

the magazine of Southern Adventist University

fall 2018

columns

Summer Learning, Summer Fun

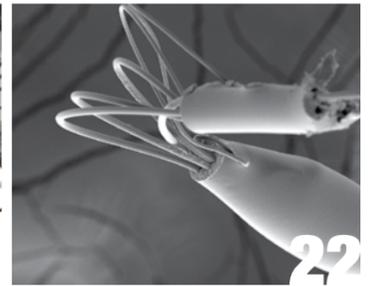
Academic summer camps give visiting high school students the chance to explore potential career paths through hands-on learning | page 16



Playing in the Dirt

After a quick lesson from Landscape Supervisor Tim Burgess, President David Smith, PhD, tries his hand at maneuvering an excavator on the construction site for the new Bietz Center for Student Life. Funding for the \$13 million building was secured entirely with gifts, and the project is on schedule for completion in Summer 2020. Creating a centralized location to help students gain a clearer understanding of both career and calling, the new student center will house multiple offices and organizations along with an interactive game room, an eatery, and much more.

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Social gatherings frequently involve sharing food together, often topped off with a baked treat. Several Southern alumni have specialized in baking and take the opportunity to brighten the lives of those around them with their skills.

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Since today's competitive job market requires more than just the typical baseline of good grades, extracurricular activities, and leadership positions listed on a resumé, Southern students and faculty are making their mark with world-class research projects and presentations.

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Cover photo: During Southern's 2018 photography camp, high school student Hannah Boyd captured a moment with her friend and fellow camper Anna Lewis (pictured).

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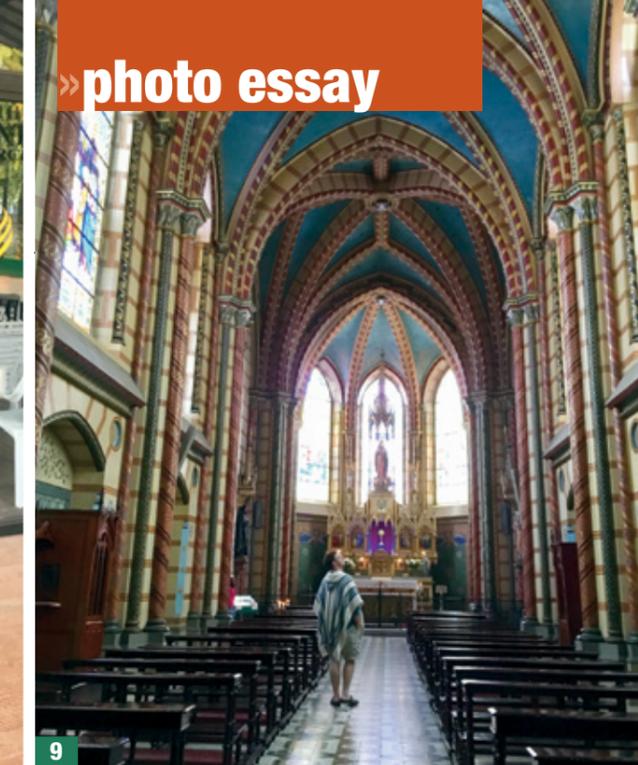
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» photo essay

To All the World

From preaching to building friendships and expanding horizons, participating in a trip with the Evangelistic Resource Center (ERC) makes an indelible mark. As part of the School of Religion at Southern, the ERC has trained, mentored, and equipped 1,345 speakers since 2001 to share the gospel around the world, resulting in 31,677 baptisms. This summer, more than 100 students from various disciplines went on mission trips to Ecuador, Zimbabwe, Jamaica, the Philippines, and more to share the Word of God. As the ERC continues its mission of evangelism and baptism, the team welcomes your prayers!

ERC trips are not limited to current students; if you would like to learn more about participating in a trip or supporting this far-reaching work, visit southern.edu/erc.

1. Elizabeth Rivas (left), sophomore allied health major, and Jeanina Mann, who is completing her master's degree in school counseling, enjoyed serving together in Ecuador this year.
2. Pastors wait in the shade in preparation for a large baptism following an ERC evangelistic campaign.
3. After graduation, Diadem deQuzman, '18, served in Jamaica, where her liberal arts education degree and love for children were the perfect fit.
4. Sharing the gospel message is at the heart of every ERC trip; Danny Cuevas (right), sophomore biology major, preached an evangelism series through an interpreter in Panama this summer.
5. Evangelism teams from Southern have traveled to many beautiful locations, including a trip to the Philippines this year.
6. An ERC team of 15 speakers held meetings in Ecuador over the summer.
7. While in Jamaica this year with ERC, Nicole Carrillo (at left in blue shirt), junior management major, made many new local friends.
8. As one of 23 ERC speakers to serve in Zimbabwe this summer, Ben Williams (right), senior theology major, along with this local church elder, contributed to the work that led to 1,319 baptisms.
9. While in Quito, Ecuador, ERC participants took a break to enjoy the local culture and architecture.

New Programs and Research Highlight University Efforts for Inclusion

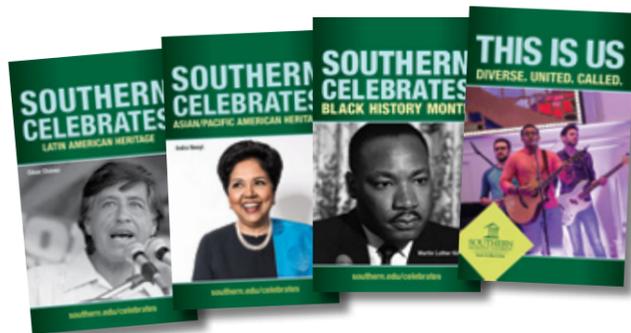
In a summer filled with new initiatives, several driven by Southern employees stand out in the ongoing efforts to promote inclusion, cultural awareness, and understanding on campus.

SOAR Initiative

In June, Southern received a \$50,000 grant from Lumina Foundation's Fund for Racial Justice and Equity, a project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, to fund a multi-pronged project addressing racial justice and equity on campus. The Studying Our Attitudes Racially (SOAR) initiative includes recording and sharing oral histories, inviting nationally recognized speakers to Southern, funding creative student-led programs, and researching the impact of all these efforts on employee and student attitudes. The initiative is led by Stephanie Guster, MSW; Kristie Wilder, '03, JD; and Rachel Williams Smith, PhD and EdD.

Race Perceptions Research

With the assistance of several students, Ruth Williams, PhD, professor in the School of Education and Psychology,



Throughout the past year, the campus has celebrated Southern's diversity and unity with a series of banners recognizing the achievements of national figures and notable alumni.

conducted new research on perceptions surrounding race among students on campus. The findings were presented to employees at the university's colloquium meetings just prior to the start of the fall semester. Williams shared, "I was pleasantly surprised by the willingness, the candor, the transparency of the participants (White, Black, Asian, and Hispanic) in 'baring their souls' on this emotional and often controversial topic." Williams hopes to continue the research by looking at trends in perceptions among alumni.

Diversity Committee

For some faculty members, summer represents a time for recharging, research, and planning curricula for the next school year. Members of Southern's

Diversity Committee were also busy developing the new vice president position that will work to bring additional unity and education to campus. After much deliberation, the committee finalized a job description, which is now posted on Southern's human resources web page and advertised in Adventist publications. The committee hopes to hold interviews and fill the position this semester. The job description is online at southern.edu/hr.

"We recognize every individual in our diverse student body as infinitely valuable in God's eyes, and we want each to feel His love here—to feel safe, valued, and at home," said President David Smith, PhD. "These projects are part of many ongoing efforts to foster that environment on our campus." —by *Isaac James*

Southern's Outdoor Adventure Program Doubles Its Reach

Adventure programming at Southern benefits everyone involved, from the schools and businesses that participate to the Southern students who frequently lead out. As part of the School of Physical Education, Health, and Wellness, the program offers team building, education, ministry, and therapy



Rock climbing is just one of the many adventure activities provided by the Outdoor Education program.

in a fun, outdoor environment. The number of clients who have benefited from the program has more than doubled in the last five years.

