



Andrews University: One of a Kind

Niels-Erik Andreassen
President

Thinking about my tenure at Andrews—22 years as president and three years as a student, I have begun to accumulate in my mind the things I have heard others say about our University, under the assumption that we see ourselves more clearly when we notice how others see us. How then do others see us? What is the first impression we give to those who look at us from the outside?

Andrews has a beautiful campus, and beauty inspires learning! The layout, trees, lawns, flowerbeds, even the walkways, parking lots and roads frame our University in a pleasant way. The circular drive leaves some things outside and others inside, but more importantly, all things are accessible from the magisterial entrance. “You work on a beautiful campus,” many are saying to me.

The buildings represent different designs, some more attractive than others, built in different styles and using different materials, but lined up in orderly fashion. They all give the impression of modesty and unassuming practicality. There are no golden domes or towering spires. The roofs are flat, the buildings functional in a solid sort of way. They fit the character of the institution, serious, but not stuffy. I have heard that said many times.

The people who work and study here are diverse in a stunning way, given our Midwestern, rural, small town location. A campus visitor once observed that walking across campus is like crossing Piccadilly Circus in London—the whole world is meeting here! Not only educators interested in diversity, but industrialists, business persons, CEOs of international corporations and politicians have noticed it. We may think we have a diversity problem on campus, while others who have visited here believe we must have diversity solutions stashed away all over campus.

Andrews University harbors academic ambitions way beyond its limited resources—bordering on sanctified impertinence as it were! It is a result of its many firsts in the Seventh-day Adventist Church—first college and then first university, first to offer doctorates, first to deliver off-campus education, the flagship institution in the world church. Ordinarily such ambition is not becoming, but in our case the desire to be best in class is good, for it has to do with providing exceptional educational services with very limited resources to students in need, and that is admirable, our guests tell me.

Finally, this University is deeply religious in a way uncommon among ambitious academic institutions. Inside our church family there may be questions from time to time, even doubts about the faith commitment on campus, but those who look at us from the outside through their own eyes see our commitment to faith and religious devotion very clearly. It is part of the University's history of course, but more importantly it is part of our genetic make-up, visible, palpable, pervasive and surprising to many observers, our faith commitment drives our academic ambition, and vice versa. That is the Andrews brand—a small miracle to many external observers.

Each of these characteristics, so obvious to our guests on campus is a treasure to be carefully guarded—the campus, facilities, diversity, academic ambition and religious commitment. They have been carefully and lovingly honed for over 50 years. They matter.

FOCUS

The Andrews University Magazine

Editor

Patricia Spangler (BS '04)
focus@andrews.edu | 269-471-3315

Contributing Editors

Andriy Kharkovyy (BBA '06, MBA '09)
Becky St. Clair

Designer

Matt Hamel (AT '05)

Photographers

Tanya Ebenezer (current student)
Darren Heslop (BFA '10)
Andriy Kharkovyy (BBA '06, MBA '09)
Jonathan Logan
Heidi Ramirez (current student)
David Sherwin (BFA '82)
Brian Tagalog (BFA '16)

Copy Editor

Alisa Williams (BS '06)

Andrews University

President

Niels-Erik Andreassen (MA '65, BD '66)

Provost

Andrea Luxton (MA '78)

Vice President for Enrollment Management

Randy Graves (MA '72)

Vice President for Financial Administration

Lawrence E. Schalk (BS '64, MBA '71)

Vice President for Integrated Marketing & Communication

Stephen Payne

Vice President for Student Life

Frances Faehner (BSW '76, PhD '07)

Vice President for University Advancement

David A. Faehner (MA '72)

FOCUS (ISSN 1077-9345) is published quarterly, free of charge, for alumni and friends of Andrews University, an institution owned and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The magazine's address is FOCUS, Integrated Marketing & Communication, Andrews University, 8903 U.S. 31, Berrien Springs MI 49104-1000. Copyright ©2016 by Andrews University. Reproduction in whole or part without permission is prohibited. Printed by The Hamblin Company, Tecumseh MI. Periodicals postage paid at Berrien Springs MI and at additional mailing offices. Please send address changes to FOCUS Magazine, Office of Alumni Services, Andrews University, 8714 E Campus Circle Dr, Berrien Springs MI 49104-0950, email alumni@andrews.edu or call 269-471-3591.