



**Three generations of Avondale physicists
Distinguished Vice President appointment
Books by Avondale staff**

Three generations of Avondale physicists

In December 2012 Lachlan Rogers graduated with a PhD in physics from the Australian National University, Canberra, having previously completed a Bachelor of Science at Avondale and honours in physics (first class) at the University of Newcastle. Lachlan taught physics and mathematics at Avondale in 2011 and 2012, and is currently engaged in postdoctoral research in Ulm, Germany.

Lachlan is the third generation of his family to have studied science at Avondale and to have followed a career in physics. His father, Dr Lynden Rogers, and his grandfather, Dr Laurie Draper, also gained PhD degrees in physics after studying science at Avondale, and both lectured in physics at Avondale. The physics tradition in the family stretches back over 63 years.

Laurie Draper came to Avondale in 1950 as a 16-year old lad from a farm near Parkes, and enrolled, along with Eric Magnusson and Ken Thomson, as the first Avondale candidates for the external Bachelor of Science degree of the University of London. It was a daring experiment. While science teacher Ralph Watts gave valued support and encouragement, the college at that time had no library resources for the London curriculum, laboratories were rudimentary, and after the first few months the candidates had no lectures or tutorials. It is a tribute to their ability and perseverance that they succeeded at all.

Laurie completed the London Bachelor of Science in 1954, also graduating from Avondale's Diploma of Secondary Teaching. After five years of high school teaching he was appointed to teach science at Avondale. In 1964 he completed a PhD in physics at the University of New South Wales, and then continued at Avondale for the next 14 years, lecturing in physics, and subsequently serving as head of science (1971-1974) and as Academic Dean (1974-1978). From 1983 to 1988 Dr

Draper was head of science at the newly established Pacific Adventist College (now University), and subsequently taught at Avondale in 1991 and 1992. In retirement, Dr Draper and his wife Joy have given mission service in Papua New Guinea and in Thailand with Helen Hall.

One of the students taught by Dr Draper in the 1970s was Lachlan Rogers' father, Dr Lynden Rogers. In 1975 Lynden completed at Avondale a London Bachelor of Science degree in physics and mathematics, graduating as well from Avondale's Diploma of Science. Lynden subsequently completed a PhD in physics at the University of Newcastle. In 1981 he was appointed to Avondale as a lecturer in physics, and has now taught physics at Avondale for over 30 years, including 10 years as Dean of the Faculty of Science and Mathematics.

During the three generations surveyed above, Avondale's science program has developed from precarious beginnings to one with a proud 60-year tradition of successful graduates, many with distinguished subsequent careers in science. At least 32 Avondale science graduates have gone on to earn PhDs in science disciplines, nine of these in physics. Many of Avondale's science graduates have made highly significant contributions to church life and to the education program of the church. Looking back on this history of achievement, Dr Laurie Draper says "the whole thing was in the providence of God. One can only marvel at the way God works out his purposes."



The three generations: Dr Laurie Draper (R), Dr Lynden Rogers (L), Dr Lachlan Rogers (C).

Arthur, we'll see you in the morning: Arthur N Patrick 1934-2013

In a tribute read at the memorial service for Dr Arthur Patrick on March 12, Dr Lyell Heise likened Arthur's passing to the fall of a rainforest giant that leaves a great gap in the forest canopy. "A giant has fallen," wrote Lyell, "leaving an immense gap in our world that will not be filled." The analogy was apt in view of Arthur's early life in the Australian bush.

Arthur was a gracious, caring person, blessed with wisdom, compassion and gentle humour – a man with a pastor's heart. His mastery of the spoken and written word was legendary: he had the rare gift of the right phrase – tactful, often pointed – for every context.

Professor Jane Fernandez, Avondale's Vice President (Learning and Teaching) and a student under Arthur's guidance in the 1980s, wrote: "He was a giant of inspiration . . . with a gentleness of spirit and a fortitude of courage and wisdom that is rare. He was also the humblest of spirits and embodied the principles of love, grace, humility and peace that Christ asked us to witness to."

When Arthur was four years old his family moved from Cooranbong to a remote farm at Pappinbarra Junction, north-west of Wauchope, NSW. He had four years of schooling from age 8 to 11, but formal education ceased when the family relocated to Bellangry, 15 kilometres further into the ranges. For the next five years Arthur worked clearing the family's 45-acre lot and contract timber-cutting in the surrounding mountains.

At the age of 15 Arthur resolved to return to Cooranbong to study at Avondale. In the next four years (1950-1953) he completed his secondary education, working part-time to support himself, and achieved commendable results in the Leaving Certificate examinations. He then enrolled in tertiary studies at Avondale, and in the next four years (1954-1957) completed both the 2-year course in primary teaching and the 4-year Bachelor of Arts in Theology. He was appointed as a pastor-evangelist to Christchurch, New Zealand.

Arthur and Joan married in 1959, and in the ensuing years were blessed with three children: Zanita, Adrielle and Leighton. Arthur was devoted to his family, giving his children a love of nature and the outdoors, teaching them horse riding and other outdoor skills, and taking them on wonderful holidays. He and Joan always reserved Sunday as a family day.

From 1970 to 1973 Arthur undertook postgraduate study in the United States, completing in four years a Master of Divinity, a Master of Arts in systematic theology (both at Andrews University, Michigan), and a Doctor of Ministry (Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis). Subsequently he completed a Master of Letters (MLitt) at the University of New England (NSW) and a PhD at the University of Newcastle, researching the interface between religion and society in Australia.

His scholarship is an enduring legacy. The *Seventh-day*



The Patrick family: (L to R) Leighton, Adrielle, Joan, Arthur, Zanita

Adventist Periodical Index lists 121 titles from his prolific pen, and that is only a portion of his output. He was a leading exponent in the field of Adventist history and heritage, and commented perceptively on issues facing the Seventh-day Adventist Church today. While he was resolute in the pursuit of truth and justice, his scholarship, as Professor Ray Roenfeldt observed, was "always genuinely gracious, always reaching out hoping for a meeting of Adventist minds."

Arthur gave 18 years of distinguished service to Avondale – as a lecturer in ministry and theology, as director of the Ellen G White/Seventh-day Adventist Research Centre, as academic registrar, as pastor of the College Church, and as founding president of the Avondale Alumni Association. Later in his career he was employed for two years as an associate professor of church history and pastoral ministry at La Sierra University, California. In retirement he continued to research and publish as one of Avondale's honorary senior research fellows. He also supervised Avondale PhD students.

From 1992 to 1996 Arthur held the position of senior chaplain at the Sydney Adventist Hospital, where his pastoral skills and spiritual leadership won the gratitude of patients and the respect and admiration of his team. He encouraged academic and professional excellence in his colleagues, giving strong support to the development of clinical pastoral education (CPE) in an Adventist context. Pam Ludowici, who worked at the Hospital to provide support for cancer patients and their families, said, "I call Arthur Saint Patrick. He's a man after God's own heart."

Arthur was a strong advocate for social justice, including equality for women and protection against abuse and exploitation of all kinds. He desired fairness for all, which partly explains his affinity for the poems and short stories of Henry Lawson.

During his last illness he learned that he had been awarded the prestigious Charles E. Weniger medallion, bestowed on Seventh-day Adventists who have made highly significant

contributions to their communities, the church and the larger world. The Weniger Award is named in memory of one of the most revered scholars and teachers in Adventism, who served as professor and dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Seminary in Washington D.C., and subsequently at Andrews University.

Arthur fought a courageous battle with cancer for the last twelve years of his life, only to be diagnosed at the last with an aggressive and untreatable abdominal malignancy. "He

had sat at too many such bedsides not to know what lay ahead," said Dr Lynden Rogers; "yet his calm acceptance, his Christian faith and his courage inspired us all." Almost to the last he dictated email messages for members of his family to transmit, often ending with the words, "I'll see you in the morning."

We look forward to seeing Arthur in the morning; but in the here and now he is greatly missed.