Along with organizations such as the Tennessee Aquarium and Chattanooga State Community College, many high schools and academies enjoy Southern's outdoor programming. In August, the university hosted 35 students from Mount Pisgah Academy in North Carolina for their senior survival trip. In addition to experiencing Southern's high ropes course, the students

also tackled rock climbing, caving, and rafting down the Hiwassee River. After completing these activities, many of the high schoolers expressed their interest in attending Southern and their excitement for the academic programs they learned about during their visit.

The majority of the staff members who help run these programs are undergraduate and graduate students. It is a valuable opportunity for those who are interested in pursuing a career in outdoor education to gain experience in a professional environment.

"Adventure programming has always had the goal of giving students the opportunity to work in the industry while they're studying at Southern," said Mike Harris, program director. "We welcome anyone at any experience level; any willing student is a valuable addition." —by *Rachel Beaver*

Computing Students and Faculty Develop Adventist Giving App

This year Southern's Center for Innovation and Research in Computing (CIRC) developed a mobile giving app for the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists (NAD). The goal was to increase the ease of making tithe and offering donations.

The app, called Adventist Giving, is currently available for download from the Google Play Store and Apple's App Store. Church members from any participating NAD church can utilize this tool.

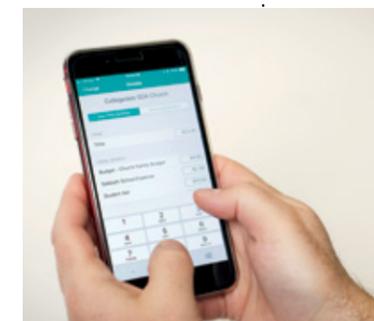
Thomas Manu, senior computer science major, works for CIRC and helped develop the app, gaining invaluable experience in the process.

"CIRC allows me to write code every day, outside of my regular programming homework," Manu said. "Creating the app seemed like a big hurdle to pass through, but I'm happy that it's out there, and it's going to help a lot of people."

Run by the university's School of Computing, CIRC is a learning opportunity for students to gain internship-level computing skills while still on campus. According to Michael Babienco, lead programmer for CIRC during this app's development, the program is a great way for students to reinforce what they are being taught in class.

"Students go through the whole process, from starting with an idea to watching it being used by others outside of our organization," Babienco said. "This helps provide context for things that they learn in class, while making them better programmers, ready for the workforce."

The CIRC program produces projects for various organizations, such as a devotional app for Pacific Press Publishing Association and a website for Southern's School of Physical Education, Health, and Wellness. —by *Tierra Hayes*



» by the numbers

489

Students currently taking the Fit for Life class as part of Southern's ongoing efforts to promote healthy habits.

42,200

Square feet of space in the new Bietz Center for Student Life, which is under construction.

2,900

Pieces of photo paper used in one Intro to Photography class.

270+

Computers available in labs for student use.

1,100

Student workers who help keep the campus running smoothly.

\$28.9M

Amount in total grants and scholarships awarded to Southern students last year.

Southern Responds to Devastation Caused by Hurricanes

In the aftermath of hurricanes Florence and Michael, Southern students and employees jumped into action. This rapid response was possible thanks to a new partnership with 2Serve Disaster Training and Response, which helped train and prepare students and employees to lend aid after natural disasters.

2Serve partners with Adventist academies, universities, and conferences to carry out the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church through Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. The first formal CERT training was offered at Southern in August, followed by a disaster response simulation in September and training in how to organize a shelter and ensure the safety of those affected.

“Being ready is very important, because it is a matter of when another disaster is going to happen, not if it is going to happen,” said Jennifer Carter, director of Southern’s Christian Service program.

As Hurricane Florence touched down in late September, Southern’s team was able to mobilize and recruit students and staff for relief assistance. Three groups deployed to New Bern, North Carolina, over the span of two weeks. Those who participated came back to campus tired and sore but inspired.

“After we had ripped out soggy carpet and put furniture back in place on the swept concrete floor for an older couple, we prayed with them and then shared hugs,” said Elaine Hayden, who works in the School of Education and Psychology and volunteered with one group. “The reward of seeing tearful people thanking us after seeing young people and others give so cheerfully to help them out of the ditch, so to speak, is something I will carry with me forever.”

Then in October, following Hurricane Michael, more groups volunteered in Panama City, Florida.

Laura Racovita-Szilagy, PhD, associate professor of social work, and other campus leaders in emergency preparedness are focused on growing the program at Southern and responding locally to needs within the Southern Union.

“However, we are not ruling out deploying to help wherever God calls us,” Racovita-Szilagy said. “Ultimately, we model Jesus’ love for a hurting world; He took care of the needs of the people first, and then invited them to follow Him. These trainings and experiences will remain with students, staff, and faculty participants, and they will take their skills and knowledge wherever they go.”

—by Staff Writer



Mary Aquino has learned to see beauty all around her—and inside her—through a life-changing relationship with Christ.

Shades of Beauty

by Natalia Perez, senior mass communication major

When Mary Aquino, senior health science major at Southern, was 9 years old, she found her first patch of vitiligo* under her right knee. She showed her friend, and they shrugged it off; but as time went on and more patches began appearing, her family began to think it was more serious than it had originally seemed.

When Aquino reached the fifth grade, she and her younger brother changed schools. The transition caused anxiety to kick in, and the vitiligo patches began to spread. In middle school, she struggled with the pressure to impress boys and strictly avoided going to pool parties, field trips to water parks, or any event that might reveal her spots.

Her friends and family tried to fill her mind with affirmative support, but Aquino faced bullies who called her ugly, likening her to a Dalmatian dog. This amplified her insecurities and tore at her confidence.

For years, she let her fear of being judged by her skin dictate how she lived her life. Eventually she found a makeup designed specifically for covering tattoos, burns, and vitiligo. It gave her the freedom to hide her skin for school banquets, cruises, and trips to the beach. Yet inside, she still struggled with accepting herself.

“I used to tell myself that I would never get married because no one would like me, and I would stay alone for the rest of my life,” Aquino said. “My friends and family tried to help me when I was down, and I am very grateful to God for them.”

A Step of Faith

As college approached, Aquino struggled with where to go. She originally planned to stay close to home and attend a university in Florida, but she felt God was pushing her to finally leave her comfort zone. Two months before fall semester, she chose Southern.

Classes began, and she knew only a handful of people on campus. She feared that any time someone glanced her way, they were staring at her in disgust. To combat this, she chose to continue hiding her skin and feigning happiness.

Slowly but surely, God guided her steps toward accepting herself and finding healing. A key point was deciding to enter Southern’s Adventist Colleges Abroad program and spend a year studying in Italy.

“I’ve always wanted to travel, but every time I had the opportunity, I’d stop myself because of my skin,” Aquino said. “I’d start thinking about going to a new country where no one would know me or understand my condition, and it stressed me out.”

In the thick of her mental struggle, God gently spoke to her. In vespers talks, devotionals, and Bible verses that she stumbled upon, God’s messages to her followed a theme: “Don’t worry so much about what others think but more about living the life and purpose I have planned for you.”

She surrendered her anxieties to God and locked in her decision to study abroad.

Liberation

“While overseas, I met a lot of new people who helped build my confidence,” Aquino said. “Each of them affirmed me in a different way, and it helped me realize that overall, most people don’t define me by my skin.”

She also worked with a therapist who helped her realize that she had mentally wired herself for failure; she believed that in a room of 100 people, only 10 percent would want to be her friend and the other 90 percent would dislike her because of her skin. This observation liberated her.

