Growing
WITH
Excellence
Two Programs Celebrate Their Anniversary
Greetings

to alumni and friends of Washington Adventist University, and
welcome to another issue of The Gateway!

This issue documents the many ways our faculty and staff are
continuing the rich tradition of excellence in providing the tools and
resources to enable our valued students to launch successful careers.
Our goal is to continue to connect with you to share how we are preparing
students to be critical thinkers and learners who are able to adapt and prosper in
their careers, and also to model the life and teachings of Jesus to the world. We are committed to the Luke
2:52 development of our students. Our satisfaction comes from hearing our graduates say that Washington
Adventist University played a major role in helping them acquire wisdom, and develop their relationship
with God and people.

We are continuing to implement Vision 2020—Growing with Excellence. Vision 2020 is an initiative to
grow Washington Adventist University with excellence to become a thriving and distinctive institution of
higher education. Growing with excellence will require a university community that is synchronized and
aligned around a committed vision to produce graduates who bring competence and moral leadership to
their communities throughout the world. Moving forward together will help this great institution emerge as a
premier private Christian university that engages minds and transforms lives. Together, we will continue to
implement best practices under the six institutional pillars of excellence: Quality, People, Finance, Growth,
Service and Community.

We hope reading this issue of The Gateway has an effect on your thinking and response to help us
continue the mission of Christian education in the nation's capital. Preparing students for service to
humanity and for lifelong learning is a value that will produce rewarding outcomes.

Alumni, faculty, staff and friends of Washington Adventist University: On behalf of our students, thank you
for your prayers, contributions and long-term commitment to the mission and vision of this University. Thank
you for helping us fund scholars, facilities and innovations.

Sincerely,

Weymouth Spence, Ed.D.
President
Features

14 School of Graduate and Professional Studies Celebrates 30th Anniversary
Dr. Gurubatham's faith and determination paved a road that has provided a pathway to success for working professionals and students across the nation.

16 Honors Program Celebrates 10th Anniversary
Alumni share the significance of the Honors Program and how it enriched their experience.

18 Putting on the Ritz
Celebrating the Second Annual Visionaries Gala.
A total of 70 students were baptized this year at Washington Adventist University. Fifty-three of the baptisms took place at the second Annual Campus Revival, which was held in the spring with a week of worship and a call to baptism.

During the revival, hundreds of students, faculty and staff, and visitors from nearby churches filled the outdoor tent each evening at 7 p.m. to worship and to hear guest speaker Pastor Myron Edmonds, senior pastor from Glenville Seventh-day Adventist Church in Cleveland, Ohio. He spoke to the revival theme, “I’m Weak,” based on 2 Corinthians 12:9, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

“We had about 14 people who planned to participate in the baptism, and then the Holy Spirit fell upon the campus and touched hearts in ways only God can do,” said WAU Chaplain Regina Johnson. “Saying God is good would be an understatement. He never fails to exceed my expectations.”

“To me, the revival confirmed everything about my spiritual life that I was afraid to acknowledge,” said graduating senior Shaniel Francis, who was among those baptized. “I realized the importance of starting over spiritually.”

Tyrus Fleetwood, a freshman who was baptized, said, “The revival gave me a chance to sit back and take the word of God, and look at what I was doing wrong in my life. It led me to...”
This year, for the first time, Washington Adventist University presented the prestigious Sullivan awards to two students in recognition of their demonstrated passion for community service. Nikole Donovan, who graduated this spring with a B.S. in general studies with special emphasis in social science and social work, received the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award at the Academic Awards Chapel on April 23 at Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church. Louise Griffin, a student in the School of Graduate and Professional Studies (SGPS) who is earning her master’s degree in healthcare administration, received the Mary Mildred Sullivan Award at the SGPS Academic Awards Program that same afternoon in the Morrison Hall Chapel on campus.

“The WAU community is excited to pause and recognize outstanding members of our community,” said Dr. Ralph Johnson, dean of the WAU Betty Howard Center for Student Success. Since 1890, the highly prized Sullivan awards have been presented on the campuses of colleges and universities across the American South. These institutions all reflect the interests of prominent lawyer, businessman and philanthropist Algernon Sydney Sullivan and his wife, Mary Mildred Sullivan, to educate and honor deserving students. The awards are named for the Sullivans to honor their lives of service.

There are currently 61 colleges and universities presenting Sullivan awards, facilitated by the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Foundation, based in Oxford, Miss. The Sullivan Foundation board of directors reviews applications from eligible institutions interested in participating in the awards presentations, visits the campuses and approves participation in the awards program based on merit. Participating institutions may present the awards to graduating seniors, alumni or community members who meet the award criteria. Notable past award recipients include Eleanor Roosevelt and Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell.

Attending WAU’s first Sullivan awards presentations this year was Algernon Sydney Sullivan Foundation President Stephan L. McDavid, Esq. The awards themselves are bronze medallions, each accompanied by a framed certificate and a biography of either Algernon Sydney Sullivan or Mary Mildred Sullivan.
Olive Hemmings

Publishes New Book

AU Religion professor Olive J. Hemmings, Ph.D., conceived the topic of her recently published book, *Sacred Texts and Social Conflict: the Bible and the Debate Over Women’s Ordination in the Seventh-day Adventist Church*, during her first year of college at Northern Caribbean University in Jamaica. As a woman studying theology in 1979, she said she was frequently questioned about where she hoped to ever find work, as the Adventist Church was still far from accepting the ordination of women.

Rather than feeling discouraged, Hemmings resolved to follow her calling. She believes she has had divine support, as she has never had a problem finding work. Hemmings earned her master’s degree in New Testament and Biblical languages from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Michigan, and her Ph.D. in theology, ethics and culture from Claremont Graduate University in California.

She now teaches Biblical Theology, Pauline Theology, Introduction to the New Testament and other New Testament courses at WAU, and is a commissioned minister who preaches locally, nationally and internationally. Hemmings is passionate about her work, and she brings to her teachings the rich cultural and historical contexts of Biblical text that reflect a variety of social struggles, including understanding and engaging the divine.

Hemmings’ new book springs from her doctoral thesis, in which she scrutinized the arguments in the church regarding women’s ordination, dissected the politics, and focused on the social dynamics that drive the interpretation and even the formation of sacred texts.

“The church has come a long way on the issue of women’s ordination,” said Hemmings. “I am encouraged by the progress.”

Last spring, Hemmings spoke about women’s ordination and the politics of interpretation as part of the 34th G. Arthur Keough Lectureship program.

Hemmings has taught at WAU for the past 12 years. She has been married for 25 years to Charles Kuuku Paintsil, and together they have three children.

STEM

A new STEM U program to enhance the academic success of students majoring in biology, biochemistry, chemistry, computer science and mathematics was launched this year by Dr. Melinda Villanueva of the biology department.

The new program provides student mentors, workshops, reading support and residential and nonresidential learning communities—all focused on helping students achieve better grades, and on increasing their success for graduate school and beyond.
Two new academic programs were added this fall—a bachelor’s degree in health science, and an articulation agreement with Montgomery College for biotechnology.

The health science degree, recently endorsed by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), will prepare students for careers in health care, which is one of the largest industries in the United States. This bachelor’s degree is expected to attract students with interests in the various allied health professions such as therapists, technologists and technicians.

A new articulation agreement with Montgomery College will enable students who have completed their associate degree in biotechnology at Montgomery College to complete their courses at Washington Adventist University for a bachelor’s degree in biology. Students who complete the program will be prepared to become lab assistants in biotechnology firms or apply to graduate or professional schools.

The program is supported by a Maryland College Access Challenge Grant of $55,834 that was awarded to WAU last spring following Villanueva’s application to the Maryland Higher Education Commission for a “STEM University (STEM U)” program that will increase academic standing for students in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields.

“I’m really excited about this program,” says Dr. Villanueva. “We have dedicated student mentors, an exciting reading program and some great workshops planned. Students who take advantage of the opportunities in the STEM U program will be better prepared to compete nationwide for top spots in graduate and professional programs.” The learning communities will make it easier for students to develop friendships with friends with others in their major; collaborate on group projects and assignments; and join study groups to achieve higher grades and greater success in class. The “Reading for Science Professionals” program will assist all students in acquiring better reading skills, which are essential for success in science careers. A survival guide with campus resources is also provided to students who participate in the STEM U program. The goal is to ensure that all participants will persist in their STEM courses so that they may complete their education and graduate on time, prepared for the STEM workforce.

For more information about STEM U, go to wau.edu/stem-u.
Renovation Work Improves Weis Library

Weis Library received a much-needed renovation over the summer that included new paint, carpeting and additional electrical outlets to accommodate mobile devices and chargers. A new textured ceiling replaced water-damaged ceiling tiles, and water-damaged crown molding was also repaired. In addition to the renovation work, deep cleaning of blinds and sofa covers was completed. There is also new furniture in the group study room.

“The improvement is huge,” said Lee Wisel, who oversaw the work as library director before her retirement in September. “Students, faculty, staff and visitors will appreciate the work, as the library is once again an inviting place to spend time, reflect and gain new perspectives.”

The $70,000 renovation effort is part of the university’s Vision 2020—Growing with Excellence plan to turn WAU into one of the premier universities in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Summer Camps Helped Local Children

A day camp program for 100 children and teens, ages 7 to 16, was held on campus over the summer, from June 16 through August 10. The camp provided a much-needed resource for low-income families, who struggle to find affordable activities for their children in the summer.

Takoma Park Councilmember Jarrett Smith said he was thrilled that the camp had “generated so much support from the county, the city, our community, Washington Adventist Hospital and WAU. Our investment in our city’s youth is an investment in our community.”

“It’s not enough to tell our youth what to do. We must show them a better way,” said summer camp coordinator Curtis Watkins. “The summer camp is an excellent example of how combining resources and human capital will create better short- and long-term outcomes for today’s youth.”

The summer program gave participants an opportunity to rediscover their creativity; improve their social skills in an environment of cooperation and respect; explore new interests; and enhance their quality of life. Exposure to the WAU campus, professors and students also served to inspire participants to seek higher education.

The summer program on campus was made possible through a collaboration with Montgomery County government, which provided a $45,000 grant for performing arts training and soccer camp activities; the city of Takoma Park, which provided a $6,000 grant; Montgomery County Public Schools, which provided free lunches each day for all enrolled participants; and Educare—a research-based program that prepares at-risk children for school—which provided management support for daily operations.
Mission Trips

Philippines & Brazil

Last spring, a team of seven Washington Adventist University missionaries, led by Vice President for Ministry Dr. Baraka G. Muganda, participated in a two-week mission trip to the city of Davao, Philippines, that resulted in the baptism of 141 individuals.

“Students love to reach out and touch others with the love of God—most just do not know it yet,” said Dr. Muganda. “When you give them the right opportunity and preparation, they will discover the joy of serving God while serving others, and their lives will be changed.”

Seven evangelistic satellites were set up in the city of Davao, and at the end of the evening meetings, individuals who wanted to be baptized into the church were invited to do so. Dr. Joan Francis, chair of the history department, participated in the trip and was assigned to preach in one of the largest churches in Davao. She noted that she felt even more blessed from the experience than the Filipinos whose lives she had touched.

During the trip, the missionaries took one day to visit Mountain View College, one of the major and oldest Seventh-day Adventist institutions of higher learning in the Philippines. The purpose for the visit was to see the campus and to attend the South Asia Pacific Division Sabbath School Congress, which included 10,000 delegates from more than 14 countries.

While on campus at Mountain View College, the WAU missionaries were invited to greet the Youth Ministry workshop, which included several hundred youth leaders from all over the division. They were also interviewed by the division’s communication department about Washington Adventist University’s core value of being a “Gateway to Service” that motivates students to serve locally and globally, and to transform lives. An article about the WAU mission trip was published in the daily newsletter that was distributed to the 10,000 delegates who attended the Congress.

The Davao, Philippines Mission Trip is just one of the missions that Washington Adventist University participated in to prepare students to serve beyond classroom boundaries.

An overseas mission trip to Brazil in July was a humanitarian effort by a team of seven, which included WAU Missions Director Kaneil Williams and Chaplain Regina Johnson. They spent two weeks working on a variety of projects that included restoring an abandoned building to house recovering drug addicts, renovating and building homes, hosting a community soccer game and teaching songs, games and crafts to children at a community center.

Upcoming mission trips in 2015 include Jamaica in March, St. Kitts in May and Kenya in June. Individuals interested in participating should email missions@wau.edu.
Back-to-School Bash

The sounds of laughter and summer fun filled the air as faculty and students celebrated the beginning of the fall semester. Friends had to prove their physical prowess as water balloons flew through the air. The third annual back-to-school bash is organized by the Student Association and provides a fun environment for students to make friends, break the ice and reconnect.
President Spence, Provost Kisunzu and Chaplain Regina Johnson take the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge.
HAIL TO THE CHAMPS

Washington Adventist University’s application for active membership in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) has been approved, effective August 1, 2014.

“We are extremely pleased with our move to the NAIA, as it will help enhance support for our athletic program and better align the university with other schools that have similar character initiatives,” said WAU Director of Athletics Patrick E. Crarey II, who is also head coach of the men’s basketball team, which won the U.S. Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) Division I National Championship this year.

Institutions applying to the NAIA must meet membership criteria that include financial stability, sports sponsorship, accreditation and a commitment to character-driven athletics. The Membership Committee also reviews enrollment numbers, graduation percentages, retention rates and overall athletics budgets.

WAU is one of five new members in the NAIA, including Lincoln Christian University (Ill.), Middle Georgia State College, Texas A&M University – Texarkana and the University of Winnipeg (Can.). Trinity Lutheran College (Wash.) was approved as an associate member and will be evaluated for active membership at the end of the 2014-15 academic year.

“We are always pleased to welcome new members to the Association,” said Les Purce, chair of the NAIA Council of Presidents and President of Evergreen State College (Wash.). “These are quality institutions that have been through a rigorous review process and meet the high standards the NAIA Membership Committee has set.”

Competitive sports teams are part of the vision for excellence that WAU President Dr. Weymouth Spence has for the university. This year, the men’s soccer team earned the No. 7 seed in the 2013 USCAA National Championships in Charleston, W.Va. The women’s basketball team recorded the most wins in 20 years by finishing the 2013-14 season with an overall record of 9-18, and the cross-country team had one of its strongest years in recent history.
Welcome

New Faces on Campus

Claudette Haynes
Assistant Professor for the Education Department, MA, MS
What is your favorite app? App Store.
What made you want to work at WAU? I had been working as a sub-dean for a year, and I really enjoyed my experience engaging with the residents. So, when the opportunity arose to be more involved, I was happy to pursue it.
What is your favorite book? The Bible.
How would you describe yourself? Compassionate, creative and adventurous.
What is your favorite activity outside of work? Reading and traveling.

James Butler
Vice President for Information Technology Services, MA
What is your favorite app? WhatsApp.
What made you want to work at WAU? I previously taught at State College, and I found it impossible to teach about the human body and not connect it to God in some way. Thankfully, I had an opportunity to work at WAU, and I have been here ever since.
How would you describe yourself? Hardworking, dependable and professional.
What is your favorite activity outside of work? Surfing, jiu-jitsu and running.

James Brent Clemmer
Medical Imaging Faculty and Clinical Coordinator, BA
What is your favorite app? Sabbath School Quarterly.
What made you want to work at WAU? I previously taught at State College, and I found it impossible to teach about the human body and not connect it to God in some way. Thankfully, I had an opportunity to work at WAU, and I have been here ever since.
How would you describe yourself? Full of joy.
What is your favorite activity outside of work? Surfing, jiu-jitsu and running.

Candace Sinclair
Special Assistant for the Dean of Women, MA
What is your favorite app? Pinterest.
What made you want to work at WAU? I had been working as a sub-dean for a year, and I really enjoyed my experience engaging with the residents. So, when the opportunity arose to be more involved, I was happy to pursue it.
What is your favorite book? The Help.
How would you describe yourself? Industrious, loyal and loving.
What is your favorite activity outside of work? Shopping and cake decorating.

Jacqueline Sanchez
Office Manager for WGTS 91.9, BA
What is your favorite app? Pinterest.
What made you want to work at WAU? I saw it as a great opportunity.
How would you describe yourself? Spanish, fun and organized.
What is your favorite activity outside of work? Singing!

Clifford Wright
Special Assistant for Student Activities, CEd
What is your favorite app? Brite Radio.
What made you want to work at WAU? I really wanted an opportunity to help and mentor students.
How would you describe yourself? Humble, resilient and determined.
What is your favorite activity outside of work? Going through education books to make webinars.

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What is your favorite activity outside of work? Going through education books to make webinars.
Natalie Thomas  
Assessment Coordinator for the Education Department, MEd

What is your favorite app? Facebook.  
What made you want to work at WAU? I see it as Takoma Park and Montgomery counties’ best kept secret, and it is what I want to be a part of.  
What is your favorite book? The Shack.  
How would you describe yourself? Enthusiastic, patient and kind.  
What is your favorite activity outside of work? Reading, traveling and walking on the beach.

Jeanette Bryson  
Chair and Associate Professor for the Education Department, PhD

What is your favorite app? Maps.  
What made you want to work at WAU? When I met with students and listened to their concerns, I realized that this is where I needed to be.  
What is your favorite book? What’s in a Phrase by Marilyn Chandler McEntyre and The Song of the Lark by Willa Cather.  
How would you describe yourself? Determined, abstract and a traveler.  
What is your favorite activity outside of work? Reading, traveling and walking on the beach.

Melissa Henley  
Instructor for the Social Work Department, MSW

What is your favorite app? WhatsApp.  
What made you want to work at WAU? I graduated from Oakwood College, and I had a wonderful experience. I knew while I was a student that I wanted to continue the tradition of academic rigor, nurturance and spiritual guidance that my professors provided, so when the opportunity presented itself at WAU, I knew that it was God’s answer to my prayer all these years.  
What is your favorite book? The Shack.  
How would you describe yourself? Committed, driven and compassionate.  
What is your favorite activity outside of work? Spending time with my husband.

Kristin Mitas  
Chair and Associate Professor for Medical Imaging, MHA

What is your favorite app? I have a flip phone (laughing)!!  
What made you want to work at WAU? The program transferred from Washington Adventist Hospital to WAU’s campus.  
How would you describe yourself? Energetic, fun and enjoys life.  
What is your favorite activity outside of work? Flying! I’m a licensed pilot.

Jered Lyons  
Sports Information Director & Athletics Compliance Coordinator, MA

What is your favorite app? Banking App.  
What made you want to work at WAU? I felt that my profession matched WAU’s values.  
What is your favorite book? The Leadership Challenge by James Kouzes.  
How would you describe yourself? Passionate, friendly and adventurous.  
What is your favorite activity outside of work? Traveling and exploring different cultures.

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Chair and Associate Professor for the Education Department, PhD

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What is your favorite activity outside of work? Flying! I’m a licensed pilot.
The School of Graduate and Professional Studies (SGPS) began 30 years ago at what was then known as Columbia Union College. The adult evening program was initially conceived as a way to boost enrollment and enhance the school’s financial situation, but a considerable amount of discussion and prayer preceded the program’s implementation, according to founder Dr. Gladstone Gurubatham, a professor of psychology at WAU.

Gurubatham—who is himself a lifelong learner—saw great opportunity in the confluence of empty classrooms in the evening and the lack of convenient educational opportunities available to working adults. He proposed starting an adult evening program as a way to improve the school’s finances. When asked to identify the participants in such a program, he was less certain of who might actually enroll, and the Board of Trustees turned the proposal down twice before finally agreeing to an adult program that offered only undergraduate degrees in business administration, psychology and organizational management.

“Dr. William Loveless, school president at the time, delivered the good news that my proposal had finally been accepted when we were standing in front of the old music building,” said Gurubatham, “but he made it clear that the program would receive no funding support from the school.” In order to get it off the ground, Gurubatham financed that first adult evening program himself.

“In the days before the first enrollment, I told a lot of people about the new program and encouraged them to enroll,” said Gurubatham. “But I still wasn’t sure how many people would actually come to the registration. So I prayed—a lot.”

Thirty-five adults showed up to that first enrollment event on campus, and 35 registered. Each paid his or her tuition in cash, as required by the financial officer of the time. Gurubatham recalls having to handle a lot of cash that evening—$35,000, to be exact. He said he was greatly relieved when the
financial officer agreed to accept checks and financial aid after that first semester.

Over the years, the SGPS has grown to include eight graduate programs and 11 accelerated undergraduate programs, tailored to the needs of working adults. In addition, online classes have been added, and two of the master’s programs are now offered fully online.

Timothy Hatfield (’14), who is a lieutenant with the Prince George’s County Police Department, recently earned his bachelor’s degree in organizational management from WAU. His goal is to remain in public service, and possibly become a federal prosecutor. He is now attending law school at George Washington University.

According to Hatfield, he was initially attracted to WAU because “it was the only school in the D.C. area that had an accelerated bachelor’s program, which helped me accomplish my goals sooner than anticipated.

“Pursuing higher education is important for future success, and WAU gave me the opportunity to pursue and accomplish my goal of obtaining a college degree within a time frame that was reasonable,” said Hatfield.

Hatfield said he appreciated the smaller, more intimate classes with professors and staff who are committed to student success. He pointed out that “when you don’t have a large number of students, no one gets lost in the mix,” adding that “your professors recognize and remember you, and are always willing to help.”

Offering this advice to other adults who are thinking about returning to school, Hatfield said “the excellent WAU programs can get you to where you need to be in the shortest amount of time.” He also noted that “the campus environment is supportive and friendly.”

Hatfield is the proud father of a son who “motivates me every day to better myself and accomplish my goals.”

Another recent graduate of the SGPS is Shawn Fordham (’14). He is a federal worker who was attracted to WAU for the convenience and accessibility it provides to working adults. He said he also appreciated the spiritual foundation, ethics and practical instruction the school provides. He earned his master’s degree in public administration in May, and is looking forward to using his new knowledge and skills as he continues his pursuits in public service and supports the Adventist Church. He plans to apply to law school in 2015.

For the past seven years, he has been an assistant district manager for the Social Security Administration in the Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia, Pa., area, but he previously worked for Philadelphia Mayor John F. Street, serving as his campaign manager and senior advisor. Fordham also served on the board of directors of the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority.

Once named to the “Annual Most Influential Philadelphians Mover and Shaker List” by The Philadelphia Tribune, and to the “10 People to Watch” list by the Philadelphia News in 2004, Fordham credits WAU for much of his success over the years, citing a statistics course he took in the organizational management program as a significant help when he was a political consultant and campaign manager, just as the graduate-level courses are helping him in his current job.

Fordham comes from a long line of Adventist ministers and teachers who gave him “a unique perspective on the power of God in the life of families and individuals.” He has great admiration and respect for his parents, and names his son as one of his greatest influences.

An avid bike rider, sports fan, and reading and research enthusiast, Fordham encourages potential students to consider a WAU education, whether on campus or online. “It is the perfect program for the traditional student or the working professional. The online classes are taught by the same professors who teach in the classrooms. I was able to do a combination of the two, which allowed me to be able to take more classes in a shorter amount of time. That was extremely valuable to me in raising a family, working full time, and attending and participating in class.”

Rebecca Kabba (’08 and ’10), who earned both a nursing degree and a master’s in business administration, said she appreciated the flexibility the SGPS programs offer. The availability of Sunday classes allowed her to work on her degree over the weekend, which accommodated her Monday-through-Friday work schedule. She also said that only four hours a week of class time was “an invaluable asset” to her, as it gave her time to deal with the other challenges of working full time and raising a family.

“I don’t know why more people don’t take advantage of the SGPS program,” said Kabba, who is originally from Sierra Leone in West Africa, where she attended an Adventist high school.

“I loved the program. Once I finished my bachelor’s degree, I went right back to WAU to complete my MBA.” Kabba was among the first graduates of Washington Adventist University, after Columbia Union College was renamed.
This year marks the 10th anniversary of Washington Adventist University’s Honors Program, which was inaugurated in the summer of 2004 as a way to enhance the academic experience for students. The program, which offers interdisciplinary courses and innovative teaching strategies, was first discussed in the late 1990s. It was then researched and designed in the early 2000s by a formal Honors Council, which was charged with constructing a program that would support academic excellence, while offering opportunities for leadership and service.

Since its creation, the Honors Program has offered unique interdisciplinary courses that range from The History of Diseases (a combination of microbiology and history) to a two-week Civil War study course that includes visits to museums and battlefields. Program courses give students an opportunity to pursue other disciplines and interests, and offer chances for students to engage with others who are curious and interested in learning.

Professor Bradford Haas is director of the Honors Program and chair of the university’s English Department. He sees great value in the program. It offers students the opportunity to explore a variety of disciplines and gain critical thinking skills, and it helps support academic excellence within the university through grants and donations.

WAU Alumnus Tyson Shaw (’08), who is now an attorney with the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, participated in the inaugural Honors Program. He helped write the constitution for the program and develop the executive office structure. He also participated in the first Honors retreat.

“My ground-floor involvement in Honors holds special meaning to me, and I count my participation as a highlight of my collegiate experience,” said Shaw. “My early investment in the process helped me to develop relationships with the key Honors Program faculty, many of whom have served as mentors and recommenders for me, even after my time at WAU concluded.”
Shaw also noted that “the Honors Program brightened and intensified my education at WAU. Through ‘Honors,’ as we came to call it, I was placed in a cohort with many intelligent and curious classmates, who quickly became trusted peers and friends. The innovative Honors courses, taught by invested and engaged professors, explored relevant topics through a balanced, multidisciplinary approach, providing me with a broad-based educational experience. Both colleagues and coursework pushed me to achieve, providing me with a strong foundation for future academic and professional pursuits.”

Kelly Wiedemann (‘08), who was also part of that first Honors group and is now the orchestra director at Shenandoah Valley Academy in Virginia, credits the program with “making the learning and classwork so much more enjoyable and relevant. It got me excited about topics that I had previously avoided, such as science. It also gave me a chance to meet people outside of music. Music majors tend to be a tight-knit group, and we are gone so much on tours that we can lose touch with the rest of campus. Being in Honors expanded my social network, and helped me find interests and outlets outside of music.”

Wiedemann had come to WAU for the opportunity to perform with the New England Youth Ensemble. She was seeking an Adventist education and liked the location of the university.

Through Honors, Wiedemann said, “I learned to expand my interests outside of music. Thanks to Art & Adventism, I now love going to art galleries and have even started painting. Thanks to History of Diseases, I now find science fascinating (instead of scary) and read science articles for fun.”

“I also learned to be comfortable in an environment where there were many backgrounds, religious viewpoints and opinions,” she noted. “In Honors, we had heated debates, and yet remained good friends afterward. I think this provided a positive model for relationships that continues to influence the way I interact with others today.”

Current Honors Student President Adam Buttrick said the program “offers opportunities to interact with people who want to learn, and to enhance the overall academic experience with relevant activities.” Last year, the Honors group traveled to New York to attend what was, for him, a memorable performance of Waiting for Godot that featured English actors Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellen.

A graduate of the Pine Tree Academy in Freeport, Maine, Buttrick came to WAU to continue his Adventist education. He also was drawn to the school for its location so close to the nation’s capital. A counseling psychology major who is now in his senior year, Buttrick has participated in the Honors Program since arriving at WAU. He said he values the variety of interdisciplinary courses and appreciates that they are often tied to local resources.

As student president of the group, Buttrick has responsibilities that include assisting with the weekly Honors seminar, which will feature an anniversaries theme this year. Programs will include the 200th anniversary of “The Star-Spangled Banner” (written by 35-year-old American lawyer Francis Scott Key in September 1814); the 170th anniversary of the “Great Disappointment” (the failed 1844 prophecy of Baptist farmer William Miller upon which the Seventh-day Adventist Church was built); and an exhibition that recognizes the 100th anniversary of the short-lived Blast literary magazine, which was a catalyst for avant-garde art and literature from 1914 to 1922.

This year, Buttrick is also serving as the Honors Program events coordinator, with responsibility for organizing the Honors retreat and planning events, including the Christmas party, commiseration brunch and senior dedication.

For WAU students who are considering participation in the Honors Program, Tyson Shaw offers this advice: “Taking ownership of your college career is key to a running start in the job market. The Honors Program offers a supportive and engaging community, marketable educational experiences and the opportunity to critically engage with the world around you.

“Through Honors, you will gain mentors and colleagues who will remain with you far beyond graduation. Don’t sign up if you are merely seeking a degree, or college is solely a social endeavor. Do sign up if you are willing to push yourself, and if you are seeking to maximize your experience at WAU.

“I came to WAU because I was committed to an Adventist education, but was interested in political studies and law,” said Shaw, who attended law school at Duke University. “I conditionally recommend WAU to others, particularly to those who are self-starters and high achievers.”

Since the program’s inception, participants have been accepted into graduate programs all over the country, including Georgetown, Duke, USC, Chicago, Penn State, Union Theological Seminary, the University of Baltimore, Andrews University, Catholic University and Loma Linda.
The second annual Washington Adventist University Visionaries Gala was held on September 21 at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, and approximately 300 people attended the event, which was emceed by award-winning journalist Suzanne Malveaux, CNN’s national correspondent and former anchor of the network’s international news program, Around the World.

In keeping with WAU’s commitment to excellence and moral leadership, the gala included a recognition of five individuals who have provided exemplary leadership to the university, the community, the country and the world.

This year’s Gateway award for “Excellence in Humanitarian Service” was presented to Peggielene Bartels (King Peggy) for her global contributions as king of a small fishing village in Ghana. Bartels is a Ghanaian-born American citizen who works at the Embassy of Ghana in Washington, D.C. Six years ago, when she was chosen to succeed her uncle as king of Otuam, Bartels began to live an unusual dual life. From two continents, King Peggy is now leading 7,000 villagers to a more prosperous future.

As someone who has made considerable contributions to the world of healthcare, Bruce Boyer was honored with the “Excellence in Health and Human Services” award this year. He is president and chairman of Sloan Management, Inc. and Premier HealthCare, Inc., and is also a member of the Washington Adventist University Board of Trustees. In his 42-year career, Boyer has developed nursing and assisted living facilities across the Mid-Atlantic region, and is founder of American Heritage Communities for active senior adults.

Dr. Gladstone Gurubatham was honored this year with the “Excellence in Teaching Psychology and Social Sciences, and Excellence in Educational Leadership” award. He is the longest-serving faculty member at Washington Adventist University, with a 50-year tenure. As the founder and architect of the university’s adult evening program, which is now the School of Graduate and Professional Studies, Dr. Gurubatham has succeeded in creating a convenient and accessible program that accommodates the needs of working adults who are seeking accelerated undergraduate or graduate degrees.

Washington Adventist University alumni, Dr. Milton Morris and his wife, Merrillie, were honored with the “Excellence in Entrepreneurial Leadership” award for building their Standard Office Supply Company on a foundation of service excellence and integrity. Standard Office Supply is now one of the largest independent, full-service office supply companies in the nation.
products dealerships in the greater Washington-Baltimore region. The Morrices also encourage entrepreneurship and assist small businesses through the Morris Entrepreneurship Centre at Northern Caribbean University in Jamaica.

The annual Gala serves as a fundraiser for the university’s Vision 2020—Growing with Excellence plan, which is guiding the school’s metamorphosis into one of the premier small universities in the Mid-Atlantic region. The plan aims to enhance all facets of WAU operations, which includes exceeding accreditation standards; developing a strong curriculum in science, technology, engineering and mathematics; expanding service learning; conducting ongoing program review; making strategic reinvestments in the quality of programs; and promoting and strengthening support services that reflect 21st century best practices.

At the centerpiece of the Vision 2020 plan is a new Health Professions and Wellness Center, which will enable collaboration and provide vibrant opportunity for holistic development through education, health and wellness for the WAU community and beyond. Also part of the plan is phase two of the Leroy & Lois Peters Music Center, which will help integrate performance and curriculum by adding a performance hall to facilitate practice, teaching and study of performing arts. ☞
The WAU community remembers William A. Loveless, Ph.D., who served as the university’s president from 1978 to 1990 when the institution was known as Columbia Union College. Loveless came to the campus at a time when heated discussions were taking place over plans to move the college to a different and more remote location. He argued against the move and in favor of keeping the college close to the nation’s capital, where students could access museums, concert halls, historic sites and other local institutions that would provide them with a rich supplemental education.

When discussions about a move finally ended, Loveless engaged in another effort to preserve the institution and its identity. He ultimately won a 10-year battle to secure state funding, overcoming charges by Maryland officials that the college was “just a Bible college proselytizing students.”

In an effort to become better acquainted with academy faculty and prospective students, Loveless began to use the college’s presidential residence as a guest house, where he often hosted as many as 14 visitors in a weekend. He also invited all freshmen to his home for a fall reception, and hosted another reception for graduates and their families prior to commencement. He enjoyed getting to know people.

One former student, now a university professor, recalls the open door policy that he maintained: “I often dropped by his office to chat about my career or studies. When I transferred to another university, I thought I’d get acquainted with the president there, so I went to see him. I became uneasy when it was clear that drop-ins weren’t part of his agenda.”

Loveless was also the first to suggest that a student missionary program be established at the university in 1959, when it was still known as Washington Missionary College and Charles Hirsch was president. At that time, Loveless was senior pastor at nearby Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church, and his suggestion was considered by some to be a radical idea. In spite of initial disapproval from headquarters, Marlin Mathiesen was sent as the first student missionary to Mexico. Since that time, programs at Adventist colleges and universities have sent thousands of student missionaries to countries around the world.

“He was a genuine person. You never felt that he was putting on airs. When he spoke, it was with authenticity and he had an amazing sense of humor,” said WAU Director of Student Financial Services Sharon Conway, who knew him. “He loved a good clean joke. He was a visionary and very persistent.”

In addition to his years as president of the university and his time as pastor at Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church, Loveless served twice as senior pastor of North America’s largest Adventist congregation on the campus of Loma Linda University—from 1970 to 1976, and again from 1990 to 2000. As a pastor, he was a compelling preacher, and extraordinarily gifted at relating the Bible to contemporary life. He also served as president of the Pennsylvania Conference from 1976 to 1978.

At the time of his death on September 15, 2014, Loveless was employed at Loma Linda University. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Edna Maye (Alexander) Loveless; a sister, Joan Harding; two daughters, Marti Olson and Marilynn Howard; and a granddaughter, Laura Olson.
Become an Alumni Mentor

The First Year Experience Mentoring program pairs alumni and friends of the university with new students who are looking for educational advice, career guidance and life lessons. It is a wonderful opportunity for you to give back to the next generation of WAU students.

- Share ideas, communicate knowledge, identify useful resources, clarify educational and professional goals.
- Use your real-life experience to give students advice about making the right choices in school, getting ahead in their career plans, developing strong social skills, implementing time-management strategies, preparing effectively and dressing for success.
- Take mentees to workplaces and local activities, and create opportunities to broaden their horizons with new experiences.
- Attend events on campus to support your mentee.

For more information and to fill out the application, please visit:

wau.edu/first-year-students
Greetings Alumni and Friends!

