

3-2015

RMES Prepares Materials for VBS in the Dominican Republic

Willyta Ruiz-Wamack
Ruth Murdoch Elementary School

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Recommended Citation

Ruiz-Wamack, Willyta, "RMES Prepares Materials for VBS in the Dominican Republic" (2015). *Lake Union Herald*. 60.
<https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/luh-pubs/60>

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The biotechnology program professors aim to produce professionals who have not only knowledge in the field of biotechnology but also skills in communication technology, interdisciplinary teamwork and ethical use of biotechnology information and techniques.

Andrews University announces new biotechnology program

Michigan—Starting fall semester 2015, the Departments of Biology and Chemistry & Biochemistry at Andrews University will offer a joint program in biotechnology. Biotechnology involves the use of living organisms and biological materials in the development of useful products.

One example of biotechnology is the production of human insulin by genetically-engineered bacteria, developed by Genentech in 1982, something

from which many diabetics benefit to this day.

“Over the last 10–20 years, particularly since the development of DNA sequencing technologies, the biotechnology industry has grown dramatically,” says Peter Lyons, assistant professor of biology. “There is a great need for people trained in the techniques of biotechnology, as well as other skills such as communication and teamwork that are necessary to do science well.”

The biotechnology faculty will consist of a mix of professors, representing the Departments of Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering and Agriculture. Their goals for the program are to produce professionals who have not only knowledge in the field of biotechnology but also skills in communication, technology, interdisciplinary teamwork and ethical use of biotechnology information and techniques.

“Here at Andrews, we have the benefit of a strong culture of research and a wide spectrum of academic interests,” says Lyons. “This program will be unique in its interdisciplinary nature and its clear aim to develop practical skills that can be applied in the job setting.”

Biotechnology students will conclude their study track with a required internship or research experience. Administration believes this program will address a critical need within a significant segment of the current student population at Andrews.

“A large number of jobs exist for bachelor’s degree-trained workers,” says Lyons, “something that Andrews University does well.”

For more information about this new program, contact Peter Lyons or Dave Nowack, program directors. Lyons can be reached at 269-471-6168 or lyons@andrews.edu. Nowack can be reached at 269-471-6065 or nowack@andrews.edu.

Founded in 1874, Andrews University is the flagship institution of higher education for the Seventh-day Adventist Church and offers more than 200 areas of study including advanced degrees. Its main campus is in Berrien Springs, Mich., but the University also provides instruction at colleges and universities in more than 19 countries around the world.

Becky St. Clair, media communications manager, Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication, Andrews University

RMES prepares materials for VBS in the Dominican Republic

Michigan—Students at Ruth Murdoch Elementary School in Berrien Springs daily learn not only the core courses, but the most important aspects of education: mission and service. The school’s mantra can be read on its website: “Mission and service projects give young scholars an opportunity to reach out to their community with a helping hand, spread the joy of Christian living with neighbors, and share Jesus with their world.”

Deborah Park, sixth-grade teacher, wanted to be part of the Andrews



Deborah Park and her sixth-grade class prepared vacation Bible school materials for Andrews Academy students to use in the Dominican Republic during Christmas break.

Academy mission trip to the Dominican Republic during Christmas break. However, she could not do so because of her work schedule. Nevertheless, this did not stop Park from being a part of the trip. She and her students prepared all the craft materials for the vacation Bible school others would lead while on the mission trip. “When I

asked them to help me, they responded wholeheartedly,” said Park.

By working together, Park and her class prepared materials for the Andrews Academy students to use as they taught 100 to 115 children daily. When the class finally finished and bundled the 1,000 craft projects, they prayed one last time before handing everything over to the academy team. Prayers continued for the team and VBS program.

“I will invest my all into saving children, so their whole life can be used for the Kingdom. This project was as much for my students as those children overseas. I want my students to experience the joy of service for God from early on,” said Park.

Willyta Ruiz-Wamack, assistant to the principal, Ruth Murdoch Elementary School