



Øystein S. LaBianca

## LaBianca joins international research team

Øystein S. LaBianca, professor of anthropology and associate director of the Institute of Archaeology, will join an international team of anthropologists, archaeologists, geographers, historians and sociologists studying “global moments in the Levant.”

The research project, “Global Moments in the Levant: Towards an Understanding of a Contact Zone Between Peoples, Cultures and States,” will be funded by the

Norwegian Research Council in the amount of 16 million Norwegian kronners (approximately \$2.6 million).

According to LaBianca, coauthor of the proposal with Leif Manger, professor of anthropology, University of Bergen, Norway, global moments are “fundamental cultural changes that lead to new ways of thinking, to new worlds of knowledge, to new social worlds, and to new types of personal and collective identities.”

Few places on earth can rival the Levant (Palestine, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria) when it comes to both incubating global moments and having to cope with their consequences. One of the key assumptions of the project is that intercivilizational encounters were a major source of global moments in the region.

Research will focus on the ways in which historical changes in communication and trade networks running through the Levant exposed its inhabitants to various “great traditions,” each with its own civilizational sponsor, power constellations, ontological categories, and patterned ways of being human.

Additionally, the work of LaBianca and other Madaba Plains archaeologists ([madabaplains.org](http://madabaplains.org)) on long-term food system cycles and settlement changes in Central Jordan will play a prominent role for the team as a source of archaeological data on global moments and their impact on local populations.

## New Trust Services Director

For most people, the term “estate planning” is not part of their everyday vocabulary, but for Tari Popp that phrase is at the core of her job as Trust Services Director. While Popp officially took the position as director on September 21, 2004, she has been working with the Trust Services program at Andrews in some capacity for almost 24 years.

Popp’s position consists mainly of assisting trustors with their estate plans and deferred gifts to Andrews. While most people are not familiar with the nature of her job, Popp sees it as a real ministry to our many alumni. “We get to help walk people through the unfamiliar territory of estate planning. It is so satisfying to be able to assist people in gaining the peace of mind that comes from having their plans in order and their families and charities remembered,” Popp comments.

Popp enjoys developing relationships with people who are excited about helping Andrews University. “Although every person we work with has a totally different story,” says Popp. “All share the common desire of helping to educate the future leaders of our church.”

## Hot off the press

Two brand new books by Andrews University authors have recently been published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association (RHPA).

William Richardson’s new book, *Fugitives: God’s Relentless Pursuit of His Beloved*, began as a series of sermons over the course of many years, and evolved into a retelling of thirteen familiar Bible stories. Beginning with Adam and Eve and ending

with Paul, each story expounds upon simple spiritual truths that can be found in the lives of people like Abraham and Sarah, Esau and Jacob and David and Bathsheba.

Sometimes dealing with the dynamics of couples and sometimes with individuals, Richardson covers the lives of 20 well-known biblical characters. The theme of the book strongly centers on God’s love and His desire to reconcile humanity, and it can be used for personal or group study.

Terri Fivash, Department of History and Political Science office manager,

recently published her second book with RHPA, *Ruth and Boaz*, a narrative that invites readers into the world of ancient Israel and into the life one of the most beloved



women of the Bible. Fivash’s careful research sets the scene for her readers through the use of authentic names, clothing, and customs, providing new insights into an ancient story of love and faith. Fivash is also the author of the biblical narrative, *Joseph* (2002).

## Five longtime employees say "farewell"

Combining 143 years at Andrews University, five long-time employees, who have served the institution with distinction, retired or departed this Spring. This group includes Ruth Chobotar, Jerome Thayer, Gerald Coy, Pam Swanson and Renee Copeland.

### Ruth Chobotar

retired on February 17 after 28-year tenure in the Food Service Department. Ruth worked as School Lunch coordinator for 12 years, and spent the last 16 years serving as AM production manager, overseeing 10 staff members and 20-30 students in the preparation of meals for the Terrace Café, and lunches for Andrews Academy and Ruth Murdoch Elementary School. "Her up-beat personality and cheerful countenance did much to build morale among her staff and make customers feel welcome in our department," said Ben Chilson, director of Food Service.



Ruth Chobotar

department. "He's been an outstanding department chair, is very accessible, and an excellent problem solver with high academic integrity," said Rick Kosinski, professor of educational and counseling psychology.



Char & Gerald Coy

The university said farewell to **Gerald Coy** at a reception held May 24. A staple in the College

of Technology since 1980, Gerald came to Andrews as an auto body teacher and was influential in the creation of the auto tech program. After earning his Doctorate in Industrial Technology at the University of Northern Iowa, Coy returned to Andrews in 1987 as the assistant dean of the College of Technology, and then was promoted to associate dean in 1992. After serving briefly as acting dean in 2004, Gerald recently chaired the aeronautical technology department. Coy played significant roles in worldwide recruitment for the program and is known for his dedicated work with probation students. "He is an outstanding teacher, auto body mechanic, and tremendous with the students," said Wes Shultz, dean emeritus of the College of Technology.

Coy will become principal at Burton Adventist Academy in Texas.

Since 1978, **Pam Swanson** has been a familiar face in the Seminary, but on

April 21, friends and colleagues celebrated her retirement at a very special reception in the Seminary Commons. Swanson served 27 dedicated years as a seminary secretary and MDiv administrative assistant.



Pam Swanson

A special retirement reception, celebrating **Renee Copeland's** 37 years of service to the university, was held on April



Renee & Leon Copeland

26. Renee joined the university staff in 1968 as Key punch Supervisor for what is now ITS, and worked as a secretary in that department until joining the staff of Student Services in 1991. She became an executive secretary in 1994, and retired from her most recent position as executive assistant to the vice president of Student Services. "[Renee's] attention, care, concern, and devotion have been phenomenal. [Her] expertise was invaluable to the smooth running of the university," commented Copeland's former boss of 12 years, Newton Hoilette, in a letter read at her reception.

On April 17, the department of educational and counseling psychology celebrated the retirement of **Jerome Thayer**, professor of research and statistical



Jerry Thayer (left)

methodology. Thayer came to Andrews as a statistics professor in 1979, serving in several positions, including assistant dean and graduate programs director in the School of Education, director of the Center for Statistical Services, as well as his most recent position as chair of the educational and counseling psychology