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**Spring 2010**

John Cox

*Avondale College*

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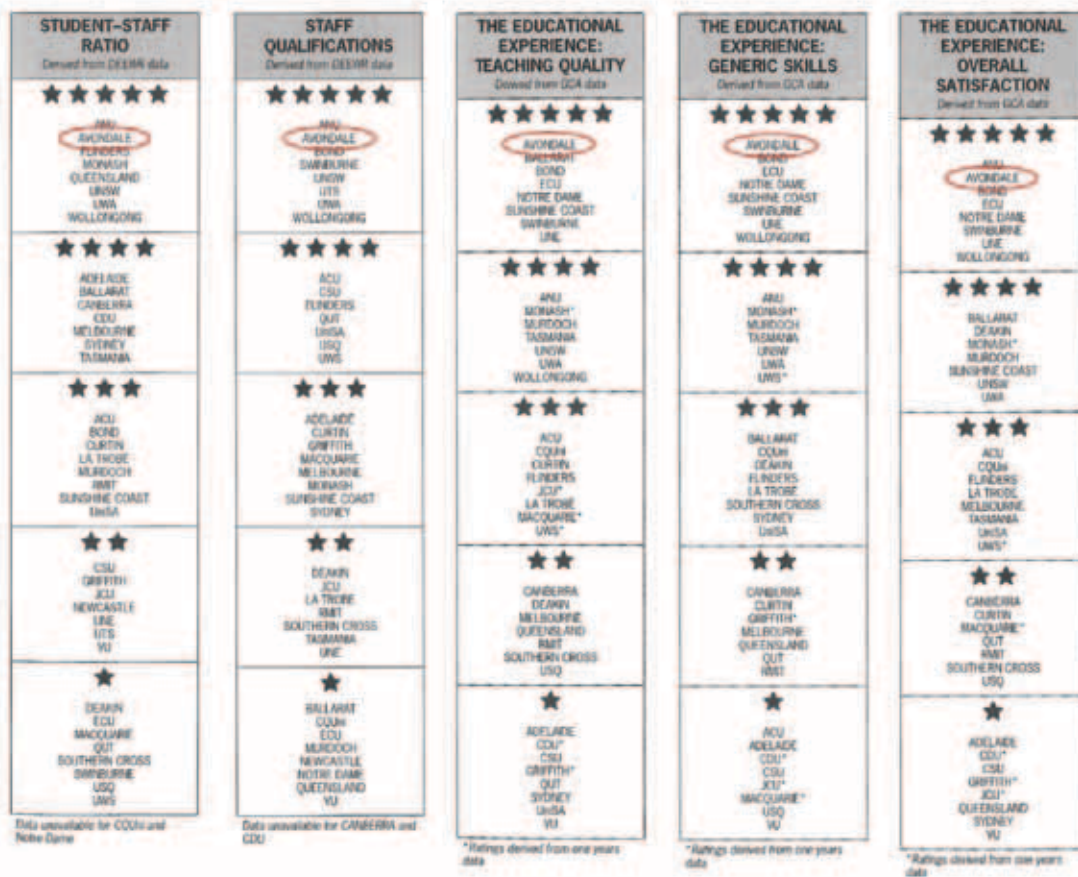


**PhD program grows strongly  
Science graduates excel  
Engaging with world needs  
Connecting spiritually with generation Y**

Cover picture: Residents of Watson Hall (the men's residence on the Lake Macquarie campus) presenting a church service in the Avondale College Church, September 2010. Ann Stafford

## Avondale again scores 5-star ratings

*The Good Universities Guide 2011* has given Avondale top 5-star ratings for five key quality indicators: teaching quality; staff qualifications; student:staff ratio; generic skills; and overall student satisfaction. In addition, Avondale received 4-star ratings for access by equity groups and indigenous participation. The ratings compare universities and leading private higher education providers Australia-wide. The "educational experience" ratings of teaching quality, generic skills and student satisfaction are derived from data collected from recent graduates. Avondale has a long record of 5-star ratings in these categories.



## Avondale College Alumni Association

The mission of the Avondale College Alumni Association is to maintain and encourage contact among members, to foster and encourage interest in Avondale, and to work for the development and strengthening of Christian education at Avondale.

All current and former students, staff and Council members of Avondale are eligible to become members. The administrators of Avondale College may also recommend others for membership.

**To register as a member**, email [alumni@avondale.edu.au](mailto:alumni@avondale.edu.au) or phone +61 (0)2 4980 2252, providing your name, contact details and the years when you were a student, staff or Council member of Avondale.

**Members receive** access to the Avondale College Library, a complimentary subscription to *Reflections*, and

invitations to Homecoming reunions coordinated by the Association.

### Alumni Association Committee 2010-2011

Pr Desmond Hills (President), Lorin Bradford (Secretary), Graham Chester, Dr John Cox, Sallyanne Dehn, Jenny Hilder, Pr John Lee, Dr Allan Lindsay, Glenys Perry, Pr Alan Saunders, Brenton Stacey, Pr Len Tolhurst, Dawn Townend.

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# PhD program grows strongly

Since enrolling its first student in 2007, Avondale's Doctor of Philosophy program has grown to twenty-two students in 2010. A further fourteen students are enrolled in research masters programs, making a total of thirty-six research higher degree students. A research higher degree is a postgraduate course of study that comprises at least two-thirds research. Research and research training are essential features of a mature higher education institution.

Within the next five to seven years Avondale aims to have approximately sixty students in research higher degree courses (33 to 43 full-time equivalents), equating to three to four per cent of the overall student body at that time. The first PhD completion is expected in 2010 or early 2011.

Avondale's areas of research strength are related to its main course offerings, namely, education, health, theology and humanities. Some topics may span more than one discipline field; for example, science and education, or health and administration.

Many research topics have direct relevance to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and numerous others have wider applications, for example in the practice of education and health. The understandings and practical applications generated in postgraduate research will enhance the church's ability to evaluate its programs, improve professional practice, and make evidence-based plans and decisions.

Topics currently being investigated by Avondale's research students include an evaluation of the leader's influence in adventure-based programs such as Pathfinders; the theology of worship in the writings of Paul; the relationship between Ellen White and her son Edson; and an evaluation of the Coronary Health Improvement Program (CHIP) developed by Dr Hans Deihl of Loma Linda and currently being implemented by the SDA church in Australia, New Zealand and other parts of the world to deal with obesity and its associated metabolic syndrome. Other topics include a study of white women writing in Kenya; music criticism in Australia and its philosophic underpinnings, studied in relation to the aesthetic ideas of Aristotle and Robert Schumann; and Christian school to grammar school: inevitable or not? A PhD candidate from Botswana (a country with one of the highest HIV/AIDS rates in the world) is researching the relationship between Botswana young people's beliefs, norms and expected gender roles, and the perception of risk in contracting HIV/AIDS. Avondale's research projects are making a significant and timely contribution to the national research effort.

