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Ferguson Heads New Undergraduate Leadership Development Program

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Andrews University grabs attention at National Soybean Research Laboratory

Melinda Smith, then-associate director of Andrews University Dining Services and president of Berrien Springs-based Caitlan's Catering, provided the lunch menu at the International Soybean Program (INTSOY) course, "Processing and Marketing of Soybeans for Meat, Dairy and Baking Applications." The class was held at the National Soybean Research Laboratory (NSRL), University of Illinois-Urbana, on June 1.

Smith's company, Caitlan's Catering, had worked with the company, Microsoy, in developing soy products. "It was



Melinda Smith

interesting that I was introduced in Illinois as the president of Caitlan's Catering and associate director of Dining Services at Andrews University—an

all-vegetarian campus. That took the meeting by storm, and Caitlan's quickly became a second stringer," says Smith, who became director of Dining Services on July 13.

This program was attended by more than 100 research personnel and technical representatives from around the world, including Argentina, Bolivia, Israel and Pakistan. Smith says several of the international participants became interested in partnering with Andrews University as a research test market for their soy products. She was also approached by universities who wished to send their graduate students to Andrews University to observe and study it as an all-vegetarian campus.

Smith's menu included "Crabmeat Rangoon," black bean soy sliders and tofu cheesecake to name a few. The menu was well-received, and Smith plans to involve Andrews University in future research and development of soy-based vegetarian food items with INTSOY and the NSRL.

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

Ferguson heads new Undergraduate Leadership Development program

David Ferguson, the first to hold the newly created position of director of Undergraduate Leadership Development underneath the Division of Student Life, brings a wealth of leadership experience to the role. His mantra for leadership is simple, yet profound: "Lead by permission, not by position."

Ferguson's role as a director involves oversight of the Undergraduate Leadership Development certificate in addition to being an adjunct professor in the College of Arts & Sciences and School of Education.



David Ferguson

Students who wish to receive the Undergraduate Leadership Development certificate must complete 11 credit hours, which include the course, "Intro to Leadership," a change project and a combination of capstone and cognate courses. "In today's climate, it gives you an edge," says Ferguson. "I believe that in a fairly short period of time we will be able to demonstrate a qualitative difference that will set our students apart."

Ferguson holds three degrees from Andrews University: Master of Religious

Education ('90), Bachelor of Science in religion ('87) and Bachelor of Arts in business management ('87). "It's not hard to go back to somewhere you love," he said of his return to the Andrews University community.

Following completion of his studies, Ferguson spent several years working for the Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, first as a pastoral intern, later as senior pastor for a two-church district and finally as a youth director. In 1999, he was called to serve as a chaplain and religion/leadership teacher at Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) in Pennsylvania. During his time at BMA, Ferguson taught junior and senior religion/leadership courses and mentored student leaders as the head Student Association sponsor.

In 2005, while at BMA, Ferguson felt called to co-found TrueWind, a leadership development organization created to inspire, equip and launch young leaders for God's kingdom. It was his previous leadership experience and success with TrueWind that made him an ideal candidate to head up the University's Undergraduate Leadership Development program.

"Dave Ferguson comes with a rich experience in leadership training. He is a strongly self-motivated individual who in the three or so weeks he has been on campus has initiated a meeting of the leadership council, established relationships and jumped right into improving the start to the program stimulated by Steve Yeagley last year," says Keith Mattingly, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. "I am excited with the possibilities Dave brings to our campus in developing this undergraduate leadership program and look forward to seeing a difference in our students as a result of this important program."

Ferguson, and his wife, Caryl-Lynn, have three children.

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