

fall 2019

the magazine of Southern Adventist University

# columns

## The Little Things

Sometimes small gestures leave  
big impressions | page 12





Photo: Calvin Serban

### Tasty Treats

Homemade pottery, greeting cards, soaps, clothing, and a wide selection of food options drew crowds to the second annual 423 Night Market. Hosted by the Student Association, students and employees set up more than 70 booths that showcased their talents and diverse cultures. Pictured from left to right, junior biology and allied health majors Madison, Gnki, and Caleigh Tsuchiya and their friends sold "Tsuchi Balls"—rice flour dumplings also known as Japanese Dango.

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Each of these three married couples is bound together through a love of nursing, which gives them a unique opportunity to touch many lives while supporting each other along the way.

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Homecoming is always a high point of the year on campus as we welcome Southern alumni from all over the country. Attendees enjoy a long weekend of fellowship, shared memories, worship, and fun.

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Cover caption: Cheryl Craven, '99, an employee in the School of Social Work, shows her love for others by cultivating and sharing African violets.

Photo by Ryan Pierce

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# Academic Summer Camps 2019

The fourth annual Academic Summer Camps had the highest attendance so far. More than 150 students from 13 different states participated in the 11 camps offered, taking advantage of the opportunity to explore potential careers and think about their callings while still in high school. Each topic offered hands-on experience, from dissecting a real animal joint in the Pre-Med Camp to writing an article in the Multimedia Journalism Camp, which was published in *Southern Tidings* magazine.

1. The School of Journalism and Communication's studio provided the setting for camper Maiya Banks to practice fashion photography.
2. After a full day of classroom activities, campers participated in a lighthearted cardboard boat race, constructing and paddling their own cardboard creations.
3. Robert Ordóñez, associate professor of computing, worked with camper Josh Tary on mobile phone app development. On page 12, read how Ordóñez and others on campus brighten the lives of those around them.
4. As a fun yet insightful outing, psychology campers were grouped into teams based on who had the least in common according to personality assessments. Each team then worked together to solve an escape room.
5. Camper Ashley Ford captured a pollinating bee for Photography Camp's nature assignment.
6. On the last day, the students from each

- camp showcased what they had learned for their parents, the other campers, and Southern employees.
7. Automotive repair campers received hands-on experience working in the shop.
8. Pre-med campers Ryan Howell (right) and Ethan Lin took each other's blood pressure while learning how to check basic vital signs.
9. The Vegetarian Culinary Arts Camp gave high school students such as Otis Woolfolk (left) and Zachary Bradley practical experience baking and cooking.
10. Students in the Multimedia Journalism Camp interviewed local refugees for an article they published in *Southern Tidings* magazine.
11. Students in the Social Work and Missions Camp worked together on a collage about social issues.
12. During a hospital simulation, students in the Pre-Med Camp demonstrated some of the skills they learned.

Academic Summer Camps next year will be June 14-17. For more information, write to visit@southern.edu.



1

Photo: Ryan Pierce



2

Photo: Terry Henson



3

Photo: Terry Henson



4

Photo contributed



6

Photo: Terry Henson



7

Photo: Terry Henson

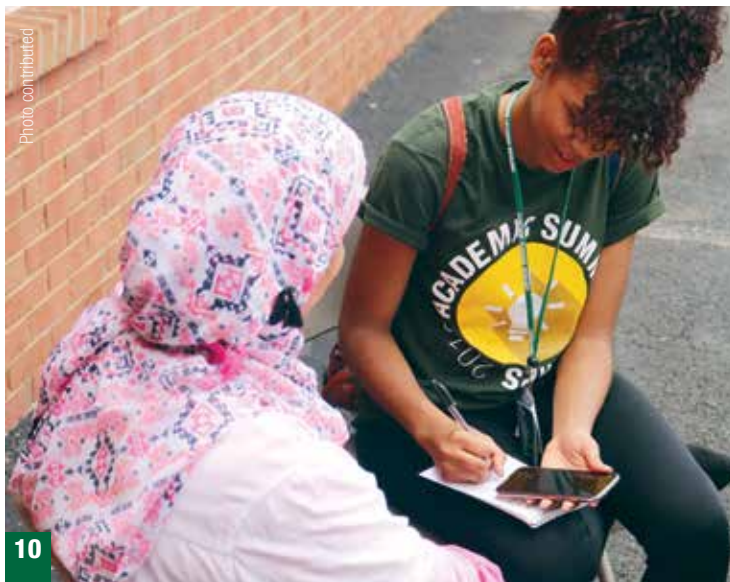


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9

Photo: Terry Henson



10

Photo contributed



11

Photo contributed



12

Photo contributed

## Southern Welcomes New Vice President for Spiritual Life

Southern Adventist University is pleased to welcome Joseph Khabbaz as the new vice president for spiritual life. Along with serving as campus chaplain, Khabbaz will help prioritize Southern's spiritual goals through this newly restructured position.

"For some time, I hoped for an administrative position focused on spiritual life that would provide direct input into top decision-making processes," said President David Smith, PhD. "I believe that spiritual life is at the heart of

everything that is important to us at Southern and that we are best served by waving the flag of spiritual life as high as we can. I know that the focus on spiritual life will be greatly enhanced through Joseph's ministry and that our employees and students will be effectively ministered to through the work he and his team in the Chaplain's Office will provide."

Khabbaz was born and raised in Sydney, Australia, where he worked as an accountant before attending seminary at Andrews University. He has years of experience working with young people, including his most recent position as the youth and young adult pastor at Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church in Takoma Park, Maryland. His hobbies include international mission trips, basketball, and spending time with friends and family, including his uncle, retired

Southern religion professor Philip Samaan, DMin.

"I'm excited to serve young adults as they matriculate through Southern," Khabbaz said. "This is a time of life where they will be making critical decisions that will set their future direction in areas such as career, finances, friendships, and spirituality. As faculty and staff go through life alongside students, I pray that both we and the students will be transformed through a vibrant relationship with God."

Khabbaz assumed his responsibilities in the new dual role of chaplain and administrator in mid-October.

— by Rachel Beaver



Joseph Khabbaz

## Media Partnership Serves Young People

Recently Southern partnered with the Carolina Conference to support the initiative "Project ReFresh." This multimedia project aims to create spiritual and engaging content for young adults across various media platforms, including blogs, videos, and podcasting.

"The goal of Project ReFresh is to create discussions and answer questions about biblical and social issues, which is something that young adults have been searching for within the Adventist church," said Rebecca (Mills) Carpenter, '97, director of communications at the Carolina Conference.

Since Carolina Conference launched Project ReFresh in 2018, several Southern students and employees have been involved in the initiative's various media channels. This summer, the university officially joined in supporting the project.

"We believed in the content that Project ReFresh is producing and their willingness to not shy away from tough topics," said Isaac James, '08, director of Marketing and University Relations at Southern. "We saw this as an opportunity to promote that idea and show that Southern is also supportive of young people and their thoughts about church issues."

Southern sponsors three of Project ReFresh's channels: The Loop video series; "What If," a vlog series soon to be launched; and the Echo podcast. Echo is hosted by Ryan Becker, ministry coordinator and admissions counselor at Southern. The second season of the podcast was recorded on Southern's campus and featured students and pastors in the local area.

To find out more about Project ReFresh, visit [theprojectrefresh.org](http://theprojectrefresh.org).

— by Rachel Beaver



## Senior Advisers Appointed to Assist Administration

Southern has appointed two new advisers to the president, thanks to the generosity of alumni. Stephanie Guster, MSW, associate professor in the



Stephanie Guster



Alan Parker

School of Social Work, will serve as senior adviser for diversity with an emphasis on race. Alan Parker, DTh, professor in the School of Religion, will serve as senior adviser for sexual integrity.

"To me, diversity is something that totally enriches a learning experience, a higher education experience," said President David Smith, PhD. "It's another form of learning that I think prepares students for functioning well in the world. I felt that Southern as a campus needed guidance from individuals who would help us make positive use of our diversity."

During the 2018-2019 school year, the university worked to hire a vice president for unity and inclusion, but because of budgetary constraints that year, administration temporarily put the search on hold. Then two alumni donors stepped forward,

offering to fund the work for two years.

Thanks to their investment, two advisers will share the duties originally housed under one job description while continuing some of their previous responsibilities on campus.

Guster, the senior adviser for diversity, will specifically focus on racial diversity. She will chair the Diversity Committee, aid in monthly employee cultural conversations, plan programming that provides a safe and open environment to address racial diversity issues, and more.

"My goals include collaboration with the Student Association, developing strong connections with each ethnic club, and collaboration with International Student Services in order to expand our conversation beyond only black and white concerns," Guster said.

As senior adviser for sexual integrity, Parker will oversee the work of the Committee for Sexual Integrity and facilitate the creation of subcommittees that will tackle different topics such as pornography and LGBTQ questions.

"I hope students will understand what the Bible says about sex and will understand how the church relates to sexuality," Parker said. "I hope students will feel that this campus is a safe place to talk about sexual issues."

— by Staff Writers

## COLUMNS Spring Survey Results

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share your opinions through our survey this spring! We are humbled by the overwhelmingly positive feedback: the vast majority of respondents said they are satisfied or extremely satisfied with the magazine. In response to the question, "What topics do you most want to read in COLUMNS?" the top picks were university news and alumni association news; as a result, we are dedicating even more space in the magazine to cover them. We value your continued input, so please send your ideas or letters to the editor to [columns@southern.edu](mailto:columns@southern.edu) any time.



## » by the numbers

69.84

Inches of rain have fallen since the Bietz Center for Student Life construction began.

251

Tons of structural steel form the core of the Bietz Center.

49,000

Square feet of metal decking give a firm surface to the Bietz Center's three floors.

1,145

Outdoor stairs on campus provide a good workout for students and employees walking between buildings, supporting Southern's emphasis on wellness.

180

Bags of chips were served at the annual Southern Union Great Haystack, a welcome-back Sabbath lunch for students hosted by the union every fall.

28

Area excursions are provided for students this school year through Southern Outdoor Adventure Programming (SOAP)— see photo on page 11.

## Improvements Scheduled for Library and Wright Hall

Southern's Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning initiatives are coming to fruition around campus. Shortly after the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year, donors exceeded the monetary goal by reaching \$50.8 million and counting.

These financial gifts are going to many projects around campus, including the Bietz Center for Student Life, which is quickly taking form despite seasonal delays.

One of the newest additions to the campaign is the upcoming facelift of McKee Library, adding much-needed space and better coordination with its nearest neighbor, the new Bietz Center.

Plans for the \$500,000 project began moving forward after the university received more than \$300,000 in gifts from both corporate and individual donors. New additions will include an enclosed front entrance, an extra 2,000 square feet of space, and a new side entrance with large windows facing Hackman Hall.

Additionally, there's good news ahead for those whose age,

injury, or disability makes navigating stairs problematic. Soon they'll be able to get from the second to the fourth floors of Wright Hall using a new elevator with exterior access directly from street level on Cafeteria Drive.

The \$250,000 project began in late summer and is scheduled for completion this fall.

Along with brick-and-mortar projects, the Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning also includes a strong focus on student scholarships and Southern's endowment. To learn more, visit [southern.edu/webelieve](http://southern.edu/webelieve).  
— by Tierra Hayes



## Southern Installs Cuban Distance Education Classroom

This summer, Southern helped the Cuba Adventist Theological Seminary become one of the most technologically advanced colleges in Cuba by installing a distance education classroom using funds donated to the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists. This will expand the reach and options offered by the seminary.

The idea originated when Elvis Hernandez, principal of the seminary, came to Southern to study English. While here, he invited President David Smith to speak for graduation in Cuba, and during that visit, they discussed the potential for turning a storage room into a distance education classroom.

Smith assigned the technological part of the project to Gary Sewell, associate vice president for Information Technology at Southern. In preparation, Sewell bought everything the project might require, including cordless drills and screws.

"The amazing thing is that what we ordered was just enough for what we needed," Sewell said. "God was in it from the beginning, and He just made it all happen."

In addition to new equipment purchased using donor gifts, Southern shared other used components from its own Information Technology department. In August, Sewell and Nick White, '10, an audio visual technician at Southern, traveled to Cuba and installed the equipment.

Throughout the two-day installation, the local maintenance workers at the seminary were actively involved. Before leaving Cuba, Southern's team met with the seminary staff, explaining

the inner workings of the system and answering questions.

"We wanted to make sure that they understand how it works and how to support it," Sewell said. "When we turned on the computer, they were just overjoyed, and when my wife called in, you should have seen their faces. They loved it."

The former storage room is now equipped with technology that allows classes to be taught and attended virtually. Because the Cuban government prohibits foreigners from entering the country to teach, and since there are not enough Adventist academic professors in the area, this classroom will allow the seminary to provide the three master's degrees it has been approved to offer. The plan is to begin teaching classes next semester.

Luis Amador, vice principal for academic affairs at the Cuban seminary, told Sewell that when he had been a student at the seminary 15 years earlier, he had sat in that exact room and prayed that God would use it for something very special.

"We are thrilled that Southern could support the seminary this way," Smith said. "It has been an honor to help advance God's agenda in this neighboring country."  
— by Trisney Bocala



Southern employees (at right in white) join the seminary team in the new distance learning classroom.

## Students and Faculty Receive Honors

Southern is proud of the many students, faculty, and alumni who have earned awards recognizing their exceptional work. Here are just three who received honors earlier this year:

**Christin Smolinski**, '19, received the top award on behalf of her team of five animation students during the annual SonScreen Film Festival this year. She was one of approximately 25 students from Southern's School of Visual Art and Design who participated in the festival.

Smolinski and her team tied for "Best in Festival" and also received "Audience Choice Award" and "Best Animated Short" for their work titled "Beep Bop Symphony." The short explores the power of working together in harmony through a humorous, musical animation.

Two other Southern students also were honored for their work: Joshua Trevilcock, senior film production major, received "Best Comedy Short" for his piece "Missing Sock"; and Brittany Danese, senior film production major, received "Honorable Mention, Comedy Short" for her piece "Writer's Journey."

The festival, which is sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, had a record number of participants this year. The event provides young Christian filmmakers with opportunities to network, brainstorm, and dialogue with others who share their interests and values.

**David Barasoain**, '89, an alum and adjunct instructor in Southern's School of Journalism and Communication, won a Peabody, one of the most coveted honors in broadcast journalism. The award recognized his work on the podcast "Buried Truths," which he produces with a team that includes Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Hank Klibanoff as the host. The podcast also received a Robert F. Kennedy Journalism award for radio.



Christin Smolinski, center, receives an award with presenters at the Sonscreen Film Festival.



David Barasoain, right, receives his award at the Peabody Awards ceremony.



Martin Klingbeil was honored by the Associated Church Press for his devotional writing.

Barasoain began his career in radio as a student working at Southern's radio station, Classical 90.5 WSMC. After 10 years at Adventist World Radio, Barasoain began working for WABE in Atlanta, where he is the director of radio production. He has taught as an adjunct instructor at Southern since 2005.

**Martin Klingbeil**, DLitt, professor in the School of Religion, was recognized for his outstanding writing by the Associated Church Press (ACP). During its "Best of

the Church Press Awards," the national association awarded Klingbeil with the "Award of Excellence in Devotional/ Inspirational (short format)" for his article "When Failure Is (Not) an Option," which was published in *Adventist World*.

Klingbeil has been a professor at Southern for nine years and is a regular contributor to publications such as *Adventist World*, *Adventist Review*, and *Journal of the Adventist Theological Society*.  
— by Staff Writers

## Music With a Smile

by Trisney Bocala, sophomore mass communication major

It was Rita Vital's 89th birthday. Her family had gathered to celebrate, and as they visited, the doorbell rang. To everyone's surprise, a group of chamber musicians from Southern's Music Club was on the doorstep. Without knowing that it was Vital's birthday, the group had decided to provide a mini home-concert to brighten her day.

Vital and her family gladly welcomed everyone into the house, and the music group performed a few classical and hymn selections, then took requests. Following the music, the students visited with the family, and before they left, Vital had all of the students sign her guestbook with their names and contact information. As the visit came to a close, the students invited everyone to the final Symphony Orchestra concert of the year. When Vital explained that she did not have a ride, the students connected her with Southern's Lights Volunteers, who were able to get her to and from the concert.

"That was one birthday I surely won't forget, having part of the symphony play for me," Vital said. "I'm looking forward to this year's upcoming concerts and connecting with the students who have not yet graduated."

Several of the students in the group graduated this May, and Vital sent cards to all of them.

"The experience reminded me of just how much I love to share music with everybody, and how much I need friends from every generation," said Michelle Nieb, '19.



Photo contributed

As members of the Music Club, (left to right) Danny Pauliah, senior liberal arts education major; Bailey Krall, sophomore music major; Alissa Tanguay, senior music education major; Janelle Dobson, senior music education major; and Daniel Esperante, '19, spread joy through music.

### Sharing Joy Through Music

Serving others takes many forms, and these students—mostly music majors—decided to bring joy to the elderly or homebound through music. Before their mini-concert for Vital, the Music Club had frequently organized groups of four to 20 students to perform in local nursing homes.

"Every time we arrived, the looks on the residents' faces when they saw us was very impactful, because they don't have a lot of people who just drop by to visit," said Daniel Esperante, '19, president of the Music Club at the time. "It takes me back to when Jesus talked about caring for the neglected. Sometimes that's simply the act of going to an assisted living center and visiting people who don't have guests often. For me, it is the perfect activity for Sabbath afternoons, and it really feeds my spirituality."

With the goal of bringing music to those who were unable to attend the School of Music performances, the students realized that a new channel for their ministry would be performing privately in homes. When Annie Smolinski, office manager for the School of Music, mentioned to Esperante that Vital was a dedicated supporter of the School of Music, Esperante organized the group to perform for her at home.

Seeing how inspired their audience was by this in-home concert, these musicians hope to continue this ministry.

"Just our smiling presence was uplifting to them, and they encouraged us, as well," said Alissa Tanguay, senior music education major. "It is a really cool witnessing opportunity to reach out and make these connections in the community, and we are hoping to do it more this year. It's great to have big concerts, but it can be easy to forget about those who can't come. With this, we get to share the experience of live music and learn from our audience. It's like you're stepping into someone else's world."

"I always enjoy making music with my friends," said Cameron Wilcox, sophomore music performance major. "Music connects people in a special way, and I find it rewarding to bring smiles to the faces of elderly people who don't get the chance to hear live music very often. I feel blessed to be in an environment where I get to hear music wherever I go, so I enjoy sharing that joy with others." ■

**"Just our smiling presence was uplifting to them, and they encouraged us, as well."**



Photo: Calvin Seaman

### Hanging Out in Nature

With Southern's Outdoor Adventure Program (SOAP), taking a weekend break from the stress of school can literally be a breath of fresh air. SOAP encourages students to explore the outdoor treasures nearby, including offering Outdoor Church once a month. This gives those seeking adventure an opportunity to hang out in nature and experience God's creation in a hands-on way, such as a recent excursion to Foster Falls, where Eric Payne, an Outdoor Education graduate assistant, set up the rope for a day of climbing. SOAP offers additional chances to interact with nature through caving, camping, and backpacking trips, all free of charge to students.

# THE little THINGS

BY ANNALYSE HASTY, '13

Kindness manifests itself in a wide variety of actions, both big and small. But while big expressions of kindness may blow us away, sometimes it is the little gestures that add up and leave the biggest impressions. Whether it is a warm smile, a simple gift, a kind word, a helping hand, or maybe an unexpected treat, great joy is found in the little things.

Jesus talked frequently about being kind to those around us; the Bible even lists kindness as a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Being kind, the Bible indicates, is a symptom that Jesus is in your heart. In John 13:35, He says it this way: “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

## JOYFUL BLOOMS

Cheryl Craven, '99, has served as the administrative assistant in the School of Social Work for almost 10 years. During that time, she has created many opportunities to show kindness to the staff and students around her. From giving away her fresh garden produce to baking hundreds of “midterm muffins” for students each semester, she is always searching for new ways to spread joy. Last year, Craven and the School of Social Work began a new program to help students who are grieving.

“We have always written cards to the students who have lost loved ones,” said Kristie Wilder, '03, dean of the School of Social Work. “Cheryl recently joined the Chattanooga African Violet Society and asked me what I thought about giving our students some of the flowers as well. It has already made such a positive impact.”

Craven's inspiration was a story she had once heard of a woman who overcame suicidal depression by giving away flowers. When African violets came into her life, she realized that she could show kindness in the same way.

“Some students have lost multiple family members at one time,” Craven said. “School is hard, and when you lose someone in addition to that, it adds so much stress. Many of them are away from home, and I just thought, ‘How can we bring extra cheer, to support them?’”

Last school year, Craven gave African violets to 13 students, and already this year she has given away more. Trecia Lyon, a student in the master's degree program who received a violet, said that the flowers lifted her spirits after she lost her sister.

“I felt loved and understood when I received the potted plant,” Lyon said. “The thought behind the gift made it impactful to me, and I named the flower after my sister.”

“Sometimes after people experience a great loss, it's hard to keep showing up to class,” Wilder said. “We want the students to know, ‘We see you, we acknowledge your loss, and we are not asking you to ignore it.’ It has been a very tangible way to show Jesus to students without preaching.”

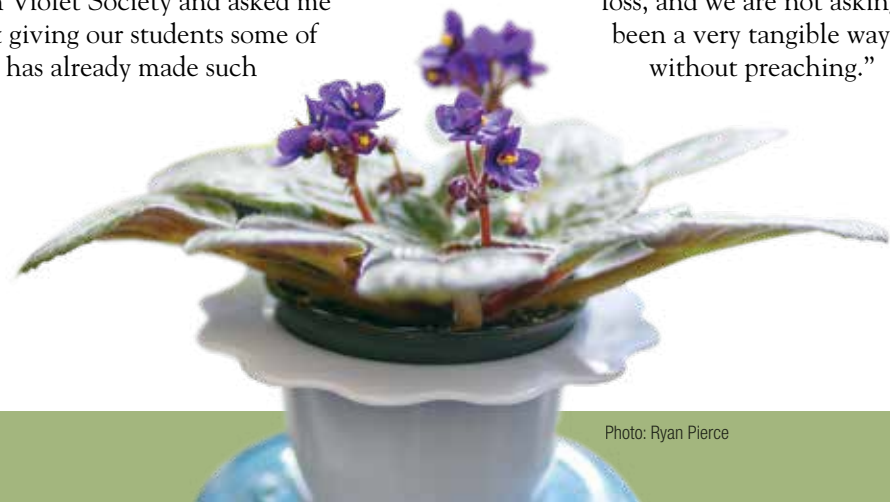


Photo: Ryan Pierce

## FRIENDLY FOOD

Kari Shultz, '79, has served as the director of Student Life and Activities since 1999. Well-known on campus as one who creates opportunities for fun and connection, her latest project has been orchestrating pop-up food events.

“We started a couple of years ago,” Shultz said. “The events aren't advertised in any way. We put up a sign that says, ‘Pop-Up Event’ and have something that we make in my outdoor kitchen on the Promenade available for students to enjoy. I want to bring joy at unexpected times.”

Once last year, Shultz and her crew made fresh French fries. (“Nothing frozen in my kitchen,” she said with a smile.) After serving 50 pounds of potatoes, still more were needed.

“The smiles on the students' faces were worth it, because there was no reason why we were doing this—other than because we love our students.”

Students were grateful for the free meal.

“I am an avid French fry fan, so anytime I can get my hands on some, it makes me happy,” said Miguel Esparra, junior religious studies major. “Receiving them for free from Kari was a blessing, and it really made my day.”

In addition to homemade fries, Shultz has served crescent rolls, pancakes, fried PB&J sandwiches, and more. The tradition will continue this school year with more delicious food on the menu, but Shultz makes sure it is always a surprise for students.

“I'm not sure when we will be planning my next pop-up! That is the beauty of these events. I can decide to do one on Tuesday, and if the weather is bad, I shift it and no one but me and my worker are the wiser.”



Photo: Erik Starbakken

## SIMPLE GESTURE

Since 2009, Linda Case (attended) has greeted students as they enter the Dining Hall. Beyond a friendly smile or a kind word, she calls them each by name.

“My first year, I learned more than 3,000 names,” Case said. “I pray at the start of each semester to be able to remember everyone's name, and I do.”

Over the years, people have commented about Case's ability to study the campus directory so intently and remember everyone's name.

“I don't study anything,” Case said with a laugh. “I just pray and ask God to help me remember. It is persistence; I ask students their names until I remember. Usually by the second month, I know the majority.”

When Case's daughter Crystal, '15, first came to Southern as a student, the job they found for her was in the Dining Hall. Linda Case wanted to work with young people, so she asked if there was a job there for her, too. She began working as the Dining Hall hostess and quickly realized the importance of remembering the students' names.

“That first day I was so nervous,” she said. “I prayed, ‘Lord please help me smile and help them to believe how much I care.’ Then I thought, ‘You know, if I learned their names, I will really make a difference.’”

Beyond just a nice gesture, Case has found that learning the students' names has struck them on a deeper level. Some of the students are lonely when they first arrive on campus and don't know anyone, and her intentional connection helps them know that someone cares. A few students have even cried the first time Case remembered their names.

“Linda is always so friendly, and the way she treats others is full of love,” said Karen Cruz, junior nursing major. “Last year I went to her house for home vespers, and she told us how she prays every day to remember people's names. That meant so much to me! She is a true blessing for this campus!”

“It is a mission to me,” Case said. “I don't give myself credit; it's God. He has something for each one of us to do to be used by Him, and whatever that is for you, He is going to help you do it.”

## PAPER GIFTS

On many desks around campus, you will find origami creations. These colorful folds may be in the form of a crane, jumping frog, or even an intersecting tetrahedron. If you spot one, it is likely a gift from Robert Ordóñez, '95, associate professor in the School of Computing.

"I carry a packet of origami paper in my pocket at all times," Ordóñez said. "I have been doing it for years, but only recently did I begin giving them away around Southern."