Modern technologies make possible research at a distance. Those research students who live off campus are able to communicate with their supervisors, and with each other, by email and via a web-based discussion forum for postgraduate students. A PhD candidate living in another country recently defended his research proposal via video link with Avondale. Extensive library resources are available electronically via the Avondale Libraries in Sydney and Lake Macquarie, including over 29,000 electronic journals. Students also have electronic

access to the catalogues of numerous other university and community libraries, and may request materials via interlibrary loan.

A supervisory panel oversees and monitors each student's progress. Research supervisors are research active and supervisory teams give students access to a wider range of expertise. These teams also give appropriately qualified staff the benefit of working collaboratively with other academics in our own and other institutions.

Avondale's President, Dr Ray Roennfeldt, says, "I am particularly grateful for the excellent supervision provided by our academic staff to our research students. These research-active supervisors are essential to the success of our PhD and research masters students. The enormous progress Avondale has made in this arena would not have been possible without the oversight of the program by Dr Vivienne Watts, Avondale's Vice-President (Administration and Research)."

In 2010 Avondale launched a website providing free, full-text access to the research literature produced by its staff members and postgraduate students. ResearchOnline@Avondale is currently being built up from the published works of staff and research students. This is Avondale's "institutional repository" and makes freely available research works previously located in inaccessible and expensive journals. This newly created resource helps to "build community by encouraging research collaboration," says head librarian Marilyn Gane. The website is <http://research.avondale.edu.au>.



Harvey Henderson, PhD candidate from Botswana, at work in the Scholars' Centre of the Avondale College Library.

# Science graduates excel

At least thirty of Avondale's science and science education graduates now have PhDs and have excelled in careers in higher education, research, industry and government. Numerous others have gained honours and masters degrees.

**Drs Eric Magnusson, Laurie Draper and Ken Thomson** were the first to study a science degree at Avondale, Magnusson completing the Bachelor of Science (London) at Avondale in 1953, Draper and Thomson in 1954. Magnusson went on to gain PhDs in chemistry from the University of New South Wales and the University of London. Draper and Thomson gained PhDs in physics. All three returned to teach at Avondale. Magnusson headed Avondale's science program from 1961 to 1970, then served as principal of the college from 1971 to 1980. He then accepted an academic post in chemistry at the Australian Defence Force Academy, a campus of the University of New South Wales, where he rose to the rank of Associate Professor. At least seventeen Avondale science graduates have joined the college staff after gaining higher degrees.

## International researchers

Several Avondale science graduates have achieved impressive research careers overseas. **Dr Bruce Lo**, who completed a Bachelor of Science (London) at Avondale in 1966, was until recently a Professor of Information Technology at the University of Wisconsin, USA. **Dr Tony Dyson and Dr Raylene Dyson**, Avondale graduates of 1990, are engaged in scientific research in Switzerland. **Dr Nigel Moriarty** (pictured below), an Avondale graduate of 1989, is a research scientist at the US Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, a government research institution of about 4000 people, associated with the University of California Berkeley. Dr Moriarty is involved in the development of a software system called PHENIX for solving the structures of complex biological molecules. His role in the project is developing algorithms and software to handle the smaller molecules (ligands) that interact and complex with protein; for example, artificial insulin substitutes and HIV protease inhibitors. The software is applied to data derived from X-ray crystallography, a method of investigating biological processes at the molecular level. Until now, significant time and effort have been required to interpret these data. PHENIX will automate the data processing, greatly facilitating the determination of molecular structures. Dr Moriarty has authored or co-authored approximately thirty scientific publications.



Dr Nigel Moriarty

## Australian university positions

At least six Avondale science graduates hold teaching and research positions in Australian universities. **Associate Professor Colin Waters** (Avondale graduate of 1985) is engaged in cutting-edge research in space physics at the University of Newcastle (see page 5).

**Associate Professor Bruce Waldrip** (Avondale graduate of 1972 and 1973) is Associate Dean of the Gippsland campus of Monash University. His research interests include science education, the science laboratory and its relationship with learning outcomes, the effect of culture on student learning, education in developing countries, enhancement of learning via a literacy approach, teachers' and students' perceptions of their school environments, relationships between classroom environment and teacher confidence, and educational measurement. He has published over seventy refereed research papers, has presented over a hundred papers at national and international conferences, and has won research grants totalling more than two million dollars.



Dr David Geelan with his award-winning textbooks

**Dr David Geelan**, an Avondale graduate of 1988, is a senior lecturer in science education in the School of Education, University of Queensland. He is also Program Director of Middle Years Teacher Education at the university. His research interests include the ways in which science teachers explain ideas to students, the use of computer-based animations and other visual information in teaching science, philosophy of science, research methods in education, and educational technology and web-based teaching and learning. He has authored or co-authored several books and over forty refereed papers, and has attracted research grants totalling almost a million dollars. In 2009 he won an Australian Educational Publishing Award for his 'Science Ways' textbook series. Prior to his appointment to the University of Queensland he was associate professor of science education at the University of Alberta, Canada (2001-2006).

**Dr Ross Grant** (Avondale graduate of 1985) lectures in pharmacology in the School of Medical Sciences, University of New South Wales. He is also the Executive Director of the

Australasian Research Institute, located in Avondale's Faculty of Nursing and Health at the Sydney Adventist Hospital, with the objective of facilitating collaborative research in the health sciences. He has co-authored twenty refereed research publications in the fields of neuroscience, pharmacology, inflammation and adolescent health.

**Dr David Wilson** (Avondale graduate of 1996) is a senior lecturer in the Department of Chemistry, La Trobe University. His research focuses mainly on the use of computers to solve chemical and biochemical problems. Computer calculations are carried out to model molecular structures and properties and the energetics of chemical reactions.

**Dr Chris Hough** (Avondale graduate of 1979) is a lecturer in the School of Mathematical Sciences, Monash University.

## Industry and government

Other Avondale science graduates with PhDs have contributed significantly to Australian industry and government organisations. **Dr Richard Pearce** (BSc London at Avondale

1972; PhD Newcastle 1997) was a food research scientist with Sanitarium, and at the time of his death in 2002 was Quality Manager at Sanitarium's head office. **Dr Martin Hancock** (Avondale graduate of 1986; PhD Griffith 1996) taught biology at Avondale for some years and now manages waste water plants and catchment dams for the Tweed Shire in northern New South Wales. **Dr Ronald Van Moere** (Avondale graduate of 1997; PhD Twente, Netherlands 2002) is a quality assurance and process engineer at Modular Mining Systems on the New South Wales central coast.

