

Luxton voted as president-elect at Andrews University

Having served as the University's provost since 2010

On Tuesday, March 1, 2016, the executive session of the Andrews University Board of Trustees elected Andrea Luxton to serve as the sixth president of Andrews University (and 24th president overall since Andrews University first began as Battle Creek College).

Luxton replaces Niels-Erik Andreassen who is retiring this spring following 22 years of service as president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's flagship university. Prior to becoming president-elect, Luxton has served as provost of Andrews University since 2010. Before coming to Andrews University, Luxton served as president and vice president for academic administration at Canadian University College (now Burman University), as an associate director of education at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and as principal/president of Newbold College in England. She holds a PhD in English from Catholic University of America and a postgraduate diploma in Institutional Management and Change in Higher Education from University of Twente, Netherlands.

"I am excited and humbled by this opportunity to serve and lead at Andrews University," says Luxton. "I look forward to the opportunity to carry on the incredible heritage of Dr. Andreassen's two decades of leadership at Andrews University, and to find powerful and strategic ways to continue to support and serve the constituencies of Andrews University—both on our Berrien Springs campus and in our Andrews University family around the world."

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The selection of Luxton, the first female president of the University, was guided by the work of a board-appointed Presidential Search Committee, which began meeting in September 2015, one month after Andreassen announced his plans to retire. Chairperson of the Presidential Search Committee was Ben Schoun, who also chairs the Andrews University Board of Trustees.

"It has been a challenging and ultimately rewarding process," says Schoun. "This committee has been very careful and conscientious in evaluating a broad array of



Left: President-elect Andrea Luxton shared a few remarks at the Board Briefing on the evening of March 1, 2016 Right: President Andreassen invited campus to welcome the president-elect at an informal English tea held in the Howard Performing Arts Center lobby on March 10



well-qualified candidates from around the world—including a number of minorities, women and men—which finally led to the prayerful selection of Luxton, who was voted by the board earlier today."

"Some names on our list withdrew of their own accord, but we had a top quality list to choose from. The interviews and detailed evaluation that followed led to the final recommendation of two possible candidates to the board today. We believe that Luxton, who our board has now voted as Andrews University's next president, reflects the sort of visionary, thoughtful and God-centered leadership that President Andreassen has offered to Andrews over the last two decades, while also offering the University new and significant perspectives to the journey ahead. We pray for continued blessings and success for Andrews University and for Luxton as her presidency begins this spring."

The Presidential Search Committee met on Sunday, February 28, for one final review and confirmation of their final choices, and the two names selected and confirmed by the committee were then formally submitted to the Board of Trustees for its vote.

The election of the new president was made by secret ballot in the executive session of the board (Andrews University representatives, which includes the President's Cabinet and the Academic Deans Council, are invitees to the board, and thus were not present for the vote by the board in executive session).

Luxton, who is now president-elect of Andrews University, will be formally confirmed as the University's next president by a vote of the newly seated Andrews University Board of Trustees at its June 2, 2016 meeting.

At that same meeting, Ben Schoun, who has retired from his role as a general vice president at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, will also step down as chair of the Board of Trustees, and Artur Stele, general vice president at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, will serve as the next chair of the board. Stele already served on the Presidential Search Committee as an invitee with no vote.

"It's bittersweet to think of what comes next, after Andrews University has meant so much to my education, life and work," say Niels-Erik Andreassen, retiring president of Andrews University. "Between my years as a student and president, I've spent about one third of my life passionately dedicated to this campus. But as my wife and I move on to what is next for our own lives, I have great faith in Luxton and in the leadership that she will offer Andrews University, in God's continued blessings for this Andrews University community that Luxton will lead, and for the global Seventh-day Adventist community that Andrews is honored to serve in its role as the church's first and flagship university."



For further information on the search process: andrews.edu/presidentsearch

First formal farewell event for President Andreasen

Board of Trustees members and the University's top administrators gather to honor the Andreasens

On the evening of Feb. 29, 2016, the eve of the conclusion of the search committee's work to appoint a new president for Andrews University, the University Board of Trustees and University's top administrators gathered for a formal dinner to honor Niels-Erik Andreasen for his 22 years of distinguished service as president.

A string quartet provided dinner music and Board Chair Benjamin Schoun hosted the occasion. Schoun began the tributes with insight into the qualities of being Danish, and read letters of tribute sent by Robert Kloosterhuis and Gerald Karst, former board chairs, as well as tributes provided by former Andrews University president W. Richard Leshner and Jan Paulsen, retired General Conference president.

