

Fall Fellowship Kicks off 50th Anniversary

GC President Jan Paulsen participates in the celebration by reminiscing how Andrews University came to be

In celebration of 50 years as Andrews University, faculty and staff were joined by Jan Paulsen, president of the General Conference, for “Rethinking Education, Fall Fellowship: 2009” from August 14–16. This annual event brought together faculty and staff to kick-off the new school year and spend time spiritually renewing as a campus community. This year’s theme, “Rethinking Education,” provided an opportunity to take a look back at the goals of the 1959 rethinking of education by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists which led to the transformation of Emmanuel Missionary College, the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and Potomac University into Andrews University.

The 50 Years as Andrews University-themed celebration began with Friday evening vespers at the Howard Performing Arts Center. “The Birth of Andrews University,” a multimedia event moderated by Meredith Jones Gray, professor of English, and Brent Geraty, legal counsel and assistant professor of legal studies, featured a timeline of the events surrounding the transformation of Emmanuel Missionary College, the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and Potomac University into Andrews University in 1959. Jones Gray gave faculty and staff a narrative snapshot of college life at those three institutions prior to 1959 interspersed with video clips of President Floyd O. Rittenhouse, Leona Running and Elaine Giddings from a panel discussion entitled “The Birth of Andrews University,” held on May 14, 1988. Their commentary revealed the stormy political climate surrounding the decision to move the seminary and graduate programs out of the nation’s capital and away from the hub of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

During the program, Geraty interviewed Paulsen, who holds degrees from Emmanuel Missionary College, the Theological Seminary in Takoma Park, Md., and Andrews University. He is uniquely positioned to remember those turbulent times and noted it was around that time when he began his career with the General Conference. “I had one section of the building that I had to clean every night. I’ll tell you: there is an enormous amount of education in wastebaskets. And

that’s where I began my service for the General Conference,” said Paulsen.

Bill Richardson, former dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, was welcomed back for his new role as interim provost.

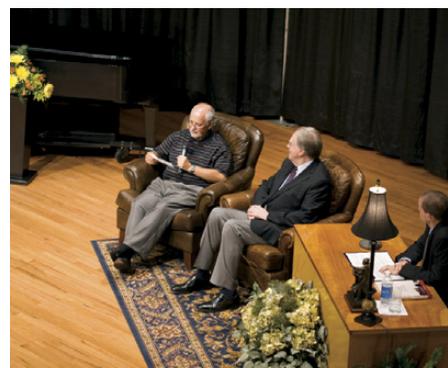
Following breakfast at the Howard Performing Arts Center, Andrews faculty and staff offered testimonies, music and scripture for Sabbath School themed on “How Andrews University has Changed Lives and the World.” Paulsen offered a homily, “If the Lord Gives Adventist Education 50 More Years...” for the worship hour. “The church could not function with the broad responsibility and engagement we are currently involved in without having this supply source such as Andrews University.”

Following Paulsen’s homily, President Niels-Erik Andreasen gave a response, “Andrews is Ready and Able to Lead.” “There are many voices in the world telling us what to do with education....There are equally strident voices in our church telling us what to do...We will choose to keep both the fundamentals of Christian faith and the best academic practices before us at all times.”

After a fellowship lunch for faculty, staff and their families in Dining Services, an afternoon event, “Let’s Talk about Adventist Education,” was held in the Seminary Chapel. During Sabbath morning services, cards were distributed to take questions for Paulsen. Duane McBride, chair of the Department of Behavioral Sciences and research professor of sociology, moderated the session where the state of Adventist education took center stage.

Fall Fellowship concluded with the annual Get Acquainted Corn Roast, where faculty and staff had a chance to meet and greet new students and their families while feasting upon freshly roasted, locally grown sweet corn. Held in the heart of campus between Nethery Hall and the Campus Center, a local band filled the air with the blended sounds of bluegrass and gospel.

For a more comprehensive overview of the history and events surrounding this time period access the October issue of the *Lake Union Herald* at www.lakeunionherald.org.



Top to bottom: Bill Richardson is introduced as the new interim provost ■ President Andreasen makes a point during the discussion of Andrews University’s beginnings with Jan Paulsen ■ Greg Constantine, research professor of art, emeritus, joins the discussion with Paulsen and Brent Geraty, one of the moderators for Friday evening ■ Keri Suarez, media relations specialist for IMC, enjoys the fresh roasted corn at Sunday’s Get Acquainted Corn Roast