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Andrews University has again been named one of the “Best National Universities” for 2011, as reported in U.S. News & World Report’s “America’s Best Colleges 2011” issue. Andrews was also recently ranked on Forbes.com’s 2010’s “America’s Best Colleges.”

Of the more than 1,400 institutions of higher education in the United States, only 262 are recognized as national universities, which are schools providing masters and doctoral programs in addition to an array of undergraduate degrees. Only 98 private institutions are classified as national universities according to U.S. News & World Report, and Andrews is the only Seventh-day Adventist institution included in this classification. Andrews University is tied for being the fifth most racially diverse national university and tied for sixth among national universities in its percentage of international students.

Forbes.com’s 2010 list of “America’s Best Colleges” has ranked Andrews University as No. 446 out of 610 of “the best public and private colleges and universities—from the student’s point of view.” Andrews is the only Seventh-day Adventist institution to make the list. This also puts Andrews among the top seven percent nationally of all accredited higher education institutions.

This is the third annual ranking compilation of “America’s Best Colleges” by Forbes and the Center for College Affordability and Productivity.

Stephen Payne, vice president for Enrollment Management and Integrated Marketing & Communication, is quite pleased Andrews was recognized on both lists. “At Andrews, we’re terribly proud of the quality of our faculty and students, and what happens when they come together on campus to pursue our ambitious goals to Seek Knowledge, Affirm Faith and Change the World. In turn, we’re pleased and honored to be recognized for the commitment, passion and success of our campus community.”

Andrews employees give Bibles to freshmen

This year’s freshmen class received an extra-special welcome to Andrews University. During a retreat held the Sabbath before classes began, each new freshman was presented with an Andrews Study Bible courtesy of the University and its faculty and staff.

This summer, under the direction of Ron Whitehead, assistant to the president for spiritual life, Andrews University employees set a goal of giving every incoming freshman a copy of the new Andrews Study Bible. The target was 400 Bibles. The University covered the first $20 of the cost of the Bible. Whitehead says, “After that, for every $25 employee donation to the Bibles for Freshmen project, a new freshman received a Bible. We asked our University family to share in the cost of putting this outstanding resource in the hands of our new students,” says Whitehead. “We want to make it clear that the Bible is an absolute essential in the Andrews experience and the Andrews Study Bible is the ideal gift to accomplish that.”

Pledges and donations were received throughout the summer, with the majority of the goal met during Fall Fellowship weekend, a time of spiritual renewal for faculty and staff. On Sabbath, August 14, a special dedication of the Bibles was held during second service at Pioneer Memorial Church. The following weekend, during Freshman Retreat, the Bibles were presented to their new owners.

The Andrews Study Bible, published by Andrews University Press, was released in June, with the official launch at the General Conference Session in Atlanta, Ga. Funded by Andrews University and the General Conference, with oversight from church leaders and the Biblical Research Institute, its publication marks the first time an Adventist publishing house has released a formal, full-featured study Bible.