



Dear Friend:

Final exams have been completed, course grades have been posted and more than 60 graduates earned associate degrees last month! Perhaps more excitingly, the number of graduates this spring represents a 54% increase over the Class of 2015! In addition, 22 of these students earned Latin honors during the commencement ceremony.

Aflac President Paul S. Amos, II, delivered the commencement address, and I had the pleasure of awarding longtime benefactors Elizabeth Ogie and Emily Jean McAfee with honorary doctorates. Also, Professor Amanda Knight was presented with the Exemplary Teacher Award, and Cara Tafoya, an honorary graduate, received the Andy Award for Scholarship.

While the brisk pace of a closing semester has temporarily subsided, we are quickly preparing for our on-campus and online summer students. We will also host seven Tiger Camps throughout the summer months. These camps offer special programming for students in our community and range from swimming lessons to academic activities.

We'll be hosting an Atlanta-area alumni event at the home of Tom Aderhold '69 and Kay Musselwhite Aderhold '68 on June 4. And later in the month, from June 8 until June 11, AndrewServes Scholars will attend South Georgia Annual Conference in Tifton and provide refreshments for conference attendees.

Behind the scenes, a cadre of faculty, staff and administrators will be pursuing the next steps to launch our regenerative agriculture and nursing programs. Indeed, the month of June is already shaping up to be an exciting time for Andrew College and family of supporters, and I look forward to sharing positive news of our progress throughout the summer months ahead. As always, thank you for your continued engagement.

Sincerely,

Linda

CAMPUS NEWS



Nursing Program Gains Key Approval

After reviewing a faculty- and board-approved application for developmental status and a professional feasibility study, the Georgia Board of Nursing recently accepted and approved Andrew College's plans to develop a nursing degree, edging the proposed program one step closer to launch. In addition, the Atlanta-based regulatory agency's

decision clears the way for College officials to secure the remaining approvals required to unveil a fully accredited associate degree program focused on nursing.

Andrew College plans to launch Georgia's newest nursing program in the fall of 2017 pending additional approvals from both the Georgia Board of Nursing and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). Director of Nursing Debra Hairr said, "This is just one of many steps in the process of initiating a nursing program, but it's one of the hardest." Hairr also thanked a dedicated faculty and board of trustees for their willingness to invest in this new venture.

The forthcoming nursing program, along with the pending launch of a new regenerative agriculture program this fall, represents efforts to reestablish Andrew College as a regional beacon of education, culture and spirituality across Southwest Georgia.

Both initiatives reflect President Linda Buchanan's efforts to enrich the College's local community, reaffirming a commitment to "offer academic programs that will not only be regionally relevant but also attractive to students who want to return to their communities and make a difference."

Williams Named Athletic Director

President Linda Buchanan announced Tuesday, May 10, that she would permanently name Interim Athletic Director Blake Williams to lead the College's athletic programs. Williams has served as interim director since January 1, 2016, when then-director Edith Smith, Ph.D., retired.

More than 120 student-athletes called the Andrew College campus home during the 2015-2016 academic year. As athletic director, Williams will oversee a department of seven sports, including women's volleyball, men and women's soccer, women's basketball, men's golf, softball and baseball. He will also manage six head coaches, a facilities coordinator and sports information director, an athletic training program, an assistant athletic trainer and two assistant coaches. In addition to these new responsibilities, he will continue serving as head coach for the Fighting Tigers men's baseball team.



Williams is a graduate of Emmanuel College, where he was a four-year starter, primarily as an infielder. He has been at Andrew College for the past seven years, serving as the head baseball coach for five seasons. A total of 50 players have signed scholarships with four-year institutions during his tenure, including a record haul of 13 signees from the most recent season. For more information about Williams and the Andrew College baseball team, visit <https://www.andrewcollege.edu/ZkG>.



Boensel Named Music Director

In a May 27 campus email, Interim Dean of Academic Affairs Dick McCallum, Ph.D., announced that Marc Boensel, DMA, will join the Andrew College fine arts faculty in the fall of 2016. Boensel currently lives in the nearby city of Albany, where he has been teaching at Darton State College since 2012. He also directs Porterfield Memorial United Methodist Church's music ministries.

A professional oboist by trade, Boensel has spent much of his career working with bands, orchestras and choruses in California, Maryland and Virginia. Prior to joining the Darton State faculty, he held faculty positions at American University in Washington and Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold, Md. His performance tenure includes more than 20 years in Navy and Air Force bands throughout the US.

Additionally, he founded the Annapolis Wind Symphony in 1999. A professional symphonic band and philanthropic organization, it has raised more than \$14,000 for charities in the mid-Atlantic region since its founding. His involvement with AWS and other charitable organizations earned him an American Red Cross Distinguished Fundraiser Award in 2005 and a Community Champions Award from Sandy Spring Bank in 2006.

Boensel holds a Bachelor of Music from California State University–Fullerton, a Master of Music from San Diego State University and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Maryland at College Park.

Hallman Pens Second Book

The College's endowment, which helps fund the College's operations and student scholarships, closed fiscal year 2015 at \$10,341,205, marking an increase over previous years. The fund's continued growth highlights wise investments from the board endowment committee, which is chaired by trustee Malon Wickham.

By many standards, the fund has experienced better returns than those of peer organizations. According to the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO), for example, endowments smaller than \$25 million typically enjoy returns of 2.3% in a single year. Andrew College's returns for the same time period are 3.77%. Additional, NACUBO finds three-year returns to enjoy a 9.9% rate, five-year returns to enjoy a 10.6% rate and 10-year returns to enjoy a 6% rate. The College's return rates are at 10.04%, 9.59% and 6.24% for each of those categories, suggested a well-managed investment profile.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Classes Begin

June 2

Atlanta-Area Alumni Event

June 4

4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Home of Tom and Kay Aderhold

South Georgia Annual Conference

June 8 – 11

UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center