

David Nowack

Today, the recipient of the John Nevins Andrews Medallion is David Nowack, whose exemplary leadership, research and mentorship has distinguished him among his colleagues.

Nowack graduated from Union College, now Union Adventist University, with a degree in chemistry education in 1976. After working for a few years at Lynwood Academy in Southern California, Dave Nowack became a science and math teacher at Andrews Academy beginning in 1979.

In 1984, Nowack decided to pursue graduate studies at Purdue University, first earning a master's degree in medicinal chemistry and pharmacognancy and, later, a PhD in nutritional biochemistry.

Upon completion of his PhD, he began teaching biochemistry and chemistry at Union College and rose to the rank of professor in 1991. At Union College, he was recognized with the Thomas and Violet Zapara Award for Excellence in College Teaching in 1992.

In 1998, he moved with his family to Andrews University to teach biochemistry. Just five years later, in 2002, he was recognized as the Advisor of the Year. In 2009, he was named chair of the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, continuing in this role until 2019.

As chair, Nowack's goal was to offer a world-class chemical and biochemical education to students in his department. During this time, he guided the department through considerable changes in personnel and infrastructure. Over three summers, he helped implement a complex project that modernized the HVAC system in the Science Complex, updating two organic labs, the instrument lab and many other student-facing services. He also began a summer biochemistry class to benefit students taking the MCAT.

For over ten years, beginning in 2012, he has fulfilled the role of grand marshal during graduation weekend, helping escort students and faculty in and out of services. He began hosting a lunch for departmental graduates and their families and started a tradition of gifting students with personally embroidered lab coats. Nowack has not missed a spring graduation in 36 years.

Nowack has also been involved in many service activities both on campus and at Pioneer Memorial Church. In 2021, he was recognized with the Bruce E. Lee Service Award. He and his wife, Judy, have consistently opened their home and hearts to students, offering short- and long-term lodging, hosting departmental enchilada nights, and sharing Sabbath lunches.

For exemplary ability to encourage the love of learning in young lives, his commitment to improving resources for our students and his faithful leadership at our graduation services, the faculty of Andrews University are proud to present David Nowack with the John Nevins Andrews Medallion.