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### Professor Joins International Research Team

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## Professor Joins International Research Team

Oystein S. LaBianca, professor of anthropology and Institute of Archaeology associate director, will join an international team of anthropologists, archaeologists, geographers, historians,



*Oystein S. LaBianca, professor of anthropology and Institute of Archaeology associate director*

and sociologists in a study of “Global Moments in the Levant,” (the area of the Middle East commonly referred to as the Holy Land). The team of 16 researchers will be headed by Leif Manger, professor of anthropology, University of Bergen, Norway, to study “breakthrough events that change people’s lives and their futures.”

In Feb. 2005, the Norwegian Research Council (NRC) informed the team that their application, “Global Moments in the Levant: Towards an Understanding of a Contact Zone Between Peoples, Cultures, and States,” had been approved for funding over the next four years in the amount of 16 million Norwegian kroner (approximately \$2.6 million USD). The team submitted one of 17 successful applications out of 263 in an annual competition for 250 million Norwegian kroner (approximately \$39.9 million USD) of NRC funding for basic research in all fields.

According to LaBianca, visiting researcher at the University of Bergen during spring 2004 and co-author of the proposal with Leif Manger, global moments are “fundamental cultural changes that lead to new ways of thinking, to new worlds of knowledge, to new social worlds, and to new types of

personal and collective identities. The emergence of writing and of literacy, for example, led to new forms of recording and storing information which, in turn, changed the social organization of societies, bringing in their wake new forms of inequality and privilege. Such developments typically call for significant adaptation leading to new forms of cooperation or conflict.”

Participation in this study provides an excellent opportunity to broaden our understanding and may have significant implications for the work of Adventist education. The team met in Bergen, Norway, for their first organizational meeting in May.

University Relations news release

## Student Pages Serve at GC Session

The 58th General Conference (GC) Session, to be held June 30–July 9 in St. Louis, Mo., will be the third at which Andrews University students have had the opportunity to serve as administrative pages.

“Andrews is pleased to be able to provide students to serve as administrative pages,” says Rebecca May,

University Relations director. “Because Andrews’ students best reflect the demographics of the world church, we are in a unique position to provide this assistance to the GC Session.”

Out of 75 applications submitted this past winter to University Relations, 25 were selected to reflect the rich diversity of talent, language skills, and varied areas of study represented on our campus. The pages will serve in various GC offices, such as Secretariat, Session Management, Business Center, and Communication. Andrews will award students a stipend, applicable to next year’s tuition, for their service as administrative pages.

Lianro WagenerSmith, a graduate school psychology student from South Africa, is looking forward to spending a busy two weeks in St. Louis. “From what I’ve heard from friends of mine who served in Toronto five years ago, I am expecting to be kept very busy. But, I am especially looking forward to meeting people from places I’ve never been who are Seventh-day Adventists just like me, and to becoming more familiar with the business side of the church.”

Heather Schander, student news writer



Andrews University students will serve as administrative pages at the 58th General Conference Session in St. Louis.