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Former NBC Correspondent, NBC Translator Bring Their Stories of Faith to Andrews

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2009 faculty and staff service awards presented

The 2009 Faculty & Staff Service Awards Presentation took place Mon., Mar. 2, in the Howard Performing Arts Center. The theme of the evening was "Celebrate God's Faithfulness." The following awards were presented:

Excellence in Service Award recipients were Dixie Scott, admissions director for the Department of Physical Therapy; Esther Lonto, senior accountant for the Office of Financial Records; and Rebecca May, director of campus relations for the Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication.

Daniel A. Augsburg Excellence in Teaching Award honorees were John Baldwin, professor of theology; Elvin Gabriel, associate professor of educa-

tional and counseling psychology; Ann Gibson, professor of accounting; H. Thomas Goodwin, professor of paleobiology; Duane Habenicht, associate professor of aeronautical technology; Kristin von Maur, assistant professor of architecture; and Susan Zork, assistant professor of religion.

Receiving a 30 Years of Service Award were Keith Calkins, math coordinator for the Math & Science Center; Bruce Closser, associate professor of English; and Marge Gadway, building supervisor for the Office of Custodial Services.

Recognized with the 35 Years of Service Award were Rick Kosinski, professor of educational and counseling psychology, and G. William Mutch, professor of chemistry.

Two professors received the 40 Years of Service Award: Bill Chobotar, professor of biology, and Peter Wong,

professor of chemistry.

The Spiritual Life Award was presented to June Madrigal, associate dean of women.

Near the close of the program, Andrews president Niels-Erik Andreasen and his wife Demetra were taken by surprise as recipients of an unannounced award. Gerry Karst, chair of the Andrews University Board of Trustees, presented an award for reaching the milestone of "the longest-serving president" of Andrews University.

The awards portion of the evening also included recognition of employees with five, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years of service with the University. For a complete list, visit www.andrews.edu/news/2009/03/service_awards.html.

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

Former NBC correspondent, NBC translator bring their stories of faith to Andrews

Former NBC News correspondent Don Teague and Rafrak Barrak were the featured speakers at March's Forum at Andrews University. They shared their stories of faith and how their careers taught them to listen to God and apply His will in their lives.

Teague shared how God led him to accept a job as NBC foreign correspondent at the onset of the Iraq War and protected him in the midst of violent acts of terrorism. It was in Iraq where Teague met Barrak, who works as a translator for NBC.

Barrak described growing up in a strict religious household. "We feared God and didn't question Him," she said. When she joined Teague's team, she

found, "brotherhood, love and friendship, not authority."

Barrak was in a dangerous situation because of her involvement with the media. Teague, along with the support of fellow media personalities, helped her come to the U.S. and gain entrance to an American university.

After immigrating, she experienced God's love in Teague's Christian home.

"They opened their house and said, 'We will be a family for you,'" she said. Barrak then realized escaping bombs, kidnappings and coming to the U.S. wasn't simply luck, but God working in her life. She soon began talking to God for herself. In 2008, she became a Christian.



Students had an opportunity to talk one on one with Don Teague and Rafrak Barrak at the Leadership Luncheon following the Forum.

Following the Forum, Teague and Barrak met with Andrews University students at a Leadership Luncheon.

Kristina Penny, reporter, *The Student Movement*, with Keri Suarez, media relations specialist, Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication