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12-2013

Students and Faculty Raise Awareness about Depression

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Recommended Citation

Ravell, Eloise, "Students and Faculty Raise Awareness about Depression" (2013). *Lake Union Herald*. 237.
<https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/luh-pubs/237>

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Hyveth Williams

Charles Bradford speaks at H.M.S. Richards Lectureship, hosted Oct. 26–28 by the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary.

Charles Bradford speaks at H.M.S. Richards Lectureship

Powerful. This is how Hyveth Williams, professor of Christian ministry, describes the 2013 annual H.M.S. Richards Lectureship on Biblical Preaching, hosted Oct. 26–28 by the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary.

Co-sponsored by the *Adventist Review*, the North American Division pastoral

team and the School of Graduate Studies & Research at Andrews University, the event featured renowned speakers Charles Bradford, author and former Union president, General Conference secretary and North American Division president; Adrian Craig, retired Greater Sydney Conference president; Bill Knott, editor and executive publisher of the *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World* magazines; and R. Clifford Jones, author, pastor, and associate dean and professor of Christian ministry at the Seminary.

Bradford's presentation, "Save the Rain Forest," emphasized the importance of the rain forests as they provide water for the whole Earth, prompting so many projects, organizations and efforts to save them.

"Bradford posited that the small churches in the Adventist Church are the rain forest," explains Williams. "If we don't protect and preserve them, the larger churches will not survive."

Part of the lectureship included two panel discussions between the presenters, facilitated by Jones. Questions presented during the second panel were selected from those emailed to the facilitator by Seminary students.



Reginald Robinson

Deneil Clarke (front, right), a second-year Seminary student, and the Seminary Choir sing at the H.M.S. Richards Lectureship on Biblical Preaching.

"It was rich," says Williams, smiling. "It was humorous and produced great content."

The event included a lunch for the 400 attendees, for which Williams prepared the main dish and her signature drink, sorrel, made from ginger and hibiscus flowers. During the meal, the Seminary and G.C. Executive Committee honored Bradford as a "Living Legend," a title they intend to continue to bestow on worthy individuals at future lectureships.

Since 1994, the H.M.S. Richards Lectureship has inspired pastors on the Andrews University campus and beyond.

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

Students and faculty raise awareness about depression

October 10 was National Depression Screening Day. Andrews University Psychology Club (PSI CHI) and the Andrews University Counseling & Testing Center hosted Depression Awareness Day. This initiative was an effort to raise awareness about depression on campus, build a community of open conversations that informs students of available help, and create a support system in which students are encouraged and lifted up in their struggles.

"I think the event was very successful," says Eliana Iller, president of PSI CHI and senior psychology and Spanish for translation double major, who coordinated the event. "We had a great group of volunteers and a really strong turnout of students. I was pleased with how many students got involved and supported our cause."

Several stations allowed students the opportunity to enjoy free hugs, decorate their own T-shirt with encouraging messages, write encouraging messages and tape them on a wall, and even take a free depression screening test and receive staff feedback on their results. On a section of grass near the Campus Center, students could place a small black flag in the ground to represent someone they knew

who had committed suicide. A Prayer Warriors station gave students a place to share prayer requests or anything they happened to be struggling with, and pray with a volunteer.

"The prayer request slips were burned at the end of the event as a symbol of giving those troubles to God," explains Iller.

There also were pamphlets and posters around the booths to promote depression awareness and mental well-being.

"We definitely look forward to offering this event again next year," says Iller. "It was great to see everyone come together and encourage one another."

Eloise Ravell, student news writer, Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication