

## Atlantic Union College Professor Wins National Recognition

Within the community of Seventh-day Adventist colleges, Dr. Otilie Stafford, chairman of the English department at Atlantic Union College, South Lancaster, Massachusetts, has earned the respect of her colleagues, the admiration of her students, and the gratitude of the college and church she serves so well. Her worth, however, has been recognized far beyond the scope of Adventist education.

The July/August 1986 issue of *Change* magazine lists Otilie Stafford as one of only 280 educators across the United States to be honored by the Association for Higher Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. This select group's energy and commitment reflect the conviction that their responsibilities have "significance in contexts that extend far beyond themselves." They are faculty who truly make a difference.

Stafford's contributions to higher education, her church, and community are many and diverse. The author of many scholarly articles, she finds herself in demand as a speaker for commencements, women's organizations, and English associations. She recently served on the SDA hymnbook committee, which produced a hymnal largely devoid of sexist language, a blending of the best of the old and new in hymnology. She was a member of the bicentennial committee for the town of Lancaster, Massachusetts. She developed the Honors Core program at AUC, which has been saluted as one of the two best in the nation by an assistant professor at Susquehanna University who studied such programs in more than 175 liberal-arts colleges. She developed a unique Adult Degree Program at AUC and directed it from its inception in 1972 until the fall of 1986.

Impressive as these accomplishments are, however, one cannot fully appreciate Otilie Stafford without having sat in her classroom. There is an intensity and excitement there. Her questions strip away the veneer of preconceived ideas and stock answers and force the learner to probe the unfamiliar territory of original thinking. Her comments challenge the student to learn, to stretch, to embark on a journey whose ultimate (if elusive) destination is truth.

Says *Change* magazine,

Among these distinguished faculty [those selected by the



Dr. Otilie Stafford

AAHE and the Carnegie Foundation] are some of the leading entrepreneurs in American higher education, recipients of prestigious awards and major grants—innovators every one; they are a diverse group, registering notable achievements in a wide variety of fields. The common elements that merge from [their] reflective statements, are, however, the joys of teaching and an ongoing life of learning.

After 36 years in higher education, Stafford has not lost her enthusiasm for teaching or her zest for learning. She has formed some perceptive ideas about education and the role she plays in it. In her words,

Today's college students, their parents, and to an extent, some of their teachers talk about education as a product to be purchased, which should be planned to please its customers. There is just enough of a truth to the idea to make it an attractive statement. But there is an important difference between manufacturing refrigerators and structuring education, and it lies in the power to change lives that learning carries.

It is that power that keeps me and my colleagues in a profession that has more than its share of frustrations. To see the face of a student who has grasped an idea that changes her view of life, or that illuminates an area that was clouded, is enough of a reward to carry a discouraged teacher through weeks of drudgery. To feel the excitement of a discussion discovering new combinations of facts and ideas and opening up whole new areas for exploration is enough to carry one through a semester, or a year, or even a decade. To be a part of a world where the quality of mind matters is a joy. To

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see young people or adults reentering college being changed by such a world is an act of grace.

And to be a part of an institution's self-assessment that is constantly searching for something better makes the manufacture of refrigerators seem inconsequential. I feel honored and blessed to have been part of such a profession for so many years. I also feel most grateful to my students and to my colleagues from whom I have learned much and by whom I have been changed much.

Atlantic Union College considers itself privileged to have had Otilie Stafford on its faculty over the past years. A teacher of her quality validates the Adventist educational system while personifying all that is admirable in an educator.—Ruth Brand.

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*Ruth Brand is Publicity Coordinator for Atlantic Union College, South Lancaster, Massachusetts.*

## **Columbia Union College Students Offered Employment by the Internal Revenue Service**

The Columbia Union College business department has formed an agreement with the Internal Revenue Service that will create more jobs for CUC business majors.

The IRS has offered to employ every qualified CUC business student through CUC's cooperative-education program. Students will work in the IRS departments of personnel, accounting, and training/auditing, and will receive salaries as well as cooperative-education credit. In addition, they will get full-time employee benefits, including life and health insurance, sick leave, and vacation time.

"Through this relationship with the IRS, CUC students will gain valuable real-life business experience," says Bob Burnette, CUC business department chairman. "They will also earn excellent wages, making it easier for them to finance a Christian education."—Barbara H. Suddarth.

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*Barbara Suddarth is Associate Director of Public Relations at Columbia Union College, Takoma Park, Maryland.*

## **Assistant Dean at LLU Cited as Outstanding Academic Advisor**

Iris M. Landa, assistant dean of students on the La Sierra Campus at Loma Linda University (Riverside, California), was one of nine persons honored as outstanding academic advisors in the 1986 National Recognition Program for Academic Advisors.

*Iris M. Landa*



The program is sponsored jointly by the American College Testing Program and the National Academic Advising Association. Mrs. Landa was named outstanding academic advisor in Region 9, which includes California, Hawaii, and Nevada.

Established in 1983, the awards program is designed to honor individuals and institutions making significant contributions to the improvement of academic advising on college campuses, and to disseminate information about these award-winning activities to other professionals in the field.

Mrs. Landa was born in Sale, Australia. She received her diploma of elementary education at Avondale College, and then earned a bachelor's degree in liberal arts and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction at Loma Linda University. She taught at the primary and secondary levels before assuming her current position at the university.—From the Loma Linda *University Observer*, November 25, 1986. □