During July of 2012, we at the Center for Adventist Research had the opportunity to transfer one of the 16 mm films from our collection to a digital format. Clips from the film can be viewed at www.CenterForAdventistResearch.org under the post titled: Emmanuel Missionary College 16 mm film transferred to a digital format.

Martin Doblemeier, producer/director of the film The Adventists, has begun a project on Adventist education. As part of this project he contracted our office looking for film footage of early Adventist education, and during our search, we found a 16 mm film reel with clips of Emmanuel Missionary College, the easiest of which we estimate to be from the 1920s.

The film was transferred from film to computer hard disk by ColorLabs in the Washington, DC area. The process is called Telecine. The film reels were hand delivered to the ColorLabs office by our colleagues at the White Estate main office in Silver Spring, Maryland.

The film appears to be a collection of smaller clips that have been brought together and transferred from smaller reels. It is silent. The film is very fragile and has been split in several places.

The first part of the Emmanuel Missionary College 16 mm film footage contains film clips in color. There are scenes of the 1941 Graduation, 1940 Founder’s Day, the construction of Nethery Hall, activities in the Campus Bindery, the farm, nursing and science classes, and women reading to small children.

The next part contains footage that is in black and white, estimated to be from the 1920s. These are the clips featured on the website reference above. These clips start with a view of an orchard, the farm, chickens, tractors, cows, plowing activities, and walking through the fields. At this point the film breaks.

After the point where the film broke there are scenes featuring the College Press, and shows people sorting pages, cutting and trimming books, and operating printing presses. Next are shown various women ironing. Next are a group of people around the sundial which is still to be found on campus near Buller Hall and Harrigan Hall.

Scenes following show individuals displaying wooden folding beach-type chairs outside a building, and an ironing board, which I assumed were examples of products made by College Wood Products.

As the end of the film clips were scenes of the College Dairy, delivering milk and various views of the buildings on campus.

Katy Woller, Special Projects Manager / Katy gets energy from finding out details that flesh out stories from Adventist History.

James White Library

It is with great gratitude to Harry Ahn, the artist, that we unveiled a new portrait of James White on October 18, 2012, in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the James White Library. In a very real sense, the James White library is the first Seventh-day Adventist library of higher education. It began with the establishment of Battle Creek College in 1874. What remains of that original library is housed as a special collection here at the Center for Adventist Research.

Around the turn of the twentieth century, Battle Creek College was moved to Berrien Springs and the library ended up being housed in the Administration building. Finally, in 1937 a new library was erected as the first brick academic building on campus. In those days there were less than 400 college students but that represented a 20% growth in enrollment over the previous decade.

It was voted on June 5, 1938, that the day the library building was dedicated, to name the library the James White Memorial Library. It was voted on June 5, 1938, that the day the library building was dedicated, to name the library the James White Memorial Library. As a founder and the leading administrator for the Seventh-day Adventist publishing work, he was committed to providing a substantial library for that school. Andrews University can be proud to stand in the tradition established by James White.

Artists with portrait he painted of James White.

White, in being the premier library of theology and humanities for the Seventh-day Adventist church.

Wendy Holder, Collections Associate - Periodicals and Reference Specialist / When searching for a particular elusive reference she often called on to contribute her fact-finding skills.

White Document Files. This is an extensive and valuable collection of assorted information—articles, clippings, quotations, letters, term papers, etc.—on people, places and topics of Adventist historical interest. The White Document File represents one of the richest sources for the study of Ellen White's denominational history that is available. Begun by Ellen White's secretaries around the turn of the century, it contains information on a wide range of topics. Over the years, the file at the Center for Adventist Research has expanded to include many unique and significant items.

What do the Monterey, MI SDA Church record book, the Advent Shield and Review from 1844–45, and “A Sketch of the Christian Experience and Views of Ellen G. White” with Hiram Edom’s signature on the cover have in common? All these items were digitized last month by the CAR digitization team! Things have really changed and we are excited to see the results.

At the beginning of the year, we purchased a sheet fed scanner from Kodak that has allowed us to scan loose pages and cut books at a rate of 30 pages a minute (front and back)! We are using this machine to scan the books that we can cut and to digitize the White Documents (see insert). The software allows for each scan to render two images, one in color for archiving, and one in black and white to compile into a format that will enable it to be read online. To date this machine has produced over 2,500 items that have been subsequently attached to our library catalog. We are currently working on scanning the entire collection of White Document Files, of which there are 2,700.

