PEDERSEN DONATION

On April 17, 2007, Borge Shantz and the Pedersen family were present to present the papers and materials of an early missionary, Emanuel Pedersen, during the Chapel service at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. Dr. Shantz gave a short talk on Pedersen’s life and contributions. After the service, there was an open house for family and friends at the Center for Adventist Research.

Emanuel W. Pedersen was born in Odense, Denmark, on May 28, 1904, in the same town as Hans Christian Andersen. He worked for the church throughout his life as a teacher, preacher, field-secretary, and evangelist.

Elder Pedersen traveled as a missionary with his wife Esther to Uganda in 1937. After extensive negotiations with Uganda’s Minister of Education, he founded Bugema University. Between 1943 and 1953 the couple worked in Kenya.

Emanuel was a church employee for over 40 years and continued on sustentation for over 30 more years. Though he was retired he remained active as an advisor to the General Conference president. One “retirement” highlight was a 1971 trip to Iran as a guest for the 2,500-year anniversary of the founding of the Persian Empire by Cyrus the Great.

The Pedersen collection fills information gaps on the history of Seventh-day Adventist work on the continent of Africa. It will continue as a useful resource to researchers. We are grateful to the Pedersen family and Borge Shantz for their role in bringing this collection to the Center.

CONNECTING WITH JESUS

Over the last year Andrews University has had the privilege of participating in an exciting project for the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church called “Connecting with Jesus.” The project is sponsored by the General Conference and the Ellen G. White Estate. It is the most ambitious project of this nature that the Church has ever adopted. The goal is to publish and promote the study of ten Ellen White books. The ten books are the five volumes of the Conflict of the Ages series, Christian Service, Counsels for the Church, Counsels on Stewardship, Ministry of Healing, and Steps to Christ. Each book will contain questions at the end of each chapter to aid in study and group discussion. The vital role of Andrews University and the Center for Adventist Research was developing the study questions.

Merlin Burt served as general editor for the project. Ten faculty editors partnered with him by taking responsibility for a particular book. The faculty editors included Richard Davidson, Roy Gane, Jon Paulien, Bruce Bauer, Jim North, Jerry Moon, Cliff Jones, Jo Ann Davidson, and Joseph Kidder. Colleen Jousma and Steve Nash helped with the coordination and finances. The actual study questions were generated during 2006 by dozens of
Erhard Gallos, a Ph.D. graduate assistant, has helped the Center for over a year with the acquisition of books identical or similar to those in Ellen White’s personal and office library. The Center is grateful to Terry Robertson, Seminary Librarian, and the Seminary Library Committee for providing annual funding to acquire these rare books.

Ellen White’s original library contained approximately 900 volumes. The Center has been adding between 50 and 100 volumes a year to its holdings. You can view the library in six newly installed glass-doored bookcases in the Center’s Reading Room. We thank our friends for providing the funding for the bookcases that enhance the patron research experience. The walls of the Reading Room have also been repainted a more attractive matching color and the decor has been updated. The Ellen White library project began in 2004 with the help of then seminary student assistant Doug Kincaid.

PHOTOGRAPH DATABASE

The Center holds an extensive collection of over 30,000 photographs and images. The images are generally Adventist related and include a broad spectrum of categories such as people, groups, churches, institutions, mission sites, and meetings.

Over the last decade the Center has been scanning these images. Currently over 7,000 are available online (www.andrews.edu/library/car/photosearch.htm). Images are scanned at high resolution and a lower resolution image is placed on the database for patron use. Recently these images have been integrated with the James White Library catalog. Our new special projects manager, Katy Wolfer, together with help from Steve Sowder, have provided a new look for the database with larger retrievable images. Care has been taken to make the interface useful and minimize the steps needed for electronic retrieval.

The process of photo digitization is accelerating. During the summer Vernon Ng is working full time scanning and cataloging images. This valuable resource is now serving thousands of people around the world.

PITCAIRN MATERIALS

During April 2007, Verdabelle A. Spaulding donated models of the H.M.S. Bounty and the Pitcairn longboat with other significant artifacts and correspondence. Mrs. Spaulding met and interacted with Floyd and Violet McCoy. Floyd, now deceased, was a descendent of one of the original mutineers. He is the person who made the models that are now on display in the Center. Among the artifacts donated is a small copper fragment from the H.M.S. Bounty and a woven basket from Pitcairn Island.

