June 6: WWU Appoints New Vice President

This Week: WWU Appoints New Vice President; Vegetarians Do Live Long … Usually; and more!

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WWU Appoints New Vice President

David Richardson Jr. will be the new Walla Walla University (WWU) vice president for student life and mission beginning July 1. Richardson comes to WWU from Riverside, Calif., where he served Concorde Career Colleges as director of student affairs on seven campuses. Richardson is also a pastor and has served the Southeastern California Conference in church growth and evangelism. He holds a doctoral degree in educational leadership from Argosy University and a Master of Divinity from Andrews University. He will replace George Bennett, who has been serving as an interim vice president for the past year. He and his wife, Melanie, have two school-age sons. Read more online from Walla Walla University.

Vegetarians Do Live Longer … Usually

A study published this week in Journal of the American Medical Association Internal Medicine, says vegetarians experienced 12 percent fewer deaths during a six-year research period. Researchers at Loma Linda University tracked more than 73,000 Adventist Church members. Approximately half of the participants ate meat, the other half included: 5,500 vegans, 21,000 lacto-ovo vegetarians, 7,100 vegetarians who ate some fish, and 4,000 who ate meat infrequently. The study was aided by subjects who also have low rates of alcohol and tobacco use. While a healthy vegetarian diet shows definite benefits to longevity, cancer still struck meat-eaters and vegetarians at similar rates. The study showed health benefits were more beneficial for men, but did not determine why women seemed to reap less rewards from a vegetarian diet. Read more about this study from the Adventist News Network.

Auburn Academy Fills the Gaps
As it heads toward the 2013–14 school year, Auburn Adventist Academy (AAA) in Auburn, Wash., will include new faces in its administrative team. Tom Decker (pictured here) will serve as principal. Decker, who brings experience as both a pastor and educator, is no stranger to the Northwest, having served as a pastor in Olympia, Auburn and Puyallup, Wash. Jeremy Vandenboer will be coming from Mount Ellis Academy in Bozeman, Mont., to be AAA vice principal. Aaron Purkeypile will become the business manager and Mary Kobberstad, who has taught English at AAA for 22 years, will transition into the registrar role. John McGhee has been elected as the alumni and development director.

Torkelsen to Take on New Role
Monte Torkelsen will assume the role of Portland Adventist Academy (PAA) chaplain for the coming 2013–14 school year. He will also serve as the school’s director of development. Torkelsen has worked with the Oregon Conference for 20 years, where he most recently has directed youth ministries and Big Lake Youth Camp. Prior to his service in the Oregon Conference he held ministry roles in Milton-Freewater, Ore., and Perth, Australia, where he was also youth director. Torkelsen is a graduate of PAA, Walla Walla University and Andrews University. He and his wife, Darla, have three sons — two currently attending WWU and one a student at PAA.

Social Media Sparks Spiritual Connections in Europe
The Adventist News Network reports that a social media outreach strategy is beginning to show results for the Adventist Church in Europe. The online community LIFEconnect offers online content and discussion about lifestyle topics. This year, it began offering live meeting events and streaming options. The most recent statistics show the project is attracting tens of thousands of viewers and participants. This initiative is sponsored by the Trans-European Division which covers 22 countries with just 83,000 church members. This is the denomination's first major ongoing outreach focused solely on social media. Read more from the Adventist News Network.
Adventist Health to Build East Portland Center
A future medical facility will take shape in the Parkrose area of east Portland, Ore., to provide enhanced health care for future Adventist Health patients. A groundbreaking ceremony was held May 30 with Portland-area civic leaders. The new 23,000 square foot complex, expected to open during the first quarter of 2014, will include an urgent care center, physical therapy clinic, laboratory services and digital imaging center. It will employ approximately 80 staff positions.

Part-Time Position Opens at NPUC
Resumes for the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) Hispanic ministries administrative assistant position are being accepted until June 17. For this half-time, hourly position, the individual must be able to appropriately represent the office of Hispanic ministries before the Hispanic constituency throughout the North Pacific Union. The candidate must be a Seventh-day Adventist member in regular standing. The candidate should have a minimum of two years of college or equivalent. Must speak and write English and Spanish well. The candidate must have knowledge of Microsoft Word and other Microsoft software, such as Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and Access. The candidate should have a basic understanding of accounting and possess skills in word processing and record keeping. Work schedule of 20 hours per week is flexible but must be conducted at the NPUC office in Ridgefield, Wash., and fit within the regularly scheduled office hours. For more information, contact Robert Sundin, NPUC undertreasurer, at 360-857-7014, or by email.