In May of 2012, we were successful in obtaining a flatbed camera scanner that allows us to digitize items that are more fragile, such as our vault books and other rare manuscripts. An item is placed on the platform and a sheet of glass is lowered over it. The scanner then makes a pass over the item with bright LED lights and takes a picture. The software is then able to crop out the borders and render a perfect scan of the item. We spent a few months testing and getting the kinks out, and we are now starting full production with the goal of digitizing the entire vault collection of books. It takes about 10 seconds to scan a page spread, with the post-processing of compiling the images into a format to be read online taking about 10 minutes. In the last month period we produced 210 items to attach to the catalog, comprising 6,000 images, most of which were vault materials.

Our goal has always been to preserve our precious materials, but with the advent of the new equipment, we are now able to make the materials we scan instantly available to our patrons. While not all of the items we scan will be attached to our catalog due to copyright laws, we hope to provide our patrons with a much wider selection of digital materials within the near year.

To browse our growing collection of digital titles quickly, visit our library catalog at http://andrews.edu/library and type “Andrews Digital Library” in the search box.

Juliette Johnson, Digitization Manager / Speaking of her work, Juliette says when digitizing these materials and making corrections, and cleaning up the text, she can’t help but read the material. She has grown in appreciation for the material and the work we are doing here at the Center to increase access for researchers around the world.
The Center for Adventist Research not only preserves Adventist heritage, but also promotes Adventist heritage through its outreach events. The events are a ministry to the local community, students on campus, and with increasing impact to the world church.

One of the first events of the 2012 calendar year was the Ellen White Issues Symposium held the last Monday of March. This was a chance for community members, lay-people, pastors, students, and teachers to participate in presentations covering new ground in the area of Ellen White Issues. Our speakers were Roger Dudley “Ellen White and Me”, Jiri Moskala “Can a Biblical Inspired Writer Use Literary Sources?”, Jud Lake “D. M. Canright, Ellen White, and Inspiration: A Crisis in the Making?”, Stan Patterson “Ellen G. White on Leadership and Power”, and Katrina Blue “Threads from an Old Fabric: New Discoveries Regarding the Holy Flesh Movement in Indiana (1899-1901) and Ellen White’s Response”.

On April 14, 2012 the Center led a tour of Adventist history sites in central Michigan. The purpose of this tour was to develop a better understanding of Adventist history in Michigan. Another purpose was to find the best stories for sharing the works of God in Michigan to include in a book covering Adventist history in Michigan. Sites visited were the Richard Godsmith house in Bedford, MI where George King began colporteur work for the first time; the site of Parkville, MI church where Ellen White had her first Civil War vision; the Kalamazoo Riverview cemetery where righteousness by faith advocate A. T. Jones, wife Frances Jones, I. D. Van Horn and wife Adelia Van Horn are buried; a tour of the Federal Center, formerly the Seventh-day Adventist Battle Creek Sanitarium, (which was a highlight of the day). We also drove by the Blossom grave, and talked about the Jackson train wreck where God protected the life of James and Ellen White; stopped at E. J. Waggoner grave in Burlington, Michigan; listened to Woody Whidden share about E. J. Waggoner; and saw the Burlington Seventh-day Adventist church, an early congregation connected to many interesting stories.

As Director of a branch office of the Ellen G. White Estate, I attended the White Estate Advisory May 13 through 24. There it was a great pleasure to meet with most of the directors of the Ellen White Estate Research Centers. What makes the Advisories so wonderful for me, is that it provides an opportunity to get to know new Research Center directors, deepens friendships, and interact with those who have been doing this work for several years. I was co-leader of the Adventist History tour that was part of the Advisory. During this tour I gave several presentations on the Trinity. Also, I gave presentations on Ellen G. White during the seminar which immediately followed the tour. On the May 26, 2012 Friends Michigan Adventist History Tour, I enjoyed being able to connect with people who cherish God’s leading in this movement. It was also an opportunity to give a thank-you to all of our friends who support what we do at the Center for Adventist Research.

