

Rankings report

Evaluating statistics, rankings and enrollment figures

The measure of Andrews University is evaluated in a number of ways each fall, from rankings of the University and its programs compared to other colleges and universities nationwide, to its annual fall census—a number that’s measured each September about a week and a half after fall registration closes.

Increasingly, the University also turns to an annual count called IPEDS: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System. This report takes an annual snapshot of how many students Andrews University—and each postsecondary institution in the United States—educates in the span of a school year.

U.S. News Best Colleges

For many students and their families, though, rankings themselves are what often receive the most attention.

U.S. News Best Colleges, one of the oldest and most established list of rankings, is the one to which most students and families return each year to get a sense of how various schools measure up among the approximately 3,000 four-year universities and colleges that currently operate in the United States.

In the 2016 U.S. News Best College’s rankings, Andrews University was again the only Adventist university ranked as a national university, coming in as #175 out of 276.

Andrews University was again recognized as the second most ethnically diverse university in the nation, tied with St. John’s University in Queens, New York, University of Houston and University of Nevada, Las Vegas. It was also ranked as having the seventh highest percentage of international students, tied with University of California, San Diego.

The University was included in a number of other U.S. News rankings, including A+ Colleges for B Students, Best Grad Schools rankings for Physical Therapy and Social Work, as well as listings in Best Education Schools, Best Nursing Schools and Best Psychology Programs.

Online offerings were also recognized, with listings for Best Online Education Programs and Best Online Graduate Education Programs. In addition, Andrews’ online MBA program was ranked as #114 in the nation.



Students enjoy Party on the Green following the annual University Convocation, August 27, 2015

Forbes.com

Forbes publishes an annual Top Colleges list, which ranks Andrews University as #597 out of 650 top universities and colleges overall. It also includes Andrews in its listings for top research universities, private colleges and grateful graduates.

USA Today/College Factual

A new ranking this year comes as a joint effort between USA Today and College Factual. This Best Nationwide Colleges (BNC) ranking looked at 1,393 colleges overall, and placed Andrews University as #513 on that list.

This ranking similarly gives some significant rankings for the University’s ethnic diversity: #27 for “excellent ethnic diversity,” #22 for “overall diversity” and additional recognition for above average faculty diversity.

College Factual also attempts to evaluate an issue that’s always been important for students and families, and increasingly an issue in media coverage of higher education: whether a particular institution offers value for the investment. Out of the schools it ranked this year, College Factual named 1,223 of them as “Best Value for the Money,” and placed Andrews University as #148 on that list—or in the top 20 percent of the schools receiving this ranking.

With a low student teacher ratio (9:1), College Factual also named Andrews as “among the best in terms of instructional attention.”

Additional Rankings

In addition to these overall rankings, Andrews is pleased to be recognized on other specialized lists. This includes this year’s

recognition of the University’s STEM program as tied for the second best STEM degree program among a listing of the best 30 small colleges with these programs in the U.S.

The new onlinembareport.com named Andrews University as 23rd out of the best 50 private online MBA programs in the U.S. in 2014, ranking above Columbia College in Missouri and University of Phoenix.

Additionally, the Council on Social Work Education has ranked the University’s Social Work program as #11 out of 150 Best Value Christian Colleges.

ENROLLMENT AT A GLANCE

- Fall semester enrollment: 3,366 (vs. 3,418 at this time last year)
- Distance, affiliate and extension program enrollment: 1,093
- Undergraduates: 1,521 (vs. 1,633 at this time last year)
- Freshmen: 382 (vs. 371 at this time last year)
- High school seniors taking college courses: 149 (vs. 111 at this time last year)
- Graduate students: 1,633 (vs. 1,613 at this time last year)
- New graduate students: 207 (vs. 187 at this time last year)
- New Master of Divinity (MDiv) students: 124 (vs. 98 at this time last year)

“I cannot remain idle”

The humanitarian response to the Syrian refugee crisis

On October 28, Georgette Bennett and Amin Ahmed from the Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees (MFA) delivered a lecture in Garber Auditorium of Chan Shun Hall on the humanitarian response to the Syrian refugee crisis.