Ordóñez's love for origami was first shared primarily with his son's Adventurer group and Sabbath School class. Now, he makes them during meetings or downtime to give away.

"It keeps my fingers busy," Ordóñez said. "Some people doodle; I fold origami. Many of them I have memorized, and they take only a few minutes to make. Some of the modular ones take an hour."

Typically, after creating an origami piece, Ordóñez will give it away to someone in the meeting.

"It is a great conversation starter, a chance to connect," he said. "Someone almost always comes up to me afterward. It bridges the gap with someone I might not normally talk to."

Katie McGrath, '00, public services librarian at McKee Library, experienced Ordóñez's kindness during a meeting at her son's school.

"Both Robert and I were in a parent meeting for the school where our children attend. My son was getting restless, and Robert kindly made a few origami figures for him to play with," she said. "In addition to helping me entertain my son during a boring school parent meeting, pieces of Robert's work are on display in more than one office around campus. Whenever I comment on the pieces, the owners always light up and tell me how much they enjoy having them."

Ordóñez' origami gifts have become so popular that McGrath suggested he display some of his work at the library. "Some of the pieces will be just for display, but I plan to have a bunch to give away," Ordóñez said. "I have never considered myself artistic in the traditional sense. It is really just following directions. I like patterns, and origami really fits my personality well."

Being a computer science professor, Ordóñez says that sometimes it is hard for people to see past the exterior stereotype.

"It humanizes all of us when we see people doing something outside of their academic discipline," he said. "It gives a perspective completely separate from the stereotype. It brings us down to earth and helps us connect with someone we might not get to know otherwise."

## A NEW COMMANDMENT

In John 13:34 Jesus gave a new commandment: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." Individuals such as Craven, Shultz, Case, and Ordóñez have embraced this concept, making loving others a habit. Through simple, meaningful gestures, they not only brighten the lives of those around them, but also share Christ's love. The cumulative effect of these gestures is huge, creating an atmosphere at Southern that can be felt immediately.

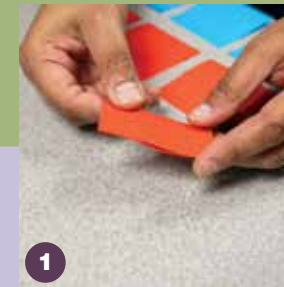
"The second I stepped foot on Southern's campus, it felt like home, like it was the place where I belonged," said Emily Ramirez, senior nursing major. "I enjoy the different relationships that I've made since coming here. I've had the opportunity to interact with professors who genuinely care about my well-being, not only academically but also personally."

Every individual has something to contribute; it may not be growing African violets or learning thousands of names, but each kind act helps to make the world a better place. ■

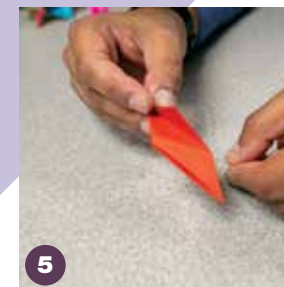
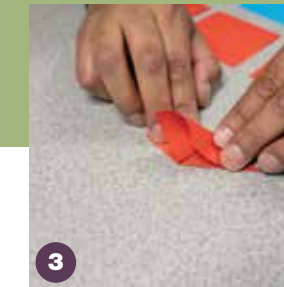
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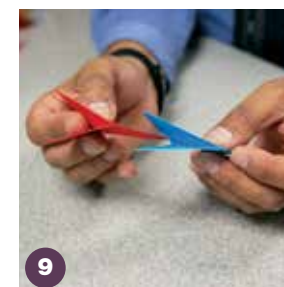
Photos: Ryan Pierce



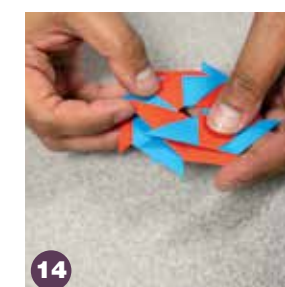
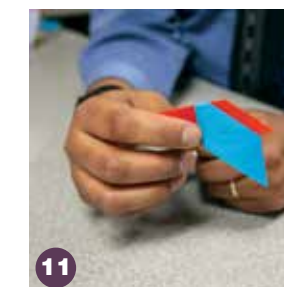
1 Start with 8 square sticky notes of alternating colors.



Repeat steps 1 through 8 using all 8 sticky notes.



9 Lock shapes together as shown in steps 9-11.



For a video demonstration, visit [southern.edu/columns](http://southern.edu/columns).



Photo: Ryan Pierce



# MISSIONS NEAR & FAR

BY RACHEL BEAVER, SENIOR PUBLIC RELATIONS MAJOR, AND TRISNEY BOCALA, SOPHOMORE MASS COMMUNICATION MAJOR

Every year, Southern students spread out around the world as missionaries, quickly realizing that they benefit as much as or more than those they serve. Whether they go for a couple of weeks or a full year, their lives are forever touched by the experience.



**“Being a student missionary was life-changing for me. It gave me the opportunity to step out in faith and go outside of my comfort zone. I learned that life is so much more rewarding when you spend it serving others. This experience gifted me with friendships, adventures, and memories that will last a lifetime.”**

— Kathryn Woodcock, junior liberal arts education major, who was a first-grade teacher in Pohnpei

# 21

Majors from across Southern’s academic areas were represented by last year’s SMs.

**Nursing**  
Animation Archaeology  
**History Religious Education**  
**Biology** English  
Mass Communications Public Relations  
Math Health Science  
**Chemistry** Finance  
Physical Education Social Work  
**Liberal Arts Education**  
Marketing Psychology  
**Business**  
Allied Health Theology

## WHERE THEY DON'T KNOW HIM

Last year, eight Southern students served as missionaries in “undisclosed countries.” Christian Bunch, '17, director of Student Missions, unpacks what that means.

### What is an “undisclosed country”?

These are typically non-Christian areas where missionary work is largely unwelcome. We cannot publish the names of the countries, student missionaries (SMs) serving there, or organizations involved because it might jeopardize their safety and long-term effectiveness. For example, if a student is serving in Asia as a nurse, we would prefer that people assume he or she is a volunteer until they get to know the student on a more personal level, along with the student’s God. To be recognized as a “missionary” from the start would limit the opportunities to reach people.



# 2,596

Student missionaries have served through Southern since 1967.

# 71

Served in 20 countries on five continents last year, and five are returning for a second year of service.

## Undisclosed Countries

### What do the SMs do in these countries?

Most are nurses, teachers, or friendship evangelists, but they may need to perform their tasks privately. Though they cannot do any public evangelism, the students are often able to reach people whom a career missionary could not; our students may be able to teach English to kids whose parents would never set foot in an Adventist church.

### How do you pair up the right students with these opportunities?

We explore the student’s ability to handle potentially difficult situations and ask questions such as, “How would you feel about not being able to post on social

media for a year?” or “What does success look like for you as a student missionary?” We evaluate their responses along with references from pastors, professors, peers, and employers to determine whether or not they are ready for such an adventure. If they are, we recommend them to one of our partner organizations, where they receive more in-depth training on handling difficult cultural and spiritual contexts.

### Is there danger associated with these assignments?

Safety is an integral part of our program, so we don’t send students into areas of obvious danger. Of course, there are always

risks associated with sharing Jesus in areas where His name is not revered; however, if the students are ready to accept those risks and boldly share Jesus to some who otherwise might not know Him, what an amazing story they will have!

### Why has Southern decided to send SMs to these challenging areas?

Jesus said in Matthew 24:14, “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” Essentially, if we want to see Jesus, we have to go to the people groups who don’t yet know Him.

### UQUEST MISSIONS: SHORT-TERM SERVICE

LAST YEAR, 175 VOLUNTEERS SERVED IN 6 COUNTRIES

India	Medical
Peru	Medical
El Salvador	Construction and medical
Bolivia	Children’s ministry and construction
USA	Refugees
Morocco	Art

### LONG-TERM STUDENT MISSIONARIES FOUND PLENTY OF WAYS TO SERVE LAST YEAR, WITH THE MAJORITY (29) WORKING AS TEACHERS

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MISSIONS AT SOUTHERN, VISIT [SOUTHERN.EDU/CHAPLAIN](http://SOUTHERN.EDU/CHAPLAIN).

# All in the Family

By Angela Baerg, '06

## Three Husband-Wife Teams Earn Their Nursing Degrees Together

Out of the 134 individuals who graduated from Southern's School of Nursing this May, six stand out for an unusual reason: they all earned degrees side-by-side with their spouses. Each of the three pairs is bound together through a love of nursing, giving them a unique opportunity to touch many lives while supporting each other along the way.

### Shawn and Loniann Farris: *Associate of Science in Nursing*

They first lost their hearts to each other on the cardiac floor. Shawn Farris and Loniann Moore were working as certified nursing assistants at a hospital in Knoxville, Tennessee, when they met in 2007. They fell in love, married three years later, and in 2017 decided to earn their associate degrees in nursing together at Southern.

Although they both love working in healthcare, they arrived in their professions by very different paths. Loniann had always wanted to be a nurse; as a little girl, she would bandage up her younger brother whenever he got hurt.

Shawn, on the other hand, didn't realize that he wanted to enter healthcare until unexpectedly facing his own mortality 18 years ago. Discovering a tumor on his neck sent him into a tailspin, and for several months, Shawn didn't know if he would live or die. Fortunately, the care he received was both lifesaving and full of compassion.

"It was the kindness of the nurses that drew me into healthcare," Shawn remembers. "I wanted to be like them and pay it forward."

At Southern, Shawn and Loniann worked hard to earn their degrees, and they are grateful to Southern's nursing professors for going above



Shawn and Loniann Farris

and beyond to help them succeed. They describe how their adviser, Associate Professor Beth Snyder, frequently emailed them and stopped to talk with them in the halls to see how they were doing in their classes and in their personal lives. Even at graduation, Snyder came up to them and again expressed how proud she was of them.

"Our professors were always so willing to help," Loniann said. "We knew they wanted us not only to graduate but also to succeed as great nurses and make a difference in the world."

Now both Loniann and Shawn work in Cleveland, Tennessee, where Loniann works as a home health nurse and Shawn is an intensive care unit (ICU) nurse. Their memories of their dedicated and passionate nursing professors continue to inspire them daily to be the best nurses they can be.

### Ted and Agnes Haveman: *Bachelor of Science in Nursing*

Like the Farris, Ted Haveman and Agnes Welan met in 2007. Ted was teaching English in Agnes' home country of Indonesia; she happened to work at the same school, and when they met one day in the school office, they felt an instant connection.

"I saw this beautiful young woman, and I said, 'Wow!'" Ted recalls. "Seven months later we were married."

Prior to teaching, Ted had earned an associate degree in nursing from Southern in 1986, then he worked for many years as an ICU nurse. He had thrived in the ICU with its intensity, variety, and teamwork. When his mother developed health problems, he left his job to care for her, and after she passed away, Ted decided he needed a change and felt called to Indonesia.

Agnes had also wanted to work in the medical field; however, the Indonesian healthcare system has specific vision and height requirements. Since Agnes wore glasses and was barely over 5 feet tall, she did not qualify to study nursing. When she and Ted moved to the United States in 2009, Agnes realized she had a second chance to pursue her passion, and she enrolled at Southern.



Ted and Agnes Haveman

After she graduated in 2016 with her associate degree, she and Ted decided to pursue their bachelor's degrees together. Studying the nursing content in English was an additional challenge for Agnes, since it was her second language, but through hard work and mutual support, achieved their goals.

Agnes now practices nursing at CHI Memorial Hospital in Chattanooga in the orthopedics unit. Although it can be extremely busy when 20 people undergo surgery in one day, she loves witnessing her patients rapidly improve and return to their own homes.

"The smiles of my patients and their friends and families are what make my day," Agnes said. "I try to share my smile, as well, and do everything I can to lift their spirits."

Over the years, Ted has volunteered extensively at Southern. Now retired, he continues to serve as a patient for aspiring nurses to examine. The students check out his eyes, neck, or whatever area they are studying and ask him questions. One time the students actually discovered a skin cancer on Ted's ear, and he was able to go to the doctor and have it removed! Ted and Agnes love encouraging young nurses who are just starting out.

"Nursing is a wonderful profession," Agnes tells them. "Work at it with all of your heart. Above all, trust in God and rely on Him in your daily work."

### George and Julie McBride: *Master of Science in Nursing*

Looking back, George and Julie McBride identify mutual respect as a key factor that drew them together. They first met in 2011 at the doctor's office where they both worked; she was a medical assistant, and he was the practice manager. He was struck by her kindness to everyone around her, and she was in awe of his respect and consideration for others. One of the many things they discovered they had in common was that they both had chosen to enter healthcare to be servants of God. They fell in love and married in 2013.

"I've always wanted to be God's right-hand person,"

# Nursing Fast Facts



Julie and George McBride

Julie said. "I want to be whatever He wants me to be each day."

George and Julie were very intrigued when they heard that Southern's nursing program was Christ-centered, and they enrolled together in 2015 to earn their Master of Science in Nursing degrees. George especially loved the small class sizes and the way his professors cared about him as a person.

Julie enjoyed the devotions they had before each class, which helped remind her what was really important. They also adored their adviser, Holly Gadd, PhD, who bent over backward to keep them encouraged and on track.

Before he became a nurse, George was a firefighter, a policeman, and a paramedic. He also served in the military in various capacities for 27 years. While George and Julie were enrolled in Southern, his military unit was deployed to Afghanistan, putting a pause on his nursing training.

In the conflict zone, George served in a medical capacity, helping remove casualties from the battlefield and stabilizing them before sending them to a better-equipped facility. His professors at Southern were very supportive during his absence. To say thank you, George presented a certificate and a flag to the School of Nursing on behalf of his surgical unit during the School of Nursing's 60th anniversary celebration in 2016.

"I'm so grateful that Southern is a military-friendly school," George said. "When I returned in the winter of 2017, Southern took me back, no questions asked. Nursing is a hard job, but it's a wonderful way to serve others as a child of Christ. I feel privileged to share a career with Julie. She is my partner in work and my partner in life." ■

**New dean of the School of Nursing, Holly Gadd, PhD,** moves forward with God's guidance: "I hope to provide a caring, supportive, Christ-centered learning environment where students are motivated to achieve their best and where they are inspired to use their nursing knowledge and skills to serve others as Jesus would," Gadd said. "I will also work to keep Southern's programs on the cutting edge of an ever-changing healthcare landscape."



Holly Walker (left) and Tonya Amaredes

## All in the Family ... of God

When Holly (Wilson) Walker, '03 and '05 (MSN), was a little girl, her father worked at McKee Foods, so she frequently passed by Southern's campus. However, never did she dream it would become such an integral part of her life.

In 2001, Holly enrolled at Southern to earn her associate degree in nursing. The students and faculty were warm and inviting, but she felt out of place. While she made a few friends in the program, it was when she began her master's classes that something began to change. Holly met another student,

Tonya (Faith) Amaredes, '86 and '05 (MSN), who was a labor and delivery nurse working toward her master's degree in nursing at the time.

"Tonya always sought me out to ask how I was doing, and she would frequently invite me to lunch," Holly said. "I was pregnant with my first child, and often Tonya would bring in a maternity outfit that she had purchased with me in mind."

Those acts of kindness, in addition to the grace and love shown by the nursing faculty, made Holly feel very cared for and loved. About two years later, Holly began searching for biblical truth. She was Christian but

not Seventh-day Adventist, and at the time, she was not feeling fed in her religious activities. Holly asked Tonya about her church; she had never been to an Adventist church, and she wondered aloud what attire would be appropriate. Tonya's response blew her away:

"Come as you are. God sees you right now just like He will see you in the morning."

Holly and her son went to church with Tonya. That was 12 years ago, and they have been attending ever since. Today Holly is a full-time associate professor in Southern's School of Nursing, and she strives to



**6,034**

students have graduated with nursing degrees at Southern through the years.



**760**

nursing students attended Southern during the Winter 2019 semester.



**1962**

marks the beginning of the nursing program's continuous accreditation. Renewed this year, the 57-year streak of accreditation remains unbroken.



**9**

hospital beds were donated by Kettering Health Network to upgrade Southern's nursing skills lab.



**\$2 million**

from AdventHealth established the AdventHealth Chair of Nursing Education this year; the organization also provides additional ongoing support to the School of Nursing.

# Celebrating Student Labor

Throughout its history, Southern has relied heavily on student workers. By the 1950s, it was such a part of the culture—with nearly all students employed on campus—that the administration implemented an annual Work Festival. By 1954, the event included decorated floats featuring the various student-employing entities, musical performances, work contests, and more. Though Southern no longer hosts such an elaborate festival or parade during Student Employee Appreciation Week, we still value the students who are an integral part of the university's workforce—1,315 of them this year.



Timeline About Friends Photos Archive More

**Intro**  
 Software Engineer at Facebook  
 Studied Computer Science at Southern Adventist University  
 Lives in Seattle, Washington  
 luu.io

**Photos**

Posts List View Grid View

by **Trisney Bocala**, sophomore mass communication major  
 November 18 at 12:34 p.m.

Software engineer, photographer, and outdoor enthusiast **Steven Luu**, '12, waits patiently for the sunrise, capturing the first light as it breaks over distant mountains, casting a pink glow on freshly fallen snow.

"For me, photography is my personal time with God," Luu said. "Every time I see a mountain, a river, or a lake, I am reminded: 'If this is His creation, how much bigger is the Creator?'"

It was the outdoor programming offered during SmartStart at Southern that initially sparked Luu's interest, eventually transforming it into a passionately held hobby.

"I've always been into hiking and outdoor activities and wanted to capture the beauty of nature," Luu said. "Then one day, I just decided to pick up a camera."

**Day-to-Day**  
 After earning a degree in computer science at Southern, Luu went on to work at Microsoft for several years and is now a software engineer manager at Facebook. He and his team take care of the day-to-day operations at Facebook, running internal and external software pieces that serve both Facebook users and employees.

Luu explains that he developed many connections at Southern that helped him along his journey.

"I made a lot of lifelong friends, and we learned from each other," he said. "And I really enjoyed the mentorship and the patience of the professors. I learned not just the technicalities and theory, but also how to treat people with respect and dignity, as Christians should. Southern gave me the resources I needed to succeed."

Since graduating, Luu has maintained strong friendships at Southern and periodically visits the area. When he does, he is frequently invited to speak with classes of computer science majors, sharing from his experiences operating in a work environment outside of the Adventist community.

**Flourishing**  
 Rick Halterman, PhD, dean of the School of Computing, is one of the professors with whom Luu stays in touch. Two years ago, while Luu worked at Microsoft, Halterman attended a computer science conference nearby, and the two were able to get together. Luu invited Halterman to visit Microsoft, where he gave him a personal tour of the campus.

"Steven was a pleasure to have as a student," Halterman said. "He frequently went beyond the expectations I had for students in a course and sought to explore the topics more deeply. As faculty, we know we have quality students with amazing potential, but it is especially satisfying to see graduates like Steven flourish in their careers."

To see more of Steven Luu's photography, visit [southern.edu/columns](http://southern.edu/columns).

Like Comment Share

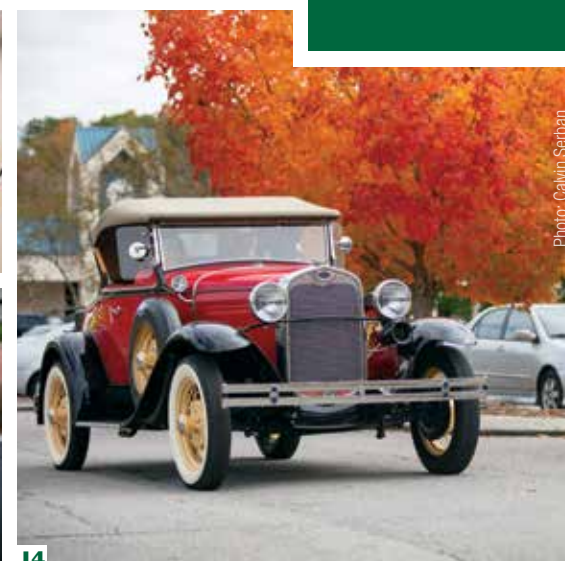
# FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

## HOMECOMING WEEKEND October 24-27, 2019

Homecoming is always a high point of the year on campus as we welcome Southern alumni from all over the world. Attendees enjoy a long weekend of fellowship, shared memories, worship, and fun.

**1.** During a celebration of milestone progress on the Bietz Center for Student Life, Ellsworth, '54, and Sharon (Sisson), '79, McKee joined other alumni, student leaders, board members, employees, and supporters of Southern in signing a metal plate that will become part of the building. **2.** In recognition of her outstanding professional accomplishments and humanitarian service, Danae (Bland) Netteburg, '02, MD, received the Alumna of the Year Award. **3.** Walter Rao, '05, was among those honored during the School of Business Breakfast. **4.** In honor of the Bietz Center's namesake, a limited number of Gordon Bietz bobbleheads were given as prizes during the construction celebration. Visit [southern.edu/columns](http://southern.edu/columns) for a related video. **5.** Future Southern alumni pour over old yearbooks with Becky (Byers) Cross, '94, during her class' 25-year reunion picnic. **6.** Former members of the male chorus, Die Meistersinger, came together to reminisce and sing. **7.** Delaney Harris, senior psychology major, and President David Smith introduced the worship speaker, Eric Bates, '99.

**8.** Janene (Hudgins) Reuer, '69, celebrated with the rest of this year's 50-year honor class. **9.** Despite the rain, Ron Brown, '72, and many others enjoyed the annual Picnic in the Park. **10.** Marvin "Doc" Robertson, former Die Meistersinger director, led the group's reunion concert. **11.** Michael Looby, '09, who gave the scripture reading for the worship service, enjoyed Homecoming Weekend with his family. **12.** During the Southern Scholars reunion, Claudia Allen, content manager of *Message Magazine*, shared her testimony. **13.** Michael Weismeyer, '03, assistant professor of history, participated in a special meet-and-greet for the 242 current employees who are Southern alumni. **14.** The 16th annual Antique and Classic Car Show, hosted by the School of Business' Industrial Technologies program, showcased approximately 100 noteworthy cars owned by alumni, employees, and community members. **15.** Cierra Dabne, sophomore communication studies major, embraced the spirit of joy and worship during the Black Christian Union reunion vespers.



### Membership in Southern's Alumni Association

is a complimentary service provided to graduates and attendees (those who enrolled at Southern for one semester or more) in good standing. The Alumni Council is a group of volunteers serving the Association in advisory capacities to help fulfill the mission and strategic plans of the university as determined by the Board of Trustees and administration. To better represent the interests of young alumni, or Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD), the position of GOLD president was recently added.

During Homecoming Weekend, the following Alumni Council officers and members were officially introduced:

- Moses Maier**, '17 – GOLD president
- Eric Dunkel**, '99 – senior president
- Janice Cosme**, '15 and '18 – vice president for Homecoming Weekend
- Raymond Liu**, '13 and '16 – vice president for Alumni Engagement Initiatives
- Carl Swafford**, '75 – member
- Jay Dedeker**, '88 – past Alumni Association president (ex-officio)
- Evonne Crook**, '79 – director for Alumni Relations (ex-officio)
- Ashley Fox**, '15 – assistant director for Alumni Relations (ex-officio)
- Carolyn Hamilton** – vice president for Advancement (ex-officio)



Left to right: Raymond Liu, Jay Dedeker, Janice Cosme, Moses Maier, and Eric Dunkel.

# Alumni Notes

**60s** **Jeanne (Pettis) Miller**, '61, fully retired from her jobs as church secretary, piano teacher, and church organist in 2014 and moved to Arkansas to be near her daughter, **Holly (Miller) Joers**, '92. She currently resides in Savannah, Tennessee, at Harbert Hills Academy Nursing Home. As a retired multigrade elementary school teacher, she is glad to occasionally help at the campus elementary school and enjoys attending weekly vespers at the academy.

**Garland**, '66, and **Pam (Smith) Cross**, '65, continue to enjoy retirement after 28 years of teaching in Adventist church schools. They have property on a little mountaintop in Tennessee and live 75 miles from two of their three grown children and six of their eight grandchildren. Garland keeps a big garden and teaches adult Sabbath School lessons. Pam sings and plays piano at church.

**1** **George "Tom" Evans**, '67, retired in January 2019 as treasurer and CFO of the North American Division in Columbia, Maryland—a job that included serving as associate treasurer of the General Conference in Silver Spring, as well. Tom enjoyed church work for 50 years, serving at two academies, two conferences, two union conferences, and the NAD/GC. Tom has been married to Shirley since May 2007, and the couple lives in Laurel, Maryland.

**Betty (Green) Willis**, '67, and her husband, Larry, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They are retired and living in Oakwood, Georgia, where they attend the Gainesville SDA Church. Betty serves as treasurer of the Gainesville Adventist Christian School.

**70s** **Robert Fuller**, '74, who retired in March 2018, enjoys traveling with his wife, Sue (attended), to visit their children and grandchildren. Their son, **George Fuller**, '03, and his wife, Jerryl, live in Florida and have two daughters: Alexandra (4) and Ariana (1). Their daughter, **Cheryl (Fuller) Torres**, '05, and her husband, **Alejandro**, '15, live in the Denver, Colorado, area with their son, Ezra (1).

**Donna (Couden) Trimm**, '75, retired in January 2018 as associate professor of nursing from James Madison University School of Nursing in Harrisonburg, Virginia. She enjoys retirement but still teaches an online course during fall and spring semesters. She moved to Wisconsin to be with her family, which includes four grandchildren.

**2** **Cathy (Dendy) Walsh**, '77, retired as owner of Blarney Stoneworks, Inc. She and her husband, Patrick, live in Foxfire, North Carolina.

**3** **Ted Vanderlaan**, '78, is vice president for strategy and innovation at Gurnick Academy of Medical Arts, where he is responsible for growth and innovation for six nursing and allied health campuses in California. He earned a JD degree from Delaware Law School in 2014 and lives in Concord, California.