I started the summer with a conference on the Trinity in Mexico on July 3-8. I was told this conference in Mexico was the largest group of pastors ever gathered in their history. With local elders (who function much like pastors in Mexico), we had over one thousand people present. The broad group of presenters provided an excellent balance in covering the doctrine of the Trinity. I think it was probably the best conference on this topic that has ever been held in our church. It will lead to a book in Spanish and it seemed to strengthen the pastors, which will protect the church in Mexico. I am particularly impressed with the White Estate Research Center director at Montemorelos, Juan Jose Andrade. He just recently dedicated a new display of pioneer sites in Mexico and is very active in leadership at the University. I also saw the respect for him held by the division leadership and SETAI (Seminario Teologico Adventista Interamericano) which is the division higher education center. I am delighted we have such a strong institute for training new and lay members at the seventh-day Adventist church. I think it was probably the best conference on the topic that has ever been held in our church. This one-day event takes place at the Adventist Historian Village in Battle Creek, Michigan. It is an opportunity to introduce new students to the Adventist story so they can experience a living reality of God’s leading in the present by seeing how he has led him in the past. Sabbath school features Early Advent Hymns and stories. The church service features someone in church leadership. The afternoon offers a choice of guided tours of the village and cemetery. Returning students can be enriched through the academically strong seminars presented by Seminary faculty. The Seminary provides free transportation and supper, in order to make it easy for students to attend.

The Center for Adventist Research took part in the Andrews University Alumni Parade on Friday, September 28th. Although I was unable to personally be a part of this event, I was pleased by the initiative taken by the Center’s staff to increase awareness of the resources available and services that we offer.

I was delighted to provide a ministry event for a sister university that helped broaden the understanding of Ellen G. White and her writings. I was also able to support the Institute for the Study of Ellen G. White and Adventist Heritage located at Southern Adventist University, under the leadership of Dr. Judy Lake. Over my time there October 9-14 I spoke to faculty and staff, spoke for student assembly, and attended a special meeting of the Adventist Theological Society.

Over the October 20 weekend I attended and spoke at a Religious Liberty Conference hosted by the Columbia Union Conference. I was asked to present the historic Adventist belief on religious liberty with particular emphasis on the connection made between the teachings of Adventist history and the political freedom of the United States. It was a privilege to once again minister with such great scholar-colleagues from Andrews and other Adventist universities. During July 13-30, it was my great privilege to interact with some main missionaries at the Seventh-day Adventist theological seminary in Havana, Cuba for more than forty hours during an intensive two-week course on the Writings of Ellen G. White. The Inter-American Division has wisely committed to supporting a master-level training for the pastors in Cuba. In spite of difficulties, our work in Cuba is growing and God is blessing His people. I am very impressed with the level of pastoral leadership in the churches. There are about 160 pastors with more than 30,000 members on this largest of Islands in the Caribbean. I spoke each Sabbath morning I was there, first for the Seminary church and then for the Vihora, Havana Church, which is the largest on the Island with an attendance of near 1,000. For this past fall their seminary had a full enrollment of 150 bachelor’s of theology and pastoral ministry students from various countries. There are also plans to open an Ellen White Study Center on the campus.

August began with a study tour for Seminary students for the 5th-8th. The Seminary New England Adventist History Study Tour took place with the messengers of the seventh-day Adventist church. The tour makes Adventist heritage a living experience for the participants.

Along a similar vein is the Seminary Heritage Sabbath which took place on September 8th. This one-day event takes place at the Adventist Historian Village in Battle Creek, Michigan. It is an opportunity to introduce new students to the Adventist story so they can experience a living reality of God’s leading in the present by seeing how he has led him in the past. Sabbath school features Early Advent Hymns and stories. The church service features someone in church leadership. The afternoon offers a choice of guided tours of the village and cemetery. Returning students can be enriched through the academically strong seminars presented by Seminary faculty. The Seminary provides free transportation and supper, in order to make it easy for students to attend.

For the past 19 years I have been editor of the Ellen G. White Center Newsletters (RCGN) newsletter. This newsletter is a vital communication tool for research center directors and spirit of prophecy coordinators for the White Estate and its ministry to the world church.

Each year I try to go to one or two churches and speak on reading and understand Ellen White. This is a time to nurture new members and those interested in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In spite of difficulties, our work in Cuba is growing and God is blessing His people. I am very impressed with the level of pastoral leadership in the churches. There are about 160 pastors with more than 30,000 members on this largest of Islands in the Caribbean. I spoke each Sabbath morning I was there, first for the Seminary church and then for the Vihora, Havana Church, which is the largest on the Island with an attendance of near 1,000. For this past fall their seminary had a full enrollment of 150 bachelor’s of theology and pastoral ministry students from various countries. There are also plans to open an Ellen White Study Center on the campus.

During November I was able to present Ellen White issues to pastors in the Euro-Azia Division jointly with Alberto Timm, associate director of the White Estate.

Merlin Burt, Director | Enjoyed the moment of discovering something not yet known or understood while passing through dusty volumes in a county courthouse. When not able to do research he enjoys creating something for his grand-daughter in his woodshop.

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