Ted N.C. Wilson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist world church, was present to give words of appreciation and tribute "for your endeavors to expand the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church around the globe." Rebekah Wang Cheng, board member, provided a tribute for three of Andreasen's outstanding attributes—equanimity, intelligence and compassionate, competent communicator. Loren Hamel, also a board member, reminisced about amusing details of serving on the search committee in 1994, and the subsequent "Say Yes to Andrews"

campaign when Andreasen visited the campus.

Demetra Andreasen, unfortunately, was ill and unable to attend the tribute dinner intended for both Andreasens. Regretful of her absence, the board was pleased to present the Andreasens with a painting by local artist Kristin Hosbein, depicting Lake Michigan and the St. Joseph lighthouse.

In accepting the gift and the tributes, Andreasen reflected on how viewing the lighthouse in St. Joseph, as they considered their decision in 1994 to accept the responsibilities of president of Andrews University, provided inspiration to them both, to do what they were called to do—be guided by the light and share the light.

Donald Livesay, vice chair of the board and president of the Lake Union Conference, concluded the evening with a blessing.

Above right: Benjamin Schoun, board chair, presented President Andreasen with a painting of the St. Joseph lighthouse by local artist Kristin Hosbein

Right: Loren Hamel, board member and CEO of Lakeland Health, reminisced about the "Say Yes to Andrews" campaign he spearheaded in 1994



Farewell tribute website

Share your memories with the Andreasens

An overview of Niels-Erik Andreasen's career is now online at andrews.edu/president. View images of his tenure at Andrews University, read editorials and features from FOCUS and take the opportunity to send an email of appreciation or memory to share with the Andreasens.

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Provost

University Administration

Niels-Erik Andreasen
Honoring 22 years as fifth president of Andrews University

The Andrews Footprint
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Digital Commons

A wealth of resources now available online

Digital Commons (DC) at Andrews University is a revolutionary service provided by the Andrews University Libraries. Research and creative scholarship included on the website has been selected and deposited by individual on-campus University departments and centers.

Digital Commons seeks to provide both the faculty and students of Andrews with a voice in global conversations through their research. Additionally, it aids in telling the Andrews story through the digital archiving of campus publications, public documents and images. Lastly, DC helps share the unique teaching resources of Andrews for the benefit of the global community.

“We have a rich heritage of research here and we’re starting to share that heritage around the world in a digital way. We’re starting to see our name pop up in some cool places as a result,” said Terry Robertson, seminary librarian.

Digital Commons allows users to see the

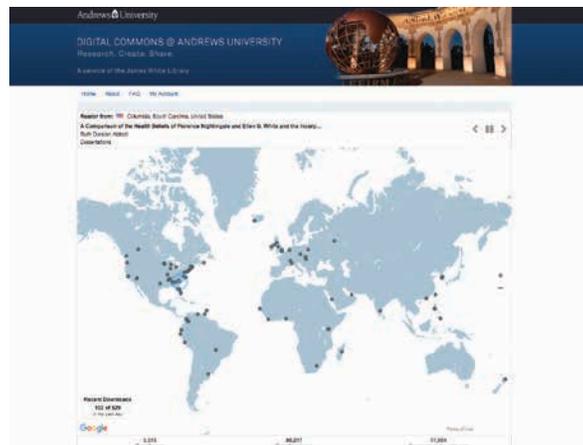
parts of the world their research has been downloaded and what institutions have accessed it.

Users can search by department, faculty publications are organized by year, and there are even “selected works” on the left featuring particularly active faculty.

Faculty are able to log in and see where their papers have been downloaded and whether the download was by a government institution, educational institution, commercial institution, etc.

“We worked a lot through the provost’s office and key faculty members and deans council. From there it expanded until most faculty have gotten excited about this,” said Larry Onsager, dean of libraries.

Eventually DC would like to have archives of images as a display, particularly archaeological items or images of all the trees since



A snapshot of areas around the world where institutions and individuals have recently downloaded items from Digital Commons

the University is an arboretum.

“We know that within any given 30-day period, 100 countries hit the library website. This is a global interest,” says Robertson.



To access archives:
digitalcommons.andrews.edu

Event-packed Black History Month

Guest speaker Damian Chandler, forums, sermon series and more

Throughout the month of February, several notable events occurred across the Andrews University campus in celebration of Black History Month (BHM). The Black History Month Committee, chaired by Debbie Weathers, associate dean for Student Life, planned a series of forums: “The Black Experience,” featuring the topics of Women, Men and Black on Black Love which occurred successively on the Saturdays of the month. Committee members included Michael Polite, assistant chaplain, and undergraduate students Shenika McDonald, Adrian Marston, Jannel Monroe and Esther Battle.

Notable speaker Damian Chandler, senior pastor of the Capitol City Seventh-day Adventist Church in Sacramento, California, spoke during the first chapel of the month on Thursday, February 4, as well as for Lighthouse Vespers on Friday evening and New Life Fellowship on Sabbath morning.