## Early career research

Several Avondale science graduates are engaged in early career research. **Dr Sarah Norman** (Avondale graduate of 2001 and 2003) is currently doing postdoctoral research in Europe. **Lachlan Rogers** is doing PhD research in physics at the Australian National University; **Peter Ansell** is doing PhD research in information technology at Queensland University of Technology. Avondale is justly proud of the achievements of its science graduates.

# Avondale alumnus researches space physics

**Associate Professor Colin Waters**, an Avondale graduate of 1985, is engaged in cutting-edge research at the Centre for Space Physics, University of Newcastle, NSW.

Space physics is concerned with the near-earth space environment, which includes the ionosphere (approximately 100-1,000 km from earth) and the region from there to approximately 100,000 km out. These regions contain the satellites on which we depend for communications, the internet, weather forecasting, remote sensing of the composition of the atmosphere (e.g. ozone) and global positioning systems (GPS). If we are to commit billions of dollars worth of hardware to space, it is important to gain an understanding of the environment where this technology is to operate, which now has strategic importance for many countries.

Research in space physics is also important because the earth orbits in the outer atmosphere of the sun, and solar activity has significant impacts on earth systems. High-energy atomic particles from the sun bombard the near-earth space environment, especially during solar magnetic "storms", with many effects on earth technologies. This solar-terrestrial interplay is called "space weather".



Charged particles from the sun are a factor in the spectacular near-earth space event known as the aurora, seen in far north and south latitudes. Space physicists are also researching the many still-

Associate Professor Colin Waters at his computer

unsolved questions on how auroras are generated.

Scientists derive information about the near-earth space environment from satellites and from ground-based remote sensing instrumentation. The main data instrument is the magnetometer, which detects small variations in the earth's magnetic field due to space weather processes. Researchers also use radio technology, including data from twenty-four over-the-horizon radar systems in various parts of the world, including one at Bruny Island, Tasmania, one near Invercargill, New Zealand, and one under construction near Adelaide.

Associate Professor Waters is involved in a recent exciting development in which space scientists have partnered with commercial satellite operators to access scientific data via more than seventy commercial satellites giving superb coverage of near-earth space. The leading partners are the Boeing Company, Iridium LLC, the National Science Foundation (USA) and the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. Associate Professor Waters' involvement is through a ten-year research collaboration with the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory.

Scientists are using the satellite data to research auroral electric currents, including their intensity, location and dynamics. The data also reveal signatures of radiation that cause operational anomalies in satellites. The researchers use the experimental data to construct computer simulations predicting space physics processes in much the same way as computer simulations are used to predict earth surface weather.

Associate Professor Waters has developed computer simulations revealing the effects of ionosphere variations on earth-to-space signal transmission. This work has significant applications to data quality in global positioning systems (GPS) and in radio astronomy. Associate Professor Waters has published over seventy papers in space physics.

# Long-serving teacher honoured at Homecoming

Long-serving teacher **Erica Borgas** was honoured as the Outstanding Alumna of the Year at the 2010 Avondale Homecoming. Erica graduated from Avondale's primary teaching course in 1950, and then served in the classroom, mostly at Avondale School, over almost forty years. Even after retiring she continued to serve, teaching scripture classes at the Dora Creek and Wyee Public Schools. Her friendliness, graciousness, and willingness to help anyone, anywhere, are characteristics that now serve Erica well in her role as an elder and Sabbath School leader at Avondale Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church. Erica's former roommate at Longburn Adventist College and Avondale said, "She endeared herself to all. It seemed her mission was to leave every person she met much happier."

**Dr Tim Gorle** received special recognition for his lifelong contribution to Christian education and community service. After graduating from Helderberg College in South Africa, he accepted mission appointments in Zimbabwe, Uganda, and Kenya. He subsequently served as Education Director of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in East Africa, then as Principal of Solusi College (now Solusi University), Zimbabwe, and as Education Director of the then Trans-Africa Division. Dr Gorle served as Assistant Principal of Avondale College from 1979 to 1994 and as Acting Principal in the first half of 1989. After retirement he accepted responsibility as Director of the Cooranbong Community Services Centre, where he continues to serve as Secretary and Public Relations Officer.

Eight Avondale alumni, one from each honour year, also received citations at Homecoming: **Pearl Toepfer** (1940); **Pr John Lee** (1950), retired church administrator and educator; **Pr Richard Anderson** (1960), retired long-serving Adventist educator; **Pr Peter Roennfeldt** (1970), Adventist minister and church planter; businesswoman **Cornelia Szeszeran** (1980); musician **Peter Dixon** (1985); businessman **Stephen Chan** (1990); and Adventist minister **Pr Kylie Ward** (2000).

Leading Adventist evangelist **Pastor John Carter**, an Avondale graduate of 1961, presented the Sabbath sermon. Pastor Carter has preached the gospel of Christ around the world, with major programs in Russia, Africa, India, China, Australia, America and the Caribbean. In Russia more than 100,000 people have given their lives to God in response to his preaching. His television program, seen around the world, has brought many thousands more to Christ. "I caught the vision at Avondale College," he said. "There I was taught by lecturers whose lives inspired me to follow Christ. I will never forget the debt of grace I owe to this Christian institution of higher learning."

## Son of Jesse reveals creative talent

The Homecoming concert featured a high-quality performance of *Son of Jesse*, a musical drama on the life of King David jointly composed by Associate Professor Daniel Reynaud, dean of Avondale's Faculty of Arts, and Adrian Bell, an experienced choir conductor and composer. The production featured the Avondale Singers, Avondale Chamber Orchestra and sixteen actors and soloists. Seventeen-year-old Justin

Watson sang and acted the lead role of David with confidence and maturity. The contemporary relevance of the story was highlighted by screen clips of a TV newsreader announcing key developments in the narrative, with headlines streaming at the base of the screen. The producer and music director of the performance, Dr Robb Dennis, senior lecturer in music at Avondale, commented: "David is a multitalented individual who let leadership go to his head, but through some major blunders found his ultimate purpose, to be a tool in God's hands."

Next year's Homecoming, 26-28 August 2011, will feature students of each tenth year from 1931 to 2001, and students of 1986.



Erica Borgas (centre) with Alumni Association officers Jenny Hilder and Pr Desmond Hills.



Friends celebrate at Homecoming: (L to R) Fiona McClure, Jennine Dixon, Jody Cartan, Melanie Windus and Colin Crabtree.



"You are the man!" Nathan (Eldon Rosenberg) rebukes David in *Son of Jesse*

# Indigenous graduate named Young Alumnus of the Year

**Pastor Johnny Murison**, an Avondale theology graduate of 2004, was named Avondale College Young Alumnus of the Year in a forum assembly at the college earlier this year.