The MFA is the only interfaith organization in the United States to address the Syrian refugee crisis. Consisting of multiple religious sects and major secular organizations, MFA seeks to galvanize global multifaith support to alleviate the Syrian refugee crisis, and promote awareness of the dangers such regional instability can cause.

Bennett founded the MFA as an effort to “delegitimize the use of religion as a justification for extremism.” Citing her Jewish roots, Bennett claimed, “I cannot remain idle while suffering abounds.”

“You may think it odd that I, as a Jew, would have been motivated to do something about this horrific humanitarian crisis,” said Bennett. “You may be asking yourself, ‘are Syrians your brother as a Jew? Syrians are your enemies.’”

“I think what you are also going to get out of this is an inspirational story about how enemies can rise above politics in order to work together to alleviate horrific human suffering,” said Bennett.

According to Bennett, religion has moral authority and consequently provides a moral imperative to take care of people. She contended that religious groups are easier to

mobilize and have inbuilt communication networks.

Bennett concluded with a three-part call to action: first, that Andrews’ students counter hateful websites which argue against resettling refugees; second, she suggested that Andrews create a scholarship for refugee students; and finally she encouraged students to host a sleeping

bag and blanket drive, as many refugees are heading into winter severely undersupplied.

Ahmed’s portion of the lecture focused on his personal experiences in Syria as a hospital administrator. A self-proclaimed member of the “old generation,” it was the atrocities of the Assad regime against unarmed demonstrators that convinced him to become an activist.

When demonstrators came seeking medical treatment, Ahmed was forced to report them to the authorities—who would imprison and torture them. This became a moral dilemma for Ahmed, who felt he could not stand by idly, so he mobilized a team of medical staff to supply underground medical assistance.

“We decided, my friends and I, that we should act,” said Ahmed. “We shouldn’t let anything stop us from acting. We organized doctors and medical workers and other professions. We started providing a



Georgette Bennett, founder of the Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees, spoke on the humanitarian response to the Syrian refugee crisis

network of medical supplies and treatment for people who were getting hurt in these demonstrations.

“We continued our work until we were discovered,” said Ahmed. “I had to leave the country and my hometown. All of a sudden I became a refugee. I was planning where I was going to spend my life and all of a sudden I lost everything. My property was confiscated, and I left with one suitcase. I barely made it out of Syria.”

“Amin Ahmed’s story really touched me,” said junior political science major Laisa Vakaloloma. “I think that as students of Andrews University, we need to get involved in this cause. We, too, have the ability to make a difference in the lives of the refugees.”

 To contribute or get involved: www.multifaithalliance.org

Autumn conference on religion & science

Led by keynote speaker Gregory Boyd from St. Paul, Minnesota



The annual Andrews Autumn Conference on Religion and Science took place October 23–24, 2015, featuring keynote speaker Gregory Boyd, senior pastor of Woodland Hills Church in St. Paul, Minnesota, and author of “God at War,” “Is God to Blame?” and “Benefit of the Doubt.” Boyd spoke on “The Danger of Certainty-Seeking Faith” and “Honesty: The Foundation of Biblical Faith.”

Steve Harnish, professor of mathematics at Bluffton University (Bluffton, Ohio) presented “Mathematical Truths, Doubts and (Un)Certainties: Dynamics of a creative relationality;” Richard Rice, professor of theological studies at Loma Linda University (Loma Linda, California), spoke on “Trust and Doubt in the Drama of Faith;” and Carl Helrich, professor emeritus of physics at Goshen College, presented “Uncertainty.” *Pictured, left to right:* Richard Rice, Gregory Boyd, Stephen Harnish, Carl Helrich.

This annual conference is a function of the Midwest Religion and Science Society. Those organizing and presenting at the conference represent a variety of faith backgrounds.

The Newmyer Classic

Promoting the educational benefits of wholesome sportsmanship

For more than a decade, Andrews University has been hosting the annual Cardinal Classic—a friendly basketball tournament for Adventist academy teams. Its purpose has always been to provide a venue for student athletes from around North America’s Seventh-day Adventist high schools to come together and promote the educational benefits of wholesome sportsmanship.