Distinguished academic appointed Vice President (Research)

Jane Fernandez

A real coup for Avondale is the recent appointment of Professor Anthony Williams as Vice President (Research). Professor Williams was formerly Head of the School of Architecture and Built Environment at the University of Newcastle. He is an eminent scholar, researcher and academic leader of national and international stature. With over 200 publications and more than a million dollars in research grants to his name, he brings with him a repertoire of significant intellectual and administrative skills. Professor Williams has a finely-tuned understanding of the complexities and challenges of the higher education scene. He has extensive experience in project management in the domain of professional education, has participated in various audit panels and provided consultancies to sector-based industry and government-directed initiatives. He has been highly successful in advancing innovation in learning and teaching and in developing online delivery frameworks. Not surprisingly, Professor Williams has won multiple university teaching awards as well as a national award for teaching excellence. He also brings with him high-level management expertise in research and in learning and teaching.

Professor Williams is no stranger to Avondale. In 2008 he was commissioned to review Avondale's systems and operations, resulting in the Williams Report of 2009. The Report is much cited within Avondale's academic community and has influenced administrative and strategic decisions since. The Williams Report has been a seminal moment in Avondale's history, defining a turning point in Avondale's move towards a vision for the future, producing greater efficiency across the learning and teaching space and facilitating a focus on research training and productivity.

Having served on the University of Newcastle Senate and the Avondale College Council, Professor Williams has an understanding of both the public and private tertiary sectors. In this light, he has the capacity to translate and interpret the contexts, challenges and demands for Avondale's growth and future sustainability. Professor Williams' breadth and range of experience and expertise are vital to Avondale in a climate of increasing complexity and competition within the tertiary sector. Professor Williams' appointment at this time is both opportune and strategic in advancing Avondale's vision to be a "quality Australian Christian university".

Professor Williams will be actively engaged in the development of a strong research culture at Avondale. His initial focus will be on establishing links between the disciplines of the College and forming multidisciplinary research teams. He also aims to enhance Avondale's on-line learning environment.

Avondale College of Higher Education is proud to welcome a distinguished and celebrated leader of the academic community to the role of Vice President (Research).



Professor Williams. Photo: Kathy Readford

Avondale Business School: a rising star Erin Tiedeman

It's an exciting time at the Avondale Business School. With five new staff members, ambitious objectives and a hands-on approach, this energetic group hit the ground running in their first semester this year. The team sees themselves as building on the excellent teaching and research of the staff before them and has put in a huge effort to engage the students, the community and college in their vision to facilitate success.

The new Avondale Business School team is quite diverse with wide-ranging research interests and experiences. Dr. Peter Morey has taken on the Head of School position with gusto and has done a great job bringing the new team together and guiding them through their first few months. The team includes accounting lecturers Warrick Long, Sharelle Simmons and Elizabeth Mitchell (who also lectures in marketing); returning human resource management lecturer Peter Williams; marketing lecturer Erin Tiedeman; and secretary Elna Hale. Read below for each team member's background.

In addition to developing their teaching and research, the team members have been busy implementing community engagement initiatives. These include CPA (Certified Practising Accountant) courses to provide accountants an opportunity to earn professional credits. The Avondale Business School will also offer consultancy and professional development services in business, finance, governance, human resource management and marketing, providing opportunities for students to embed into their coursework real-life projects under professional supervision. Income generated from these services will fund research. The School intends to build its reputation as a professional education resource for the Adventist and broader community.

The Avondale Business School (formerly the Faculty of Business) was officially introduced to the Avondale community at a launch event on April 30. President Ray Roennfeldt and Avondale's governing council joined students and staff members for this occasion. Everyone enjoyed lunch, entertainment and scoping out the newly decorated foyer of the Business School building. The successful event has created a positive buzz around college.

The team is feeling happy and accomplished with the progress made this semester and are looking forward to the future as they achieve their three-fold mission of providing a relevant, professional academic program, developing graduates with perspectives that are economically and spiritually sustainable, and communicating that Avondale is the Christian business school of choice. With God's blessings and the con-



Members of the Avondale Business School staff: (L to R) Warrick Long, Peter Williams, Elna Hale, Dr Peter Morey, Erin Tiedeman, Elizabeth Mitchell.

tinued support of the college community, the new Avondale Business School has a bright future.

Team Profiles

- Dr. Peter Morey (BSc [Hons], DipEd, MAppSc, MEd [Admin], EdD) has lectured at Avondale for 15 years in education and business disciplines with a focus in postgraduate studies, and is the perfect mentor for newcomers.
- Warrick Long (MA [L&M], GradDipApplCorpGov, BBus, FCPA, GAICD, FCSA, AFAIM) joined the team this year, drawing on his 28 years of experience in accounting and treasury for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Governance, compliance, not-for-profit organisations and financial reporting comprise his research interests. Warrick is passionate about "the opportunity to . . . write an exciting future that sees the Avondale Business School engaging with the business community and producing graduates, resources, research and training that is considered world class".
- Sharelle Simmons (MCom, BEd, BA, CPA) lectured at Avondale from 1991 to 1997 and has returned after teaching and researching in Queensland for the last twelve years. Sharelle has over 24 years of teaching experience. She is working on the final stages of her PhD at Griffith University, focusing on adoption of the Balanced Scorecard in health care. Sharelle's research and university experience are a great asset to the team.
- This year Peter Williams (MBA, MEd, BTch/BBus) returned for his second year of full-time lecturing at Avondale. After ten years teaching at the primary and secondary levels, Peter very much enjoys working with tertiary students, teaching many of the human resource management units.

He is passionate about his time in the classroom and loves the fact that each member of the team is “enthusiastic about the potential of the students, and that there is a shared vision among the team”. Peter has a strong interest in research relating to planning for corporate boards. His attention to detail and his teaching experience are central to his success with the students.

- Elizabeth Mitchell (MAcct, DipFinPlan, PGCertMidwife, DipNurs, BEd, CPA) brings thirteen years of professional business experience to the Avondale Business School. Elizabeth is a practising accountant specialising in taxation and business services and has run a successful strategic management consultancy, Qantrex Pty. Ltd., with Anthony Mitchell for the past thirteen years. She is strongly interested in researching change management within organisations. Elizabeth’s experience is an integral part of the Avondale Business School team and she is very excited about the team’s future.
- Also new to Avondale this year is Erin Tiedeman (MMkt, BA). Originally from New York, Erin has been working as a marketing manager in Newcastle for the past two years. Her past professional experience includes marketing in the not-for-profit and commercial sectors. She plans to pursue research in the area of leadership, focusing on its effect on

organisational culture. Erin is enthusiastic about integrating professional, hands-on projects into her teaching and is energetic about being part of such a great team.

- Elna Hale joined the team as secretary in March this year from the Faculty of Nursing and Health in Sydney. She has over five years of secretarial experience and is studying toward a bachelor degree in early childhood education at Avondale.

The Avondale School of Business also benefits from the expertise of several sessional staff: Dr Maurice Ashton (business statistics), Dr David Heise (management information systems), Kristen Esau (workplace relations), Pat Healion (corporate and business law), and Pr Bob Bolst (professional ethics).



Accounting lecturer Sharelle Simmons.

Doctorates for two Humanities staff

Dr Carolyn Rickett, senior lecturer in Communication, graduated with a Doctor of Arts from the University of Sydney in November 2012. Dr Rickett’s thesis explores the therapeutic value for cancer patients of writing creatively about their experience. Rickett’s research demonstrates how the act of writing can provide a means of processing and assimilating suffering.



Dr Carolyn Rickett. Photo: Aaron Bellette

During the research, Rickett partnered with eminent Australian poet Judith Beveridge of the University of Sydney to conduct poetry-writing workshops with cancer patients at the Sydney Adventist Hospital. Participants deeply appreciated the opportunity to share feelings and experiences with others struggling with similar issues, expressing their thoughts and emotions in poems of impressive quality. Rickett and Beveridge published a selection of these poems in a volume entitled *New Leaves Anthology* (Darlington Press, University of Sydney). Dr Rickett has presented several scholarly papers arising from her research at high-profile conferences in Australia and overseas.