“I never imagined someone would be able to pinpoint what was going on in my head,” Aquino said. “I came to realize that my journey isn’t just about me and my skin; it’s also about many others who struggle with loving themselves.”

Back at Southern, Aquino is determined to enjoy life and not let the spots on her hands, feet, and around her eyes become a barrier. With her new perspective, she freely posts photos of herself on social media, vitiligo patches and all. In fact, others have been inspired and have featured her on their Instagram pages, celebrating World Vitiligo Day along with the beauty and uniqueness of her patches. ■

*Vitiligo is an autoimmune disease that causes depigmentation of the skin.

A Nursing Legacy

by Janell Hullquist, '05

When she retires in 2019, Barbara (Davis) James, '75, PhD, will have worked at Southern for 28 years: 14 as a professor and 14 as dean of the School of Nursing (longer than any of her predecessors). She has overseen significant changes, including the construction of Florida Hospital Hall and the introduction of the Doctor of Nursing Practice program—the first doctorate degree offered at the university.

James knew from childhood that she wanted to be a nurse, following her mother's footsteps.

"Mom was always animated when she shared nursing experiences around the dinner table, and it sounded more interesting than my dad's math classes," James said. Her father, Cecil Davis, was an educator, and when James was in the fifth grade, he accepted a job at Southern Missionary College. Her mother, Doris, later became a nursing instructor at Southern as well. "She always told me and my sister to choose our own path, but we both chose nursing and never looked back!"

James earned her bachelor's degree in nursing at Southern and married her high school sweetheart, David, '75, who majored in industrial arts. Through the years, while her husband worked and taught at various academies, James practiced nursing, taught health classes, and furthered her education. When her husband accepted a call to Collegedale Academy, James became a professor at Southern, like her parents had years before.

A Heart for Students

At the helm of the largest academic department on campus, James finds herself on numerous committees and buried in paperwork, but her focus is people. She fosters a team-centered environment for the 35 nursing faculty and staff members, and despite overwhelming responsibilities, her love of students shines through.

"Dr. James is a very caring person and has a good heart," said Ailin Li, '14. "I would not be where I am now without her help."



Photo: Ryan Pierce

Barbara James never passes up an opportunity to share her wealth of experience with Southern's nursing students.

Li, originally from China, wanted to study nursing in the United States. With James' encouragement, she applied at Southern. Li found herself in a new environment, being fairly unfamiliar with Christianity. She was pleasantly surprised by how friendly and helpful people were at Southern, and she wanted to learn more. After studying the Bible with School of Religion Professor Steve Bauer, PhD, Li was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She completed her associate and bachelor's degrees and is currently working on her doctorate in nursing.

"The nursing faculty at Southern is outstanding," she said. "They are truly extending the healing ministry of Christ!"

Briana Keizer, '14 and '15, also appreciated the compassion and support she received from James during her undergraduate studies. As Keizer's academic adviser, James always believed in her, even when she decided to take an extremely difficult class load.

"She sat me down and explained that it wasn't going to be easy, but if I put my mind to it and trusted in God's leading, I could do it," Keizer said. And she did. Several years after graduating, Keizer again sought James' advice, this time about pursuing a master's degree.

"After talking with Dr. James, I felt peace about my situation," Keizer said. "She hugged me and told me she was praying for me. In the end, I decided to go back to school." Now Keizer is back at her alma mater, working to complete her Master of Science in Nursing.

Changing Field

Through the years, James has watched the field of nursing change drastically as science and technology have rapidly expanded. She also observes that people in hospitals are sicker than in her early years of nursing, so there is more pressure on nurses.

"The economy of healthcare is a driving force, trying to do more with fewer people," she said. "Nurses have to be efficient, decisive, compassionate, and knowledgeable, able to prioritize care and educate patients who try to self-diagnose on Google."

James is preparing students for the real world of nursing, sharing knowledge and hands-on practice as well as a biblical foundation.

"I tell students regularly that you can get a great nursing education many places, but I hope that you want more than that," she said. "When you see your patients and each other as children of God, it changes everything. It inspires you to be competent, compassionate, and caring, not only because it's your job but also because it's what Christ did."

James' approach leaves a lasting impression. As Keizer said, "Dr. James is always seeking God's will for her life and for others. She has demonstrated how to be an excellent nurse, a trustworthy leader, and a woman after God's own heart." ■

Outdoor Welcome to the Sabbath

Every Friday evening, the university family gathers to welcome in the Sabbath. While the church sanctuary is the normal venue, a few times each year the gathering moves to the Goliath Wall for a special outdoor experience. For Lawn Vespers this fall, Christian artist Terell Davy from Nashville led the university in worship before performing original songs from his album *Deeper*. Through his authentic testimony about his journey and his faith, Davy challenged listeners to find validation in Jesus alone.



Photo: Gus Moretta



RISING TO THE OCCASION

HOW SOUTHERN'S BAKERS TOUCH LIVES

—by Angela Baerg, '06

Social gatherings frequently involve sharing food together, often topped off with a baked treat. Several Southern alumni have specialized in baking and take the opportunity to brighten the lives of those around them with their skills.

“Snack cakes, five cents each!” In order to support his family, O.D. McKee, '28, began selling Virginia Dare cakes in 1933. It was a simple operation, distributing them from the backseat of his 1928 Whippet car. Gradually, he came to a realization: rather than selling someone else's treats, why not make his own?

The next year, O.D. and his wife, Ruth (King) McKee, '26, set out to make his dream a reality. They purchased a local bakery and began baking their own snack cakes. They were a perfect team. O.D. hit the road to build a sales base as Ruth

purchased ingredients and managed the bakery in his absence. Eighty-four years later, McKee Foods Corporation continues to thrive, bringing tasty treats to millions. In the process, numerous Southern students and alumni have worked for the company and benefited from its generosity.

Today a new generation of bakers from Southern strives to use their culinary skills to share joy through their creations. Some alumni bake professionally, while for others it is more of a part-time labor of love. All of them, however, have one thing in common: they touch lives and make a positive impact on those around them.

Mark Houghton, '87—*Piece-a-Cake Bakery*

Mark Houghton became intrigued by baking when he had to do it as part of his food service technology degree at Southern. He was surprised by how much he enjoyed the artistic outlet that baking provided, and his professors were so encouraging that he decided to start his own bakery with a friend after graduation.

Together they wrote a business plan and applied for a loan, but it was denied. Several years later, Houghton tried to enter the field again, offering to purchase the small bakery next to Rafael's Pizzeria in Ooltewah; however, the owner passed the shop on to his son instead. Ten years later, Houghton was well established in a woodworking career when he got a call out of the blue from the son, asking if he would still be interested in purchasing the shop. Houghton accepted, and so his adventure—17 years delayed—finally began with the creation of Piece-a-Cake Bakery. Coincidentally, it was about the same

time the first reality baking programs became popular on TV.

“I saw these people making cool new designs and thought, ‘Hey, I could do that,’” he said. “That was 15 years ago, and business is still booming.”

Houghton's favorite bakes are anything that holds a challenge. For example, he was commissioned to create a child's birthday cake that looked like an army tank, but Houghton was not content until he took it to the next level, building a handle underneath so that the tank could actually be maneuvered. Another bake that, while simpler, brings him satisfaction is the standing order with Life Care Center of Collegedale, the nursing home adjacent to his bakery; its administrators ensure that every Life Care resident receives a cake on his or her birthday.

“Baking just makes people happy,” Houghton said. “That's what it's all about.”



THE ART OF FOOD

According to Ellen White, cooking skills are vital: “[Skillful food preparation] should be regarded as among the most valuable of all the arts, because it is so closely connected with the life. Both physical and mental strength depend to a great degree upon the food we eat; therefore the one who prepares [it] occupies an important and elevated position” (*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, Children*, page 312).

