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THE ANDREWS UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

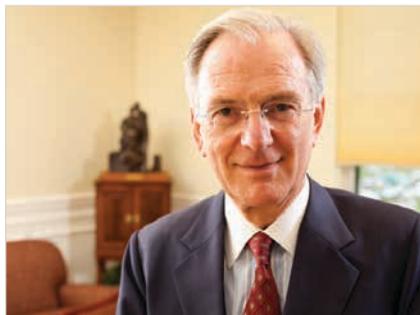
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FOCUS



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Vol 47 No 1



Niels-Erik Andreassen
President

On February 5, 2009, Captain Sullenberger landed Flight 1549 in the shallow part of the Hudson River after flocks of birds in the air were sucked into the jet engines causing both of them to shut down. All lives were saved and the whole country cheered the skills of Captain "Sully." Around that same time, two faculty members at Andrews,

Drs. Shandelle Henson and James Hayward, reported on their research into the social behavior of sea gulls. I recall someone asking why two gifted faculty persons would spend their summers in a small boat on the open sea studying the behavior of sea gulls! In response, Dr. Hayward simply put up a picture of flocks of birds flying over the runways of a major airport. He gave no commentary, but everyone understood instantly that research into the social behavior of birds around airports can benefit us all.

Recently the evening news presented a series of reports on the killings by the drug cartels in Northern Mexico. The object of the warfare is to control the illegal drug traffic into the U.S. How can that deadly conflict be resolved, was the question posed by the newscasters. The most effective but also most difficult solution would be to remove the demand for illegal drugs, but that would mean to help users overcome their addiction to these substances. For a number of years now Dr. Duane McBride and his team of researchers have operated the Institute for Prevention of Addictions at Andrews University. It is funded partly by the church, the university, and receives a significant amount of external funding as well. According to this institute, the best ways to overcome addiction include having strong family support, acceptance by a caring church community, faith in God and purpose in life. Sending especially young addicts to jail is the most expensive and least effective way to counteract this problem. Research into addictive behavior saves lives and benefits all.

Biblical archaeology is an exotic subject conjuring up images of lost treasures. In fact it involves teams of archaeologists spending long hot days digging in dry dusty fields somewhere in the lands of the Middle East where the story of the Bible took place. The finds—pottery, ancient houses, cisterns, fortresses, inscriptions—bring the Bible story to life. Afterward the archaeologists return home to publish their results, and often enough the local residents are left with a field full of holes in the ground looking a bit like a moon landscape. The Institute of Archaeology at Andrews, under the direction of Randall Younker, has fielded teams of archaeologists in the Kingdom of Jordan for nearly 50 years. As a result they know more about ancient Jordanian history than any others. Recently, under the inspiration of Dr. Øystein LaBianca, a group of Andrews archaeologists decided to leave something behind for the local people to enjoy (other than just holes in the ground), a museum and an archaeological park where school children and visitors can follow the trails of Abraham, Moses, Ruth and Naomi, along with the early Christian and Muslim communities in that region over the centuries. Research gives back to the community that provided the research field.

The point of these illustrations is that university research is not intended merely to pamper the faculty's personal interests, help them with their promotion in rank, and make the university famous. Research also brings blessings and gives gifts to us all. Think of sending a text message, traveling to other countries in hours instead of days and weeks, warming a meal with microwaves, driving through a rainstorm without getting wet, having a scan in the hospital or a blood test for health prevention, eating tropical fruits in the winter, reading a book from an iPad—all this is possible because of research, conducted maybe years ago in some smelly university laboratory. Research benefits us all. And that is why a good university not only transmits knowledge for the benefit of students, but also conducts research for the benefit of us all. Andrews is such a university, and that is why we support research.

FOCUS

The Andrews University Magazine

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Every current Andrews University student received an *Andrews Study Bible* as a gift due to generous contributions from E. Edward and Ann Zinke of the Foundation for Adventist Education, Board of Trustees members, along with faculty, staff and other donors.

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On the cover: Provost Andrea Luxton enjoys fruit and chocolate cake with some members of the Andrews University Gymnics. Read her interview to discover the connection. (Photo by Sarah Lee, Ambient Light Studios)