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Building Our Future: New leadership Minor at Andrews

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Building our future: New leadership minor at Andrews

“Everyone is called upon for acts of leadership,” says David Ferguson, director of the undergraduate leadership program at Andrews University. “We tend to label people who do it frequently or who are in certain positions as ‘leaders,’ but those labels are misleading in terms of effect. Our goal is to teach students to take advantage of the leadership opportunities they’re given, regardless of whether they’ll be labeled ‘leader’ by society or not.”

Four years ago, Andrews University began offering a leadership certificate, with the intention of scaling that up, at some point, into a minor. Andrews is now offering that minor, which includes the certificate requirements and adds three specific classes. Students of any discipline may take Creative Problem-Solving, Theories of Leadership, or Introduction to Coaching.

“College is a hinge-point,” says Enoc Lopez, instructor of leadership. “The leadership program gives them techniques to drive how they relate to others and how they choose to build their characters.”



Christa McConnell

Enoc Lopez (left) facilitates discussion between the students in his Intro to Coaching class. Part of the new leadership minor, this class prepares students to enter any circle wherever they are and help others around them work to reach their full potential.

In the spring of 2013, Andrews awarded its first leadership minor to Claudia Allen, an English major. Each student chooses a project and works closely with an adviser to bring their vision to fruition. Allen’s Change Project (a required final assignment for leadership minors) was to work with the Departments of English and History to institute an African American Studies Interdisciplinary Minor.

“These classes aren’t just for those who plan on being CEOs or pastors,” says Ferguson. “They offer young people the skills they need to navigate the world and

to understand the influence they bring to any situation.”

Housed within the School of Education’s Department of Leadership, the program looks for ways to dovetail with others whenever possible. They build on the foundation that other major disciplines establish.

“We’re hoping how we equip these students makes each one a different person than they otherwise would be,” say Ferguson. “We want them to be better spouses, better community members, better parents, better parishioners and better employees in ways not easy to calculate.”

Lopez and Ferguson encourage all students to take just two credits in leadership courses so they can learn the basics to build on what they’re already doing. Students who do this frequently choose to work toward a certificate or minor anyway, because they see significant value in what they are learning.

“Once they get into our classes, students often start to realize who they are,” says Ferguson. “That morphs into a realization of who God wants them to be. And *that* is our mission here.”

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

Paddock hired as interim Gymnics coach

Eric Paddock has been hired as the interim Gymnics coach for the 2013–2014 school year at Andrews University. Paddock holds an associate’s degree in pre-physical therapy, and a bachelor’s degree in sport studies with a concentration in human performance from Southern Adventist University.

With a background as boys director at two youth summer camps and coaching in the Gym-Kids Gymnastics Program in Collegedale, Tenn., Paddock brings excellent experience in leadership, coaching and team-building to his new role.

“We are committed to doing everything within our power to ensure the



Darren Heslop

Eric Paddock

Gymnics team has a successful and rewarding year under the leadership of Mr. Paddock,” says Emmanuel Rudatsikira,

dean of the School of Health Professions where the Gymnics program resides.

Paddock began coaching on Sept. 15, and will lead the Gymnics team for the entire school year, during which time the School of Health Professions will coordinate the search for a permanent coach.

“I’m very honored and excited to have this opportunity to become a member of the Gymnics family,” says Paddock. “The tradition of Adventist gymnastics is rooted deeply at Andrews University, and I aim to continue the pursuit of excellence here with the help of God, the University and the community. We appreciate your prayers as we endeavor to positively affect our community throughout the year.”

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