2015 Research at Andrews

Andrews University

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The Siegfried H. HORN Excellence in Research and Creative Scholarship Award was established in 2011 in honor of biblical archaeologist Siegfried H. Horn. Horn served as the dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, founded what is now the Siegfried H. Horn Archaeological Museum, directed the first Heshbon expeditions at Tall Hisban, Jordan, and established the journal “Andrews University Seminary Studies.” The award recognizes lifetime achievement in research and creative scholarship among faculty members at Andrews University. One recipient is selected annually from each of four disciplinary areas based on their scholarly productivity over the previous five years, and are presented at the annual faculty/staff awards ceremony in March.

The 2015 recipients of the Siegfried H. Horn Excellence in Research and Creative Scholarship Award are Carla Trynchuk, professor of music, for Arts, Humanities and Education; James Hayward, professor of biology, for Pure and Applied Sciences; Andrew von Maur, professor of architecture, for Professional Programs; and Wagner Kuhn, professor of world mission, for Religion and Theology.

Carla Trynchuk, violinist and string area coordinator at Andrews University, is a sought-after guest artist and scholar for violin master classes. James Hayward, co-leader of the Seabird Ecology team at Andrews University, is widely published in the area of behavioral ecology. Hayward’s research has been featured in the 2010 and 2012 editions of “Research and Creative Scholarship.” Andrew von Maur, director of the architecture program’s European Study tour, has extensive charrette experience as a lead designer of traditional urban places, and has received a number of awards for his work with his Urban Design Studio students. Von Maur’s scholarship is featured in this issue of “Research and Creative Scholarship.” Wagner Kuhn is an expert in training missionaries for outreach in non-Christian countries. He conducts extensive workshops around the world in addition to publishing a number of articles and books.

The second annual Andrews Research Conference, “Early Career Researchers in the Social Sciences,” was held at Andrews University from May 13–17, 2015. Participants were undergraduate and graduate students, early career faculty, and senior faculty engaged in Social Sciences research. Attendees from the United States, Mexico, the Netherlands and Nigeria gave presentations in the areas of communication, community and international development, leadership, psychology, and social work.

The conference was sponsored by the North American Division Office of Strategic Planning and Assessment; the General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics and Research; the Adventist Human Subjects Researchers Association; the Andrews University Office of Research & Creative Scholarship; and the Andrews University Departments of Behavioral Sciences, Communication and Social Work.

Christian Smith, William R. Kenan Jr. professor of sociology and director of the Center for the Study of Religion and Society at the University of Notre Dame, gave the keynote address on Thursday on the “Science of Generosity.” Smith addressed the question, “how might empirical social research and Christian faith commitment relate to each other?” In particular, he discussed the nature of generosity: who is generous, what makes people generous and why.

Following the oral presentations on Thursday and Friday, attendees participated in weekend activities, which included vespers and a tour of the Siegfried H. Horn Archaeological Museum. They enjoyed the opportunity to meet with other researchers in varying stages of research, building friendships and potentially forming collaborations for future research. “I appreciate the opportunity to network with other Adventist researchers and to see all the exciting things they are doing around the world. I think there are several opportunities for collaboration,” said Shannon Trecartin, PhD student in Social Work at the University of Tennessee.

Andre Staal, a lecturer at Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences, said he liked the fact that the conference provided “a platform where we can share ideas, thoughts and research with fellow scholars and researchers. Knowing that you are not alone in doing research that supports the church mission is a huge benefit, especially if you come from a country or area of the world with little to no Adventist universities or academic supporting networks.”

Danjuma Daniel, who is completing a doctorate in Public Health at Loma Linda University, remarked that he “enjoyed every aspect of the program, especially the diversity in the presenters and presentations.”

The third annual Andrews Research Conference will be held from May 4–8, 2016, with a focus on early career researchers in the humanities. Adventist graduate students, post-docs, and early career faculty in the humanities (art, English, history, religion, music, etc.) are invited to present. More information can be found at andrews.edu/research/arc.