In a written message, Johnny challenged students to take risks for God. Recalling his appointment to ministry in Sydney, he said, "I'm a bushman and I was hoping I would get sent to the bush. Instead, the church sent me to the urban jungle. I knew I had to get out of my comfort zone," he said. He added, "When you take a risk you grow and your faith deepens. When you use your gifts and talents for God, he will take you places you have never been before."

The Young Alumnus of the Year Award honours outstanding professional achievement and excellence, innovative or inspirational leadership, or notable contribution to a humanitarian cause or commitment to service. Alumni aged thirty and under who have graduated five years previously are eligible for the award.

After graduating from Avondale, Johnny Murison was appointed as minister of the Mount Druitt Seventh-day Adventist Church in western Sydney and as Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ministries for the SDA Church in the Sydney region. He has developed into a powerful preacher, and the Mount Druitt church grew under his leadership. He was ordained in May 2010. In addition to his ministry for indigenous people throughout the Sydney region, he is now an associate minister of the Parramatta SDA Church, Sydney. Adventist Media Network has also appointed him as a support presenter for a new evangelistic DVD series called *Beyond Search*.

Early in his ministry, Pastor Murison helped establish a church plant called The Way for indigenous people in and around the inner-Sydney suburb of Redfern. Every Saturday a Sabbath School operates continuously from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm. People are free to drop in and out, some staying for the entire program. Lunch is provided for up to 150 people. Once a month there is an afternoon church service followed by an evening meal. The service is also broadcast to people who gather to listen outside. On Monday evenings a drop-in centre caters for some 50-80 people, with an evening meal, a computer room, and opportunities to talk and pray with staff. On Wednesday evenings staff provide numeracy and literacy tuition for kids of Redfern and surrounds, together with a cooking class, which becomes the evening meal for those who attend. This is followed by a games program. Pastor Murison organises Bible studies for interested contacts of The Way, and each year plans an evangelistic outreach in the form of a concert.

The centre conducts a strong community welfare program, providing clothing and furniture to needy people. Pastor Murison organises camps for older teens and young adults, with activities such as horseriding and four-wheel driving. An associate, Ted Moxon, runs camps for early teens.

The staff of The Way are assisted by volunteers from several Adventist churches and churches of other denominations. A number of local aboriginal people also assist. In 2011 ADRA

has agreed to fund a teacher to expand the numeracy and literacy program to three afternoons per week after school. However, additional suitably qualified helpers are urgently needed, even for as little as one evening per month. If you would like to help, please contact Pr Johnny Murison 0402 805 821 or Ted Moxon 0421 087 612.

Pastor Johnny Murison with participants known as "Aunty Val" and "Uncle Max" at The Way, Redfern.



Pamela Grove

Horseriding camp for indigenous teenagers.



Pamela Grove

## Four generations of Avondale graduates

**Ruby Ferris** (nee Chatman) commenced a long heritage of Avondale graduates. She and three succeeding generations of her descendants have graduated from secretarial/business administration courses at Avondale: Ruby in 1923, her daughter Marilyn (Davey/Peatey) in 1953, Marilyn's daughter Nerida (Richardson) in 1974, and Nerida's daughter Chantel in 2000.

Nerida Richardson also has an Avondale Master of Education degree (2001). Her husband Roy Richardson is an Avondale graduate as well: Diploma of Teaching (Applied Arts) 1979 and Bachelor of Education (Applied Arts) 1985. Their daughter Chantel has an Avondale Bachelor of Nursing degree (2003) in addition to her Certificate IV in Business (2000). Their son Clayton has an Avondale Bachelor of Education (2001) and Master of Education (2009).

Marilyn Davey's daughter Kaylene Mann graduated from Avondale in 1985 with a Diploma of Applied Science (Nursing). Marilyn's granddaughter Kayla Davey expects to graduate with an Avondale Bachelor of Nursing degree in 2010.



# Is the Seventh-day Adventist Church yet ready for social justice?

Harwood Lockton



*Edited extract of the Alumni Lecture delivered at Homecoming 2010. At the time of the lecture, Harwood Lockton was the Director, International Program, ADRA Australia.*

Social injustice is pervasive in all societies, whether at the level of individual households, within nations or between nations. In popular usage, and often within the Adventist church, the term “social justice” is loosely used to mean acts of compassion and social involvement as in delivering food parcels to needy persons in the local community or participating in

overseas fly ‘n’ build missions. In its more precise meaning, social justice is about justice being applied across society and implies advocating for those who have been wronged by society. It is this more precise meaning that is used here.

There is a sense that the Adventist church does not fully embrace even social involvement and compassion as legitimate parts of its mission, let alone social justice. Evangelism is given primacy and social involvement seems to be useful more for its public relations value. Zdravko Plantak, in his 1998 book, *The Silent Church: Human Rights and Adventist Social Ethics*, shows that in the nineteenth century the only non-self-interest public issue that Adventist leadership was willing to engage with was slavery. During the second half of the twentieth century the issues of race relations and women’s rights challenged the corporate church but primarily from the perspective of employment issues, not the concerns of the wider society. Has the Adventist church continued to be silent on social justice since Plantak’s analysis?

## The corporate church

In 2009 the General Conference released a revised mission statement of which the “Our Methodology” segment is of interest: “This calls the church beyond preaching and teaching to a ministry of *serving and acting*” on behalf of the poor and oppressed. This statement suggests that serving and acting are as integral and legitimate as preaching and teaching.

Periodically the General Conference issues “official statements” about social, theological and ecclesiological issues that have been approved and voted by church leadership. Of the sixty-one such statements issued since 1980, twenty-seven might be categorised as about social involvement and social justice and thirty-four categorised as ‘inward’ in orientation dealing particularly with lifestyle/behaviour and other church issues.

The comparatively limited number of social engagement statements published during Dr Jan Paulsen’s tenure must be balanced by his frequent and consistent calls for a greater engagement by the church in society. He argued in several publications, and notably the *Adventist World*, for the church

to work for social justice for the marginalised as it is a major concern of God.

At the 2010 General Conference Session, the church issued an official statement on global poverty. Of particular note is the language that moves the discussion from social involvement to social justice and human rights, including a call for advocacy and political action:

Working to reduce poverty and hunger means more than showing sympathy for the poor. It means advocating for public policy that offers justice and fairness to the poor, for their empowerment and human rights...

In early 2010, ADRA International and the Women’s Ministries Department of the General Conference jointly launched the “enditnow”® awareness-raising campaign to advocate for the end of violence against women and girls around the world, with the ambitious goal of presenting a petition with at least one million signatures to the UN Secretary General. For SDAs this was an unprecedented foray into social justice not seen for over a hundred years since the Adventist anti-slavery work of the nineteenth century.

