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THE ANDREWS UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

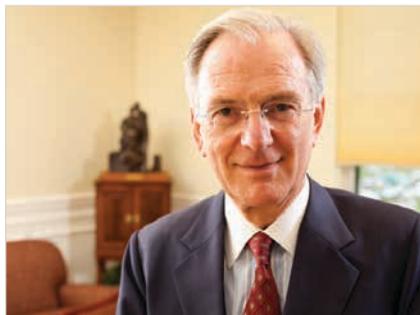
FALL 2011

FOCUS

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Niels-Erik Andreassen
President

Spiritus, Mens, Corpus

These three Latin words are found on the Andrews University seal, and therefore on the diplomas students receive at graduation. It is fairly common for university seals to have inscriptions in Latin. For example, the seal of Oxford University has Dominus Illuminatio Mea (the Lord is my light). Harvard's seal incorporates the word Veritas (truth). Yale's seal has Lux Et Veritas (light and truth). It is presumed that Latin is used in these university mottos because at one time, in Europe at least, Latin was the language of instruction at universities.

The Andrews University seal is also composed of Latin words, perhaps for the same reason, but in addition it draws attention to three important aspects of Adventist education, the spiritual, the intellectual and the physical part of our students' development. It is holistic. In that respect our university motto differs from the others noted above.

Finally, let me draw attention to the fact that the word "university" derives from a Latin word indicating the whole, all there is, as in the word universe. While it is now common to use the term university for any institution of higher learning, at one time it was reserved for comprehensive and inclusive institutions that study all (or most) of what there is to learn.

In recent years, Andrews has focused mostly on the first two Latin words on our seal, spiritus and mens. The physical part of education that once was achieved through our work study programs has in recent years received less attention than it ought. Of course some students work in our farm and on the grounds, but much of our physical work is now performed by machines. Let us face it, we are an inactive generation. How do we pay attention to the "corpus" part of our motto?

I suggest we do it by focusing upon health, "Andrews health," by making this the most health conscious campus in our church and in our country. Adventists after all have a health message, and the whole world has become aware of the importance of health and the challenges to it—such as poor nutrition, too much fat and sugar in the diet and not enough green food, too little drinking water, a sedentary lifestyle, lack of exercise, poor living habits, harmful addictions and many more. I would like to see our campus community of students, faculty and staff become the most health conscious campus anywhere. How can we do that? Here are our plans.

We would like to focus anew on health education by organizing all our healthcare professions into a new School of Health Professions. It is in the budget and we hope to make a beginning next year. Secondly, we plan to build a new health and wellness center for our students and community. We will begin with fundraising for it. It would be a twenty-first century version of Johnson Gymnasium. We would like to institute a new focus on being healthy and staying well. We may call it "Andrews health." It will reintroduce the third Latin word on our university seal into our university life (along with the other two of course).

It will be spiritus, mens and corpus at Andrews: spiritual maturity, intellectual strength and good health to last for a lifetime. That is how Adventist education began and we want to return to it full force.

FOCUS

The Andrews University Magazine

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Enjoy a taste of this high-energy event that brought nearly 1,000 gymnasts and coaches to the campus.

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On the cover: New Life Fellowship celebrated their 20th Anniversary on October 7 & 8, 2011, at the Howard Performing Arts Center. Photo by Austin Ho, IMC student photographer.