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### Prolific writer rejoins Andrews University

Jeff Boyd

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## Prolific writer rejoins Andrews University

Heather Thompson Day is returning to Andrews University as an associate professor in the Department of Visual Arts, Communication & Design (VACD). Thompson Day, who recently published her seventh book, "It's Not Your Turn," will teach graduate and undergraduate communication courses, including Ethics and Interpersonal Communication. "We are very excited to once again share the classroom with Heather. She is an outstanding professor and writer who cares deeply for students," says T. Lynn Caldwell, chair of VACD.

Since leaving Andrews two years ago, Thompson Day has been teaching at Colorado Christian University in Lakewood, Colo. In addition to teaching, she also has been busy writing for the Barna Group, contributing to the blog, "I'm That Wife" ([imthatwife.com](http://imthatwife.com)), and developing a podcast for Christianity Today — Viral Jesus — that will launch in late July.

Thompson Day chose to rejoin the Andrews learning community for a number of reasons. She will be closer to her family, and looks forward to being back in a diverse campus environment. Furthermore, Thompson Day believes it is important to serve one's roots. She explains, "When you get to where you're going, go back to where you came from and help people who are there." Thompson Day is a graduate of Andrews University, and describes herself as a "home-grown Andrews' student." "If I can go back and mentor kids just like me, what an honor," she says. "Serving in my denomination is a unique experience, so I'm excited about that; just to be with young people and help them dream and reach whatever goals they have for when they leave the university. That's how I approach my teaching; it's really through mentorship."

Courtesy of Heather Thompson Day



▲ Heather Thompson Day

Providing opportunities for students to grow both professionally and spiritually is important to Thompson Day. For example, she recently helped a student secure a fellowship at Newsweek, and she hopes to include students in the production of her new podcast. She shares further, "My calling from God is to stand in the gaps for our young people. Not just for our university students, but within the church, to stand in the gap for them and provide a path so they feel like there's a place for them here."

Thompson Day has published seven books, including "How to Feed the Mediavore" (2013), "Cracked Glasses" (2013), "The God Myth and Other Lies" (2014), and now, "It's Not Your Turn: What to Do While You're Waiting for Your Breakthrough" (InterVarsity Press, 2021), which is currently fifth on Amazon's list of best-selling new releases in the category of Christian Inspirational. The book is

about "showing up to our lives with intentionality and purpose even when it's not our turn," she says. Thompson Day continues, "Who we are when it's not our turn is actually more important than who we will be when it is." In a recent interview with the Detroit affiliate of Fox network, she described the challenge and importance of cheering for others when we are still waiting for our own big break.

The Department of Visual Art, Communication & Design offers undergraduate degrees in Communication, Public Relations, Photography, Graphic Design and Fine Arts. The department also offers a Master of Arts in Communication. Ten faculty members take an integrated, multidisciplinary approach to training the 21st-century communicator. ■

*Jeff Boyd, University Communication, Media Relations manager*