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[EDUCATION NEWS]

Leona Running awarded honorary doctorate

Michigan—During Andrews University Commencement services on Sunday, May 6, Leona Running was awarded an honorary doctorate.

Running, a professor of biblical languages, emeritus, received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters for her commitment to the spiritual and educational development of her students, her outstanding global contributions to the Adventist Church and its message, and her groundbreaking influence on the involvement of women in academia and the ministry. Running is known for her lifelong love of languages and her amazing ability not only to understand and master different tongues, but also to teach others to develop the same passion for languages. Professionally trained in both modern and biblical languages, Running also has long championed the rights of women who strive to minister in a traditionally male-dominated field. She has been a longtime advocate for women in academia and theology, and her work and dedication have inspired many men and women around the world.

Running graduated from Andrews University (then Emmanuel Missionary College) in 1937 with a bachelor's degree. She went on to earn an M.A. in Greek and Hebrew from the Adventist Theological Seminary in 1955, and a Ph.D. in Semitic languages from Johns Hopkins University in 1964. When the Seminary was moved from Washington, D.C., to Berrien Springs, Mich., in 1960, Running came with it, continuing on as a valuable and dedicated professor of biblical languages.

During her early professional years, Running served the Seventh-day Adventist Church in many capacities. From 1944 to 1948, she worked in the Foreign Language Division of the radio program, "Voice of Prophecy,"



Leona Running, professor of biblical languages, emeritus, is awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters by University president, Niels-Erik Andreasen, for her work promoting women in academia and in the ministry.

translating programs and typing scripts in German, Spanish and Portuguese. In 1950, she moved to Washington, D.C., to become the copy editor for *Ministry* magazine. During these early years, Running often earned far less than her male counterparts for doing the same amount of work. Nevertheless, she continued to do God's work, traveling to many European countries, promoting the Seventh-day Adventist Church and, at the same time, expanding her cultural experience.

Running began working for the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary in 1955, teaching Greek and Hebrew. At the time, the president of the Seminary was skeptical about a

woman's ability to teach male students, and male students' willingness to be taught by a woman. She began teaching on a trial basis, but, in 1956, she was granted regular status with tenure. Not content to sit on the sidelines and watch her students, Running was actively involved in their professional and personal development, and her guidance helped countless souls find their voice. Running's strength and determination during a time when women were not always treated as equals with men, even within the church, were an inspiration to many.

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