This year Andrews University is excited to announce that the Cardinal Classic will be renamed the Newmyer Classic, in honor of Magaly and Terry Newmyer who recently created a generous endowment for the event. It will take place February 4–6, 2016.

Magaly and Terry are continuing the rich tradition of the Newmyer family of engaging and promoting students with athletic interests in a Christian environment. The Cardinal Classic was previously named the Newmyer Classic as a tribute to Clyde and Gladys Newmyer, who dedicated their lives to Christian education. This current endowment and renaming of the event honors that tradition.

As a young man, Clyde Newmyer turned away from a contract offer with the Pittsburgh Pirates and recruitment efforts by the Philadelphia Phillies to dedicate himself to educating Christian youth. He and Gladys went on to serve as a team of educators in many corners of the United States. Their career paths included one elementary school,

six academies and Andrews University.

During their five years at Andrews University (1958–1963), Clyde worked as chair of the Department of Physical Education, during which time he designed and developed the athletic field currently used by Andrews students. He and Gladys also worked to enhance the athletic programs at all the academies at which they served. Clyde’s philosophy was to give students with athletic interests the opportunity to advance their skills in a Christian environment and with Christian coaching.

Gladys also maintained a supportive spirit. In her administrative roles she took every opportunity to encourage students to excel.

Clyde served as principal at their final three academies: Greater New York Academy (Woodside, New York), Mountain View Academy (Mountain View, California), and Union Springs Academy (Union Springs, New York). While at Union Springs, Clyde coached varsity basketball. His team, the Eagles, maintained Isaiah 40:31 as their team motto: “But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.”

On a cold Saturday night in the month of February 1987, Clyde died of a massive heart



Clyde and Gladys Newmyer (circa 1976) in the administrative office at Mountain View Academy. The picture of Christ and the athletic trophy in the background frame the values of Christian sportsmanship that they encouraged among Adventist young people.

attack in front of his student body. He was on the gym floor of Union Springs Academy and his Eagles had just defeated the alumni team in an annual friendly game. As Gladys was heard to say many times later, “Clyde died with his boots on, always doing what he believed was best for his students.”

Today the gymnasium/administration complex at Union Springs Academy is named Newsier Hall in memory of a principal that put his heart and soul into educating Christian teenagers. In that same spirit, we play the Newmyer Classic Basketball Tournament as a tribute to a family of winners within Adventist education.

2015 Gift of Prophecy Symposium

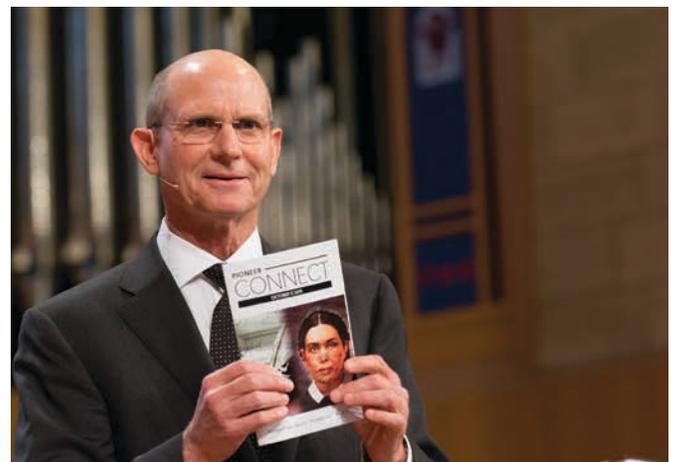
Highlighting the work of Ellen G. White in the Adventist church

The Gift of Prophecy in Scripture and History Symposium was held this year in recognition of the centennial of Ellen White’s death and launched a quinquennial worldwide emphasis in the Seventh-day Adventist Church for understanding the gift of prophecy.

Attendees included those interested in Old Testament and New Testament teaching, theology and history on the gift of prophecy, as well as the writings of Ellen White.

