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Andrews celebrates Black History Month

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Event to honor George Knight

Known to many as writer, teacher, pastor and friend, George Knight continues to touch lives and create an indelible legacy both within and outside of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. To recognize his prolific career, Knight will be honored at a special event on the campus of Andrews University at the end of April.

Nearly a decade ago, after 42 years of service to the Church, Knight retired. Thirty of those years were spent at Andrews University, and his story there includes chapters as professor of educational foundations and church history, and editor of Seminary Studies. During this time, Knight continued to author numerous articles and books.

“As one reads George's books, history comes alive and you feel a desire to be a part of that history,” shares Ranko Stefanovic, professor of New Testament at Andrews. “I have always been particularly impressed with his ability to bring his scholarship down to the ground and make it understandable to both the informed reader and the people in the pew.”

Knight is recognized by Adventists and theologians, across the world, for his work as a church historian and writer. He has authored and edited over 30 books, many of which have been translated into several languages, including German, Italian, Spanish, Russian and Korean. One of the most well-known is Philosophy and Education, written in 1982 and still widely-used by Christian educators across North America.

“As he studied Adventist educational philosophy, Knight soon realized that the educational initiatives of the church are bound up with its history and theology,” says John Matthews, professor of religious education and educational foundations at Andrews. “George Knight the Adventist educator became George Knight the Adventist scholar, a leading thinker in three major domains: denominational education, history and theology.”

A special event to honor Knight will be held at Andrews on Tuesday, April 21, at 11:30 a.m. in the Seminary Chapel. It will feature the presentation of a festschrift titled, Adventist Maverick: A Celebration of George Knight’s Contribution to Adventist Thought, tributes by the editors, and a response from Knight. All are welcome.

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In February, Andrews University celebrated Black History Month. Black History Sabbath featured special guest speaker Michael B. Kelly II, senior pastor of the Mt. Rubidoux Adventist Church in Riverside, Calif. Kelly received his M.Div. from Andrews University in 2003, and is now a certified trainer for Vital Smarts, providing leadership training and team building for churches and businesses across the country.

The University also hosted two screenings of “Selma,” a 2014 film starring David Oyelowo and Tim Roth. It depicts Martin Luther King Jr.’s campaign to secure equal voting rights through an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., in 1965. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 already had desegregation legal, but discrimination was still extensive. King led a march that culminated in Lyndon Johnson, then president of the U.S., signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

For information about upcoming cultural events at Andrews, visit http://www.andrews.edu/events.