

## Randall W. Younker

John Nevins Andrews Medallion

May 6, 2018



This morning the recipient of the John Nevins Andrews Medallion is Randall W. Younker, whose extensive leadership in and contribution to the field of archaeology have distinguished him among his colleagues.

In 1975, Younker received his BA in religion from Pacific Union College and later an MA in teaching of biology. He furthered his education at the University of Arizona with an MA in Near Eastern studies in 1987 and PhD in Near Eastern studies and anthropology in 1997.

Beginning as an instructor of science and religion at Sacramento Adventist Academy, Younker taught science and religion at Pacific Union College Prep School and biology at PUC as a contract instructor. In 1985, he began teaching as a contract instructor of anthropology and archaeology at Andrews University and was appointed director of the Institute of Archaeology in 1986. He became a full professor of Old Testament and biblical archaeology in 2001. Younker is currently professor of archaeology and history of antiquity at Andrews University and director of the PhD Biblical and ANE Archaeology program.

He has been professionally involved in various capacities with the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) since 1986 and currently serves as the chair of the ASOR Membership and Outreach Committee. Other professional memberships include the Archaeological Institute of America and the Near Eastern Archaeological Society.

Since 1992, Younker has been the senior project director of the Tall Jalul excavation project in Jordan. He has also held this position in the San Miceli excavation in Salemi, Sicily, since 2014. In addition to these locations, Younker was actively involved in the Madaba Plains Project in Jordan, including the hinterland survey and the sites of Jawa and Driejat, the Mt. Raitano excavation in San Ciperello, Sicily, the Hiram Edson Farm Archaeological Survey, Kourion on Cyprus, and Tel Dor and Gezer in Israel.

Because of his dedicated service to his students and professional fieldwork, Younker has played a key part in creating a positive reputation and respect for the Andrews University archaeological program and its students. In 2015, he received \$20,000 from the Carter Report grant for archaeology research and \$10,000 from the Faith and Science grant to fund archaeology students. His dedication has been recognized with multiple awards, the most recent being the Andrews University Teacher of the Year Award in 2010.

Younker has also been very active in publishing books and articles about his research. His contributions include one scholarly book, 10 edited scholarly books, 31 contributions to scholarly books, 28 publications in scholarly journals, 35 contributions to Bible dictionary and encyclopedia articles and seven book reviews. He has lectured and read scholarly papers on 70 different occasions.

Younker is happily married to his “high school sweetheart,” April, and they have four adult children (Rebecca, Michael, Elizabeth and Sarah—all Andrews graduates) and two granddaughters. When he is not teaching, researching or doing fieldwork, his hobbies include anything related to history—especially visiting museums and antiquing—as well as genealogy, music and sports.

For his significant contributions to and leadership within the field of archaeology, the faculty of Andrews University is proud to present Randall W. Younker with the John Nevins Andrews Medallion.