Twenty-four presenters from as far away as Austria and the Philippines shared their understanding of how the gift of prophecy was manifest in the past and also in a changing post-modern world. To watch recordings from the session go to <http://www.giftofprophecy2015.org/>.

The Symposium was sponsored by the Ellen G. White Estate, Inc., Center for Adventist Research, Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, Biblical Research Institute and General Conference Ministerial Association.



Presenters included Ted N. C. Wilson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist world church, who also spoke for both services at Pioneer Memorial Church.

Andrews well represented at SAC

As presenters, attendees and award winners

The 26th annual Society of Adventist Communicators conference took place in Washington, D.C., October 14–18, 2015. Andrews University was well represented with four students presenting (and several more attending) and two professors in attendance, one of whom also presented. In total, nearly 200 Adventist communicators from around the world attended the event.

“My professors encouraged us all to come to this conference,” says Felicia Tonga, graduate communication student. “I’ve always found it refreshing to be reminded of our purpose as communicators and to just mingle with like-minded people.”

Joel Thompson Jr., a 2015 graduate of the Department of Communication graduate program, presented his thesis on being a professional playwright and director.

“Like all art forms, people tend to neglect the fact that there is a business component to the work,” says Thompson. “In a world such as we have today where everyone is glued to their technology, theatre is an opportunity to connect with people—to live in the moment with them.”

Before becoming a fulltime student, Francis Tuffour was a pastor and communication director in Ghana, West Africa. He appreciated the opportunity to attend SAC this year and felt like he learned a lot.

“From the technologies we’ve talked about to how we can develop television programs

for the secular audience, I’m going to take a lot home with me,” he says. “I’m so glad I came because I was able to network and gain additional knowledge to develop new skills from veterans in media communication.”

Students weren’t the only ones glad they came; Rachel Williams-Smith, chair of the Department of Communication, attended SAC in Jacksonville, Florida in 2014, and was determined to share the experience with others in the future.

“Coming here is an opportunity to see what the landscape looks like for communicators within the Adventist church,” says Williams-Smith. “I think it’s important that I know that so I can share it with my students. If I want to be able to develop and shape a program and help young people go out there and make a difference, I need to know what that looks like and this is an excellent place to do that on an annual basis.”

Williams-Smith was also able to present her own research during the conference.

Andrews University was also well represented during the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening.

Envision magazine, a student-produced annual publication out of the Department of Communication, came home with three awards: Best Design Project, Best Feature



Faculty, staff and students from Andrews University enjoyed a tour of Newseum during the SAC Conference in Washington, D.C.

Writing and Honorable Mention for Best Feature Writing.

The Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication brought in an award for Best Project Design: Honorable Mention for the Prospective Student Brochure. Team members were Jason Webster, former enrollment strategic marketing manager; Justin Jeffery, art director; and Becky St. Clair, media communications manager.

In addition, Melodie Roschman, a 2015 English and journalism major and J.N. Andrews Honors Scholar graduate, was awarded the 2015 Student Award, designed to recognize students who have demonstrated excellence not only in the classroom but on the job as well.

“I’m very pleased and proud to see Andrews represented in such a big way,” says Williams-Smith. “I’m looking forward to seeing what our students, staff and faculty accomplish in the coming year.”

Annual Adventist IT conference

Representatives from all NAD higher education schools participated



In early November, the annual gathering of Adventist Information Technology professionals took place at Andrews University. All NAD higher education schools were represented either in person or as remote participants, including a representative from the Adventist University of Africa in Nairobi, Kenya. There were a total of 45 participants, including 30 in person.

Lorena Bidwell, chief information officer at Andrews University, says, “The greatest benefit of this conference is the opportunities for discussion, support and collaboration with other Adventist IT staff from all around North America.”

The group discussed topics such as wireless networking, internal email systems, security, virtualization and more. “There are plans in place for us to collaborate to make an Adventist cloud of servers, which would provide redundancy for hosting Internet services in case of catastrophe,” says Lathan Bidwell, web programmer and developer at Andrews. This conference takes place on a different Adventist campus each year—the 2016 conference will be hosted by Loma Linda University.