

23 November 2015

Dear Alumni and Friends,

One of the great academic mentors in my life passed away this past March, two months shy of his 86th birthday. Professor Ray ("Doc") Hefferlin, a physicist at Southern Adventist University, mentored many undergraduate research students who went on to graduate and professional school. He was highly active in research, publication, and presentation until Friday, March 6, and he passed away the next day, on Saturday, March 7. His research was known internationally, especially in Russia. Last summer, Doc's final research student, Joshua Barrow, finished up the paper we were coauthoring and is now working on a PhD in Physics at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Doc's artist daughter Melissa painted a portrait of him holding a model of his periodic table of diatomic molecules. A framed print of that pastel painting hangs in my office at Andrews University. When I look at Doc each day, I remember what a difference mentoring makes in the lives of young people.

To give our students the best education and preparation possible, we faculty must be well-known and well-networked in our research communities, and we must include our students in our research activities. It is important for us to take our students to conferences to present their research. We have each year to find funds to continue this work. I feel called to help support undergraduate/faculty research, please note that there is a research fund enclosed slip. We also appreciate your contributions to the Specht and Jones scholarships, and we always greatly appreciate donations to the discretionary fund. Your gifts make a lot of difference to our department. For your convenience, you may donate online (see URL on enclosed giving slip).

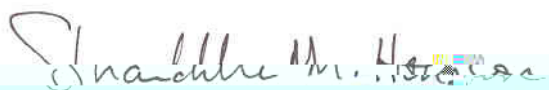
Finally, I am excited to announce that Dr. Lynne Weldon will be chair as of May 1, 2016. This is a great department with wonderful colleagues, and I have enjoyed chairing. I am anxious, however, to get back into the classroom and spend more time mentoring research students. As a department we will press on in our mission of excellence for the sake of Christ through teaching, research, and service under the leadership of Dr. Weldon.

Please send us your alumni updates for the 2016 letter; I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers over a blessed Advent season and a Merry Christmas! As the hymn says,

Where meek souls will receive Him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

Sincerely,



Shandelle M. Henson
Chair