

Andrews University

Digital Commons @ Andrews University

Lake Union Herald

Lake Union Herald

8-2020

Andrews president receives Weniger Medallion

Hannah Gallant

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/luh-pubs>



▲ Andrea Luxton, president, is presented with her Weniger Medallion.

Andrews president receives Weniger Medallion

On Feb. 15, 2020, the Charles Elliott Weniger Society for Excellence held their 45th Annual Awards Presentation at the Loma Linda University Church in Loma Linda, Calif. At this event, president Andrea Luxton received a Weniger Medallion, as did Reinder Bruinsma, Richard H. Hart and A. Ganoune Diop.

The Weniger Society was established in 1974 in honor of Charles Weniger, who had served as dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., an English professor and a gifted public speaker. Created by three of Weniger's friends — Jerry Pettis, Clinton Emmerson and John Osborn, the society aims to honor Weniger's memory and the qualities of excellence paramount in his life by recognizing the contributions made to the world by people with similar significant traits of character. As of this year, 182 individuals have received the Weniger Medallion.

"Dr. Weniger himself was a consummate educator, with strong commitment to the importance of Seventh-day Adventist education," says Luxton. "He

modeled, however, what he preached, and countless students and colleagues remember his generosity of spirit, genuine care for his students and his unassuming way of making Christian education irresistible."

President Luxton was recognized for her commitment to excellence as an educator and as president of three different Adventist colleges/universities: Newbold College, Burman University and Andrews University.

"It was a great surprise and honor. I have a lot of admiration for many of those who had received the honor before, and it was an honor to be listed as a recipient along with those individuals," says Luxton.

Yosia Nurhan, the Scholarship Fund recipient from Andrews University, is a junior mathematics and physics studies major. He is a J.N. Andrews Scholar, the 2019–2020 vice president of Pi Mu Epsilon, the current mathematics president for eigen* (the math-physics club), the financial vice president for the Association of Indonesian Students, and the leader of a mountain biking club that he started. He also has completed extensive research with both Shandelle Henson, professor of mathematics and professor of ecology, and Desmond Murray, associate professor of chemistry. ■

Hannah Gallant, University Communication student writer

▼ Yosia Nurhan, Weniger Fellows Student Scholarship Fund recipient from Andrews University



Courtesy Andrews University



► Lake Union president Maurice Valentine chaired the virtual executive committee meeting in May, and spoke of the lengths the Lake Union administration has gone to ensure that its staff would return to a safe environment, such as upgrading the HVAC system, installing touchless faucets and 'sneeze guards' for personnel working in open spaces. He also mentioned that directors were told to look for cost-savings measures, as projections were indicating a tithe downturn in the neighborhood of 20 percent.

Leaders report pandemic's impact on church organizations

The coronavirus pandemic has rocked the economy, put hundreds of thousands of people across the Lake Union out of work and made an impact on our conference and educational institutions. The ripple effects were catalogued during the May Lake Union executive committee session which took place via Zoom.

While bracing for double digit loss of tithe, Lake Union treasurer, Glynn Scott, reported that in March, with two weeks of face-to-face church services and two weeks of stay-in-place (with churches livestreaming), the Lake Union year-to-date tithe was down just 4.6 percent, as compared to NAD's YTD of 4.9 percent.

Scott said that the Union has taken steps to reduce the 2020 budget expenses through means such as: hiring freeze, travel moratorium, 12 percent reimbursement reduction in mileage, no staff pay increase for 2020, freezing all non-essential expenses, and lowering the building temperature.

One institution reporting serious challenges to its budget was Andrews University. President Andrea Luxton remarked on the rapid events leading up to the decision to quickly close the campus and move to a completely online environment. In the six weeks between closing and