Looking Ahead

June
11–15: Idaho Camp Meeting
12–15: Montana Camp Meeting
14–15: Better Life Broadcasting Camp Meeting
19–22: Upper Columbia Camp Meeting
20–29: Washington Camp Meeting

June
We used to think people who left the Adventist Church did so primarily because of poor interpersonal relationships within the church. A new
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July
2–7: AHA Cowboy Camp Meeting
11–13: Oregon Hispanic Camp Meeting
16–20: Oregon Gladstone Camp Meeting
23–27: Alaska Camp Meeting

More Events

study suggests that differences in belief are now the main reason. In this month's feature story, Andy Nash, Southern Adventist University journalism and religion professor explores why Adventists are leaving the church, and what can be done to bring them back. Read more about it in the June GLEANER!
New Vice President for Student Life Appointed

David Richardson, Jr. Begins His Duties in July

By: Rosa Jimenez

Walla Walla University President John McVay has announced the appointment of David Richardson, Jr. as WWU’s new vice president for student life and mission. Richardson, who lives in Riverside, Calif., will begin his duties on July 1.

In this position, Richardson will oversee all areas of student residential life, including housing, spiritual and social extracurricular programs, food services, student government, counseling, and health services.

Richardson comes to WWU after five years with Concorde Career Colleges, an institution with 15 campuses across the U.S. Most recently, Richardson was regional director of student affairs, overseeing student services on seven campuses, including the areas of career services, learning resource center, military and veterans’ support services, disability services, student government, and other student-focused areas. He began his time at Concorde College serving as director of student affairs for the campus in San Bernardino, Calif.

“Dr. Richardson brings energy, verve, and a passion for excellence to his new role,” says John McVay, WWU president. “He possesses valuable experience in linking student life outside of the classroom with success in the classroom and personifies a rock solid commitment to the mission of Seventh-day Adventist higher education. We look forward to the contributions he will make to Walla Walla University.”

Richardson is also a pastor and evangelist, serving the Southeastern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in church growth and evangelism since 1993. His youth work includes leading a youth committee that focuses on secondary and post-secondary students to help them develop strategies for the successful completion of educational, spiritual health and workforce goals.

Before his current roles, Richardson was a counselor and instructor at Riverside Community College in Riverside, Calif., and a physical education instructor at Oakwood College Academy in Huntsville, Ala.

Richardson holds a doctoral degree in educational leadership from Argosy University, and a master’s degree in counseling from University of Phoenix. He is also a 1995 graduate of Andrews University, earning his master of divinity degree. He also received his undergraduate degree in 1993 from Oakwood University in physical education with a minor in religion.

Richardson replaces George Bennett, who has been serving as interim vice president for the past year.

Richardson will move to the Walla Walla Valley with his wife, Melanie, who is a speech-language pathologist by profession. His sons, Brandon and Jaylin, will attend school in the Walla Walla area this fall.
WWU: New Vice President for Student Life Appointed

http://www.wallawalla.edu/nc/about-wwu/news/article/view/new-vice-pr...
U.S. study of Adventists finds vegetarians live longer

Jun 04, 2013 Silver Spring, Maryland, United States
Ansel Oliver/ANN

People who eat a vegetarian diet live longer than those who eat meat, according to a study of more than 70,000 Seventh-day Adventists.

Vegetarians experienced 12 percent fewer deaths over a six-year period than those who ate meat, according to a study published by researchers from Adventist Church-run Loma Linda University. [photo: Brandan Roberts]

A study published yesterday in JAMA Internal Medicine, a journal of the American Medical Association, said vegetarians experienced 12 percent fewer deaths over a six-year period of research.

The study, funded by the United States’ National Institutes of Health, was conducted by researchers at Loma Linda University, an Adventist institution in Southern California. Researchers tracked 73,308 Adventist Church members who follow the church’s dietary counsel of a plant-based diet to varying degrees.

Of the study’s participants, researchers said 5,548 were vegans, 21,177 were lacto-ovo vegetarians (also eating dairy products and eggs), 7,194 were vegetarians who also ate fish, and 4,031 ate meat infrequently. The rest of the study participants ate meat.

The findings confirm health benefits of eating a vegetarian diet, the lead study author Dr. Michael Orlich told Bloomberg News.

“People should take these kinds of results into account as they’re considering dietary choices,” Orlich told Bloomberg. “Various types of vegetarian diets may be beneficial in reducing the risk of death compared to non-vegetarian diets.”

Orlich, director of the preventive medicine residency program at Loma Linda University Medical Center, said the study was aided by studying subjects who have low rates of alcohol
and tobacco use.

The Wall Street Journal today pointed out that the study said cancer still struck meat-eaters and vegetarians at similar rates. Also, a vegetarian meal doesn’t automatically make it a healthy one. Deep fried foods contain high amounts of fat, and some meats are healthier than others.

Researchers pointed out that the health benefits were even more beneficial for men. It remained unclear why women were less affected by a vegetarian diet. Future research will examine gender-specific reactions to certain foods.