Southern’s Vegetarian Culinary Arts program caters to the growing need for skilled vegetarian chefs. Launched in 2013, this two-year degree is the only culinary arts program offered at a Seventh-day Adventist university and one of the only such programs in the country that is completely vegetarian.

Students learn cooking skills, baking, safety and sanitation, how to cook for people with special diets, and more. They enroll for a variety of reasons; some want to be a chef, start a bakery, or work in a hospital or nursing-home setting. Others want to launch a vegetarian cooking school or pair these classes with a business degree to run a restaurant. This degree can be the first step in achieving any of these goals.

“Many of our young people would like to enter a culinary program but don’t want to take one where they would be required to work with meat products,” said Chef Bonny Musgrave, assistant professor in the Vegetarian Culinary Arts program. “While our program teaches students vegetarian cooking and how to adapt meat recipes to be vegetarian, it also provides training in how to teach a healthier diet and lifestyle.”

To learn more about the Vegetarian Culinary Arts program, visit southern.edu/culinary.



Brianna “Bree” (Church) Schwarz, Attended—*Busy Bree Baking*

Brianna Schwarz’s parents were missionaries in Africa, where she lived in a variety of places including Burundi, Tanzania, Kenya, and Malawi before moving back to the United States and attending Southern in 2012.

“I frequently had to leave behind friends and family, and I wanted something that I could take with me wherever we went,” Schwarz said. “Baking became my creative outlet, an escape, and a way to help me cope with every new setting.”

Lemon meringue pie was one of Schwarz’s first conquests at age 12. Her older sisters knew how to make it, and she was determined to learn as well. It remains her favorite bake, but these days her projects have grown in complexity. She runs a company called Busy Bree Baking and specializes in creative custom orders. Whether she is making appreciation cupcakes for local teachers or baby shower cookies for a family that is new to the area, Schwarz’s creations are all about making life brighter.

“I’ve loved being able to meet so many people and share a little bit of their lives and special events,” Schwarz said. “I absolutely love baking for people, because it allows me to step out of myself and focus on bringing their ideas and dreams to life in an edible form. Everyone has a story to share, and mine is best told through sugar.”



Elizabeth (Cady) Bryner, '01—*Elizabeth’s Baked Goods* (and breakfast cook in Southern’s Dining Hall)

Elizabeth Bryner often says that baking is in her genes. Her grandparents ran a successful bakery in London for many years, and her mother and grandmother cultivated that same love of baking with Bryner in the kitchen from a very young age. Her interest in baking continued to blossom in Pathfinders when dedicated leaders helped her earn the cake decorating honor.

While Bryner attended Southern, she also worked in the Dining Hall. She was so successful and enthusiastic that, upon graduation, the Food Services leadership created a full-time spot for her in their bakery. Bryner loves her work, both because she enjoys making food and because she loves nurturing student workers.

“I tell them they’re my kids,” she said. “I care if they’re sick. I worry about them if they’re driving across the country to visit their families. I love helping them develop cooking skills they might not otherwise have the opportunity to learn.”

In her free time, Bryner bakes elaborate creations, usually selling them at cost to friends and family. Every bake has a unique story behind it and is a labor of love. In 2011, for example, she baked a wedding cake for her college roommate, Holly (Heath) Polino, '01. Her wedding was in New Hampshire, so Bryner baked the cake in Tennessee and then drove it nearly 20 hours to the wedding venue, where she assembled and decorated it.

Another one of Bryner’s cakes was so well crafted that it was actually mistaken for a real turkey with cranberry sauce. She made it for an American Sign Language Class Thanksgiving potluck, and if you looked closely, the garnish around the turkey was fondant hand cutouts, some folded into the “I love you” sign.

“I consider it an honor when I’m asked to bake for someone’s life events,” Bryner said. “Being in the kitchen and connecting with people through my baking absolutely feeds my soul.” ■





GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR EVERY YOUNG PERSON, BUT IT CAN BE CHALLENGING FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO KNOW ALL OF THEIR OPTIONS. SOUTHERN OFFERS A FUN WAY TO EXPLORE DIFFERENT CAREERS THROUGH ITS ACADEMIC SUMMER CAMPS.

by Natalia Perez, senior mass communication major

Thoughts of summer camp may be accompanied by fond memories of cabins and horseback riding, crafts and sitting around a bonfire, making new friends and drawing closer to Jesus. While Southern's Academic Summer Camps don't involve cabins and bonfires, they do offer participants a chance to try out a potential career field, make friends with like-minded young people, and start thinking about God's purpose for their lives.

Southern has offered a variety of three-day camps for both day students and overnight campers since 2016. This year, 10 academic departments hosted approximately 125 students from 13 states—and one international student—giving them a small taste of Southern as they explored business, medicine, chamber music, psychology, creative writing, photography, and more. For many, this was their first experience with Adventist education, since half of the participants were either homeschooled or attended public school.

From X-Rays to Logos

On one side of campus, the Biology Department held the pre-med camp. They welcomed 20 campers, making it the largest group; it was also the first camp to fill up this year. Attendees learned how to read x-rays, wrap sprained knees and ankles, determine their blood types, perform a surgical scrub, and test for bacteria, among many other activities. In addition to Southern professors, the students were able to interact with pre-med students, doctors, and dentists as they expanded their science knowledge, learning skills, and professionalism, all while exploring their possible career calling.

"They had us practice taking a pulse and blood pressure, as well as identifying bone structures and different parts of the digestive system," said Carolina Smith, junior at Collegedale Academy. "We also got to practice suturing on pigs' feet. But my favorite part was the hospital simulation at the end."

Hosted by the School of Nursing, the simulation was the culmination of everything the campers had practiced. They were tasked with diagnosing real people who pretended to be patients acting out various symptoms. It was the highlight of the week for many participants.

"Our goal was to teach students something they could apply in the future," said Rick Norskov, '76, MD, Biology Department professor. "It took a lot of preparation, but



Collegedale Academy senior Tré Smith enjoyed interacting with Southern professors and soaking up information during the pre-med summer camp.



Offered for the first time this year, the automotive repair camp proved to be popular, with 17 participants.



Filmmaking camp, another popular choice, attracted 18 students, including several who had been in the same camp last year.



Thanks to Southern's vibrant School of Music, offering a strings ensemble camp was a perfect fit, with participants performing for the entire group of campers on the last day.

working with the campers was great fun and definitely worth our efforts."

At the other end of campus, the School of Business hosted a camp to help students build entrepreneurial and marketing skills. During the first camp session, campers had the opportunity to pitch their own business ideas. They presented the need and purpose for their business to a judging panel—made up of several Southern faculty members—along with a prototype logo and business cards. After the students were finished presenting, they voted to establish the most popular ideas, then formed groups to execute those plans in their own ways.

Some of the pitches that rose to the top included a recreation center and arcade business, a publishing company to specifically cater to self-published authors, and an online shoe business.

Michelle Doucoumes, '05 and '10, assistant professor in the School of Business, enjoyed leading the camp and is pleased that some of the students have kept in touch with her after camp ended. Several have shown interest in figuring out how to build on the ideas they developed while at Southern.

"It was a ton of fun hosting these students," Doucoumes said. "They were engaged, willing, and motivated. I was amazed at what they were able to do and learn in just three days. Some of these kids will be powerful entrepreneurs before we know it."

Student Mentoring

Two-thirds of the participants stayed in Southern's residence halls, providing an opportunity for deeper connections. Lizzie Williams, junior public relations major, served as an RA in the women's residence hall, staying with students in a section of Thatcher Hall reserved just for high school campers. She enjoyed eating breakfast and talking with the girls, as well as supervising recreational activities in the evenings.

"I definitely feel like a 'mom,'" Williams said. "I loved connecting with the girls and seeing where they're at. It brought me back to simpler times in high school when my biggest worry was picking a major. I enjoyed mentoring them and helping them focus their interests."

Williams was thrilled to be part of a program that exposes high schoolers to a wide variety of majors that they might not know about otherwise.

