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Learjet 23 Donated to Department of Aviation

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Darren Heslop

Deborah Weithers

Weithers named associate dean

Following an extensive search of both internal and external candidates, Deborah Weithers has been named the new associate dean for Student Life. She replaces Paul Buckley, who left Andrews in October 2011 to accept a position at Dartmouth College. Weithers' first day in her new position was July 2.

"I am thrilled Deborah has accepted

our invitation to join the Student Life team. She has extraordinary experience and service in higher education, and has already strong established relationships at Andrews University. In addition to her exceptional management and programming skills, Deborah has a deep passion for Andrews University and the students we serve," says Frances Faehner, vice president for the Division of Student Life.

Most recently, Weithers was a senior development officer for the Office of Development. Prior to that, she served eight years as manager of the Howard Performing Arts Center on the campus of Andrews University. At the Howard, Weithers was responsible for programming, and frequently interfaced with various entities of Student Life and student clubs hosting events. "These skills will serve Deborah quite well in her role as associate dean as the position has major programming responsibilities, including University Forum," says Faehner. As associate dean, Weithers also will serve as chair of the Black History Committee

and the Martin Luther King Jr. Planning Committee. Weithers has served on the Black History Committee for three years.

Previously, Weithers also worked as an associate financial advisor for American Express Financial Advisors in St. Joseph, Mich. She is an alum of both Andrews University and Andrews Academy.

"I am confident my previous experience, especially my work at the Howard Center, along with my personal desire to make a difference in the lives of my colleagues and the students at Andrews University, will enable me to have an immediate and positive impact in the Division of Student Life and at Andrews University," says Weithers. "I am passionate about Andrews and the influence it has not only on its graduates but, through them, our wider global community. What a wonderful opportunity in Student Life to help shape the student experience."

Keri Suarez, media relations specialist, Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication



IMC

A 1966 Learjet 23 has been added to the Department of Aviation's fleet of training planes.

Learjet 23 donated to Department of Aviation

The Andrews University Department of Aviation recently added a 1966 Learjet 23 to its fleet of training planes. Randall J. Latona, of the AJM Airline Company in Smyrna, Tenn., donated the plane after receiving a request from Verlyn Benson, assistant to the president and provost, Center for Innovation.

In need of an aircraft that would provide students with practical training on the more complex twin turbine engine-powered jet, the Department used the FAA registry of business jets to send

queries to see if any owners would be willing to donate an aircraft that would potentially fit their needs.

Several replies were received, including one from Latona. The 6- to 8-seat business jet was missing its engines and needed a few structural repairs, but otherwise was in good condition. A group was sent to collect the plane from its ramp in Smyrna and bring it back to Andrews University.

"Everyone who helped us retrieve the aircraft treated the Andrews team of workers with great respect and helpfulness, commenting that the plane would be going to a good home where students will be able to learn more about the profession they all love," says Benson.

The plane will be used for both maintenance and ground instruction. Since the plane possesses advanced hydraulic, electrical, fuel, communication and navigation systems, it will be used to give students the opportunity to work directly with these features. Once engines are installed, the aircraft also will be used for

instruction in turbine engine installation, removal, servicing and component replacement. The plane requires two running GE CJ610-4 or -6 engines with accessories before it can be used for turbine operation instruction. Additionally, the plane will offer the opportunity for additional flight training, specifically that of using turbine engines and taxiing of larger aircraft.

"We truly appreciate the generosity of the individuals who have made donations to our department," says Dina Simmons, chair of the Department of Aviation and Airpark manager. "Currently, our greatest need is for financial donations, which can be turned into tangible upgrades to costly class/lab training aids and aircraft. With the ongoing reality of budget limitations, we are always looking for creative options to attempt to meet our department's needs as we continue to grow."

Ashley Meyer, student news writer, Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication