

2014

2014 Research at Andrews

Andrews University

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Andrews University Hosts the First Annual Andrews Research Conference (ARC)

The first Andrews Research Conference (ARC), titled “Early Career Researchers in STEM,” was held at Andrews University May 7–11, 2014. Participants included presenters from universities around North America and Andrews University science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) faculty members. Most of the presenters were Adventist graduate students or early career faculty either at non-American or non-Adventist universities. The conference included presentations by each of the attendees in areas of chemistry, biochemistry, biology, mathematics, physics, engineering, computer science, and materials science.

The conference was sponsored by the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists and the STEM departments at Andrews University. The Office of Research & Creative Scholarship organized the event along with STEM coordinator, Rachel Boothby. Thanks to the generosity of the sponsors, attendees were able to participate in the conference at no cost except their travel expenses. Attendees traveled from as far west as the California Institute of Technology and as far south as Montemorelos, Mexico and the University of the West Indies.

The conference consisted of oral presentations followed by evening leisure activities, such as a picnic at the beach

or canoeing down the St. Joseph River. This enabled the researchers to get to know one another both professionally and personally.

Matias Soto, a materials science PhD student at Rice University, expressed his appreciation for the personal and small-group feel of the conference. “All the researchers had the opportunity to get to know each other outside of the conference setting,” he said. This distinguishes ARC from other conferences. “We also had the opportunity to get to know faculty and staff from Andrews at different moments. I think the time spent outside the conference in other activities made a big difference,” he said.

Participants appreciated the opportunity to meet and network with other researchers, and some are already looking forward to collaborating with one another on their projects. “I made some good contacts,” Johnson Luma said. Luma is an undergraduate student pursuing a degree in civil and environmental engineering at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. “I never connected research to anything spiritual,” he said. “After the conference, I know that as I research, I will be dealing with what God has created. We are all learning about parts of His creation.”

The second annual Andrews Research Conference will be held from May 13–17, 2015 with a focus on early career researchers in the social sciences. Adventist graduate students, post-docs, and early career faculty in the social sciences (anthropology, communication, community and international development, psychology, social work, etc.) are invited to present. More information can be found at andrews.edu/research/arc.



Siegfried H. Horn



Gary Burdick

Pure & Applied Sciences

Gary Burdick joined the Andrews University faculty in 1999 and is currently professor of

physics and associate dean for research in the School of Graduate Studies & Research.

Under Gary's leadership, the Office of Research & Creative Scholarship has developed an electronic application and review process for the Institutional Review Board and simplified the annual Faculty Research/Creative Scholarship Activity Report. The office has implemented a “Merit Release Time” award, giving top performing faculty researchers the opportunity to take a three-credit release from their regular teaching load. The office has also developed a simplified Internal Faculty Research Grant application process with a seven-member peer review committee, creating a fairer, more transparent grant award process.

The office has been proactive in extending the Annual Celebration of Research program with a published abstract book, and in expanding the annual Honors Research Poster Symposium to include all recipients of the Undergraduate Research Scholar Award and other undergraduate researchers. In addition, the office has provided funding for these students to present the results of their research at regional or national conferences. At Gary's initiative, the Research website has been developed to include up-to-date information regarding external and internal grants, undergraduate research, graduate research, as well as faculty and student research resources.

Andrews University strives to be known for its culture of research and creative scholarship, an institution where research is part of our academic fabric. Gary is instrumental in shaping that culture and helping us achieve that identity.

Gary has published one book, two book chapters, more than 60 scientific peer-reviewed journal articles and made over 50 professional presentations. He has also received a number of honors, including the 2004 North Central Regional Young Investigator Award by Sigma Xi, the 2001 Award for Excellence in Faculty Research, and the 2013 Daniel A. Augsburg Excellence in Teaching Award.