Lindsay Morton, who joined Avondale’s staff in 2013 as a lecturer in English, recently learned that her thesis on literary journalism has been accepted for a Doctor of Philosophy de-

gree from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. She will graduate later this year. Literary journalism is a boundary-crossing genre. Practitioners use the research skills of a journalist and the storytelling techniques of a novelist to produce books that read like fiction, but claim to be “all true”. Morton’s thesis applies Lorraine Code’s *Epistemic Responsibility* (1987) to book-length works of this genre, re-examining controversial texts to analyse the kind of information offered as “knowledge”, and the legitimacy of that knowledge in the context of a text’s truth claims. Morton analyses the truth claims of three critically acclaimed North American contemporary works: *Random Family* (2003), *Columbine* (2009) and *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (2010), demonstrating the importance for practitioners, readers and critics of reflecting on the relationship between knowledge, truth and reality. Her thesis also offers readings of three contemporary Australian texts, demonstrating that an important national function of book-length literary journalism is the exploration of what it means to be Australian. Morton has published her analysis of one of these Australian works, Anna Krien’s *Into the Woods*, in the international peer-reviewed journal *Literary Journalism Studies*.

Lindsay Morton. Photo: Ashlee King

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Two academic leaders retire

In December 2012 Dr Robyn Priestley retired as head of Avondale's School of Humanities and Creative Arts, and Dr Keith Howson as dean of the Faculty of Business.

Dr Robyn Priestley

Dr Priestley has taught history at Avondale for 36 years (1972-1977, 1983-2012), making her one of the longest serving staff members of the college. Her teaching fields include English Christian heritage, Reformation history, early modern English and European history, revolutions and revolutionaries (17th century to the present), American history, women's history, women and the Christian church; and ethics and social justice.



Dr Robyn Priestley

She has an Avondale degree in secondary education, a Bachelor of Arts with first class honours in history (University of Newcastle), a Master of Arts in history (Andrews University), and a PhD in history (University of Sydney). Her PhD thesis was on marriage and family life in 17th-century England.

Dr Priestley has served as dean of the Faculty of Arts (2001-2004), chair of the Academic Board (2007-2010), and head of the School of Humanities and Creative Arts (2011-2012). She was also Avondale's first Affirmative Action Officer (1989-1995). For twelve years she was a member of Avondale's governing board/council (1988-1995, 2009-2012).

From 2004 to 2011 she was a member of the Higher Education Advisory Committee of the New South Wales Department of Education and Training. This high-level committee was responsible for advising the Minister on the registration and accreditation of non-self-accrediting higher education institutions in New South Wales.

Dr Priestley is the author of an entry in the *British Dictionary of National Biography*. She has received frequent invitations to present at women's conferences, especially on the roles and contribution of women in the Christian church. In 2012 she presented a paper on the politically sensitive subject of ethics classes in primary schools at an international conference in Prague. She also receives numerous preaching invitations.

Dr Keith Howson

Dr Howson joined Avondale's staff in 1998 from Newbold College, England, where he was bursar (chief financial officer) and head of the Department of Business Administration. Prior to that he had taught at Adventist colleges in South Africa and Zimbabwe, and had



Dr Keith Howson

served as accountant and internal auditor for the South African Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Dr Howson has a Bachelor of Science (Accounting) degree and a Master of Business Administration, both from Andrews University; a Master of Commerce by research (University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg); and a PhD in accounting (University of Newcastle). His Master of Commerce thesis was on budgetary planning and control in religious and charitable organisations; his PhD thesis researched internal auditing and church organisations.

Dr Howson has authored a number of refereed journal articles and conference publications and has made numerous conference presentations. His research has been mainly in the governance, financial administration and internal accountability of not-for-profit organisations, and in aspects of business education. He was a partner in a consultancy study in indigenous affairs funded by the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (2009). He has also examined a number of theses to PhD level.

Dr Howson served for six years on the Finance, Audit and Budget Subcommittee of Avondale's governing board/council (2000-2006). From 2004 to 2012 he was the Australian representative on the Academic Relations Committee of the Institute of Internal Auditors, USA. Since 2010 he has been a member of the Education Committee of the Institute of Internal Auditors, Australia, serving also as chair of the Institute's Academic Standards and Quality Committee. He has also served on academic advisory committees for Wollongong University College, UTS Insearch, Cengage Education, and the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, Philippines. In 2009 he was awarded an Australian College of Educators Certificate of Recognition for professional excellence.

Avondale will greatly miss Dr Priestley and Dr Howson. We wish them all the very best in their retirement.

New research explores faith orientation of high school students

Dr Barry Gane, head of Avondale's School of Ministry and Theology, has produced two volumes reporting his research into faith-related factors in the experience of students in Seventh-day Adventist high schools in the South Pacific Division of the church.

Entitled *Valuegenesis II*, the research provides important insights into the faith development of young people, including the influence of family, church and school on spiritual growth, and the impact of some aspects of the surrounding culture. Comparison with the *Valuegenesis I* study of 1992 reveals significant trends in the faith-related attitudes and experience of high school students. The research, which was supported by a grant of \$60,000, will inform evaluation of the church's programs, facilitate evidence-based decision-making and influence planning for the future.

The study is based on responses to a 260-item questionnaire by students in Seventh-day Adventist high schools in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific. The volumes published to date focus principally on the Adventist participants, i.e. students with at least one Adventist parent. Subsequent publications will analyse responses by students from other faith backgrounds. This article focuses on the Adventist participants from Australia and New Zealand.

The Australian and New Zealand study surveyed over 3000 students, including 1359 with an Adventist background. Twenty-two per cent of the Adventist students were from single parent families, and 31% were from non-English speaking backgrounds.

Faith experience

On the whole the Adventist students expressed very positive perceptions of God. Eighty-seven per cent believe God still loves them when they have done wrong, 77% want to learn about God while they are still young, and 63% have a real sense of God's guidance in their lives. However, 41% felt that "God seems far away and silent when I need him". Eighty-six per cent said religious faith is important in their lives. The proportion of year 12 students exhibiting high faith maturity (measured on a cluster of 38 criteria) was 50 per cent higher than in *Valuegenesis I*.

Perceptions of the church

Youth attitudes to their local church were significantly more positive than in *Valuegenesis I* on almost all criteria. A high proportion of respondents saw their church as friendly and accepting, a place where members care about one another and where strangers feel welcome. There were significant improvements in perceptions of churches' openness to new ideas and encouragement of youth to learn, think and ask questions. Seventy-nine per cent expressed a high level of satisfaction with the Adventist Church (up from 60% in 1992), and 75% thought there was a good or excellent chance that they would still be active in the Adventist Church at age 40. There was a marked improvement since 1992 in the number of respondents who find church services interesting, though

the level of agreement with this criterion is still a low 49%. It is disturbing that only 53% of respondents felt the youth leaders in their church know them well, and only 45% thought the pastor is interested in them (both scores lower than in 1992).

Acceptance of church teachings

Agreement with key teachings of the church has declined since 1992, and levels of disagreement or uncertainty have risen. There is fairly strong belief that salvation is a gift of God, and in the Sabbath and second coming. The areas of greatest uncertainty are whether the Bible is the sole source of doctrinal authority, the significance of Ellen White, the investigative judgment, and the ultimate fate of the wicked.

Baptisms

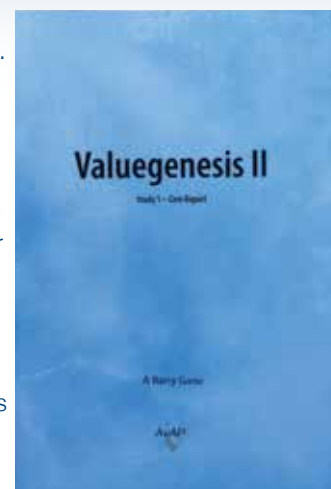
While baptisms to age 13 are similar to 1992 levels, it is cause for concern that only 38% of Adventist youth have been baptised at age 18, compared with 81% in 1992.

Lifestyle factors

Adventist young people are much less involved in "at risk" behaviours than their peers in the general community, though the proportion of Adventist students engaging in such behaviours is sizeable and increasing. Forty-three per cent of Adventist students in years 11 and 12 reported one or more "at risk" indicators, and 16% three or more. While 57% of Adventist students in years 11 and 12 have never drunk alcohol, 25% had consumed alcohol three or more times in the previous 12 months (19% in 1992), 30% had attended parties where others their age were drinking alcohol (20% in 1992), and 16% had engaged in binge drinking three or more times in the previous 12 months (9% in 1992). Thirty per cent of Adventist students in years 11 and 12 had shoplifted at least once, and 12% three or more times. Twelve and a half per cent of Adventist students in years 11 and 12 reported viewing sexually explicit videos or magazines 40 or more times in the previous 12 months (3% in 1992), though 82% of Adventists in years 11 and 12 had never engaged in sexual intercourse. It is disturbing that 27% of Adventists in years 9 and 10 reported having purposely harmed themselves, and almost 17% of Adventists in years 11 and 12 had attempted suicide.

Factors contributing to faith development

The study highlights the strong influence of family, church and school in faith development, showing that by far the strongest influence occurs when all three of these factors are combined.



Family

While the mother is generally the strongest home influence on spiritual development, students now give much more significance than in 1992 to fathers' and grandparents' influence on their faith development. Affectionate parenting that is not over-protective or over-restraining correlates strongly in the study with the development of Christian commitment, denominational loyalty, self-esteem and social responsibility.

Church

Church services are now seen as a much more significant contributor to faith development than in 1992 (81%, up from 63%). The study points to youth ministry in the local church as one of the most powerful influences on faith development and loyalty to the church – to the extent that it would seem culpable not to have effective youth ministry in the local church. Students also gave considerable weight to the impact of service activities such as StormCo programs, and to the influence of conference summer camps and youth rallies.

School

One of the most striking developments since *Valuegenesis I* is the increased importance students place on the influence of Adventist schools in their faith development, with an average rise of 31% in students' rating of school-related factors.

Supportive adults

The study highlights the importance of adults who take a significant personal interest in teenagers' welfare and spiritual development. Eighty per cent of respondents made reference to adults at church (other than their parents) who had positively influenced their spiritual growth, while about 70% acknowledged adults who had positively influenced their spiritual growth at school. The study highlighted the importance of school chaplains in students' faith development.

Conclusion

While *Valuegenesis II* identifies a number of areas of concern, students in Adventist high schools generally have positive perceptions of the influence of home, church and school in their faith development. These results indicate the importance of the church's training and professional development programs for parents, church members, ministers, teachers, chaplains, youth workers and others involved with young people, including Avondale's programs for the education of church professionals.

Big offering makes big difference Brenton Stacey

Avondale says a big thank you to all who contributed to last year's offering to restore the historic Music and Greer Halls on the Lake Macquarie campus.

The biennial Avondale offering collected in Seventh-day Adventist churches last year raised \$144,000, making possible the restoration and enhancement of the two buildings that house Avondale's expanded music program.

Basic repair work included repainting throughout; replacing broken windows, guttering and rotten timber beams; repointing mortar between bricks; and replastering ceilings. The response has also enabled Avondale to improve drainage; increase storage; install air conditioning in every classroom, office and rehearsal room; install swipe card access to each rehearsal room; and re-polish floorboards.

Music strand coordinator Aleta King says the restoration and enhancement is giving students a stronger sense of ownership of and pride in their space. "It says something about the value we place in them, and they respond accordingly."



The Music Hall's facelift comes from a larger than usual offering given by Seventh-day Adventist Church members in the South Pacific. Photo: Jaidan Humphries.

"Your generosity has improved the Avondale experience for our music students," says president Professor Ray Roenfeldt. "They thank you, and I thank you."

Avondale senior lecturer steers CHIP remake

Dr Darren Morton, senior lecturer in physical education at Avondale, has taken a leading role in revising and updating the Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP). The CHIP program was developed in 1996 by Dr Hans Diehl in the United States, and until recently was titled the Coronary Health Improvement Program. The 30-day lifestyle modification program has produced striking improvements not only in coronary health, but also in the overall health of its thousands of participants – hence the recent name change to Complete Health Improvement Program.

Sanitarium Health and Wellbeing in Australia purchased the global rights to the CHIP program and engaged Dr Darren Morton to lead in renewing and updating it. Dr Morton worked in collaboration with Dr Diehl and other associates to produce a new DVD series and an accompanying textbook. CHIP participants also receive a workbook and a CHIP recipe book. Dr Morton and Dr Diehl are co-presenters of the new DVD series. Dr Morton wrote seven chapters of the new textbook and contributed to the workbook.

“I’ve always been interested in helping people live more,” Morton says, “and CHIP is arguably the most well-published lifestyle intervention in the research literature. We’ve updated the program and incorporated the latest evidence to produce an even better program.” The new CHIP program was launched in the United States in November 2012 and in Australia early in 2013.

Dr Morton is the lead researcher in an ongoing project investigating the health benefits of the CHIP program. A key member of the research team is Pr Paul Rankin, CHIP program director for the Adventist Church in the South Pacific, who is doing a PhD under Dr Morton’s supervision at Avondale on the health benefits of the CHIP program. The research team also includes Avondale’s Dr Peter Morey, Dr Hans Diehl and higher degree research students supervised by Morton and Morey.

In 2012 Pr Rankin, Dr Morton, Dr Diehl, Dr Morey and associates published a refereed article in the prestigious *American Journal of Cardiology* documenting the “significant reduction in cardio-vascular disease risk factors” achieved in



Dr Darren Morton and Dr Hans Diehl, co-presenters of the new CHIP DVD series.

participants in the CHIP program in the United States. The benefits included reductions in body mass, blood pressure, cholesterol and triglycerides. The most dramatic improvements were seen in participants with the highest risk factors. The study forecast that because of the program, approximately 70 cardiac events would be averted in the participants during the next decade. The American College of Lifestyle Medicine described the results as “some of the most impressive recorded clinical changes ever”.

In 2012 the research team published a refereed article in the *New Zealand Medical Journal* entitled “The effectiveness of the Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) in Australasia for reducing selected chronic disease risk factors: a feasibility study”.

In 2012 Dr Morton published a refereed article in the *Diabetes Management Journal* entitled “The Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) as a lifestyle intervention for the prevention, management and treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus”. He also presented scholarly papers on the CHIP program at the American College of Lifestyle Medicine Conference, Denver, Colorado; at the Australian Lifestyle Medicine Association Conference, Sydney; and at the US CHIP Summit, Atlanta, Georgia.

Books by Avondale staff

Avondale staff produced or co-produced nine books in 2012 and early 2013.

Robert McIver (2012). *Mainstream or Marginal: the Matthean Community in Early Christianity*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang.

In this book Associate Professor McIver has constructed a profile of the community behind the Gospel of Matthew by investigating content unique to Matthew’s Gospel together with insights



from sociology and studies of oral and writing-based cultures. The book argues that the Matthean community was likely to be mainstream in early Christianity, not marginal. McIver explores its relationship to both Judaism and Christianity. On the one hand the community had a high regard for law, practising Sabbath observance and the distinction between clean and unclean foods; but it also viewed its members as saved sinners who should conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to those who await the soon return of their Lord.

Kayle de Waal (2012). *A Socio-Rhetorical Interpretation of the Seven Trumpets of Revelation. The Apocalyptic*

Challenge to Earthly Empire. New York: Edwin Mellen Press.

Dr de Waal's book is the first to investigate the book of Revelation using a recently developed form of literary analysis known as socio-rhetorical interpretation. This method combines analysis of the text with consideration of the social, cultural, textual and ideological factors impinging on it. De Waal examines the communities to which the book of Revelation was addressed in the context of the Roman Empire. He explores in depth the Old Testament allusions and echoes in the passages concerning the seven trumpets, demonstrating the centrality of the cosmic conflict tradition in the shaping of these passages. The investigation produces fresh literary, sociological and theological insights into the meaning of the trumpet passages.

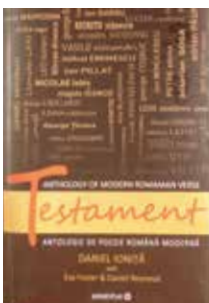


Barry Gane (2012). Valuegenesis II. Study 1 – Core Report: A comparative Study of Faith Development and Values Formation in Seventh-day Adventist Adolescents and Youth Aged 12-18 years in Two Generations. Cooranbong, NSW: Avondale Academic Press. (see review, pp. 8-9).

Barry Gane (2012). South Pacific Island Nations Valuegenesis. Study 1 – Core Report: A Study of Faith Development and Values Formation in Seventh-day Adventist Adolescents and Youth Aged 12-18 years. Cooranbong, NSW: Avondale Academic Press.

Daniel Ioniță with Eva Foster and Daniel Reynaud (2012). Testament: Anthology of Modern Romanian Verse. Bilingual edition. Bucharest: Minerva.

Associate Professor Reynaud co-translated this anthology of Romanian verse, which includes selections from the work of 56 poets from 1850 to 2012. This is the first ever anthology of Romanian poetry translated into English, and is proving to have a greater impact than anticipated.



Judith Beveridge and Carolyn Rickett (eds.) (2012). Here Not There. Sydney: Puncher and Wattmann.

This anthology combines poems by Avondale students and staff with pieces contributed by established poets. The book originated in Avondale's 2012 Creative Writing class under the guidance of Dr Carolyn Rickett and Judith Beveridge, University of Sydney lecturer, multi-award-winning poet, and poetry editor of the literary journal *Meanjin*. A number of high-profile



poets attended the book launch, including Jean Kent, who described the quality of the students' poems as "extraordinary". "The students write with so much clarity," she commented. Student Jemma Galindo said, "We've learned to love the soul of poetry."

Marion Shields and Lorinda Bruce (2013). Basic Literacy and Numeracy. Broadbeach, NSW: David Barlow Publishing.

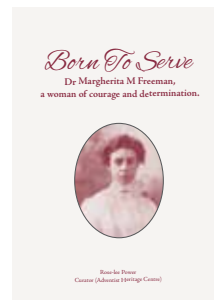
This book originated as a textbook for pre-service primary education students at Avondale studying the unit Literacy and Numeracy for Teachers. It provides a simple self-help text and workbook for anyone seeking guidance in basic numeracy and literacy skills. The book also features a section by Lorinda Bruce on information and communication technology resources. Students have trialled the content over three years and many have said, "This is the first time we've really understood some of the basics."



Dr Marion Shields and Lorinda Bruce with their book. Photo: Ashlee King

Rose-lee Power (2012). Born to Serve. Warburton, Victoria: Signs Publishing.

This is a biography of Margherita Freeman, who was the first Seventh-day Adventist in Australia to study medicine and become a physician, graduating from the University of Sydney in 1911. "For a woman to take up medicine [at that time] was really . . . going against the odds," writes Rose-lee Power, curator of the Seventh-day Adventist Heritage Centre at Avondale. Margherita Freeman played an important role in the accreditation of what was then known as the Sydney Sanitarium. At a time when women would usually be chaperoned when out in public, Freeman ran clinics and, in the absence of her husband, opened a birthing center, organised nurses' training, and presented at conferences. She was a person who commanded great respect.



Lester Hawkes and Brad Watson (2012). *When God Calls Expect Adventure*. Warburton, Victoria: Signs Publishing.

Pr Lester Hawkes and his wife Freda were called as missionaries to Papua New Guinea at the end of the Second World War in 1945. Their long service as medical missionaries took them to the coast and highlands of New Guinea and to the island of Pitcairn. They worked tirelessly to cure disease, relieve superstition and share their love of God. They discovered that answering God's call really does lead to incredible adventure.



Brad Watson and Pr Lester Hawkes at the launch of their book. Photo: Lagani Gairo

Another record enrolment

Avondale scored another record enrolment in first semester 2013 with 1399 students, 27 more than in first semester 2012. The School of Education has 546 students, the Faculty of Nursing and Health 353 students, and the School of Theology 134. There are 102 students in coursework masters programs. Thirty-eight students are studying higher degrees by research, including 23 PhD students. The total full-time equivalent enrolment in higher education courses is 1184.

Commonwealth supported places are available to eligible nursing and teacher education students at Avondale, and

Commonwealth FEE-HELP is available to eligible students in all other courses. These benefits give students the option of deferring their tuition fees until annual income exceeds the government threshold (currently \$51,309). A Commonwealth supported place also gives a substantial discount on tuition.

Avondale's enrolment has grown consistently during the past decade in spite of the global financial crisis and despite increased competition from universities following the removal of government caps on Commonwealth supported places available to university students.

Homecoming Sunday will connect alumni to community

This year's Homecoming Sunday, August 25, promises to be a community affair. Alumni, staff and students will showcase the Lake Macquarie campus to the community through a market day from 9.30 am to 1.30 pm.

Local fresh produce growers, artists and artisans, small business owners and local and Avondale communities will shop, play and learn about each other in a relaxed setting. The day will include stalls, an art exhibition, free activities for children and live music.

"For a long time we have wanted to share the Avondale experience with the community around us," says Jo-Anne Vint, marketing manager at Avondale. "So many people from the community who came to last year's market day told us how much they enjoyed being on our campus, that we want to turn this into a tradition."

Last year's market day saw some 500 people come on campus. Thirty-five stallholders were selling their goods; children enjoyed face painting, a jumping castle, a petting zoo and pottery art; Avondale students played live music; and Pr Paul Rankin presented four Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) mini-seminars.

This year's market day will coincide with Homecoming to enhance the experience of the local community and visiting alumni.

"If you are going to attend this year's Homecoming and would like to book a stall or help on the day with children's ac-



A stall at the 2012 market day. Photo: Lagani Gairo

tivities or at our information gazebo, please let us know," says Jo. "And we hope you will stay on Sunday to enjoy it."

Visit www.avondale.edu.au/events or contact Bruna (bruna@btpublicrelations.com.au or 0400 101 411) for more information about the market day, or to book a stall, or to register your interest to help. Alumni attending Homecoming can book a stall for the discounted price of \$5. Regular stalls will cost \$25.

Faculty of Arts and Theology initiatives

New and refreshed courses have contributed to a jump in first-year enrolments in the Faculty of Arts and Theology.

New specialisation in counselling

A 14-unit specialisation in counselling is now available in the Bachelor of Arts degree, equipping graduates to become fully-qualified and registered counsellors. The specialisation includes two units of clinical placement. Counselling is one of the most sought-after careers at present, and Avondale is the only higher education provider in the Hunter region to offer a counselling specialisation. An 8-unit major

in counselling is also available as an option in the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Ministry and Theology, and Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Teaching degrees. Students taking the 8-unit major need to undertake additional study and clinical placement to become fully qualified as registered counsellors.



Counselling simulation. Photo: Colin Chuang

Chaplaincy major

In 2012 Avondale added a major in chaplaincy as an option in the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Ministry and Theology, and Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Teaching degrees. Chaplains are employed in schools, universities, hospitals, retirement villages, orphanages, manufacturing and other workplaces, sporting organisations, ambulance services, state emergency services, prisons, and in the police and armed services.

New photomedia major; ancient history minor

Students may now choose photomedia as a major in the Bachelor of Arts degree, studying digital, studio and web-based photography from a fine art perspective and gaining practical experience in six weeks of work placements. A minor in ancient history is also now available.

Ministry and theology

Majors in chaplaincy and counselling are now available in the Bachelor of Ministry and Theology, which has been restructured to provide greater flexibility and student choice. The degree now includes eight elective units, which may be chosen from any Avondale unit of study for which a student has met the prerequisites. Students have the option of using elective units to build one or two of their existing majors in biblical studies, theology and ministry into a 12-unit specialisation; or they may use their elective units to build a major in an additional discipline, enhancing preparation for ministry. A Bible lands study tour is also available as an elective.

A software program called Logos has made biblical language units more accessible. "The program allows students to ask the questions, 'What does it mean?' and 'Why does

it matter?' rather than simply memorising the mechanics of Greek and Hebrew," says Associate Professor Reynaud. "It means students are more likely to use the languages after they graduate."

Students now have the option of taking an honours degree in Ministry and Theology, which includes a substantial research component. Other programs offered in the Faculty of Arts and Theology are described on the Avondale website.

Avondale works closely with conference presidents and pastors in developing its ministry and theology programs. At the recent Australian Union Conference Ministry Summit at Avondale, Associate Professor Reynaud reported that a General Conference assessment team had described Avondale's Bachelor of Ministry and Theology as "a flagship for the rest of the world". Avondale's ministry practicum program is being upheld worldwide as a model for training in practical ministry.

Staff changes

- **Dr Barry Gane** is the new head of the School of Ministry and Theology.
- **Paul Bogacs** has been appointed convenor of the specialisation in counselling. Since 1996 Bogacs has been associated with the Jansen Newman Institute in Sydney, which offers courses in counselling, psychotherapy and other disciplines. He has worked as manager/counsellor/trainer for the Salvation Army Counselling Service, and has lectured at the Wesley Institute for Ministry and the Arts. He is currently part-time manager of Adventist Counselling Services (Greater Sydney).
- **Lindsay Morton** has been appointed as a lecturer in English, following successful PhD research at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. She has bachelor and masters degrees in English from Deakin University and a Bachelor of Teaching from Avondale, in association with which she gained the Award of Excellence in Secondary Education. She has teaching experience at secondary and tertiary levels.
- **Lynnette Lounsbury** has been appointed as a lecturer in history and communication. She has a Bachelor of Education (English and History) from Avondale, a masters degree from Deakin University, and is completing a research masters degree in ancient history at the University of New England. She has teaching experience at secondary and tertiary levels, and is also a prolific and successful writer – the author



Lynnette Lounsbury

of two novels, a children's book and other creative work, including writing for film and other visual media. She also does some casual work at the Australian Film, Television and Radio School, Sydney.

Bequest to the Brandstater Amphitheatre

Beryl (Betty) Branster, a long time resident of the Avondale Retirement Village and the daughter of Pastor Gordon Brandstater, passed away in 2012, leaving a substantial bequest to Avondale's Brandstater Amphitheatre. Betty was somewhat disabled throughout her life of 85 years and lived with her parents until they passed away in the 1980s. Known locally for her craft of weaving, Betty produced many scarves, cushion covers and table mats as gifts for friends, relatives and retirement village staff. Her last project was to make a little mat for each of the nursing staff at the aged care facility.



Beryl (Betty) Branster



Beryl (Betty) Branster with a sample of her weaving

Betty's father Gordon attended Avondale from 1913 until his graduation in 1917. In 1919 he was called to Fiji as a missionary, subject to marrying first, which was not a problem as he was practically engaged to Idarene Felsch. He was also advised to change his name because of anti-German feeling at the time, so he became Gordon Branster. He and Ida were given a cow for a wedding present, which went with them to Fiji. The cow was refused entry at first, but was allowed to land after the carrier ship had completed its normal circuit of the island.

Gordon and Ida served initially in education and were

involved in the building of several new schools. Soon Gordon was also preaching fluently in Fijian. Later he became president of the Fiji Mission and had a hand in starting Fulton College. In 1948 he was appointed as the first president of the Central Pacific Union Mission, after pastoring churches in Australia and serving as president of the South NSW and Greater Sydney Conferences. His service in Fiji totalled 27 years.

The Bransters had three children, Russell, Marjorie and Beryl. Life was not

always easy, especially during their early years in Fiji. On one occasion Gordon was away from home on another island when a hurricane damaged the mission boat, which took weeks to repair. Meanwhile his wife and family were left alone with the roof of their house having lifted and moved a little sideways, and with no word from Gordon for six weeks.

Russell's two daughters also attended Avondale: Dell in 1964 and Karen, who graduated in 1973. After retirement, Gordon and Ida (with Beryl) lived on Lake Macquarie at Nords Wharf, celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary in 1980.

The Brandstater family has provided very generous funding for the amphitheatre named in their honour. As reported in an earlier issue of *Reflections*, the idea for the amphitheatre developed in discussions with Dr Bernard Brandstater of the Loma Linda University School of Medicine, California. He and his brother, Dr Murray Brandstater, also of the Loma Linda School of Medicine, were present at the opening ceremony in December 2010 along with other members of the Brandstater family. Dr Bernard and Dr Murray Brandstater are sons of Pr Roy Brandstater, who was the younger brother of Pr Gordon Branster. Pr Roy Brandstater, an Avondale graduate, was a prominent Australian pastor and evangelist.



Pr and Mrs Gordon Branster at their diamond wedding celebration. Photo: R Branster.



The Brandstater Amphitheatre

Eminent Avondale alumnus: Emeritus Professor Bruce Lo

After a distinguished academic career, Emeritus Professor Bruce Lo retired at the beginning of 2012 as Professor of Information Systems in the College of Business, University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire, USA.

Bruce Lo was one of Avondale's most brilliant students, completing in 1966 a University of London Bachelor of Science degree with first class honours in pure and applied mathematics and physics. In the 1960s the University of London's external Bachelor of Science program was taught at Avondale under the direction of Dr Eric Magnusson. Bruce Lo's Avondale lecturers also included Dr Laurie Draper (physics), Dr Ken Thomson (physics) and Dr Roger Eggleton (Mathematics).

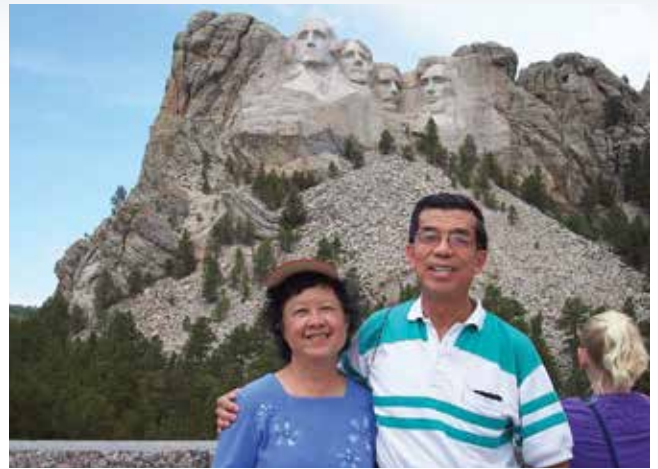
In 1970 Lo completed a PhD in computational quantum mechanics at Monash University. He then undertook post-doctoral appointments at the University of Alberta, Canada, and the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada. Since that time, he has also completed a Master of Education Studies degree with a thesis on computer assisted learning in mathematics (University of Newcastle, 1981), and a Graduate Diploma in Computing Science, specialising in small business computing (University of Newcastle, 1984).

Dr Lo was a member of Avondale's academic staff for thirteen years (1972-1984), teaching mathematics, physics and computing, and serving as head of the Department of Sciences, Mathematics and Computing from 1982 to 1984. He also pioneered the establishment of Avondale's computing centre and prepared the way for the computerisation of the college's academic records. From 1985 to 1989 he held a position as senior lecturer in information systems at the University of Wollongong.

He was then appointed associate professor in computing at the University of New England's northern rivers campus (1990-1994). When this institution established its independence as Southern Cross University, he became head of the School of Multimedia and Information Technology (1994-1997) and then director of the School's international and graduate programs (1998-2001). As director of the international program, he established articulation/affiliation programs with universities in India, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Hong Kong and China.

In 2002 he became professor of information systems at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire, USA, where he has also served on the University Senate, including roles as a member of the Senate Executive Committee and chair of the Senate Nominating Committee. He has also undertaken visiting professorial appointments at the University of Warwick, UK (1993), the Hong Kong Institute of Technology (1999), and the University of Limerick, Ireland (2008).

Professor Lo has a formidable research and publication record, including more than 80 refereed journal articles, book chapters and refereed conference publications, as well as numerous technical and consultancy reports and conference presentations. His book *Understanding and Using Information Technology* (Prentice-Hall) has run through two editions. He



Emeritus Professor Bruce Lo and his wife Ruth at the Mount Rushmore National Monument, South Dakota, USA.

has also edited or co-edited two volumes of conference proceedings. In 2005 he was honoured with the Best Research Paper Award of the International Association of Computer Information Systems. During his career he has won competitive research grants totalling \$545,000.

In recent years he has undertaken research in electronic commerce, technology and knowledge management, ethical and social issues in information technology, internet traffic analysis and online audience behaviour, information technology education, and online learning.

