

AUGUST 20-22, 2026

Preparation for Translation



NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

Seventh-Day Adventist Theological Seminary

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come."

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Dean's WELCOME



Dear Seminary Students,
Welcome to your new, international, and friendly Seminary family, and to a new experience at this outstanding institution! On behalf of the Andrews University community and especially the Theological Seminary's faculty and staff, I would like to warmly greet you as well as any family members who may have accompanied you and invite you to become an integral part of our committed community of faith. We are delighted to have you here.

Together we want to form a unity of love, faith, and hope around Jesus and His Word. God is smiling on us, so we can smile on each other and encourage one another. You have the privilege of joining a vigorous learning and worshiping community. Together we want to fulfill God's mission, live a theocentric life, and do everything to the glory of God. Beyond learning to lead congregations and teaching the truth of the Bible, we want to be molded by the Spirit of God and create a place of contagious Seventh-day Adventist Christianity. As never before, this is the place to learn and live ministry at its best. Here you will have the opportunity to experience the richness and variety of the global Seventh-day Adventist Church. You will be rubbing shoulders with devoted church leaders and students from around the world. Do not miss the opportunity to connect with them and form eternal friendships.

Cordially,

Ziri Moskala

God has called you to ministry and brought you here to prepare you for a great future in the service of the Lord. I pray that we will continue this journey together in an attitude of humility, determination, consecration, praise, and thanksgiving. Use the privileges He gives you and always be faithful to Him and His calling, because He is constantly faithful to you! Set your priorities straight and do not be distracted even by useful things! Turn all your assignments into prayers and devotionals. May the experiences of Seminary life help you to grow in the Lord and increase your knowledge of Him. May our gracious and awesome Lord richly bless you in your life and studies, helping you to find a proper balance in all your various activities, and give you joy in working closely with Him to fulfill His mission in your life. May this new academic year be for you an awesome walk with the Lord! May He enable you to take up the challenges with courage and wisely use the opportunities which are ahead of you! May He grant you grace, peace, wisdom, a good memory, joy, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Never forget God's promise to you: "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you" (Ps 32:8 NIV). Let Him be your strength always (Hab 3:19; Phil 4:13).

Dean's Financial LETTER

Dear Seminarians,

I am very pleased that you are studying at the SDA Theological Seminary at Andrews University, deepening your call, and preparing to be even more useful for the Lord! I really want the years you spend here to be the best and most meaningful of your life. Let me share with you a very serious burden which lies on my heart.

For several years, there has been a deepening concern for Seminary students who are entering or graduating with extensive debt. When the topic was brought to the attention of the Seminary's Executive Committee, which includes the GC President, NAD President, and NAD Union Presidents, they requested that the Seminary leadership seek ways to educate and encourage students to avoid excessive student loans.

Loan Borrows

There seems to be a number of factors that are contributing to the rising student debt load that may include the following: (1) entering Seminary with high undergraduate debt; (2) relying on debt for living expenses while in the Seminary; (3) using loans to boost standard of living (not living as a student); (4) unawareness of the dollar amount of monthly payments and the relationship to denominational wage scales; (5) ease of obtaining student loans ("just sign here"). Often individuals do not understand how the repayment of a loan, which includes principal and interest, will affect their future income and standard of living.

Please read the updated information regarding loan changes here:

https://www.andrews.edu/services/sfs/general_information/aid/loan-changes-for-2026-2027.html.

For those employed as a pastor, your income will be based on church/missionary wages and after paying taxes, giving tithe and offerings, and repaying your educational debt, you will be left with substantially little to pay your bills and living expenses—rent/mortgage, utilities, car expenses, food, children's education, medical, travel, gifts, and so forth.

The Seminary administration is not against the careful use of student debt to finance one's education, as long as the student has a realistic plan for the ability to pay back the loans without undue strain on the family budget. We are strongly against excessive debt that leads to high payments for many years. Too often it seems that some students simply take the loan proceeds because the money is available, without calculating the cost of repayment.

In Spring Semester 2022, Tyler Kern, 2021–2022 Seminary Student Forum Co-President, and Sharyn Nash Smoot, Director, Seminary Business Administration, presented a financial resources seminar. Please view that presentation here: <https://www.andrews.edu/sem/sem-chapel/chapel/index.html> under Lectureships > Care Team > Finance & Resources. If you wish to consult with Sharyn regarding your personal financial situation, you may e-mail her at shari@andrews.edu or arrange an appointment through Karen Rodriguez (phone: 269.471.6941; e-mail: seminary@andrews.edu). She is available to help you to make the right financial decisions. During your Seminary experience, I wish to encourage you to take advantage of the DSLE652 Personal and Family Finance course we offer each academic year. Students who have taken this course have testified that it has been one of the most practical courses both for them personally and professionally.