## Biblical basis for social justice

There are over two thousand verses in the Bible that address poverty/wealth, oppression and exploitation. Yet until recently Christians in general, including SDAs, have missed such a large body of biblical material – Christians have been known to build whole doctrines on considerably less biblical material! Frequent attention has been given to the words translated as “righteous/ness” and “justice” in English language Bibles. In both the Old and New Testaments either word is valid though older translations with their preference for “righteous” rather than “justice” or “fairness”, have led us to miss the real intent of significant portions of Scripture. The Christian is called not only to acts of compassion but also social justice.

## Adventist basis for social justice

In addition, some uniquely Adventist beliefs contribute to a theology of social justice, notably the Sabbath, which is central to SDA identity. The Sabbath commandment calls us

- not to exploit our families, workers, migrants within our care, or our livestock,
- to remember that all humans have been created in the image of God and hence have equality (Exodus 20:11),
- to remember that God’s people were released from economic and social slavery and so everyone is free (Deuteronomy 5:15).

In addition to the weekly Sabbath, there were the Sabbatical Year – every seven years – and the year of Jubilee – every fiftieth year (Exodus 23: 10-12, Leviticus 25: 1-7, 8-54). These had radical social justice provisions with the land being rested

or fallowed, debts being released and slaves offered their freedom. These concerns with land, capital and labour are the foundations of all economic systems. It seems that the divine principles behind the sabbatical systems were to counter the acquisitive behaviour of some that amasses wealth and power at the expense of the many.

It is not without significance that the prophets and Jesus were strongly influenced by these concepts of social justice in the sabbatical system – his inaugural sermon was couched in Jubilee language. Isaiah and Amos both railed against the unjust practices of Sabbath keepers.

## Adventist ambivalence

Yet there is an ambivalence within official Adventism.

References to social involvement let alone social justice are only occasional in church papers. For example *Adventist World* has a regular feature, *Window into...* which outlines a featured country's basic history, geography, SDA presence and mission. Only rarely does mission include anything other than evangelism and baptisms, whether it be humanitarian activities or health care. Education institutions fare a little better.

So is the Seventh-day Adventist church yet ready for social justice? It would seem from the evidence surveyed that the answer is still no, despite several and possibly increasing voices. Even social involvement is not theologically and fully accepted as part of the church's legitimate mission in all quarters. Until that happens, social justice will be a fringe activity championed by a few biblical idealists.

# Online technologies enrich learning and teaching

## Dr Maria Northcote

Lecturers are using online technologies to extend the reach of Avondale education and to supplement traditional methods of learning and teaching. Online courses are becoming more and more common for Avondale's distance education students, while many other students study in a "blended" format in which on-campus activities are supplemented by online activities. A "blended" learning experience provides greater flexibility and choice for students, and prepares them for the future by guiding them in the use of learning and teaching technology.

Like many other educational institutions, Avondale uses the online learning system Moodle, developed in Australia. This system allows lecturers and students to *meet* online to access course material, learning activities and resources. Some activities are even conducted online, a feature especially popular with students who live a long way from our campuses.

Avondale lecturers are keen to continue the high quality teaching that already happens at the college, including the personal touch and pastoral care that characterise Avondale's education culture. Avondale is now working hard to extend these experiences to the online context – to maintain the traditional strengths of Avondale's teaching while equipping lecturers to teach in new and innovative ways.

In line with this strategy, four staff members – Dr Maria Northcote, Associate Professor Daniel Reynaud, Dr Peter Beamish and Tony Martin—conducted research in 2010

about online teaching at Avondale, in collaboration with Dr Kevin Gosselin of Texas Tech University, USA. The research aimed to find out the lecturers' current skills and concerns about online teaching; and to use these findings to assist staff to become skilled in online teaching and to provide a positive experience for students using online technologies in their learning. Dr Gosselin allowed the Avondale researchers to use a questionnaire that he had developed in 2009. The questionnaire was given to staff in two Avondale faculties to survey their ideas, their confidence levels and their concerns about online teaching. Dr Gosselin also helped analyse the data from the questionnaire.

So far, the research has shown that although lecturers may be concerned about using some aspects of online teaching technologies, they already have many of the baseline skills required to teach online. They already know how to structure courses and create valid assessment tasks, and are confident about transferring courses to online environments. They expressed concerns about how to select the best technology for teaching, how to make time to learn new skills, and how to use technology in purposeful ways. These concerns about technology are now being addressed in staff development programs through a series of workshops providing support resources, teaching guidelines and examples of good practice.

*The research was presented at the Third Biennial Threshold Concepts Symposium at the University of New South Wales, 2 July 2010, and at a staff colloquium at Avondale on 26 August 2010.*



Dr Maria Northcote



Associate Professor Daniel Reynaud



Dr Peter Beamish



Tony Martin



Dr Kevin Gosselin

# Avondale program engages with world needs

Brad Watson and John Cox

Avondale's Bachelor of Arts major in International Poverty and Development Studies (IPDS) engages students with world needs, equipping them for humanitarian service in organisations like the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).

Taught since 2000, the IPDS major has the distinction of being one of the first such courses established by Australian higher education providers. The major provides a broad overview of global humanitarian issues, including poverty, community empowerment, millennium development goals, ethical child sponsorship, orphan-care and HIV/AIDS. There is also a strong emphasis on environmental issues. Students graduate with a solid understanding of the history of foreign aid since World War II. A strength of the program is the potential for students to observe and participate in development work in another country as they study. Students and lecturers have travelled for this purpose to Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Nepal, Vanuatu and other countries.

## Relationship with ADRA

Students benefit from the close relationship between Avondale and ADRA Australia. Humanitarian service has become a well-respected part of Adventist endeavour, and Avondale's IPDS graduates are crucial to ADRA's global work.

**Darin Roberts**, an IPDS graduate of 2000, is Program Manager for International Programs, ADRA Australia, having previously administered ADRA programs in Sudan, Angola and Solomon Islands. He is responsible for ADRA's partnership programs in Papua New Guinea in cooperation with the development and aid organisations of other churches. Programs aimed at building capacity in the local people include upskilling of teachers and nurses, HIV testing, counselling and training in HIV awareness, training personnel to advocate on the issue of violence against women, and training government officials in leadership, management skills and accountability. Darin also has a management role in ADRA Australia's projects in Malawi, Zambia and Tanzania, including food security and agriculture projects, adult literacy programs, small business training for local community groups, and building capacity in community organisations to represent their needs to government.

