kansas					
Dodge City	8:43	8:34	8:25	8:15	8:0
Goodland	7:53	7:44	7:34	7:24	7:1
Topeka	8:28	8:19	8:10	8:00	7:4
Minnesota					
Duluth	8:32	8:21	8:09	7:56	7:4
International Falls	8:42	8:30	8:17	8:04	7:5
Minneapolis	8:32	8:21	8:10	7:58	7:4
Missouri					
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Kansas City	8:23	8:15	8:05	7:55	7:4
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Scottsbluff	8:06	7:56	7:46	7:35	7:2
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Cheyenne	8:09	8:00	7:49	7:39	7:2
Sheridan	8:26	8:16	8:04	7:52	7:3

INFOMARKET

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Southern Adventist University offers master's degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, global community development, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423.236.2585 or visit www.southern.edu/graduatestudies.

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EMPLOYMENT

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Southern Adventist University seeks Counseling Education professor for graduate/undergraduate courses, advisement/clinical supervision. Requirements: doctorate in counselor education with supervision from CACREP-accredited program, or clinical/counseling psychology from APA-accredited program with full-time work as faculty in counselor education program (minimum one year before 7/1/13); licensed/eligible in Tennessee with two years practicing clinical mental health/PK-12 school counseling. Send letter, CV, teaching philosophy, research interest, transcripts, three reference letters to ileanaf@southern.

Southern Adventist University's School of Nursing seeks full-time professor to teach graduate program. Successful professional nursing/ education experience is required, interest in research and advanced practice certification preferred. Must be Adventist in regular standing. Mail or email CV or inquires to Christy Showalter: PO BOX 370 Collegedale, TN 37315-0370; cshowalter@southern.edu.

edu or call 423 236 2960

Southern Adventist University's School of Social Work seeks professor to teach undergraduate/graduate courses focusing on generalist social work practice. Qualifications: Earned doctorate in social work or related field; master's in social work with two years' minimum post-masters practice; experience with/commitment to e-learning and integration of faith/ social work practice; Adventist in regular standing. Submit cover letter, CV, statement of teaching philosophy, and three references to Kristie Wilder: kwilder@southern.edu, 423.236.2206.

Southern Adventist University's School of Visual Art and Design seeks professor to teach foundation drawing, painting, color theory, and foundation design. MFA in painting preferred. Requirements: experience in/with teaching, advising, curriculum development, strategic planning; advanced technical skill; exemplary exhibition record; Adventist in regular standing. Send letter, CV/teaching philosophy, portfolio samples, three references to Randy Craven, School of Visual Art and Design, Southern Adventist University, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370.

Southwestern Adventist University Advancement office seeks full-time vice president. Responsibilities center primarily in development, in addition to PR/Marketing & Alumni. Minimum bachelor's degree and two years advancement experience required, master's degree preferred. Submit cover letter and CV/resume to Human Resources at denise.rivera@swau.edu.

NFOMARKET

Southwestern Adventist University has an immediate opening for a full-time nurse educator to serve as Chair for Nursing Department. Doctoral degree required with three years of university/college teaching experience. Must have an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send cover letter and current CV to Dr. Amy Rosenthal at arosenthal@ swau.edu.

The Advancement Office at Southwestern Adventist University seeks full time Director of Alumni Relations. Focus areas include alumni events, engagement strategy, volunteer coordination and fundraising, includes some travel. Bachelor's degree and two years relevant experience required. Submit cover letter and current CV/ resume to Human Resources at denise. rivera@swan edu

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EVENTS

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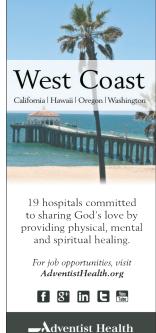
SW, Minot, ND. There will be special speakers and a concert at 3:30 pm. Lunch and supper will be provided. For further information, contact Lenore Scheresky at 701.839.7701 or 701 340 3291

Sheyenne River Academy/Dakota Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend, Oct. 2-3 at Dakota Adventist Academy, 15905 Shevenne Circle, Bismarck, ND. Come and renew your friendships. Honor Classes: '41, '46, '51, '56, '61, '66, '76, '86, '91, '96, '01, '06, '11 For more information call 701.258.9000 x236.

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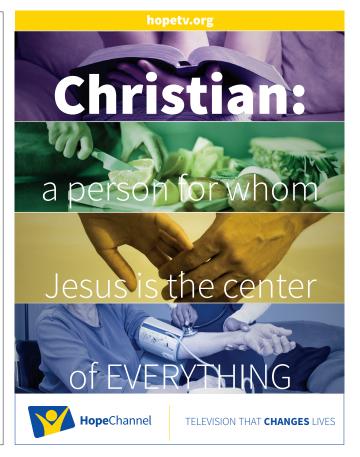
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