Dr. Kathleen Kuntaraf, associate Health Ministries director for the Adventist world church, said a vegetarian diet is part of living a holistic, healthy life.

“More and more people are recognizing our principles from 150 years ago are truly scientific,” she said.

Seventh-day Adventists have long advocated a vegetarian diet. The founder of Loma Linda’s School of Public Health overcame resistance in the health community in the 1940s to produce a landmark study on the benefits of a vegetarian diet, discovering that such a diet indeed contained sufficient protein, among other benefits.

In recent years, Adventists have been noted as one of the longest living people groups ever studied. In 2008, “Blue Zones” book author Dan Buettner wrote extensively about the health principles of Adventists and their longer, healthier lifespans.

Health

Adventists believe health and healing are a ministry. They advocate a holistic approach to health that involves physical, mental, social and spiritual wellbeing. Adventist health leaders believe in God’s restorative powers, the prevention of disease through simple lifestyle changes and the effectiveness of proven medical treatment and therapy.

Noteworthy:

- The Adventist Church’s program to stop smoking was among the first
- Adventist health leaders work to destigmatize mental health issues
- Adventists partner with United States First Lady Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move! Initiative to promote healthy, active lifestyles for kids
• The Adventist Church is one of the Pan America Health Organization’s faith-based partners

• Adventists believe every church is a center for health and healing

Recent Photos

Recent Commentaries

Liquid spirits versus the Holy Spirit

Aug 20, 2012
In Europe, Adventist social media sparking interest in spirituality


June 12, 2013

Jun 04, 2013 St. Albans, England

Ansel Oliver/ANN

The development of a social media strategy for outreach in Europe is paying off for Seventh-day Adventist Church leaders trying to connect with those potentially interested in learning about God.

Members of a local online community in Rogaska Slatina, Slovenia, meet at a live event in March to discuss life issues. The LIFEconnect initiative is the denomination's first major ministry outreach solely using social media. [photo courtesy tedMEDIA]

The online community LIFEconnect, launched in 2010, offers content and discussion groups for various lifestyle topics. This year, the online project began offering live meeting events and streaming presentations. Follow-up statistics from March and April meetings show the project is drawing tens of thousands of viewers and participants, and in some cases motivating them to visit an Adventist Church.

The initiative is operated by the Adventist Church’s Trans-European Division, based in England. The region includes 22 countries and is home to slightly less than 83,000 Adventist Church members.

Currently, 13 countries in the division are participating in the LIFEconnect project, with another half dozen expected to join this year.

“Jesus told us to go where people are, and today more than 2.5 billion people are on the Internet,” said Miroslav Pujic, Communication & Media director for the Trans-European Division. “Digital roads are quickly taking us to millions to share the story of Jesus Christ.”

While other church regions are finding success with major media outreach – such as television production and distribution in countries including Romania and Brazil – LIFEconnect is the denomination’s first major ongoing outreach initiative solely using social media. Though small for now, division leaders are finding some success in highly secular
regions, where other methods of evangelism have yielded few results.

“I know of the challenges and sacrifices made to implement this project, and it’s thrilling to see this method of outreach delivering such great results, said Williams Costa Jr., Communication director of the Adventist world church. “Our church has been using other methods of outreach, and that’s fine, but we need to keep being innovative in finding new ways to share our message.”

In Albania, home to only 200 church members, more than 20 visitors came to an Adventist Church following a streamed LIFEconnect event. The nightly program had about 1,100 viewers.

In Serbia, organizers noted 10,500 viewers of a streamed program in one weekend. While some were church members, many community members participated in the program and at an auditorium event.

In Macedonia, a streamed program gained 3,300 viewers over a weekend. A national pop music recording artist came to a live event.

In Montenegro, 80 percent of registered users are not members of the Adventist Church. Some 3,000 people viewed a weekend program in March, with three people coming to visit and Adventist Church the following Saturday.

“This is becoming the major outreach method in Serbia,” said Dragan Grujicic, LIFEconnect leader for the Southeast–European Union Conference, based in Serbia.

Pujic launched LIFEconnect in June of 2010, following two years of planning and development. Church administrations in participating countries were required to designate a Web pastor for the project, a network developer and volunteers.

The initiative is operated at the division by a small team of developers, a marketing manager and a content manager.

Pujic said roughly 32,000 people followed streamed programs online or participated in corresponding events in auditoriums in March and April.

He said the division plans to add the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and several Nordic and Baltic countries to the LIFEconnect project by the end of this year.

Trans–Europe
A membership of about 81,000 members in a population of about 205 million.

**Countries**
Aland Islands, Albania, Bosnia–Herzegovina, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Faeroe Islands, Finland, Greece, Greenland, Guernsey, Hungary, Iceland, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom, and the southern portion of Cyprus.

**Recent Photos**