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Andrews University Hosts Inter-Religio Symposium

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Administrative Transitions at Andrews University

On Mar. 6, the Andrews University Board of Trustees convened in Berrien Springs for its spring meeting. The Board went into an executive session to examine the direction and future of the university, focusing on the need for synergy and collaboration between the university's financial and academic functions.

The Board felt that while there had been modest improvement in revenue and student population, the speed and scope of the changes were not adequate, and the best way to achieve future plans was through the opportunities afforded by new leadership.

As a result, Patricia Mutch, vice president for academic administration, and Edward Wines, vice president for financial administration, tendered their resignations, which are effective June 30, 2006.

Gerald Karst, chair of the Board of Trustees and general vice president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, spoke generously of the two administrators' work at the institution.

Also on that day, the resignation of the university's president, Niels-Erik Andreassen, was announced; however, on Mar. 30, the Board met once again and voted to reinstate Andreassen as president, making the following statement:

"On Mar. 30, the Board took two significant actions. First, the creation of the position of Provost was voted to function as the Chief Operations Officer, focusing on day-to-day operations and execution of strategy. Second, the Board asked Dr. Andreassen to continue his service as President, and he agreed.

"With the two actions of today, the Board believes that the revised administrative structure will assist in achiev-

ing the mission and financial goals of Andrews University and will permit the President more time to focus on the global role of Andrews University and its relationship to its external constituencies.

"We believe that this revised administrative structure will be a critical contribution to the institution's success in the future."

For more information about Andrews University and this time of transition, log on to www.andrews.edu/transitions.

University Relations press release

Andrews University Hosts Inter-Religio Symposium

While the words to the popular Christian campfire jingle "Father Abraham" may indeed be trite, their message is a crucial one: there is no one son of Abraham, something subscribers to the three Abrahamic faiths—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—tend to forget. Rather than embracing a common heritage, the orthodox use doctrinal and ideological differences as license to exclude and stereotype.

In response to rampantly skewed attitudes and general misconceptions among the three religions, on Mar. 28, Andrews University hosted "Our Father Abraham," a symposium spotlighting Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations with the aim of replacing narrow-mindedness with mutual respect and open dialogue.

Jointly sponsored by the International Religious Liberty Association, the Seminary, and *Shabbat Shalom*, "Our Father Abraham" commenced with a morning

presentation by professor of Rabbinic Literature at the Schechter Institute, Mordechai Arad, who stressed the historical commonalities among the three religions. This theme of mutual heritage was echoed by the day's speakers, including Jacques B. Doukhan. Professor and director of the Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies at the Seminary, Doukhan's chapel message, "Whose Son Are You?" posited that "brotherhood is a sign of sonhood." Coordinator of the Kroc Institute's Program in Religion, Conflict, and Peacebuilding (PRCP) at the University of Notre Dame, Rashied Omar, along with president of the Islamic Education and Resources Network (ILearn), Soraya M. Orady, both advised proponents of all three faiths to obliterate stereotypes by jointly tackling issues of social injustice independent of any doctrinal or ideological agenda.

Other symposium speakers included Jon Paulien, professor of New Testament interpretation at the Seminary; professor, lecturer, and contemporary ethics Ph.D. student, Abigail Doukhan; Øystein S. LaBianca, professor and director of the Institute of Archaeology at Andrews University; and John Graz, director of the General Conference's Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department. The symposium ended with a panel interview and roundtable discussion.

Elizabeth Lechleitner, University Relations student news writer



Special guests and symposium speakers enjoyed a meal of Middle Eastern fare under an authentic Bedouin tent at the Horn Archaeological Museum.