**80s** **4** **Barbara (Chase) McKinney**, '81 and '85, is active in the advancement of quality medical care in hospitals in the United States in her role as a physician surveyor with The Joint Commission. She also serves internationally as a global health consultant with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. She received the Loma Linda University School of Medicine's Honored Alumna Award for 2019. Barbara and her husband, **J. Mark McKinney**, '83, live in Jacksonville, Florida, and have two sons, **Joshua** (attended), and **Caleb**, '18.

**5** **Linda Shriver-Buckner**, '86, works as a sales specialist at the corporate office of BrightSpace Senior Living in Chattanooga, Tennessee, helping senior living communities reach occupancy goals and coaching sales teams and general managers on sales standards and practices. Linda also serves as a board member of the Scenic City Women's Network and the American Cancer Society Chattanooga. She is pictured while celebrating the holidays with residents at Hickory Valley Senior Living Community in Chattanooga.

**Bob**, '86, and **Tammy (Ellis) Vaughan**, '86, have lived in the Asheville, North Carolina, area for almost 12 years and enjoyed raising two sons, **Matt**, '15, and **Luke** (attended). Bob likes photography and all things outdoors, while Tammy enjoys crafting and decorating. Their free time is spent helping at Mount Pisgah Academy in several capacities, a favorite of which is serving as campus parents to more than 100 "adopted" children each year.

**Troy** (attended) and **Lynette (Starr) Hollenbeck**, '89, have lived in Knoxville, Tennessee, for more than 14 years. Their daughter, **Ashley**, '18, graduated from Southern with a bachelor's degree in nursing, and son, **Jason**, '19, graduated with an associate degree in construction management.

**90s** **Monty**, '91, and **Debra (Curren) Murdoch** (attended) live in Apison, Tennessee, with their two sons, Michael (14) and Robert (9). Monty is director of the Outdoor Education graduate program at Southern.

**Holly (Miller) Joers**, '92, and her husband, Skip, live in the Arkansas Ozarks, where she enjoys family caregiving, homeschooling, church music, gardening, and writing. In 2018 she became active in World Church Affirmation Sabbath, networking with fellow Seventh-day Adventists around the world who embrace the church's distinctive worldwide message. Last October she and her son, Elijah, traveled to Battle Creek, Michigan, to volunteer at the Historic Adventist Village during the General Conference Annual Council's LEAD Conference held there. She enjoyed watching the Annual Council business sessions up close and reconnecting with fellow Southern alumni who serve in Seventh-day Adventist leadership positions.

**6** **Leanna (Sowers) Powers**, '94, and her husband, Greg, live in Vestaburg, Michigan, with their children: Rebecca (18), Ryan (17), Rhiana (11), and triplets Rylee, Rowlan, and Richmon (4).

**7** **Joseph Choi**, '95, lives in Falling Waters, West Virginia, with his wife, Angela, and their oldest son, Nathaniel. The Choi family lost their youngest member, 3-year-old Samuel, as the result of a tragic accident in October 2016. Joseph conducts the Pocono Youth Orchestras (Symphony and Junior Strings) in Stroudsville, Pennsylvania, with more than 100 students in the programs.

**Daniel**, '98, and **Anita (Zinner) Bates**, '00 and '18, live in Lebanon, Oregon, with their four children: Keri (15), Kristen (13), Ashley (11), and Justin (9). Anita finished her master's degree in instructional leadership from Southern last December.

**8** **Jonathan Montes**, '99, serves as the youth ministries director for Georgia-Cumberland Conference and as the Cohutta Springs Youth Camp director. He and his wife, Alana, have two children: Kaiya (12) and Jonah (9).

**00s** **9** **Melissa (Andrews) Christensen**, '00, and her husband, Jeremy, live in Mulino, Oregon.

**10** **Richard Hickam**, '00, graduated from Liberty University with a doctorate in worship studies in May 2019. He serves as the minister of music at the

Florida Hospital Church and the director for arts in ministry for AdventHealth. Richard founded the East Tennessee Symphony Orchestra in 2005 and "retired" to conductor emeritus status this past year, although he stays active on the board of directors. He is pictured with his youngest daughter, Autumn, who graduated from Forest Lake Education Center in May.

**11** **Susan (Lucas) Schultz**, '02 and '03, and her husband, Ned, live in Fairfield, Montana, with their three children: Sadie (10), Ellie (7), and Wesley (1).

**12** **Shawn**, '02, and **Janell (Jacobs) Lowe**, '04 and '06, moved from Tampa, Florida, to Ringgold, Georgia, three years ago to complete academic programs and live closer to family. Shawn completed his Doctor of Speech-Language Pathology degree from Loma Linda University in December 2018 and participated in the May 2019 commencement. The couple recently purchased a home in Ooltewah, Tennessee, and is excited to put down roots near Southern.

**13** **Steve**, '04, and **Jennifer (Abbott) Roush**, '03 and '04, live in Lewis Center, Ohio, with their children: Kaitlyn (10) and Blake (5).

**14** **Dustin Aho**, '06, was appointed vice president for mission integration at Adventist Health in Roseville, California, in February 2018.

**Brian Norton**, '08, graduated from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University with a Master of Divinity degree in May 2017 and pastors a church near Farmville, Virginia.

**15** **Christina (Liem) Jennings**, '09, graduated from Loma Linda University in June 2019 with a master's degree in communication sciences and disorders. Christina and her husband, Dean, live in Redlands, California, and she works in the Voice and Swallow Center at Loma Linda.

**16** **Serena Santona**, '09 and '11, lives in Bracknell, Berkshire, England, and is the academic registrar for Newbold College of Higher Education.

**10s** **17** **Dustin**, '11, and **Teresa (Spangenberg) Adams**, '11, live in the McDonald, Tennessee, area with their son, Torin (5). Teresa works as an administrative assistant at Southern in the Graduate Studies and Academic Administration departments.

**18** **Amanda (Gruesbeck) Orozco**, '11, and her husband, Henry, welcomed their daughter, Lucia, on January 12, 2019. The family lives in Apison, Tennessee.

**Tyler**, '13, and **Erin (Grube) dos Santos**, '15, live in Corona, California. Tyler graduated with his master's degree in biology from Loma Linda University in May 2019 and plans to work in either environmental monitoring or a laboratory.

**19** **Kayla Ewert**, '14, has been a communication project manager for Adventist Mission at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists since 2016, which sometimes involves traveling around the world to meet missionaries and share their stories. She has also done cooking segments shown on M360° Kitchen on the Hope Channel and 3ABN.



We'd love to hear from you, and so would your classmates! Send updates about additions to your family, accomplishments, marriage, professional recognitions, or other news you'd like to share to:

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## Weddings

**1** **Kenneth Rose**, '07, and his wife, Alyssa, were married in Cancun, Mexico, on April 28, 2017, and welcomed their daughter, Sofia Elizabeth, on December 26, 2018. The family recently relocated to Burlison, Texas, where Kenneth is the president and CEO of Texas Health Hospital Mansfield, opening in 2020.

**Kirstin (Nephew)**, '11, and **Sam Hastly** (attended) were married on February 26, 2017. Having met once at Southern on a school-sponsored camping trip in fall 2007, they reconnected online in 2016 through Adventist Singles. The couple resides in Campbell, Minnesota.

**Caleb**, '14, and **Emily (Lambeth) Minty** (attended) were married May 26, 2019, and live in Owasso, Oklahoma.

**Garrison**, '14, and **Simone (Marshall) Hayes**, '13, were married March 17, 2019, and live in Alexandria, Virginia.



## Family Additions

**1** **Matthew**, '05, and **Ranelle (Dunn) Schiller**, '06, welcomed their first child, Tessa, on September 5, 2018. The family lives in Santa Clarita, California.

**Michael**, '09, and **Tisha (Gabriel) Looby**, '10, along with their sons, Michael II (6) and Matthew (2), welcomed Layla Michelle to the family on January 24, 2019. Tisha is a women's dean at Southern, and Layla was exposed to campus life early by being born in the Looby's residence hall dean's apartment.

**2** **Juan**, '11, and **Vanessa (Ruiz) Martinez**, '11, were married July 17, 2011, and live in Eustis, Florida. They welcomed their daughter, Adeline Lucille, to the family on December 1, 2016.

**3** **John**, '11, and **Martina (Houmann) Howe**, '12, welcomed their son, William, on May 17, 2018. The family lives in Lebanon, New Hampshire, where John is a chief resident in Internal Medicine at Dartmouth and Martina is working part-time as a dentist.

**Nick** (attended) and **Giselle (Echevarria) Helton** (attended) welcomed their daughter, Isabel, on January 17, 2017. The family lives in Ooltewah, Tennessee.

