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Assistant to the President for Spiritual Life Appointed

Beginning in January 2005, Ron Whitehead, Center for Youth Evangelism (CYE) director and Christian Ministry assistant professor at the Adventist Theological Seminary, will function in his newly-appointed role as assistant to the president for spiritual life at Andrews University.



Ron Whitehead

Whitehead has served as the North American Division associate youth director and has been the director of three international Pathfinder camporees, including the most recent *Faith on Fire Camporee* in Oshkosh, Wis., which had over 30,000 attendees. While still keeping his CYE position and office, Whitehead will work together with student services, campus ministries, and the office of the president to coordinate the various spiritual life activities and programs on campus. In this role, Whitehead will focus on reorganizing the spiritual life structure on campus in several different areas.

Whitehead hopes to create better communication, keeping students, faculty, and staff informed internally, as well as sharing what is happening on

campus with the community, prospective students, and alumni. He aims to create a strong, talented pool of both staff and student leaders. The current campus ministries office will be remodeled to better equip student leaders with the office space needed to help them work in their individual ministries.

A key aspect of support will come from the spiritual life committee. Whitehead's goal is for this committee to be a "one stop shop" where ministry leaders can come to get the required help or permission necessary to perform their ministry. Whitehead plans to increase student representation on the committee to an equal level with that of faculty/staff representation.

As a member of the president's cabinet, Whitehead will work directly with the president, bringing the spiritual life of the campus to a higher level of attention, identifying its importance. In short, Whitehead's vision is to "make it easy for every student to be a part of, or lead out in, a ministry."

Beverly Stout, University Relations
Lake Union Herald correspondent

Teacher in the Spotlight

If you ever sit down to chat with Peter Pribis, Andrews University nutrition professor, give yourself at least an hour. The Slovakian native has more stories than Uncle Arthur, Uncle Dan, and Aunt Sue combined, and when listening to his boyhood tales of communism and Cambridge it's easy to lose track of time.

Pribis did not have a typical childhood by American or Slovakian standards. None of the other boys in the little mountain village of Poprad, for example, had the opportunity to leave the country twice and study English at Cambridge, a rare luxury in communist Slovakia. "I was the exception, in this

respect," Pribis confesses, explaining, "The man in charge of issuing passports had always dreamed that his son would learn to play the accordion. My mother was a music teacher. The son was lazy and never practiced, but my mother was patient with him, and one day the official came to her and said, 'You know, if any of you would ever like to take a trip ...'" And so, with the sponsorship of an Austrian uncle, the young Pribis was able to spend two summers in England.



Peter Pribis

This taste of life abroad whet Pribis's appetite for travel, and he headed for southern California in 1990 after earning a M.D. in Internal Medicine at Charles University, Prague. Pribis completed a Doctorate in Public Health at Loma Linda University in 1996, and subsequently held various research and consulting posts in the Czech Republic and southern Germany before landing a position in the Andrews University Department of Nutrition in 2004.

An experienced mover, Pribis has had no trouble settling into a quieter life in rural Berrien Springs, where he lives with his wife, Natasa, and their two daughters, Abigail and Aimee.

Aaron Beaumont, University Relations
student news writer