Erhard Gallos, a graduate assistant, is currently working on the project to replicate Ellen G. White’s library.
ARCHIVING THE ADVENTIST WEB

In the fall of 2006 an exciting new project was launched at the Center. The rapid proliferation of Adventist related Internet resources has led us to begin archiving the Adventist Web. The Website Archive project creates an electronic duplicate of Internet sites that are operated by entities and organizations in the Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook. We also include as many other Adventist related organizations as possible regardless of their orientation. While difficult to fully identify, we are also attempting to preserve copies of selected forums and blogs.

Since the rise of the Adventist Internet in the early 1990s the Center for Adventist Research has selectively printed paper copies of Adventist-related Internet resources. Now, an electronic archive will enhance access and be more comprehensive. The web’s dynamic nature means that websites will need to be archived repeatedly. We envision that in future years researchers will use our Adventist Website Archive as a primary source for finding Adventist online information and discussions from the past.

The Center will download the selected Internet sites once a year. More active sites and blogs will be copied more frequently. There are certain challenges with a project of this nature. We have discovered that forums are particularly difficult to archive. Some sites have limited bandwidth. We have been guilty on rare occasions of slowing down some servers.

A special thanks to our friends who have provided partial funding to launch this project and particularly Robert Johnston, Seminary professor emeritus, who first suggested the idea at our annual friend’s dinner.

ELLEN WHITE AND CURRENT ISSUES SYMPOSIUM

On April 2, 2007, the Center hosted its third annual “Ellen White and Current Issues” Symposium in the chapel of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. The papers, presented at the symposium, are in the process of being published as the third volume of our Symposium journal.

This year’s symposium had an estimated 100-plus attendees including Seminary students, faculty, visiting scholars, and area pastors. Speakers included Heather Knight—new provost for Andrews University; Merlin Burt, director of the Center; John Baldwin, Seminary theology professor (his paper was read by Peter Van Bemmelen, Seminary emeritus professor); Martin Hanna, Seminary associate professor of theology; and James Nix, director of the Ellen G. White Estate (together with Tim Poirier, vice director of the White Estate).

James Nix, director of the Ellen G. White Estate, gave a presentation at the symposium.

Journal volumes from the first two years are available through the Center or from the Andrews University Bookstore and some Adventist Book Centers. Next year’s meeting will be held April 7, 2008. Speakers will include Don McMahon and William Johnsson.

“Ellen White and Current Issues” Symposium Journal

Annual Symposium presentations have been published and are available through the Center for Adventist Research. To order, you may contact the Center:

Phone: (269) 471-3209
Fax: (269) 471-2646
E-mail: car@andrews.edu

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The Center for Adventist Research is an documentary collection of Adventist related materials. It serves as an educational and research resource for Andrews University and the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Center is a part of the James White Library, a Branch Office of the Ellen G. White Estate, the archive for Andrews University and ASDAL, and hosts the SDA Periodical Index.
DIRECTOR’S NOTE

This is the inaugural issue of Center for Adventist Research News. This newsletter will inform patrons and friends about activities and developments at the Center. Since the administrative integration of the White Estate Branch Office and the Adventist Heritage Center into the Center for Adventist Research in the fall of 2003, there have been many new developments. Let me mention just a few highlights.

The most significant collection donations include the Review and Herald rare book library and the Andrews-Spicer collection. Both have been processed and properly celebrated and are now in active use by patrons.

We have instituted or continued several annual or semi-annual events for the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. These include an annual “Ellen White and Current Issues” Symposium. Recently we held our third annual event. Each year the papers presented at the symposium are published by the Center. In 2005 we began offering a seminary Adventist history study tour. This eight-day tour provides up to 3 hours of graduate credit and a life-changing experience. There will be no tour this fall, but beginning in 2008 the tour will be offered annually in August. We are continuing the annual Seminary Heritage Sabbath at the beginning of the fall semester. This fall will be the sixth annual event. Each year over 200 students, spouses, and faculty members attend.

I am delighted with our growing group of Center for Adventist Research (CAR) friends. Over the last nearly four years, through the contribution of our friends, we have established a new endowment, acquired valuable Adventist materials on the open market, and enhanced our services. Of particular value has been their counsel and suggestions to make the Center not only an effective research facility but also an educational and outreach organization for Adventist studies.

In this and future issues we will keep you informed of various activities and developments at CAR. I would invite you to visit our Internet site at www.andrews.edu/library/car.