He has served as program co-chair of the Midwest Association of Information Systems, USA (2007-2008), chair of the 12th Australian Conference on Information Systems (ACIS) (2001), chair of the Executive Board of ACIS (2002-2003), and consulting editor of the *Australian Journal of Information Systems* (1997-2006).

In his spare time he has functioned since 2002 as music director of the Chippewa Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church, Eau Clair, Wisconsin; and as choir director and organist at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Eau Clair. He was also the founding president of the Chippewa Valley Chinese Friendship and Scholarship Association.

Our readers who know the Lo family will recall that Bruce's wife Ruth also has a PhD and has pursued a career in nursing education. Their three children, Kathrina, Reginald and Melissa all hold senior positions in their professions.

In retirement Bruce is conducting research on the history of Adventism in China, and has developed a wiki website, <https://sites.google.com/site/adventisminchina/>, that allows other researchers around the world to collaborate in the project. Based on the research, Bruce presented a paper at the 2013 Conference of the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Historians at Union College, Nebraska. In 2012 he led a tour of China for some of his friends and acquaintances. They visited the Nestorian Stone in Xian, which was the first known record of the entry of Western Christianity to China in AD 635.

Avondale has much reason to be proud of its former student and staff member.

Growth in research and scholarship

In 2012 thirty-nine Avondale lecturers, representing approximately 60% of full-time teaching staff, produced 8 books, 12 book chapters, 43 articles in scholarly journals, 24 conference papers, and several art exhibitions. The publications highlighted below are additional to those featured elsewhere in this issue.

NURSING AND HEALTH

Dr Malcolm Anderson and **Dr Peter Morey**, in partnership with Dr Grahame Simpson (Liverpool Hospital Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit and Rehabilitation Studies Unit, School of Medicine, University of Sydney) published a journal article on the impact of neuro-behavioural impairment on family functioning and the psychological wellbeing of male versus female caregivers of relatives with severe traumatic brain injury. The three researchers have won a \$60,000 grant for a collaborative research project with Liverpool Hospital Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit, which is expected to provide new understandings of the nature and processes of caregiver resilience among people supporting relatives with traumatic brain or spinal cord injury. Dr Anderson is the lead researcher.

Katherine Cooper produced two journal articles (one co-authored) on the impact of spiritual care education in preparing undergraduate nursing students to provide spiritual care to patients. **Dr Drene Somasundram** co-authored a journal article on spiritual/theological education and presented a paper at a conference in Vancouver, Canada. **Dr Athena Sheehan** co-authored six journal articles on breastfeeding. **Tonia Crawford** co-authored two articles investigating the effectiveness of English language support programs for nursing students for whom English is a second/other language. Sonja Dawson presented a paper at an international conference in Brisbane on the experience of Avondale nursing students undertaking clinical placements at the Atioifi Hospital in the Solomon Islands. **Dr Alison Smedley** served as a member of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Review Committee in 2011 and 2012.

EDUCATION

Dr Maria Northcote co-authored two journal articles, including one with **Dr Peter Beamish**, on the use of contemporary technologies in the teaching of mathematics. She also co-authored with **Associate Professor Daniel Reynaud** and **Dr Beamish** a journal article on the experience of academic staff learning about online teaching. A conference paper that she presented in Adelaide was published in the refereed conference proceedings. She also presented two papers at a conference in Dublin. She was employed at the request of three Australian universities as a consultant and external evaluator for the Australian Learning and Teaching Council.

Associate Professor Phil Fitzsimmons and **Edie Lanphar** co-authored chapters in two books published by Inter-Disciplinary Press, Oxford. They co-authored three papers on aspects of narrative, presented at international conferences in Prague, Oxford and Salzburg. Each had another paper pub-

lished in the proceedings of the Salzburg conference.

Eight staff members of the School of Education authored or co-authored articles in the *TEACH Journal of Christian Education*: **Associate Professor Fitzsimmons, Dr Beamish, Dr Peter Kilgour, Dr Peter Morey, Dr Andrew Matthes, Dr Marion Shields, Bev Christian and Barbara Fisher.**

Dr Marion Shields had a paper on provisions in schools for students with disabilities published in conference proceedings. **Barbara Fisher, Dr Merle Cozens and Dr Cedric Greive** published an article on tutoring programs for children with spelling difficulties on the National Numeracy and Literacy Evidence Base website. **Dr Peter Beamish, Dr Andrew Matthes, Dr Wayne Miller, Barbara Fisher and Sandra Ludlow** each presented papers at national or international conferences.

THEOLOGY

Associate Professor Robert McIver published an article in the prestigious *Journal of Biblical Literature* entitled "Eyewitnesses as guarantors of the gospel traditions in the light of psychological research". **McIver, Dr Ross Cole and Dr Steve Thompson** each contributed a chapter to the book *In the Beginning*, edited by honorary senior research fellow Dr Bryan Ball. **Dr Barry Gane** authored a paper entitled "Building a church that retains its young adults", to be published in conference proceedings. Dr Gane has been awarded a grant of \$48,000 to research the beliefs and values of adult church members in the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The *Melanesian Journal of Theology* published an article by **Dr John Skrzypaszek** entitled "Conversion and identity in the context of Seventh-day Adventist faith tradition". Dr Skrzypaszek also authored a paper published in conference proceedings in Portugal.

HUMANITIES AND CREATIVE ARTS

Associate Professor Daniel Reynaud co-authored with **Professor Jane Fernandez** a paper, presented at the Australian Historical Association Conference, University of Adelaide, on the theology of violence in the writings of Great War Anzacs. He also presented at the conference a paper, co-authored with **Dr Maria Northcote**, entitled "The World Wars through war gaming: an experiment in university history teaching". Dr Reynaud was the principal supervisor of Avondale's first Master of Arts (Research) graduate, Melissa Rogers, whose thesis investigated relationships between aural dictation, sight singing, performance and compositional skills.

David Potter published in *TEACH Journal of Christian Education* an article on Avondale's General Studies program as "a case study of an alternative pathway to tertiary studies". He also presented a conference paper at RMIT University, Melbourne. **Dr Carolyn Rickett** presented at Deakin University a co-authored conference paper on empowering participants in a practice-led poetry research project. **Brad Watson** presented at the Australian National University a conference paper, based on field research involving Avondale students

and ADRA personnel, on ADRA's Leadership and Good Governance Project in Nepal.

Dr Richard Morris held an exhibition of landscape works at the Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney; exhibited three wall assemblages based on found objects at the Robin Gibson Gallery; and presented an exhibition of sculptural works of timber assemblages and painted plaster forms at Art Systems Wickham, Newcastle. **Aaron Bellette** held two photography exhibitions. **Andrew Collis** presented exhibitions of portrait painting at the University of Newcastle Gallery (2013) and Central Coast Regional Gallery (2012 and 2013). Three hangings of his work are planned this year at the Crown Plaza Hotel, Terrigal. In 2012 he was shortlisted for the Doug Moran Portrait Prize in Sydney. In 2013 he entered his portrait of Lindy Chamberlain-Creighton in the Archibald Portrait Prize.

SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

Associate Professor Kevin de Berg authored four journal articles: an investigation of chemistry students' understanding of solution concentration in their first year of tertiary study, in *Chemistry Education Research and Practice*; an article entitled "Raoult's Law: a reinterpretation for concentrated strong 1:1 electrolyte solutions", published in the *Australian Journal of Chemical Education*; an article entitled "Using the origin of chemical ideas to enhance an understanding of the chemistry of air: issues and challenges for including mathematics in the teaching and learning of chemistry", published in *Educacion Quimica*; and an article on the Enlightenment and Joseph Priestley's disenchantment with science and religion, in *Christian Perspectives on Science and Technology*. De Berg was

the principal supervisor of Master of Education (Research) graduate Kerrie Boddey, whose thesis examined the interplay of self-efficacy, anxiety, prior chemistry experience and academic performance in the chemistry experience of first-year nursing students.