"I think it's important for high schoolers to talk with

someone who's worked in their field of interest and can share with them and provide needed tools," she said. "It brings me fulfillment to be part of that, because I recognize the value, and it's something I wish I'd had."

Beginnings

The idea of offering special-interest camps on campus is not new. For a number of years, the School of Music and the School of Journalism and Communication conducted their own camps, which were well attended each summer. Lucas Patterson, assistant director of communications and foundation relations, was inspired by their success and had a vision for expanding the camp options.

One of the deciding moments for him came while listening to a report about the factors that most directly affect enrollment at Southern. The research showed that young people who spend time on campus and have interaction with the university professors are more likely to choose Southern for college.

Patterson began brainstorming with professors to plan more academic camps that would share the Southern experience with more students while providing them with a useful tool in picking a career.

"We'd love for them to attend Southern, but even if they don't, we want them to have a successful college career anywhere," Patterson said.

For Tahkai Martin, who attended a public high school in Atlanta, coming to the camps for two summers was a positive experience. He took part in the graphic design camp one year, which reaffirmed his interest in the creative arts. Now a freshman psychology major at Southern, he added graphic design as his minor.

"The camps are kind of a college simulation; they give participants a chance to garner some practical life skills, such as having a roommate, being away from home, interacting with other people, and having accountability," Martin said. "It was a great experience, and it isn't just me—I think there's a consensus. I made friends with others at camp, and they liked it, too. I think the program speaks for itself."

Online registration for next year's Academic Summer Camps will begin March 1, 2019. For more information regarding past programming or other camp details, visit southern.edu/camps. ■

first fruits

Southern's \$50 million Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning continues to move steadily toward completion. Donor gifts have already begun to bear fruit and transform campus—and the world! by Lucas Patterson, communications and foundation relations

Senior theology major Zach Henski never doubted God. He was, however, beginning to doubt his own understanding of God's plans. As it turned out, what felt like the end to the story was only the beginning.

The same is true for many ambitious projects on campus. Some ideas require years of planning and prayer before taking root, while others begin to yield a harvest with surprising speed. Impact areas outlined in the Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning—a fundraising effort more than twice the size of any previously attempted at Southern—show the enormous vision and patience of administrators. The stories that follow offer a collective testimony, highlighting God's leading, donor loyalty, and a grateful campus.



In Peru, Zach Henski (right) worked alongside other volunteers such as Ever, a theology student from Universidad Peruana Union, and fellow Southern student missionary Marcie Ndahayo, senior health science and allied health double major.

impact: mission field

Taking a year off from school to be a Bible worker in Peru felt like a no-brainer for Zach Henski. The medical and evangelistic community at Amor Projects, located east of the Andean Mountains in the large but still developing city of Pucallpa, had a great history as a missionary destination for Southern students. He signed up for the journey in January 2017 and spent the next six months following best practices for fundraising in an attempt to acquire the \$5,200 needed to serve abroad.

After a spring and summer filled with letter writing, social media solicitations, and conversations with kind-hearted church members, Henski wasn't even halfway toward the financial goal. His heart was full speed ahead, but the finances remained far behind.

"I was stressing out a little bit but also felt at peace knowing that if I didn't get the money, God had a reason for me not going," Henski said.

It was during Henski's busiest and best efforts to make sense of it all on his own that God used the kindness and generosity of strangers to make His will more clearly known. The fall semester was only a month away, and it didn't look as though he'd be going overseas. The pragmatist in Henski began putting Plan B into motion, so he called Anna Bennett, assistant chaplain at Southern, asking if there were any student worker positions open for the upcoming school year in the Campus Ministries office.

At the exact moment Henski was on the phone discussing campus employment options for the quickly approaching



Assisting in a medical clinic, Henski interacted with patients as he helped with triage, gathering basic details such as temperature and heart rate.

school year, Student Missions Director Christian Bunch, '17, was leaving him a voicemail with exciting news: someone anonymously donated \$1,000 toward the trip!

"I was in shock after listening to that message," Henski said. "A few days later, Christian called me again to share that another \$1,000 had been applied to my account! Completely in awe, I knew without a doubt that I would be going to Peru even though there was still money left to raise."

The remaining funds were found in time, and Henski made it to Pucallpa for a transformative year.

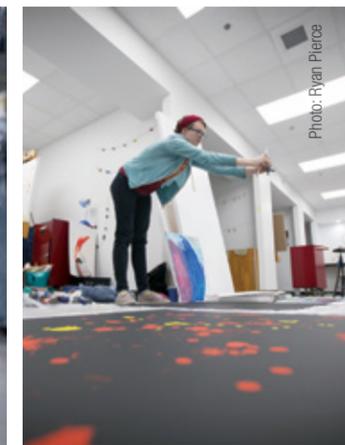
Two recent gifts to the Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning will help more students like him experience service abroad. The Student Missions Operations Endowment is designed to reduce the financial stress of signing up to serve abroad by offsetting some of the airfare and other expenses. Initiated by a \$50,000 gift from the estate of Joyce Ford in 2016, this year an anonymous \$400,000 corporate contribution was added to that endowment, bolstering both the volume and scope of student assistance.

At its current \$450,000 level, the missions endowment will provide more than \$20,000 each year in perpetuity for both full-time student missionaries and those serving on short-term projects through Southern's uQuest program. In addition to lower travel costs, students will also benefit from more pre-trip training sessions and care packages received from Southern while stationed overseas.

"Southern has sent thousands of student missionaries into all the world, making a lasting difference in the communities they serve," Bunch said. "This endowment strengthens our



Students are enjoying new sinks, bathrooms, and drinking fountains in the newly refurbished ceramics and drinking fountains in the Art Annex.



Art students benefit from more space to spread out and create larger works.

programs even more, empowering students to be the hands and feet of Jesus."

It doesn't take long to see the fruits from these seeds of student time and donor dollars. If Henski's experience is any indication, the results can be immediate.

"Going on this trip instantly changed my life in a profound way," Henski said. "Not only was it an amazing opportunity to impact others for Christ, but I believe my life was transformed the most. I remain closely connected with the church in Pucallpa and feel called back to the mission field for life. Praise God for those who donate to Southern in support of missions!"

impact: classroom

The Art Annex, located behind Brock Hall, underwent more than 6,000 square feet of renovations in 2016 and 2017. Phase 1 of a multi-year plan for Southern's School of Visual Art and Design included adding a printmaking lab and individual studio cubicles for fine art students, as well as remodeling the ceramics studio. The facility also received a completely new roof and a new heating and air system.

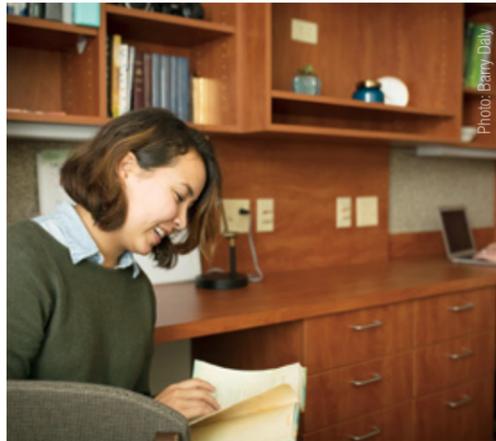
Gifts from the Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning helped facilitate those improvements.

"We've needed this space for nearly 20 years," said Randy Craven, MFA, dean of the School of Visual Art and Design. "I'm extremely grateful for the donors' impact."

When funds become available, Phase 2 of the Art Annex project will create a new film and broadcast journalism production studio. It's an exciting project, but measuring



The Art Annex renovation included the development of a flexible teaching space that can be set up as a classroom or workspace.



Recently renovated rooms in the residence halls provide a comfortable space for students to relax, connect, and study.