**Ashleigh Finlay**, (pictured at right) who graduated in 2008, is ADRA Australia's Program Officer for Emergency Management, training key people in disaster preparedness and response, and helping to coordinate information when disasters strike. In 2009 she went to Sumatra to help coordinate ADRA's response to the earthquake in Padang. She is currently training trainers in the Pacific Islands for disaster preparedness and risk reduction.

**Brayden Howie**, who graduated in 2001, is Program Director in the ADRA Asia Regional Office. **Karmen Trajkov** (graduate of 2003) is Program Manager for ADRA Laos. **Stephen Tasker** (graduate of 2006) has been Program Manager for ADRA Myanmar (formerly Burma), and is currently under

appointment as the Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands Program Officer for Baptist World Aid Australia. **Cameron Reid** (graduate of 2006) worked with ADRA Pakistan and ADRA Sudan, and is currently with the international program at ADRA Australia. **Charlene Luzuk**, who graduated in 2007, is Program Manager for ADRA Solomon Islands.

Three recent Avondale graduates are currently employed in 2-year internships with ADRA: **Carly Fletcher** in Mongolia, **Krystle Praestiin** in Malawi and **Beryl Hartmann** in Nepal. Interns gain first-hand experience of ADRA project management, including proposal writing, budgeting, fundraising and direct participation in projects.

## Mongolia

**Carly Fletcher** has been involved in the ADRA Australia funded project Acting on Gender-violence Awareness through Peer Education (AGAPE), teaching young people about violence and how to deal with conflict situations. She has also run English training sessions for school children in the remote rural areas of Zavkhan province of north-west Mongolia. "I have seen many positive results during my time with ADRA Mongolia," she writes: "poor people able to start a small business as a result of a small loan, gardens growing in the desert, single mothers able to support their families because of a vocational skill they have learnt, young people able to solve conflicts in a way that does not involve violence, and more." One lady's story stood out for her in particular. "In Zavkhan province," she writes, "we visited this very poor woman in her ger (traditional felt house). Her husband had become sick and unable to work, which meant that she had to try and support their family, including six children. However, she had been given the opportunity to attend an ADRA vocational skills training course and had learnt to make felt products. Now she is able to support her sick husband and her children by making and selling these products. It was wonderful," Carly writes, "to see the joy in her eyes and the hope she now has for the future."



Ashleigh Finlay distributes aid to Sumatra earthquake victims.

## Nepal

**Beryl Hartmann** in Kathmandu has been partially involved with an ADRA Australia funded project providing leadership and good governance training to local district officials and community groups, particularly women. The trainees then create “challenge projects” addressing a need in their communities, such as a bridge or community farming, fundraising and locating resources and support from different sources. “I have seen amazing accomplishments the communities have succeeded in,” Beryl writes. “One woman saw the need of a proper bridge over a creek after her child fell from a narrow plank being used. After mobilising the community to raise funds, her cooperative group managed to build not only a bridge but also a picnic area by the river, a paved road connecting nearby villages and a new temple area.” Beryl has completed the gruelling 14-day trek to the Everest Base Camp to raise funds for the leadership project in which she has been involved. It is rewarding, she says, to be able to facilitate improvements in people’s lives by “helping people help themselves.”



Beryl Hartmann visits an ADRA community farming project in Nepal.

## Malawi

In Malawi, **Krystle Praestiin** is coordinating fundraising to provide clean, accessible water for villages, including one whose only source of water had been a contaminated river more than a kilometre away. Avondale students raised \$13,000 towards this project, which has so far provided boreholes for two villages. The new wells reduce disease and give many women time to go to work, start their own businesses, attend adult literacy classes or village savings and loans groups, instead of spending up to three hours per day carrying water. Krystle hopes to raise \$56,000 to construct and rehabilitate boreholes in six more villages.

Krystle has also been involved in an ADRA Australia project focused on capacity building of civil society groups as well as food security, health and nutrition. In this project she has seen village savings and loans groups working together to save money, enabling women to borrow to start small businesses and improve their households. Krystle has also been involved in an ADRA Sweden project focusing on gender equality, women’s empowerment, health, nutrition and food security. “These projects,” Krystle writes, “give communities a sense of pride and achievement and empower them to take actions to improve their own situations. I see the value of these activities every time I look at the smiles and glow of pride in people’s eyes.”

Other Avondale IPDS graduates are employed with Asian Aid, Compassion, CARE and AusAID (the Australian government’s aid agency).

In preparing students to engage professionally in the quest for social justice, the IPDS program has become a proud part of Avondale’s culture of service and altruism.



A savings and loans group in Malawi.



Drawing water from a new well in Malawi.

# High-level presenters enhance postgraduate coursework programs

Two high-profile international presenters extended the range of perspectives available to postgraduate coursework students attending Avondale's midyear residential school in July 2010.

**Dr James Osterhaus**, who taught the unit Marriage and Family Process in the Master of Ministry program, is a consultant psychologist in high demand in the United States on account of his extensive experience in helping individuals and organisations move through change, conflict and reorganisation. He has authored seven books and numerous journal and magazine articles. His co-authored books include *Thriving Through Ministry Conflict* and *Turning Organizational Blind Spots into Competitive Advantage*.

**Professor Richard Rice** of Loma Linda University, California, teamed with Avondale's Dr Steve Thompson to co-teach the unit Issues in Contemporary Theology. Dr Rice is Professor of Religion: Theological Studies at Loma Linda. He has authored or co-authored at least eight books, including *The Reign of God: An Introduction to Christian Theology from a Seventh-day Adventist Perspective*, and is widely respected for his scholarship.

One hundred and fourteen students, including Pacific Islanders, attended this year's midyear residential school, studying programs to masters level in education, leadership and management, theology, and ministry.

These programs are offered by distance education, with an intensive on-campus session of up to four weeks each July. Students typically take two or three units per year of the eight or twelve units in a masters degree. Masters honours programs have an extra four units, and may include a major thesis. A Master of Education Honours student is currently researching relationships between teachers' religiosity, spirituality and job satisfaction in two Christian school systems. Another is researching students' understanding of chemical bonding in Years 9-12 of secondary school. Avondale also offers a Master of Nursing program by coursework, with optional on-campus sessions arranged on the Sydney campus as needed to provide student support.

The 2010 midyear residential school on the Lake Macquarie campus offered a selection of sixteen units, including Christian Leadership in the Local Church, Pastoral Care and Counselling Skills, Health and Wellbeing Education, Leadership and Information Systems, and Introduction to Educational Research.

## Students from varied professional backgrounds

"Increasingly, coursework masters students are experienced professionals wishing to extend their qualifications and expertise," said Dr Peter Morey, the Distance Education Coordinator on the Lake Macquarie campus. This year's Leadership and Management students, for example, include several health professionals: a patient flow manager, a San College of Nursing coordinator, two nurse educators and a nurse unit manager.

