

14th annual Seminary Scholarship Symposium

Featuring Millard Erickson, acclaimed biblical theologian

ON FEBRUARY 6 AND 8, 2018, THE SEVENTH-day Adventist Theological Seminary hosted the 14th annual Seminary Scholarship Symposium. Typically held during the first full week of February, the gathering seeks to enhance scholarly dialogue among seminary faculty and students. This year's symposium featured Millard Erickson as the plenary speaker. Erickson, best known for his work "Christian Theology," is an author and former dean of Bethel Theological Seminary.

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The symposium began on Tuesday, Feb. 6, in the Seminary Chapel with the Recognition Ceremony highlighting outstanding scholarship among faculty and students. The publications spanned four languages and topics ranging from religious liberty to best preaching practices.

"We want to be acquainted with the latest research of our professors and students and to encourage and motivate each other to engage in a deeper, more thorough understanding of biblical teaching and how to apply and live it in everyday life," said Moskala, Seminary dean.

In addition to the featured publications, Stanley Patterson, professor of Christian ministry, was presented with the Siegfried H. Horn Excellence in Research & Creative Scholarship Award, and Osvaldo Lima Ferreira received the Doctor of Ministry Dissertation Award.

Christon Arthur, provost, presented a new Andrews University honor, the Heart @ Andrews Award, to Tom Shepherd, director of the PhD and ThD programs and professor of New Testament interpretation.

"Service is at the heart of what we do," said Arthur. "We don't care what you know, unless that knowledge becomes

part of your own practice. Dr. Shepherd goes beyond the call of duty, fundraising to support the PhD/ThD programs and to take students to conferences. Thank you, Dr. Shepherd, for bringing your heart to students."

The symposium continued on Feb. 8 in the Seminary Chapel, where Erickson preached for Seminary worship, presenting "A God for Changing Times."

"Our world is changing rapidly," said Erickson. "But God is sufficient for us in all those situations. I don't know, and I can't know, what challenges you will face. But one thing I know God does not change."

Chad Angasan, Seminary Student Forum co-president, commented, "The sermon today asserted that God is the consistent answer in the past, present and yet to come."

That evening, Erickson addressed the question, "Are There Ranks in the Trinity?"

Erickson explored the implications of the temporary subordination and eternal subordination views, as well as the internal and external criteria for evaluating both perspectives, stating "The question of the evening,...is to answer: is the Father superior to the Son, or is the Son eternally equal in authority with the Father but temporarily subordinate during his time on earth?"

Erickson concluded, "It is my judgment that the temporary subordination view accounts better for more of the evidence, with less distortion, and suffers from fewer difficulties, than does the view of eternal subordination."

"Dr. Erickson's lecture regarding ranks in the Trinity was very relevant because of the discussion on the ordination of women in our midst," said Moskala. "We were created in God's image, and equality among the Trinity or the eternal



TOP: Slavis Jankovic (right) presented a Festschrift to Jiri Moskala, Seminary dean, for the Department of Old Testament. The book is titled "Searching the Scriptures," and was written by several PhD students. ABOVE: Millard Erickson, former dean of Bethel Theological Seminary, was the plenary speaker for the symposium.

subordination of Jesus and the Holy Spirit has serious consequences. As Adventists we are part of the Christian Church that struggles with the understanding and communication of the Trinity because we want to be faithful to what God reveals about Himself. Dr. Erickson helped us to better comprehend that the viable biblical view is to point our thinking toward equality."

Although the symposium was scheduled to conclude on February 9 with 28 student and faculty scholarly papers in breakout sessions, a winter storm led to cancellation of the presentations.

 Additional materials and papers available at: <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/sss/2018/>