The new Bietz Center for Student Life will be not only functional but also open and inviting, as visualized in this rendering.

the return on investment isn't limited to computations of square footage and dollar amounts; the human element is key to appreciating a truer campaign value.

"You can ask the question, 'When is a building more than just a building?' and I don't think you have to look very far to find an example," said Associate Professor David George, '98, MFA. "Your home is more than just a building when your family is there; it's all of the experiences you have with people growing up!"

Tessa Corbin, junior art therapy major, agrees. The time she has spent in the refurbished Art Annex has provided invaluable emotional and professional growth.

"Having room to explore has increased my confidence and reinforces the validity of what it means to be an artist—that what I create will somehow make a difference in the world," Corbin said. "These new spaces empower students and help foster an improved sense of community."

That sense of kinship also extends off campus, connecting students with alumni and other members of the broader Southern family.

"Knowing that these new artist spaces were made possible with support from donors makes me want to give back," Corbin said. "It's difficult to fully express how much my time at Southern—and specifically in the studios—has impacted my life and future career."

impact: living spaces

Dwight Magers has seen a lot of changes during his 25 years as a men's residence hall dean for Southern. Despite the

yearly influx of new faces and unique personalities, he can always count on certain patterns. For example, although there are amazing recreation options, job responsibilities, and other activities pulling busy students in all directions, they still spend the majority of their time on campus in residence hall rooms. After all, where else can a student sleep, study, eat, and hang out with friends at all hours of the day and night?

It's also a place where they can safely discuss their religious beliefs and spiritually encourage one another. According to Magers, this may be one of the most overlooked aspects of residence hall life and its impact on students.

"In those quiet moments when students are having devotions, they may come to know Jesus personally for the first time or strengthen their relationship with Him in a life-changing way," Magers said. "Residence hall life plays a big role in that very important part of Christian education where, over the course of four years, students begin to grow into the men or women they choose to become."

Southern and its donors help facilitate that transformation through careful stewardship and generous financial support.

During the last six years, Southern has spent the summer months remodeling a total of 70 rooms from both Talge Hall and Thatcher Hall at a cost of approximately \$10,000 per room. Everything is new: air conditioning, flooring, cabinets, counters, electrical outlets, lighting, and more.

"One of the best improvements with our renovations is that the rooms now give each resident more storage space," Magers said. "This allows residents to bring more of the comforts of home."

While current students energetically applaud the new spaces, some former students have a hint of envy in their voices when acknowledging the improvements.

"I've been at Southern long enough where now every fall I'm beginning to see the children of former Talge residents enroll and come to the residence hall for check-in," Magers said. "The fathers are amazed—and perhaps a bit jealous—at the transformation of the rooms as they begin to tell their sons what Talge was like when they were here. But they're happy to see the progress that has been made and regularly compliment Southern for its ongoing commitment to remodeling rooms."

campaign snapshot

As Southern pushes onward toward completion of the Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning, it is easy to anticipate the excitement that lies ahead. It will be thrilling to receive the gift that puts fundraising totals over the top of Southern's \$50 million goal. And the campus family will cheer loudly next summer when the Bietz Center for Student Life has a topping-out ceremony to celebrate the placement of the last steel construction beam above the university's newest building.

But much is lost when we focus on tomorrow without celebrating today.

It is with humble and grateful hearts that the students, faculty, and staff of Southern say "thank you" to donors and acknowledge God's leading, both for the miracles already taking place on campus and those still to come.

For more information about the Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning, or to make a gift, visit southern.edu/webelieve. ■



thankful hearts

"Because of my role as Student Association president, I've come to realize that additional external funding allows us students to think bigger and grow wiser. I'm grateful to the donors who help provide needed financial aid and other resources to make these visions come to fruition."

— Rhidge Garcia, *junior theology major*



"Knowing that our biology research conference trip was paid for by gifts from alumni and friends of the university, and not out of our tuition dollars, makes me grateful for the opportunities I'm blessed to have here at Southern. It also provides me with a new level of appreciation for the donors who are supplementing our education behind the scenes."

— Pamela Acosta-Torres, *senior biology major*



The Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning has generated multiple STEM-focused endowments that provide financial aid and research assistance.

"Campaign gifts from businesses show a high level of commitment and support for Southern. I appreciate their votes of confidence!"

— Mark Hyder, '82, JD, *School of Business professor*

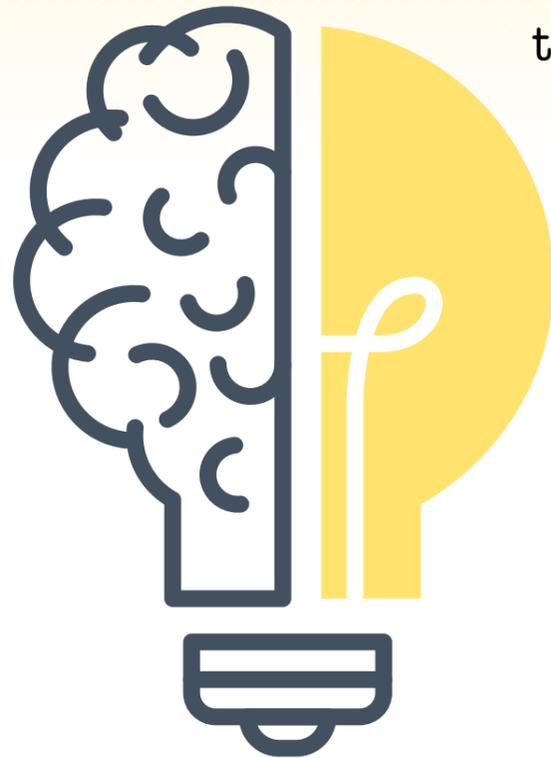
Adventist Health System made multiple gifts toward Southern's campaign—\$3 million in total—which led to the creation of the Adventist Health System Endowed Chair of Business Administration.



Academic Exploration

by Melissa Turner, '05, and Tierra Hayes, junior mass communication major

Since today's competitive job market requires more than just the typical baseline of good grades, extracurricular activities, and leadership positions listed on a resumé, Southern students and faculty are making their mark with world-class research projects and presentations.



Good grades—check. Extracurricular activities—check. Leadership positions—check. Internship—check. Countless college graduates across the United States and around the world fill the typical “good student” profile as they apply for that first job or graduate program. So the question remains: How do today's colleges and universities prepare their students to stand out from the crowd as they leave the structured environment of the academic classroom and go out into the real world?

One way that Southern seeks to bridge this gap is through fostering an environment that supports in-depth research. Every year hundreds of students, faculty, and staff from across the spectrum of academic fields—sciences, social sciences, humanities, and business—work on innovative projects.

Innovative Inquiry

Biology professors David Nelsen and Aaron Corbit have a passion that might give others nightmares: spiders. They are investigating the properties of spiders and their silk in hopes of one day being able to mimic certain behaviors and chemicals to create products such as a new type of glue.

“We are doing something called bio prospecting, which is looking at the natural world as inspiration for new materials,” Nelsen said.

The project first began as a way to test the defensive behaviors of black widow spiders. While conducting this research, Nelsen, Corbit, and their teams of students noticed interesting properties of the spiders' silk.

The study found that the silk has a fast-drying adhesive



Left: Under an electron microscope, black widow silk shows interesting properties. **Right:** Biology professors Aaron Corbit (third from left) and David Nelsen (second from right) and their students are unlocking the secrets of spider silk.

coating, and the research group is examining which properties of the adhesive could be applied to a new, fast-drying glue. Jacob White, senior biology major, assisted with this research and said that it is rewarding to be able to research something that no one else has looked at before.

“I find it incredibly interesting, because we are the first people on Earth to observe these new properties about the silk,” White said. “We are not sure why it looks like this, but it's certainly a new scientific discovery.”

Research, according to Nelsen, is vital for students as they learn how to be creative and to gain experience with problem solving.