The 2009 graduates from Avondale's Master of Ministry degree included New Zealand medical practitioner Dr Elizabeth Östring, who has now also enrolled in Avondale's Doctor of Philosophy program. "As a medical practitioner I really enjoyed the opportunity to study from a theological perspective," she said. "The Master of Ministry classes were immediately relevant to either my professional work or church activities." These have included membership of the South New Zealand Conference Executive Committee (1993-1995), the South Pacific Division Executive Committee (1995-2000), and the General Conference Executive Committee (2000-2005). "The most valuable aspect," she added, "was the encouragement to reflect on one's own work and be more focused in outreach." For her PhD she is exploring theologies of work, which she discovered (to her surprise) to have eschatological significance. "I am learning," she said, "that the Adventist recognition of the seventh-day Sabbath may result in a different approach to work than the commonly accepted Christian ones."

Glynn Slade is one of the numerous Avondale graduates who return to complete a further Avondale degree. Glynn Slade studied science at Avondale in 1965 and 1966, and then completed a degree in electronic engineering at the University of Technology Sydney. After working for some years on the family's ten-thousand-acre property, he established a highly successful automotive electrical and air conditioning business in Esperance, Western Australia, which he expanded over the next twenty-five years. In 2001 he graduated from Avondale's Master of Leadership and Management program, which he described as "very helpful in my business."

He has also been very much involved in church work, including service in Western Australia on the Conference Executive Committee and the Board of Management of Church Schools. After retiring from business in 2004 he accepted an invitation from the South Australian Conference to care for three churches. He later entered full-time ministry, and is currently pastoring The Grove and Trinity Gardens Churches in Adelaide. During this time he enrolled in Avondale's Master of Ministry program, from which he expects to graduate in 2010. "This program has been an absolute blessing in my ministry," he said.



Postgraduate students at the midyear residential school. (L to R) Pr Anthony Manu, Pr A J Grant, Diana Martinez, Pr Henry Manape.

Ann Stafford

# Student writers win recognition

## Student science research

Four Avondale students who researched the effects of alcohol on the body have had their paper published in the refereed journal *Christian Spirituality and Science*. Jodie Beecroft, Amanda Kemp, Sophie Lassila and Daniel Sheedy wrote the paper, "The biochemical and pathophysiological effects of alcohol consumption," as a research assignment in the unit Investigative Biochemistry. The lecturer, Dr Ewan Ward, was so impressed by the quality of the students' research and writing that he suggested the paper be further edited and submitted for publication. Instead of presenting lectures in this unit, Dr Ward uses a problem-based learning approach where students collaboratively write a paper on their research of a biochemical problem. "They learn a lot in the process about reading scientific literature, assessing scientific theories and editing scientific papers," he said.



Ann Stafford

From left: Dr Ewan Ward, Associate Professor Kevin deBerg, Sophie Lassila and Jodie Beecroft.

## Students contribute to new school curriculum

Four Avondale students who wrote curriculum units as assignments in their teacher education studies have had these units accepted for incorporation into the new Adventist Encounter Bible Curriculum. Adventist Schools Australia highly commended Ashlie Biega, Barbara Boucher, Gary Masters and Tessa Vogel (a graduate of 2009) for their work. Year 7 classes in five Adventist secondary schools responded well to trials of the initial units of the Encounter Curriculum in 2010. "We see it as a really powerful way to reach kids," said Dr Daryl Murdoch, Director of Adventist Schools Australia. The remaining units will be rolled out over the next four to five years.

## Avondale winners in *Ministry* essay contest

Avondale theology students were placed second and third in the latest *Ministry* magazine theology student essay-writing contest. Master of Ministry graduate Dr Elizabeth Östring won second place for an essay on the great controversy theme in Romans 11 that she originally wrote as a postgraduate coursework assignment in 2008. Janet Augustinsen, a



Ann Stafford

Dr Elizabeth Östring with the *Ministry* magazine containing her place-winning essay.

Bachelor of Theology/Bachelor of Ministry graduate, won third place with an essay that originated as an assignment on the leadership qualities of Jesus. Both Östring and Augustinsen are currently engaged in research towards a higher degree at Avondale.

## Creative writing anthology

Creative writers at Avondale have had their work published with leading Australian authors in an anthology launched at the college in October 2010. Senior lecturer in communication Carolyn Rickett initiated the production of *Wording the World* and edited the anthology with award-winning poet Judith Beveridge, a lecturer in the Department of English at the University of Sydney and editor of the literary journal *Meanjin*. The Australian publisher Puncher and Wattmann published the anthology.

## Would-be editor helps produce new book

Love of writing led Avondale student Kerry Arbuckle to an internship at the Signs Publishing Company, where she helped produce a book of stories entitled *Ordinary People – Generous God*, launched as a stewardship initiative in May 2010. Kerry, a final-year communication student, read, selected, organised and edited manuscripts submitted by writers from across the South Pacific. "She made a significant contribution in turning a stack of submitted stories – in a variety of formats – into a finished book," said Signs book editor Nathan Brown. "We are grateful for her efforts."



Ann Stafford

Kerry Arbuckle holds the book she helped produce.

## Former student launches second book

Trudy Adams, an Avondale graduate of 2007, launched her second book in October this year. *Judging Meghan* is a novel for young adults set in Australia in the Great Depression of 1931. The book is published by the Australian Christian publishing house Even Before Publishing, a division of Wombat Books.

# Connecting spiritually with generation Y

The power of Christ to make a difference in students' lives was movingly illustrated recently when students and other young adults shared their experience with God in the Avondale College Church. About a dozen participants had written on a large piece of cardboard a problem they had faced in their lives, and on the other side the difference God had made. One by one they walked onto the platform, showed the problem, then reversed the cardboard to reveal the change. Here is a sampling of what they wrote:

- A puppet of Satan/Free in Jesus
- Lost and searching/Found direction in Jesus
- No hope in life/Jesus is my hope
- Lukewarm and lost in depression/Transformed by Christ's love
- Committed to partying/Committed to serving
- In turmoil/@ peace



Ann Stafford

Pr Mark Craig, Associate Pastor of the Avondale College Church, prays as young adults witness to the change God has brought to their lives.

## Festival of faith

Students on both campuses have experienced powerful spiritual renewal during special Festival of Faith weeks in 2010. On the Sydney campus Pr Gilda Dholah-Roddy, a department director for the SDA Church in Sydney, spoke on the theme of "soul food". As a tangible response, students now run a regular mid-week prayer fellowship in the Sydney Adventist Hospital chapel. "Students here are quite open with their faith," said student spiritual leader Mareta Fong. "The Festival of Faith meetings gave them opportunity to share some of their faith journey."

