



## University of the Andes, Chile

2010.5.28

### Serving with one's intellect

At the feet of the Andes mountain-range in Chile stands the campus of the [University of the Andes](#). It was founded in 1989 by a group of academics and businessmen who were convinced that love for work done well, as preached by St Josemaria Escriva, founder of Opus Dei, was a valuable ideal for the task of forming citizens who would be prepared to serve others with their intellects.

“University people should be responsible citizens with a healthy concern for the problems of other people and a generous spirit which brings them to face these problems and to resolve them in the best possible way” (*Conversations with Msgr. Escriva de Balaguer*, 74).

Universities are among the oldest institutions in the history of the west, and contributed to the forging of western culture and education. Our daily life today is deeply marked by the progress made in university lecture-halls, libraries and laboratories. Universities as such are defined by a varied set of characteristics. Academics and managers at the University of the Andes, Chile, focus on the following: universality, the search for the truth, and respect for others.

### UNIVERSALITY

Universality means having a universal outlook, being open to other people, other ideas and spheres of knowledge, and wanting to learn about other cultures, both close and far-off. Studying at university means starting on a journey full of surprises, leading to hitherto undiscovered worlds.

“My time at the University was no trivial matter. Thanks to the personal help one of the lecturers gave me, I was able to get to know God, and I discovered the importance of focusing my work and life on other people. In short, I discovered that it was not by chance that I had been given the opportunity to go to university,

and to this university specifically. It wasn't for the sake of becoming great or successful, but so that I could do good, be happy, and help others be happy.”  
(Jorge Nazer, law graduate of the University of the Andes, Chile, class of 96; businessman.)

## **THE SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH**

Universities are the right places to raise the ultimate, radical questions: Who am I? Where do I come from? Where am I going? Why does evil exist? What is there after this life? What is the ultimate basis for human dignity? What makes me happy? On the answers to these questions depends the direction of one's goals in work, and one's whole life.

The teaching and research done at the University of the Andes, Chile, are inspired by a Christian understanding of the human person, the world and society, and they seek a holistic vision of faith, thought and life.

Lecturers, administrative staff and students at the University of the Andes, Chile, are offered Christian formational activities to help them develop the religious dimension of their lives. The activities organised by the chaplaincy are freely open to all.

“When I started work at the University I realised that as well as teaching, an important part of my work was research. I wasn't just enriching myself, but I could improve my teaching and impart new discoveries to my students. I have seen how the University of the Andes fosters a spirit of innovation, and a genuine love for knowledge, in its staff. Through its research, the university is at the [service](#) of society.”

Francisca Greene, Ph. D. in Communications, lecturer in the Faculty of Communication.

## **RESPECT FOR OTHERS**

The University of the Andes, Chile, has a strong Christian identity shown in respect for human dignity, concern for not just the technical quality but the ethical quality of the work done, and the belief that the fullness of people's lives is measured by how much they serve others. This identity is not an obstacle to, but a powerful motor for, deep respect for people of other beliefs or none.

The Christian identity of the University of the Andes, Chile, moves it to initiate solidarity projects among the students, spurring them to dedicate part of their time

to people in need.

St Josemaria held that work is an opportunity to develop one's personality, a bond of union with others, a means of aiding in the progress of all humanity (cf. *Christ is Passing By*, 47 and *The Forge*, 702). As a consequence of this vision, work done well and care of details are highly valued in this university. This is seen equally in the intellectual work and in the most material jobs, because all tasks have the same value if they are done with love and in a [esprit de service](#).

## **The University's mission**

The University of the Andes, Chile, seeks: To spread in society a way of life that is consistent with Christian truth, in which faith and reason go hand in hand. To engender and spread knowledge in all spheres of learning. To foster an attitude of open, respectful dialogue with others. To promote the integral formation of students, through personal commitment to each of them individually. To spread the love of work done well and the desire to serve others, inspired by the spirit of Opus Dei, which stands guarantor of the Christian teaching that is given in the University.

## **Vision**

The University of the Andes, Chile, aspires to be a reference point for excellence and a source of the highest intellectual and moral habits of thought. Its aim is for the future professionals who are educated in it to stand out for their professional competence, sense of solidarity, capacity to serve society responsibly, and ethical standards in their work. It aims to spread in society an understanding of the divine value of human life, work done well and the truth that sets people free. It fosters collaboration with other national and international institutions.

“We are privileged to have teachers who accompany us in our learning process through academic assessment. We need to make the most of the opportunities for development here, which are not just the lectures, because we are given the possibility of very special and valuable all-round development.”

Adriana Morales, student representative, fourth-year nursing student.

## **Teaching and research**

Teaching and research are strongly integrated in the University of the Andes, Chile. The work of providing academic education is backed up by personalized guidance for each student through academic assessment. Its goal is to form high-quality professionals, people of integrity who sincerely want to serve society.

Each year the University strives to attract new lecturers and supports them in ongoing professional development. From its beginnings, the University of the Andes has encouraged its staff's research activities and helped students to establish stable contact with practising professionals through work placements and practical assignments.

## **Open to the world**

In an ever more interconnected world, students need to learn how to relate to all sorts of different people and events. The University of the Andes, Chile, is deliberately located on a single campus in order to encourage interdisciplinary exchange. The University opens up to the whole of Chile and to the world through international congresses and teacher and student exchanges.

## **The campus**

There are five completed buildings: Humanities, Sciences, Library, ESE Business School, and the Clock Building, inaugurated in 2009. Since 2007 the University has also had a new building of 1,800 square metres, the University of the Andes Health Centre, located in San Bernardo, in which 60 state-of-the-art dentist's chairs have been installed. The total area covered by the San Bernardo complex is 5,400 square metres.

The University of the Andes Health Centre is the University's first hospital, and attends to patients on the national health scheme. It was first set up in San Bernardo in 1990, and students of medicine, dentistry, nursing and psychology carry out their practice assignments there.

The [ESE Business School](#) ("Escuela de Negocios de la Universidad de los Andes") is a postgraduate teaching centre for training business people and executives. Masters' programmes, seminars, focus programmes and diploma courses are run in accordance with a Christian view of human beings and society.

## **A living University**

The university halls of residence [La Cañada](#), in Concepción, and [Alborada](#) and [Araucaria](#), in Santiago, offer students up-to-date study facilities as well as cultural activities, spiritual formation and academic guidance.