**Erick**, '14, and **Lindsey (Gaspard) Quinones**, '08, welcomed their daughter, Mikaela, on July 14, 2019. The family lives in Ooltewah, Tennessee.

**Evan**, '15, and **Lindsey (Crerar) Gagnon**, '15 and '16, welcomed their daughter, Sailor, on May 24, 2018. The family lives in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

**4** **Nathan Nimeskern**, '15, and his wife, Nicole, along with their older son, William, welcomed Andrew to the family on September 19, 2018. The family lives in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

**Laton**, '08, and **Itzel (De Los Santos) Smith**, '15, welcomed their first child, Gabriella, in June 2018. The family lives in Miami, Florida.

**5** **Samuel**, '13 and '14, and **Rebekah (Harris) Thomas**, '13 and '16, welcomed their first child, Adrian, on June 22, 2018. The family lives in Apopka, Florida.



## Remembrance

**Relious Walden**, '53, passed away on May 29, 2017, in Apopka, Florida. He is survived by his wife, **Beverly (Smith) Walden** (attended) and children: Lisa, David, and Neal.



**Herbert "Dean" Kinsey**, '56, passed away on February 14, 2019, in Austin, Texas, at the age of 86. Dean earned a degree in history from Southern Missionary College and a master's degree in school administration from Boston University. He spent 36 years in education, both in the classroom and in administration. After moving to San Marcos, Texas, he worked with financial planning for the last 18 years of his professional life. Dean served his local church as a deacon, elder, and Sabbath School teacher. He was known for his quick wit, kind smile, and

compassion toward others. He enjoyed putting in his yard full of Texas wildflowers and bicycling the many back roads of the Texas foothills. He loved photography, writing, international travel, and spending time with his grandchildren. He is survived by Dolores, his wife since 1995, and two sons **Scott**, '88, and **Rick**, '88.



**Stewart Crook** (attended) passed away on February 18, 2019, in Suwanee, Georgia. Before teaching music at Southern Missionary College, he attended Collegedale Academy and studied music at Southern. He then completed his undergraduate degree at Madison College and a master's degree in music education at the University of Tennessee. He served as dean of men at Madison College and taught music at Mount Pisgah Academy and Shenandoah Valley Academy. He then served as principal of Jefferson Academy and Mount Pisgah Academy, as youth

director for the Carolina Conference, and returned to teaching music at Georgia-Cumberland Academy in 1974. After pastoring in the Georgia-Cumberland and Kentucky-Tennessee conferences for a while, Stewart was called to serve in trust services for the church. He retired in 1997 after 40 years of denominational service but wasn't quite ready for a quiet life. He accepted a position with Georgia State University in planned giving, followed by a stint with St. Jude's Research Hospital before retiring for a second time. His love for music provided opportunities for involvement with choirs, choruses, quartets, instrumental groups, and giving private lessons throughout his life. Stewart is survived by two daughters, **Delby West**, '75, and **Marciann Robertson**, '78 and '80; brother, **Don Crook**, '53; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his daughter, **Jodi Makatche**, '83, and his wife of almost 67 years, **Martina (Martin) Crook** (attended).



**Erma (Haffner) Webb** (attended) passed away on April 15, 2019, at her home in Apopka, Florida. She taught nursing for Southern Adventist University on the Florida Hospital campuses throughout central Florida until the time of her retirement. She received her nursing degree at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska, and her master's degree in nursing at Loma Linda University in California. Erma is survived by her husband, **James** (attended); children **Scott**,

**Sandee Richards**, and **Steve** (attended); four grandchildren; and siblings **Harold Haffner** and **Carole Hayes**. Memorial gifts may be made to the Student Scholarship fund for the School of Nursing at Southern (mark "in memory of Erma Webb").



**Obed Graham**, '54, passed away on April 14, 2019, in Leesburg, Florida. Obed attended Graysville Academy, Collegedale Academy, Southern Junior College, and then Southern Missionary College, graduating with a degree in religion. He served the denomination for 43 years in positions such as educator, singing evangelist, pastor, departmental director, and secretary in five conferences: Gulf States, Texas, Georgia-Cumberland, Chesapeake, and Florida. Obed also served as president of the Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists from

1990 until his retirement in 1997. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, **Coretta (Potter)**, '54; two sons, **Chester** (attended) and **Randy**, '88; two daughters, **Karen McFadden**, '81, and **Cindy McMillan** (attended); one sister, **Corrine Young**, '64; two grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

## Beloved Dean Passes

Jeffery Erhard, associate dean of men at Southern for 22 years, passed away on June 12, 2019, at the age of 62 while scuba diving in Bonaire. After earning undergraduate and graduate degrees at Andrews University, he worked as a teacher and coach at Spencerville Junior Academy, Broadview Academy, and East Pasco Adventist Academy before coming to Southern. He is fondly remembered for his gift of connecting with people young and old and for bringing out strengths in students that they may not have recognized in themselves. His booming voice and hearty belly laughs could regularly be heard echoing through Talge Hall—a signal to those in need of comfort or a friendly face that his door was always open to them. When he wasn't indulging in his love of water, he could be found in his workshop building custom wood masterpieces or tuning up his motorcycle for his next long ride. Jeff is survived by his wife of almost 39 years, **Darla**; sons, **Nick**, '03 and '07, and **Neal**, '04 and '08; grandchildren; mother, **Barbara**; and brother, **Jamie**. A celebration of life service was held in the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists. Gifts may be given in his honor to the Jeff Erhard Memorial Fund established to construct a remembrance garden and study area at Southern for the students whom Jeff so loved and dedicated his life to serving.



All memorial gifts may be mailed to: Southern Adventist University, Advancement, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, Tennessee 37315; or shared online at [southern.edu/give](https://southern.edu/give).



Photo: Calvin Serban

### An Artistic View

During a departmental convocation this fall, students from the School of Visual Art and Design used colored tape to decorate the windows on the second floor of Brock Hall. They covered the panes of glass with colorful lines, shapes, and pictures surrounding the words “We ♥ Art.” Through the project, the professors emphasized their desire for students to use their artistic talents to point to God, remembering that He is the ultimate artist.



Photo: Ryan Pearce

# light

by David Smith, PhD, president

I once asked a congregation why they were Seventh-day Adventists, and one man yelled, “Because of the mark of the beast!” Ever since, I’ve been pondering the role of prophecy for end-time living.

Often believers read prophecy in an attempt to determine every fact and detail about what will happen just before Jesus returns to earth. I have known church members to get so carried away with trying to understand a prophetic view of end-time events that they make predictions about when Jesus will return.

However, there is a higher purpose for end-time prophecy than understanding the events leading up to Christ’s second coming. Peter explains:

“For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ... We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place ... Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:16, 19-21).

We can’t miss Peter’s burden for his audience to understand that nothing he and the disciples preached was invented by human imagination. From Peter’s perspective, prophecy is like a light shining in darkness; it leads us to Jesus. Prophecy makes the identity and work of Jesus all the more certain to us and highlights His return and ultimate triumph over evil.

### Spread of Darkness

To understand how prophecy can bring light into darkness, we need to consider what happened long ago that broke the harmony of heaven and brought to us great darkness. All had been love, peace, and harmony, but then Lucifer—Satan—rebelled against God, driven by personal ambition.

The name Lucifer means “light bearer,” but his fall from Heaven turned his light into darkness.

“Then war broke out in Heaven. Michael and His angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in Heaven” (Revelation 12:7-8).

The name Lucifer means “light bearer,” but his fall from Heaven turned his light into darkness. As the scene shifted to Earth, the focus fell on Adam and Eve, perfect created beings living in paradise—a place of love, peace, harmony, and oneness with God. Then the darkness came, and Satan brought to our planet distrust of God as well as promotion of self and personal ambition.

Eve ate the forbidden fruit, and the rest is history (Genesis 3:1-7). However, the prophecy recorded in Genesis 3:15 brings us hope. Speaking to the serpent, God said, “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel.”

Here, in concise terms, we read the future of the war begun in Heaven and now enacted on Earth. No matter how dark our world gets, no matter how much Satan seems to spread his lies, we know that Jesus will win. He will crush Satan’s head, and the war will be over.

### Shining Light

Since the Garden of Eden, Satan has managed to deceive countless people and turn them against God. He has convinced them that God is not what He seems to be. He charges that God is not loving or trustworthy, and He is not on our side.

To combat this deception, God sent Jesus to shed light on His character and win us back to Him. Scripture and prophecy continue this effort. In fact, all Bible prophecy points us to God as He really is and builds our faith in Jesus as our Savior, King, and Victor in the war against Satan.

Ultimately, God’s goal is to bring us face-to-face with Christ. This is where we need to be as we live in end-times. Being face-to-face with the Light of the World keeps us from all of the distrust, fear, broken dreams, and heartache caused by the darkness of Satan’s lies. May the light of prophecy bring us into His presence. ■



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