



Growth and change

The enrollment at Andrews grew by an additional 170 students in the fall 2009. Whether the economy is keeping students in college longer or urging them back to college while waiting for the job market to open up, the enrollment growth is welcome. Undoubtedly when it begins to recover in earnest, the economy will look for college graduates to fill vacancies. In fact the best way to look for a good job in the future is to seek a good education now.

How can Andrews University keep providing affordable education of high quality to our young adults? Recently, Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education, referred to this challenge in an article, "Rethinking Higher Education: Moving beyond the Iron Triangle."* The three sides of that triangle are access, cost and quality. It is like an iron triangle because these three sides are welded together, as it were. If the cost goes up too much, access declines. But if costs go down and access improves, quality may decline due to inadequate resources.

Andrews seeks to respond to this iron grip in various ways. First we plan to increase financial aid especially for our most committed and able first-year students, and gradually for all qualified students. That will open the gate of access. However, it will place some stress on our ability to keep the quality up. So we must work smarter with the resources we have, and some good results have been reported this year. For example, the School of Education has been given highest marks in the state of Michigan for its teacher preparation program. Our behavioral science and natural science programs keep producing students who participate in faculty-student research and place very well after graduation. Special learning opportunities off-campus are transforming the lives of undergraduate students. Our extension

DMin program in Africa recently produced very good candidates for graduation, with a number of them well-qualified to pursue PhD studies that would prepare them for teaching positions in our sister institutions around the world.

Another way to reduce costs while maintaining quality is to help students move through their program rapidly without delays. This year our retention rate from freshmen to sophomore stood at nearly 80 percent, well above average for institutions like Andrews, and our graduation rate within a given number of semesters climbed to 60 percent, again ahead of national averages.

In order to maintain these initiatives, Andrews relies ever more upon its alumni and friends for counsel and encouragement, for sending us good students, and providing financial support. One of these generous supporters is our sponsoring Church, and I wish to express appreciation for its support, as well as the very generous support we continue to receive from our alumni and friends, many of whom are mentioned in this report.

On behalf of the entire University, I thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Niels-Erik Andreasen".

Niels-Erik Andreasen

* Trusteeship: Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, September/October, 2009, 9-11