“I think creativity is not something thought of as much in the sciences, but you have to be just as creative as someone doing art. Observing how something is made is a creative endeavor,” Nelsen said. “You don't know where the journey is going to take you, but you'll never know if you don't try.”

Challenging Communities

Kristie Wilder, '03, JD, dean of the School of Social Work, has been conducting research for the past several years on police officers and their interactions with members of the community, specifically minorities.

The project has recently moved into its implementation phase; based on their research, Wilder's team will be working with local police cadets to embed new techniques into initial officer training in Chattanooga. They hope to address implicit biases that officers may hold toward certain groups of people.

“I'm interested in the notion of university/community partnerships and how the university can work with local agencies to facilitate their needs in a way that makes it real,” Wilder said. “Social work is very practice-driven, and I



Based on their research, School of Social Work professor Kristie Wilder (right) and her team of students are working to improve local police training.

believe that we need to get our ideas and research out into the community. That is really my passion: figuring out how to make that happen and how to translate what's going on in the world of academics and social policies to the world of the community.”

Andrew Cuevas, senior biology pre-med major, recently joined Wilder's research team as part of his senior research requirement for Southern Scholars, the university's honors program. Even though he is a natural science major and the project falls more into the social sciences, Cuevas is fascinated by the challenge.

“I think that this project is important to my overall learning experience as a biology major, since it is going to broaden my education,” Cuevas said. “I have no doubt that I will learn a lot along the way. Interdisciplinary learning is a great way to be exposed to new things, and I think that this research will stick with me throughout life.”

Career and Calling

While studying at Southern, perhaps one of the most important tasks students tackle, beyond the routine homework and exams, is to explore what they feel God is leading them to do with their lives, time, talent, and resources.

This year, one team's campus-wide research project is garnering notice for its focus on the very heart of Southern's mission to help students discover their passion and channel it into God's purpose for their lives.

The "Career and Calling" research project is led by three Southern professors—Cynthia M. Gettys, PhD, director of the Center for Teaching Excellence and Biblical Foundations of Faith and Learning; Rick Norskov, MD, professor of biology and biology research coordinator; and Tron Wilder, PhD, associate professor of psychology.

"This is a qualitative study to discover the vocabulary of calling on our campus," Norskov said. "Developing our definition of 'calling' is important as we align our vision at Southern to help students discover what God is calling them to do in life."

Offering Opportunities

In addition to providing resources to conduct exciting and relevant research, Southern offers students and faculty two platforms for presenting and publishing their work: the annual Campus Research Day and McKee Library's growing institutional repository, KnowledgeExchange@Southern.

Campus Research Day is a formal conference event that offers participants campus-wide the opportunity to present their research to their learning community. It originated in Southern's School of Nursing as an opportunity for nursing students to present their research projects at the end of the school year. As interest in the event grew and other departments began to get involved, leadership transitioned to McKee Library. Today, the annual Campus Research Day has expanded to include most academic schools and departments.

Katie McGrath, '00, public services librarian and current organizer of the event, points out that traditionally, many students do not have the opportunity to present research outside of the classroom until they are in graduate school.

"To have an undergraduate research experience is a wonderful benefit, especially for those who are going on to competitive graduate programs," she said.

Southern's Campus Research Day continues to grow, with

more participants and a wider range of topics each year. The 2018 event showcased the work of 409 student and faculty presenters. A fascinating day full of oral and poster presentations across campus, it has become an important academic experience for Southern students and employees. The next Campus Research Day will be held on April 11, 2019, and all are welcome to come and observe. More information is available at southern.edu/columns.

To help distribute and promote the scholarly work being done on campus, McKee Library created and maintains KnowledgeExchange@Southern, which can be accessed by visiting southern.edu/library. This institutional repository features more than a thousand entries from student and faculty projects. Materials housed here are indexed in Google as well as the Digital Commons database, which provides wide exposure for Southern's scholarly community.

Discovery

The goal of research is to expand horizons and broaden understanding. As Southern joins leading colleges and universities across the country in cultivating a growing culture of research and scholarship, both students and employees reap the benefits.

Nelsen is quick to point out that research at any level is important for students and professors alike, because it shows the intricacies of God's masterpieces.

"Research reminds me that God is a creator and that He likes to be deep," Nelsen said. "We should be open to discovery, because God is." ■

Southern's Research By The Numbers

Campus Research Day 2018

409 students and faculty

17 departments campus-wide

KnowledgeExchange*

1,549 papers and digital archives

359,502 downloads

213 countries with downloads

103,243 Google downloads

4 peer-reviewed journals

*As of September 2018

Tumbling Through Time

This fall's Homecoming Weekend welcomed former and current members of Gym-Masters to join together in fellowship, worship, and a special performance that was orchestrated in mere hours. Hundreds of gymnasts have been a part of this program's legacy since its start in 1975. From bars and beams to acrobatics and circus acts, the routines and techniques may have changed throughout the years, but one thing has stood the test of time: Gym-Masters remain a passionate group of athletes who promote healthy lifestyle choices and blend their talents with outreach to others.



'70s



'80s



'90s



'00s



'10s



'18 HOMECOMING



Poster presentations are a highlight of Southern's annual Campus Research Day.

HOMECOMING WEEKEND

HIS STRENGTH, OUR UNITY
October 25-28, 2018

Friends. Classmates. Professors. Homecoming is a time to reunite, to remember, and to catch up on the present. This year, in addition to favorite events such as the Missions Expo and the classic car show, Black Christian Union hosted a special reunion vespers, bringing together club members from throughout the group's history. Another new event was the alumni faculty and staff reception, celebrating current employees who attended or graduated from Southern—52 percent of the university's workforce. Throughout the weekend, the theme remained front and center: relying on God's strength to unite us as one Southern family.

HOMECOMING 2018

1. This year, more than 40 members of the 50-year honor class, including Rick Wilkin, '68, participated in Homecoming Weekend. **2.** Rubén Harris, '10, who received the Young Alumnus of the Year award, and his cousin Jessica Kisunzu, '08, visit during the Kick-Off Banquet. **3.** Kari Shultz, '79 (left), director for student life and activities, presents Pam Dietrich with the Honorary Alumna award in recognition of the impact she made at Southern from 2000 to 2014. **4.** During the Ladies' Luncheon, Barbara (Lorren) Moore, attended—who received the Southern Lady of the Year award—greeted an old friend. **5.** Hosted by the School of Education and Psychology, this year the annual Psychology Symposium focused on "Industrial/Organizational Psychology in Its Varied Applications." **6.** Visiting all the way from Hawaii, faithful Homecoming Weekend attendee John Lazor, '80, warms his hands by the fire during the Picnic in the Park. **7.** Derek Sherbondy, '08, network analyst at Southern, and his wife, Traci (Carmichael), '08, met as students on the Gym-Masters team. During this year's special Gym-Masters reunion, they and their daughter, Natalie, practice for the Saturday night performance. **8.** One reunion supper featured a time of recognition for alumni military veterans such as Jim Ashlock, attended, seen here in a photo from his service during the Korean War. **9.** Eliud Sicard, '12, inspired current and former members of the Black Christian Union during the club's reunion vespers.



10. During the Missions Vespers, Southern student Bryan Arvelo expressed gratitude for the support shown him by the university community after Guillain-Barré syndrome prevented him from returning to campus this fall. **11.** Associate Professor Ken Parsons conducts Southern's Wind Symphony during a concert themed "Lord, Teach Us to Pray." **12.** Steve Patrick, '68, captures a moment of joy with fellow alumni during the annual Sabbath potluck lunch. **13.** Marilyn (Starr) Sowder, '69, was one of approximately 1,000 alumni who enjoyed sharing memories and making new ones during Homecoming Weekend. **14.** Alumni mingle in the atrium following Sabbath morning services at the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists. **15.** The School of Business Breakfast included a display of recent awards earned by the Enactus team. **16.** President David Smith welcomes alumni to campus. **17.** Associate Professor Joelle (Stroud) Wolf, '86, '90, '10 (right), presents Aleyamma Oommen, '93, with the 25 Year Honored Nursing Alumna award on behalf of the School of Nursing. **18.** Gym-Masters alumni Lorelei (Winters) Dennis, '05 (center); Janelle (Moorhead) Shives, attended; and her husband, Jason, '02, reminisce with Coach Rick Schwarz. **19.** The 15th Annual Antique and Classic Car Show brings together a wide range of interesting vehicles and the people who enjoy them.