For Master of Divinity (MDiv) students, your tuition payments only cover 20 percent of the actual cost. The rest is covered by the North American Division (NAD), the Seminary, and Andrews University.

Your education is a beautiful gift because we believe in your future. Since so many people are investing in you, we encourage you to honor their support by being a good manager of your resources and keeping up with your tuition and living expenses. Please reflect prayerfully on the following wisdom from the Word of God:

- “The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender.” (Prov 22:7 ESV)
- “Be not one of those who give pledges, who put up security for debts. If you have nothing with which to pay, why should your bed be taken from under you?” (Prov 22:26–27 ESV)
- “The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives.” (Ps 37:21 ESV)
- “This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.” (1 Cor 4:1–2 ESV)

May our loving Lord grant you wisdom, discipline, and the right discernment to know how to manage life and the financial part of it that your usefulness can grow and not be hindered by poor choices and decisions. Remember, you are a steward of the assets God is giving you (Matt 25:14–46; Luke 16:1–13). Manage all God’s gifts well to His glory and may our gracious Lord be with you!

Most cordially,



Jiří Moskala, ThD, PhD
Dean

THURSDAY

August 29



Seminary Chapel

8:30AM Worship

Welcome

Worship in song

Prayer

Scripture

Matthew 4:18-22

Devotional

Jesus Saw You

Fernando Ortiz

Priscilla Josiah

Fernando Ortiz

Abner Hernandez

9AM Seminary Overview

Seminary Chorus, Worship, Worship Team

Seminary Finances

Library Resources

NAD Ministerial Association

Adventist Learning Community

The Center for Community Change

English Reformation Tour

Old Testament Tour

9:20AM Seminary Care

Seminary Resources

Care Team & Counseling

First the Blade

Mentoring

Karen Rodrigues

Roy Gatón

Kenley Hall

Ignacio Goya

10AM Group Photo-outside steps

ALL new students

10:30AM Program Time

Mdiv Program (Chapel)

PhD Program (N310)

Mdiv Staff

PhD Faculty & Staff

12PM Seminary Club Fair w/Lunch and Ice Cream Outside Lawn

James White Library Tours

2:00 Library Resource Tour

3:00 Library Resource Tour

FRIDAY

August 21



Vespers (Seminary Chapel) 5:15PM

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Introduction of Chief Academic Officer

Welcome to Andrews University

Introduction of Faculty and Staff

W. Larry Richards Greek Placement Exam Award

Hebrew Placement Exam Award

Bible Memorization Award

North American Patristics Society

Best Student Paper- Yvonne Gameti Witherspoon

Devotional

Sabbath Schedule/Announcements

Closing Prayer

Cedric Vine

Abner Hernandez

Wagner Kuhn

Jiří Moskala

Cedric Vine

Jerome Skinner

Abner Hernandez

John Reeve

Ricardo Gonzalez

Cedric Vine

Alyane Thorpe



Dinner on the Lawn

Dinner will be served on the seminary lawn after the Vespers service.

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come."

August 22 SABBATH

Seminary Chapel

Sabbath Program

10AM Sabbath School

Prelude

David Williams

Worship Songs

Abdi Del Arca

Discussion - Jerome Skinner, Daniel Olariu, Randall Younker

Beginning Well: Studying Scripture for a Lifetime in a Changing World

Seminary Heritage Sabbath

Kevin Burton

11:20AM

Intermission

11:30AM Divine Service

Prelude

David Williams

Welcome & Prayer

Boubakar Sanou

Worship Songs

Abdi Del Arca

Student Sharing

Carlos Mariscal

Special Music

Abdi Del Arca

Scripture Reading Mathew 25 1:13

Sermon

Abner Hernandez

"Ready for Midnight"

Closing Hymn

Watch Ye Saints

#598

Closing Prayer

Abner Hernandez

Postlude

David Williams

Lunch-12:30PM (Dining Services ticket needed)

Faculty Mentors will have meal tickets for students and their families

All others can pick up their meal ticket from Janine Carlos



Special Appreciation

New Student Orientation Committee
The Center for Community Change
Old Testament Department
Dorothy Show
Karen Rodrigues
Keila Diaz
Mona Sarcona
Tina Leonor
Daryl St. Clair
Andrea Anglin
David Williams
Jordane Smith
Seminary Dean's Office
Seminary Faculty and Staff
Seminary Media Team

Sabbath Lunch is provided by The Center for Community Change

Preparation for Translation

Andrews University

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