On the Lake Macquarie campus, Pastor Stuart Tyner of La Sierra University Church, USA led students during first semester into a deeper understanding of and response to God's grace. The second semester Festival of Faith produced a powerful series entitled "The house that bears His name" by 2006 Avondale graduate Joanne Darby, resulting in 180 student responses, including nine requests for baptism and more than thirty requests for Bible studies. Chaplains and residence directors on both campuses are involved in Bible studies with students.

## Community building feeds spiritual growth



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Building community: students enjoy a laugh with Deirdre Hough, Director of Women's Residences on the Lake Macquarie campus.

Friendship, community events, service opportunities and empowering students to lead are keys to community building and spiritual growth in Avondale's residence halls.

Students respond to active spirituality experienced in relation to other dimensions of living. "Join it, do it, plan it, believe it, give it" – these statements are part of the "Live It" theme for the women's residences, applied in five key dimensions of living: community, health, education, spirituality and service. Each floor has a worship led by the student residence assistant responsible for that floor. In addition to corporate worships, students have initiated regular prayer fellowships on two days per week and Bible studies for both male and female students on two other days each week. Each floor of the women's residences arranges social activities, and the residence director, Deirdre Hough, regularly invites students to her home for social fellowship.

Small group worship and mateship are keys to spiritual development in the men's residence. Small groups meet for prayer and fellowship each Wednesday, and on Monday evenings the residents of each floor pray together, eat together and share their experience with one another. Each new student is paired with a more experienced student in a "buddy" system to provide friendship, guidance and support. "I haven't seen people that care as much as you," wrote one student on leaving the residence. "The people I have become friends with are for life."

About four hundred students regularly attend the Friday evening service, many remaining for drinks and fellowship afterwards. The student organisation Student Associated Ministries, working for the spiritual growth of fellow students, runs corporate worship each Tuesday evening. Several times per semester students particularly enjoy special worship programs in a social context (e.g. around a bonfire) organised by residence directors and student assistants. The College Church runs a café during the week to connect with day students. Each campus also provides support for international students.

## Service and spirituality

Generation Y responds to Christianity expressed in service. Each Friday afternoon students on the Lake Macquarie campus participate in the "Pick a Street" program – picking a street, knocking on doors until they find a person needing practical help, and then staying to do the job. The program opens opportunities for spiritual conversations, creates community goodwill, and strengthens connections between the student participants.

Most years more than a hundred students volunteer a week of their time to StormCo community service programs, which will be assisted in 2011 with a recently awarded \$5000 Commonwealth Government Volunteer Grant. Students from both campuses also volunteer each year for overseas service programs. In 2010 nine nursing students went to Atoifi Hospital in the Solomon Islands and six students ran evangelistic programs in Zimbabwe. Nursing students also support the Fox Valley Church in Wahroonga.

## Student leadership

The leadership of enthusiastic and capable student residence assistants is one of the most important factors in building community and spirituality. The residence directors and student residence assistants vision and plan together in preparation for the academic year. New residence assistants are trained in leadership, mentoring, connecting with generation Y, building community and spirituality, dealing with problem situations, legal and administrative issues, and care of the physical facilities. Such things help build functional residence environments congenial to student development.

## Pastoral care

The spiritual role models provided by staff are among the most important influences on student spirituality. The Christian friendship, pastoral care and guidance of committed staff complement the Christian Studies units taken by all students. These factors, together with the leadership of church pastors, chaplains, residence directors and other student services staff on both campuses, combine to build a positive spiritual atmosphere at Avondale.

# The Laredo heritage: four Avondale generations

## Larry Laredo

Jack Laredo arrived at Avondale in 1936. At the age of fourteen he had been sent as a state ward to live with a farming family in Tasmania. The family were Seventh-day Adventists, and Jack also became an Adventist. Working with George Burnside as a literature evangelist in Tasmania inspired him to attend Avondale. His three years at Avondale strengthened his faith and, significantly (since he had no relatives), provided lifelong friendships. He met and married Del Warden in 1939, and went on to develop a successful business in Sydney.

Jack's son Larry came to Avondale in 1957, where he too met his wife Ruby (Pike). Avondale confirmed their spiritual commitment and gave them a vision of the world's needs. Larry served as a literature evangelist for three years, worked in media for twelve years, then accepted a call to full-time ministry in 1981. He was ordained in the Avondale College Church in 1986. As he and Ruby moved about in ministry, Ruby was variously employed with the Signs Publishing Company, Sanitarium, and the Sydney and Auckland Adventist Hospitals.

Their two children both attended Avondale, their daughter Jenny (Hilder) graduating from the Business Studies Audio course in 1982, and their son Grant graduating with a Diploma of Applied Science (Nursing) in 1986. Jenny Hilder is currently the Vice President of the Avondale Alumni Association.



Larry and Ruby Laredo

Jenny's daughter Kelly graduated

from Avondale in 2005 with a Certificate II in Business. Grant's daughter Rosanna expects to graduate in 2010 with a Bachelor of Education (Secondary) majoring in personal development, health and physical education. Grant's son Daniel is at Avondale studying for a Bachelor of Arts degree with specialisation in music. Rosanna and Daniel believe they have made the right decision to continue the family tradition preparing for service at the same place where their grandfather studied seventy-five years ago.

"I would not give up my four years at Avondale for anything," Rosanna writes. "The experience has shaped my character hugely and strengthened my relationship with God in a very satisfying way. Without the influence of my parents and my extended family in encouraging me to go to Avondale, I may have missed such an enriching and blessed time in my life."



Larry and Ruby Laredo with members of their extended family.



# Alumni Prayer Garden

to remember those who have died while at Avondale



Photo courtesy of Warrellen

The **Avondale College Alumni Association** invites you to honour those who have died while serving as a staff member or studying as a student at Avondale College.

The association will place their names on a wall in a soon-to-be created **Alumni Prayer Garden**.

Please provide:

- The name of the deceased staff member or student
- The year of death
- A brief statement about the cause of death
- A brief statement about the deceased staff member or student's contribution to Avondale

**GIVING OPPORTUNITIES**—Avondale College is seeking the following donations to make the Alumni Prayer Garden as memorable as possible:

\$7000—fountain   \$3000—marble wall   \$3000—landscaping   \$2000—paving  
Other donations would also be appreciated. Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.



Contact **Lorin Bradford**, Director of Advancement, Avondale College; Phone: +61 2 4980 2294;  
Email: [advancement@avondale.edu.au](mailto:advancement@avondale.edu.au) to make your donation. Thank you for your support.