Additionally, New Life Fellowship and the Black Student Christian Forum (BSCF) held two sermon series entitled “Overcomers” and

“Forged by Fire,” featuring Jameel Daniels and Polite as speakers.

“We chose the ‘Overcomers’ theme because we were able to find parallels between black history’s chronicling of a people that overcame much and the Bible’s chronicling of individuals who overcame much,” said Polite. “This parallel exhibits proof that oppression, both sociological and spiritual, can be overcome by a determined persistence.”

The Forged by Fire series “communicated that despite all the things we have dealt with in our past, today God is still trying to refine and help us come out stronger than before,” said Monroe, junior theology major and president of the Black Student Christian Forum (BSCF) at Andrews. “Forged by Fire” occurred each Friday night in UT Auditorium.



The Black on Black Love panel discussed interracial relationships, black love in media and the state of black love in America

“Black Like Me: A Comedic Story Slam Event” occurred in the Howard Performing Arts Center Lobby where students and faculty shared five-minute comedic stories centered around amusing experiences in their lives.

Black History Month events at Andrews concluded on February 27 with a viewing of “The Wiz” and featured a flashback costume competition where attendees came dressed representing their favorite decade in black history.

Health, healing and hope

First Wellness Fest takes place on campus

In January, University Health & Wellness held its first Wellness Fest, a campus-wide event focused on increasing interest in healthy lifestyle choices. The two-day event featured fit breaks, workshops, a 5K walk, planking challenges, and an attempt at a Guinness Book of World Records title (see below).

The featured guest speaker was Chidi Ngwaba, a world-renowned physician from London, United Kingdom, and director of health for the South England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Dr. Chidi, as he prefers to be called, has a passion for helping people who are worried about or already have lifestyle illnesses, and is known internationally for his ability to reverse or prevent almost any disease.

“I work to reverse their illnesses or prevent them from getting ill in the first place,” says Chidi. “I want to get them off of meds and back into normal life.”

His approach to prevention and healing is a system he calls Life Colours. Each major lifestyle disease has a color: Diabetes is purple, cancer is green, high blood pressure is red, etc. This color-coded system is based on all the research Chidi could find on each major illness, as well as the Bible.

Being from one of the most secular countries in the world, Chidi understands how difficult it can be to share the Word of Christ. So he approaches the idea in a practical way. First, he helps them make the changes they need to in order to be healthy, such as diet and exercise. Then they talk about the reasons they choose to eat what they do, even if their choices are bad for them.

“Lifestyle doctor” is not a typical med school track. Anyone interested in this specialty must acquire much of his or her knowledge independently, though this idea is becoming more and more popular within the medical world.

“Basically a lifestyle doctor asks his patients what they want to achieve and where they want to go,” says Chidi. “I do all the

“I want to reverse their illnesses or prevent them from getting ill in the first place.”

typical doctor stuff but I also find out what they like to do and don’t like to do—a lifestyle inventory—to pinpoint the problem areas.”

General wellness and making healthy choices has always been a part of Chidi’s life. As a young man he was an active athlete, representing Britain in the long jump and qualifying for the 1992 Olympics. In 2012 he was asked to help with the health clinic at the Olympics in London. In addition, he founded two successful, award-winning vegetarian, plant-based restaurants in Soho, London.

Adventists are not immune to lifestyle illnesses; despite the health message of Adventism, many within the church struggle with issues related to sugar, fat and more.

“It’s an addiction for many, and it’s difficult to get out of,” says Chidi. “We’re talking diabetes, autoimmune problems, cancer, high blood pressure, heart disease—all related to high stress. Stress affects every illness out there, and unless we can deal with stress we’ll still have the same illnesses as everyone else.”

Chidi knows he has information that can benefit everyone, not just those who are able to see him personally, so he has put his Life

Colours concept into a book written not for academics, but for “regular and common people.” The book comes complete with workbooks for each color so people can work together in groups to support and teach each other on their paths to healthy living.

“Everyone needs good health,” says Chidi. “My main goal right now is to get ‘Life Colours’ rolled out throughout Britain, Europe and, ultimately, the world.”

Despite being active and eating well, Chidi faces lifestyle challenges just like everyone else. For him these come in the form of giving himself enough rest and relaxation while doing this work he enjoys and saying no to certain opportunities.

“Everything is exciting and wonderful,” he says, “then the BBC calls. It’s hard to say no to the BBC. Learning to prioritize my time and ask myself what I’m here to do helps. I’m not here to promote myself or gain a big empire. I just want to get the gospel out to as many as possible, and as Adventists we have a wonderful tool in the health message.”