As the year comes to a close and I reflect on 2014, I am overwhelmed by what an amazing year this was. As the director of Alumni Relations, I have the opportunity to meet alumni from across the country, from California to Florida. Everywhere I go, I find individuals who are passionate about and dedicated to Washington Adventist University. The number one question I get from alumni is “What’s going on, on campus?” I am always happy to tell alumni, but I encourage you to visit campus to see for yourself. Plan to come to Alumni Weekend April 9-12, 2015; attend the Alumni Association Induction Ceremony in May before graduation; participate in the university’s career fair; or join us for one of our many alumni and community events throughout the year. Come see for yourself how we are Engaging Minds and Transforming Lives on the campus of Washington Adventist University.

Another question I commonly hear is “How can we support the university?” There are a number of opportunities for you to make a donation to scholarships, building projects, individual departments or the university’s greatest need. But making a donation isn’t the only way you can support the university. You can join the Alumni Association board of directors and provide leadership for the Alumni Association, you can become a Student Mentor and influence the life of a current student, or you can be an Alumni Ambassador and help the Office of Admissions encourage prospective students to attend WAU. The ways you can support the university are nearly limitless. The Office of Alumni Relations is here to help you connect with the university and with each other.

This summer, at an alumni event in Michigan, I was privileged to witness the reunion of former roommates who had not seen each other since they graduated over 25 years ago! Both ladies were overjoyed at seeing each other and were so grateful for the opportunity to reconnect. For me, it was amazing to be part of the event, but I was also reminded of a greater reunion we are all looking forward to.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our alma mater. This is Washington Adventist University.

Ellie Barker ’08  
Director, Alumni Relations
Weddings

Tina Gopala-Rao (’04 and ’10) married Joel Kibble on May 11, 2014, in Takoma Park, Maryland. Tina Kibble earned her bachelor’s degree in business administration with an emphasis in finance from Washington Adventist University, formerly and at the time Columbia Union College, in 2004. In 2010, she earned her master’s in business administration from Washington Adventist University. Joel Kibble is a world-renowned, dynamic motivational speaker, singer, songwriter, producer and member of the 10-time Grammy Award-winning group Take 6. They currently live in Nashville, Tennessee.

Jon Peter (’10) married Sandra Kemboi on June 29, 2014, in Laurel, Maryland. Jon Peter earned his bachelor’s degree in business administration with an emphasis in management from Washington Adventist University in 2010 and is currently enrolled in the master’s of business administration program. He works as the associate director for Institutional Research and Effectiveness at Washington Adventist University. They currently live in Takoma Park, Maryland.
Alumni, community members and students celebrated the new $1.8 million artificial turf athletic field in Takoma Park on September 9, and the university’s men’s soccer team will play its first home game on the field. The field includes new lights, a new scoreboard and new bleachers.

“The new athletic field is another exciting enhancement to WAU’s campus, and it represents another step forward in our efforts to turn this good university into a great university,” said Washington Adventist University President Weymouth Spence, Ed.D., R.T. “The new field will better serve our students, faculty and staff, and the community. It also supports our health and wellness program, which promotes a healthy mind in a healthy body.”

The field—which accommodates soccer games, intramural sports and a variety of community activities throughout the year—is part of an overall effort by WAU to improve its physical campus. During the past five years, the university has made investments of more than $16 million, reaping visible and effective results. The list of completed projects includes a new $6.3 million music building; a $1.2 million dining hall renovation; a $1.1 million activity center; and a host of smaller renovation projects that include new paint, furniture and flooring in the dormitories, classrooms and library.

Transforming the physical campus is part of Washington Adventist University’s Vision 2020—Growing with Excellence plan, which is guiding the university’s metamorphosis into one of the premier small universities in the Mid-Atlantic region.
The new Health Professions, Science and Wellness Center is now in the planning and design phase, advancing WAU’s Vision 2020—Growing with Excellence plan. The center will be built as a $10.3 million renovation and addition to the existing Health Professions Building on campus.

“This new center will offer exciting and endless possibilities for this university as we find new ways to enhance the education of our students in the health and science professions, and improve community wellness,” said WAU President Weymouth Spence, Ed.D., R.T. “Adventists are known for their attention to health and wellness issues, and we look forward to having space where we can offer programs to promote healthy living.”

When completed, the 50,000-square-foot center will accommodate WAU’s health professions and science programs, as well as community programs to enhance wellness. It will provide opportunities for the university to partner with the city and county in offering healthy cooking and exercise classes, among other wellness activities.

Funding for the new center comes from the annual Visionaries Gala event, along with support from the state through a $4 million matching grant from the Governor’s Office. The grant application is being completed, and funding approval is expected next year.

The architect for the project is Hord Coplan and Macht.
The following represents those who contributed cash gifts or gifts in kind to Washington Adventist University from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. Thank you for selecting Washington Adventist University as the recipient of your donation. We are also thankful for the organizations in the community that share our mission, values and vision. If we have inadvertently left your name off the list, please accept our apology and contact the Office of Advancement at 301-891-4133. Gifts given by Seventh-day Adventist Conferences under the direction of the president are listed by conference name.

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2009–2014

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See page 22 for more information.

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