

H.M.S. Richards Lectureship

Attendees learn valuable ways to create word pictures for their listeners

WHEN ATTENDEES TOOK THEIR SEATS FOR the 2018 H.M.S. Richards Lectureship held October 28–29, they little expected the treat that was to come.

The annual H.M.S. Richards Lectureship on Biblical Preaching, coordinated by Hyveth Williams, professor of Christian ministry, featured guest lecturer Donald Sunukjian of Biola University. Sunukjian's lecture taught seminarians how to use their words to create pictures in the minds of their audience, in order to keep them engaged and attentive. He highlighted the importance of doing this by noting that "today's culture is dominated by images" and stressed that speakers have to know how to take hold of the mind's eye.

Elaborating on this idea, Sunukjian presented three ways for this to be done:

1. Expand on the biblical author's original images so that listeners can form a mental picture of them.
2. Create contemporary images similar to the author's to convey the same meaning.

3. Describe contemporary situations and scenarios of how the biblical truth "shows up" in the lives of listeners.

Attendees were reminded that these techniques were used by two of the best speakers in the world: Jesus and Paul. "Use your voice," he encouraged, "like men of God have used theirs all through time. Forget PowerPoints and movie clips. Rummage through your life and the lives of others for relevant illustrations."

For Monday's worship Sunukjian did just that. He artfully demonstrated the use of storytelling as an attention grabber and a handy exegetical tool. Seizing 1 Corinthians 10:13 as the basis of his sermon, "Quick as a Wink and a Snail's Pace," Sunukjian expanded the meaning of the text and discussed applicable contexts which highlighted the faithfulness of God and relevance to the lives of the audience. During the second portion of his presentation, Sunukjian deftly shifted his presentation style, demonstrating the kind of speaking he had been describing throughout his lectures.



The lecturer-turned-storyteller held the audience in rapt attention as he used his words to recreate scenes from his own experience with temptation and God's faithfulness. His was an experience that the seminarians could all relate to: ministry envy. The genius of his storytelling laid not in his transparency or humor but in his masterful use of story to explain the innards of the text he had so deftly pried open. Shifting again, he ended by leading the unsuspecting congregation to feel the weighty sense of honor toward them that God has and desires to convey in every pre-weighed trial. The apostle Paul's point was made.

Acts of service

Andrews University holds second annual Change Day

ON THURSDAY, SEPT. 13, ANDREWS University held its second annual Change Day. Approximately 1,400 Andrews University faculty, staff and students worked at 70 sites across seven neighborhoods and two counties.

Andrews classes were canceled and many offices were closed until 3 p.m. to give the campus community an opportunity to join in service. Participants gathered at 9 a.m. on the flag mall to eat breakfast and have worship before traveling to their project sites.

Vicki Wiley, executive assistant to the dean of the School of Education, shares what it was like to start off Change Day. "It's great to feel a part of something so big as Change Day, where we know we're making a difference in the community and being

changed ourselves," she explains. "Seeing hundreds of faculty, staff and students all over the flag mall at Andrews all wearing the same shirts is empowering! Then as we head out to our places of service we feel like we're an army of people serving God in practical ways."

Tatiana Correa, a second-year MDiv student at Andrews University, coordinated a group of 25 volunteers who led diversity training for second and third graders at the Hull International Academy in Benton Harbor, Michigan. "We talked about what diversity meant, where we came from, and the beauty of being different," she reflects. "Their smiles and interesting questions made the day fun and one to remember."

Michael Nixon, vice president for Diversity & Inclusion, says, "I led a team at the Coloma/St. Joseph KOA Campground site for the second year in a row. One of the most rewarding parts of the experience was having the campground owner take our brand-new

team—I was the only holdover—to the site of our project from last year so that he could show us the dramatic difference we made to that part of their grounds. It was a reminder to me that we never know how far even one good deed will go in transforming the lives of others and the spaces that they occupy."

Teela Ruehle, assistant director of Service & Missions and Change Day coordinator, summarizes her response to Change Day. "It was an amazing experience to be able to connect with our community and provide help where it was needed, from pulling weeds to painting schools. It was such a good reminder that serving others and volunteering is not just beneficial to one person or group, but it helps all those involved grow to be better individuals. I can't wait for Change Day 2019!"



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