And what is Chidi’s personal secret to a life well lived?

“I take time at seven points in the day to pray,” he says. “I take a few moments and relax while reading His Word and talking to Him. I exercise every day and follow a delicious and non-restrictive vegan diet. I think these are habits every average person can incorporate into their life, as well. They’re habits that encourage me throughout the day and give me hope for a happy, healthy future. I wish that same hope for everyone.”

Follow Chidi on Twitter
@DrChidiMD



Far left: Chidi Ngwaba (Dr. Chidi), from London, United Kingdom, was the featured guest speaker.

Left: On Wednesday, January 13, 2016, 522 participants filled Johnson Gym hoping to set a Guinness world record for the most people doing sit-ups simultaneously for over one minute. The crowd consisted of Andrews University students, faculty and staff, community members and over 230 Andrews Academy students and staff.

Two attempts were made and both were just shy of the 503 mark set by Hathershaw College in the U.K. (current world record holder), with the second coming as close as 496 people doing sit-ups continuously with proper form. Participants expressed eagerness to try again in the future, and had a great time coming together as a community to promote healthy choices.

Team Meherah represents Andrews

At the international Hyperloop Challenge held at Texas A&M University

“The Hyperloop is a new form of transportation using a pod traveling inside a vacuum tube at 700–800 miles per hour. It uses magnetic levitation, allowing the pod to ride on a film of air so there’s never contact between it and the ground.”

This is how junior mechanical engineering major Jonathan Penrod describes the futuristic invention of Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla. This idea isn’t as far into the future as we might think. SpaceX engineers are currently experimenting with five miles of test tracks near their headquarters in California.

including Team Meherah—meaning “haste” and “speed” in Hebrew—made up of six Andrews University students.

When Phillip Coleman, sophomore electrical engineering major, heard about the Hyperloop challenge in September, he asked around until he found other students who were also interested. Team Meherah chose to create an emergency propulsion system.

“If the primary power source fails, the pod needs to get to the next station,” explains Penrod. “We incorporated a landing gear style similar to that of an airplane, which retracts into the pod.”

At the event, each team displayed their prototypes and shared materials explaining their invention. Many teams were interested in Team Meherah’s lightweight design.

Each team also gave a presentation to a group of judges from various universities and engineering firms. Team Meherah’s judges included engineers from SpaceX and Hyperloop Technologies, companies currently competing to be the first to successfully

develop the Hyperloop concept.

“One of the benefits of a small school like Andrews,” Penrod continues, “is that more of us can participate because we’re a small, focused department. It’s helped me realize what types of people I work best with, gain experience with team projects, and problem-solve creatively.”

In addition to Coleman and Penrod, the team consisted of Harper Hazen, senior fine arts major; Brian Shockey, senior mechanical engineering major; Jeremy Tiffany, sophomore engineering major and pilot; Nathan Verill, junior electrical engineering major; and George Agoki, professor of engineering and faculty sponsor of the team.



Team Meherah’s members, L–R: Jeremy Tiffany, Brian Shockey, Jonathan Penrod, Phillip Coleman, Harper Hazen, Nathan Verrill

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In an effort to build an affordable prototype, Musk issued a challenge to all ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering & Technology) accredited institutions, inviting them to attend a Hyperloop Challenge at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. One hundred and fourteen teams from 20 different countries attended the event,

Raoul Dederen returns to campus for a visit

Accepting a posthumous honor for his late wife Louise Dederen and teaching a class

On Feb. 7, 2016, the Center for Adventist Research held its annual Friends Dinner, and presented a posthumous honor to Louise Dederen, founder of CAR (formerly the Heritage Room of the James White Library).

Louise’s husband, Raoul Dederen, emeritus professor of theology, was present to accept the honor on behalf of his wife who died in December 2015. He provided a touching and personal overview of his wife’s winsome but powerful contribution, beginning with her witness to him as a young Adventist in Belgium, resulting ultimately in Raoul’s conversion from Catholicism to Adventism.

Both Louise and Raoul received the prestigious J.N. Andrews Medallion from Andrews University. Raoul noted with a grin

that his wife received the medallion before he did.

Darius Jankiewicz, current chair of the Department of Theology & Christian Philosophy, invited Dederen to return to the lectern to teach the class Dederen taught for years, The Doctrines of Christ. He received a warm reception from a crowded classroom. Jankiewicz was the last doctoral student Dederen supervised before retirement, and Jankiewicz is honored to have attempted to fill Dederen’s very large shoes in his department.



Above left: Raoul Dederen accepted a posthumous honor from CAR on behalf of his wife Louise Dederen



Above right: Darius Jankiewicz and Raoul Dederen

Dederen currently lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and enjoys contributing to his local church and sharing in the lives of his family.