



Dr. Andrew Skotnicki
Distinguished Lasallian-Educator
2014-2015

Dr. Andrew Skotnicki ... the man, the myth, the legend!

One student expressed the views of many: Skotnicki is the man! Students often speak about being blown away in one of Andrew's ever-popular courses. Preconceived notions are turned inside out upside down, imaginative concepts are constructed and more often than not new directions are chartered. Andrew was born to teach! The faculty quickly notices that Andrew lives up to ideals that most of us can only wonder at. When you hear a rousing "Hey, Buddy!" you know you will see an ear-to-ear smile, as we are all his sisters and brothers. He is equally swift to console those who are saddened and rejoice with those who celebrate.

In the religious studies trade one definition of **myth** is a feeble attempt to describe mystery. There is nothing feeble about Andrew. He is energy personified. Albert Einstein could have been speaking directly to Andrew when he said, "People like you and me, though mortal, of course, like everyone else, do not grow old no matter how long we live. What I mean is that we never cease to stand like curious children before the Great Mystery into which we are born." Andrew is a man enveloped by mystery. Like Abraham Heschel, Andrew believes in a God who is intimately involved in the affairs of human beings. Heschel wrote, "God is never neutral, never beyond good and evil, and always partial to justice." In prayer, Andrew meets a God who invites us to use our privileged world of higher education to transform injustice, especially in our prison system. We all benefit from Andrew's leadership in encouraging women and men in prison to learn, grow, and change.

Finally, as colleagues, we know that a **legend** lives among us as a scholar, a teacher, and an advocate for social justice. Andrew was also born to care! And care deeply he does! Perhaps John Baptist de La Salle and Andrew are men who call our students "brothers from different mothers." Men dedicated to lifting up the marginalized. Andy embodies the Lasallian ideals that make our college great. There is a saying, "All people smile in the same language." Andrew's friendly and genuine smile sends a message that is contagious. Dr. Andrew Skotnicki, you are the person God intended you to be and today Manhattan College honors you with the Distinguished Lasallian Educator Award as you honor us with your presence among us. We are deeply grateful for the presence of God revealed in you.

Andrew, may God continue to bless you today and for many tomorrows!

Brother Robert Berger, FSC