Dr Gemma Christian co-authored four articles in the journals *Chemical Science*, *Inorganic Chemistry*, *European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry*, and *Journal of the American Chemical Society*. Dr Christian has received a grant for computer time on the National Supercomputing Facility. **Anton Selvaratnam**, **Dr Lynden Rogers**, and J Scott co-authored an article in *TEACH Journal of Christian Education* on conceptualizing 3-dimensional objects in primary mathematics.

BUSINESS

Dr Keith Howson and Dr Lisa Barnes co-authored two journal articles on not-for-profit governance for international charities, in *Radix International Journal of Research in Social Science* and the *International Journal of Social Science and Interdisciplinary Research*. Dr Howson presented a paper at the Seventh-day Adventist Business Teachers Conference, Andrews University School of Business Administration, Michigan. **Lyn Daff** authored or co-authored five journal articles and presented three conference papers in the fields of accounting and accounting education. She also contributed a chapter entitled "Conversations about God: Does skills training make a difference?" in the book *God, Freedom and Nature*, edited by Laura Buchanan and Chapman (Sydney: Body and Soul Dynamics).

Ministerial students gain experience in evangelism



Avondale evangelism team in Melbourne.

Eighteen final-year ministerial students recently accompanied senior lecturer Dr Murray House in an evangelistic series in the Tullamarine area of north-west Melbourne.

The week-long series, advertised as an invitation to "unlock the secrets of ancient prophecy", attracted participants from three church plants and many other people from the surrounding communities, 80 per cent of whom transitioned

into follow-up seminars.

Two students hosted each session, with Dr House as the main speaker. Final-year theology student Jared Smith was the speaker for the Saturday morning session, giving a presentation that Dr House described as "outstanding". Jared has run five evangelistic series while studying at Avondale: one in Kenya, two in Vanuatu, one in the Solomon Islands and one in Brazil. He has also run training programs for church members in India and Dubai.

Avondale's School of Ministry and Theology offers an evangelistic service to selected local churches wishing to run prophecy seminars, with Avondale providing the advertising and initial presentations.

Church plant

For five years Avondale ministerial students worked in the nearby San Remo area in association with the Avondale Memorial Church, visiting the local people and giving Bible studies. Two years ago a church plant was established in the area, attended by about 40 people each Sabbath. Three Avondale students assist in ministry in the new church company.

Creativity and faith converge at Manifest Arts Festival

The Adventist Church's third annual Manifest Creative Arts Festival, hosted at Avondale in March 2013, attracted talented people with a vision to explore and express their faith, spirituality and Christian experience through a variety of creative art forms. Manifest is a joint initiative of Avondale College of Higher Education and the Adventist Media Centre

The Festival saw the launch of a major book entitled *Manifest: Our Call to Faithful Creativity* (Signs Publishing). Edited by Joanna Darby and Nathan Brown, the book features 32 Seventh-day Adventist writers who explore creativity in the context of the church and the lives of its people. "We believe," write the editors, "that this is an important conversation . . . for the better understanding of the gospel and what it means to live as members of the kingdom of God today." The book highlights the opportunities creative people have "to be agents of beauty and justice in a world that needs both".

The Manifest Festival included an exhibition of visual arts, lectures, workshops, performances and group discussions. The Festival events encompassed painting and other visual arts, creative writing, journalism, film, drama, song writing, story telling, and creative programming.

The keynote speaker was Terry Benedict, a leading Adventist film maker and founder of the Shae Foundation, an international organisation with a mission to inspire, empower and support creative people in a Christian context for the benefit of the global community. Benedict also ran film workshops and screened his multi-award winning film *The Conscientious Objector*, on the life of Adventist medic Desmond Doss, recipient of the United States Medal of Honor for his heroism in the battle for Okinawa in the Second World War.

Manifest included the premiere performance of *And It Was Good*, a drama written by Linley Lee and directed by Kristin Thiele, both Avondale graduates. The play, which invited questions about creativity and moral choice, received a positive review in the *Newcastle Herald*.

Dr Robert Wolfgang, retired sociologist (Monash University), former editor-in-chief of the *Fiji Daily Post*, current editor-in-chief of the New Fiji Bible Translation Project, and a pioneer of popular Christian music, spoke on the importance of freedom of expression, even under duress.

The Festival showcased creative books by several Adventist authors. Georgina Hobson's *Lifted* explores the dramatic life changes that come with motherhood, bringing honesty, comfort and hope to new mothers. Melanie Carter Winkler's Christian novel *Rosewood* was partly inspired by Kay Rizzo's writing workshops at the 2011 Manifest Festival. Amanda Bews' novel *Heaven Sent* explores the serious choices and pressures facing today's teenagers. David Edgren has produced a series of children's books exploring themes of the Christian life. The last three writers are Avondale alumni.

Manifest received a record 86 entries for its creative arts competitions, carrying \$6500 in prize money. The top-ranking Gabe Reynaud Award went to the Melbourne-based interactive outdoor drama, *Road to Bethlehem*, now in its 19th year. Each year the performance requires some 400 presenters and attracts an audience of 15,000 over four nights. It has inspired similar productions in Dakabin Park (Queensland), Erina (NSW), Livingston (WA), and Tauranga (New Zealand).

The winners of the inaugural South Pacific Division Adventist Communicators Awards were also announced at the Festival. The John Banks Excellence in Communication Award went to Pierre van Heerden, General Manager of Sanitarium New Zealand, for his creative and internationally publicised promotion of the re-release of Marmite, following earthquake damage to the Christchurch Sanitarium factory.



Joanna Darby and Nathan Brown at the launch of the book they co-edited. Photo: Ben Beaden



Panel discussion on making space for creativity in a busy life. Jasmine Flamenco (L), Shelley Poole (C), Georgina Hobson (R). Jasmine is a graphic designer and photographer; Shelley is a Master of Arts (Research) student at Avondale, and twice winner of Manifest's Avondale Fine Arts Prize; Georgina is the author of the book *Lifted*, on the challenges of motherhood. Photo: Ben Beaden.

Student mission projects

Avondale's student organisation One Mission goes from strength to strength. In the past six months, One Mission volunteers have engaged in humanitarian projects in Brazil and Vanuatu. One Mission aims to send 100 students overseas this year.

Brazil

The co-leader of One Mission, Odailson (Dada) Fialho, led 17 students, an Avondale staff member and her husband, and a community member on a 21-day mission trip to Brazil. The group worked on an ADRA project to improve hygiene and sanitation in a remote village six hours by jet boat up the Amazon from the city of Manaus. Most health problems in this region stem from poor sanitation. The villagers obtain drinking and washing water from the Amazon, and typically there is only one pit toilet for each village. The people live by fishing, hunting, and trade in baskets and rainforest timber. In many villages 90 per cent of the people are illiterate, and poverty is endemic. The nearest doctor is eight hours away by boat.

The One Mission students, who had raised \$25,000 for the project, worked with the local people to construct 12 flush toilets, each with a pit for the effluent.

The students also ran a kids club and an eight-night evangelistic program, with Jared Smith, a final-year theology student, as preacher. The program produced one baptism, with two other people preparing for baptism and many others having Bible studies. Dada and Jared also gave Bible studies in a village where Avondale students had constructed toilets in 2011, and found the villagers highly receptive to the gospel message.

Hope Channel Brazil made a documentary of the students' work, and after the project was completed the students visited two large churches in Rio de Janeiro to report on their mission and inspire people to work for Amazon villagers.

Vanuatu

Avondale student Trent Sperring led 15 students to the tiny island of Atchin, Vanuatu, to work with ADRA staff and the



Jaymin Cameron (L) and Jameson Pulelisi constructing a pit toilet in an Amazon village.

local community on a water and sanitation project to improve access to clean water for the people of the island. The students installed water pipes leading to the houses from four large rainwater tanks provided by ADRA. Whereas previously people had depended on poor-quality water from a single well, there are now two standpipes (a shower and a smaller standpipe) for every three households, providing good drinking water. The students raised \$18,000 for the pipes, plus \$340 each towards their individual expenses.

One Mission projects help prepare student participants for future leadership roles. Typically some students from each trip become leaders or co-leaders in subsequent One Mission trips.



Team leader Odailson Fialho (R) with villagers in a completed toilet.



Callum Maclean at work in Vanuatu.



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