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:

alumni@southern.edu
Alumni Relations • P.O. Box 370
Collegedale, TN 37315-0370
southern.edu/alumni/updates

These days many alumni stay connected to each other primarily via social media or church activities, yet they often tell me how much they still look forward to receiving COLUMNS. In fact, they'll turn to this section first to see if their classmates and friends are featured.

To better meet these needs, Beyond the Columns will soon have a new format. We plan to include special sections celebrating your major life events, such as weddings, new family additions, retirements, etc.

We need your help to make this happen. Send us your updates and photos; pictures add so much to your story, so we hope that you will consider sharing one or two. It's easier than ever through our new online form, southern.edu/alumni/updates.

We hope to feature you soon!

Evonne Crook

Evonne Crook, director of Alumni Relations

60s Edward Dennis, '68, enjoys volunteering with the American Red Cross. He and his wife, Deborah Turner, live in Asheville, North Carolina.

70s Ray Hartwell, '78, and Jeanne (Zacharias), '78, moved to Calhoun, Georgia, where Ray is serving as director of Trust Services, Stewardship, and is the Association secretary for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference.



Jeanne is registrar for Georgia-Cumberland Academy.

Rick Blythe, '79, and his family traveled around the United States for many years ministering to Seventh-day Adventists in a number of locations

before settling in Piedmont, Alabama. It was there they realized their dream of planting a church. In January 2018, Rick retired after serving as a pastor for 40 years.

Janice (Deware) Dunn, '76, '79, and '10, retired in 2017 after teaching middle school and high school English, GED classes, and ESOL K-12 for 20 years. During her career she taught as an adjunct at Southern Adventist University and Cleveland State. Janice lives in Cleveland, Tennessee.

80s Don Keele, Jr, '81, was recently named director of Young Adult and Adventist Christian Fellowship ministries for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. His focus is on keeping young adults engaged in the church. Prior to this role, Don was pastor at the Georgia-Cumberland Academy church. He lives in Calhoun, Georgia.

Mark Bolton, '83, is serving as the CEO of Federal Healthcare Services. In 2006, he founded Coast-to-Coast Healthcare. Previously he practiced as an emergency physician for 10 years. Mark lives in New Albany, Ohio.



Barbara (Chase) McKinney, '81 and '85, is working as a physician surveyor with The Joint Commission and has been involved in laboratory quality and safety improvements in Africa and Asia since 2006. Formerly, she led quality improvement teams at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida, where she currently lives.



90s Arthur Gibbs, attended, has changed jobs from pastoral work in the Carolina Conference to development director for Fletcher Academy. He enjoys watching his three children grow up and the active role he is able to play in their lives. The Gibbs live in Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Joy (Mavrakos) Litten, '96, teaches high school math and recently completed her master's degree in educational leadership. She has four children; her oldest daughter, Nikki, is a freshman at Southern. Joy and her family live in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

00s Wes Bradford, '01, is teaching at Ooltewah Adventist and Bowman Hills Seventh-day Adventist schools. Wes has conducted bands in Washington, California, Georgia, Maryland, and British Columbia.

Michael Campbell, '01, and Heidi (Olson), '02, recently returned to the United States after serving as missionaries in the Philippines. Last year they organized a Reformation study tour along with Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies students. Michael co-edited a book titled *Here We Stand: Martin Luther, the Reformation, and Seventh-day Adventism* (Pacific Press, 2017). The family, including children Emma (11) and David (9), are moving to Keene, Texas, where Michael will teach theology and church history for Southwestern Adventist University.



Mari Oskins, '01, adopted two boys (ages 10 and 11) in October 2017. They live in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

John Sterner, '01, has been honored as a Forum Adviser, which recognizes his ranking in the top five percent of Northwestern Mutual advisers across the nation. He also serves on the board of directors for Northside Neighborhood House. In 2017, John and his wife Liz (Reeder), attended, welcomed a daughter, Anna. They live in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Jonathan Arroyo, '06, and his wife, Libna (Molina), '06 and '08, live in Wesley Chapel, Florida, where he is director for mission and ministry for Florida Hospital Tampa West Region Division. Libna works as a school counselor for the newly opened North Tampa Christian Academy. They moved to Florida in 2016 after serving at Littleton Adventist Hospital in Colorado and attending seminary at Andrews University in Michigan. The Arroyos have two children, Nolan (7) and Katherine (6).

10s Joseph Giampa, Jr., '10, and Julyann (Pagán), '10, were married in August 2016. Last year, Joseph earned a second degree: a bachelor's in nursing from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Science. They recently moved to the Kettering, Ohio, area and both accepted positions at Miami Valley Hospital. They love fellowshiping at both the Dayton Spanish and Kettering Seventh-day Adventist churches.



Jeremy Wong, '11, and Brook (Durst), '11, welcomed daughter Janae Joy in 2016. Jeremy is the youth pastor at Worthington Adventist Church, and Brook is the chaplain at Worthington Adventist Academy. They live in Columbus, Ohio.

Adrien Charles-Marcel, attended, graduated from the Loma Linda University School of Dentistry in

2018 and is working as a dentist at the University of Maryland. He lives in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Franklin Dorsey, '16, is working for the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists in Columbia, Maryland. He is the administrative assistant for Family and Children's Ministries.



Seth Sutherland, '16, transitioned from Erlanger Health System's shock and trauma ICU after accepting a job as ER nurse for CHI Memorial in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

REMEMBRANCE

Ethel Marian (Cochran) Norrell, '43, passed away on March 31, 2018. She was born on February 5, 1924, in Boynton, Florida. After high school she attended Madison Business School and became a secretary. She then attended Southern Junior College, where she obtained an associate degree in elementary education. Ethel married Dr. George Monroe Tolhurst, '42, on the day of her graduation. From Cleveland, Georgia, the family spent five years in Japan as medical missionaries. After the death of her husband, Ethel moved to Collegedale and in 2003 married former classmate Dr. Milton Norrell, '42. She is survived by her husband, Milton; brother, Arnold Cochran, attended; sons Dr. Fred Tolhurst, '70, and Dr. Daniel Tolhurst, attended; daughter, Dr. Judith Tolhurst; five grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Margaret Anne (Davis) Darnell, '63, passed away on March 3, 2018. She was born on February 24, 1942, in Marble, North Carolina, and graduated from Mount Pisgah Academy in 1959. Margaret attended Southern Missionary College and graduated with a degree in elementary education along with a certificate as a Bible instructor. She met Nolan Darnell, '66, and they were married shortly after her graduation. Her teaching career spanned 49 years with jobs in North Carolina and South Carolina. Encouraging students to love Jesus and do their best in everything was foremost in her life. She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Nolan; sons Loren, '97, and David, '94 and '95; and two granddaughters.

Sharon Ruth (Starr) Smith, '71, passed away on May 5, 2018. She was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, on June 16, 1948, and attended Collegedale Seventh-day Adventist schools beginning in elementary school and graduating from Southern Missionary College with degrees in English and home economics. In later years, she obtained a Professional Teaching Certificate. While teaching at Mount Pisgah Academy in 1973, she married her

Education Alumni Connect in Chicago

It was such a blessing to reconnect with many of our education alumni during the North American Division's education meetings in Chicago August 6-9. For more education alumni updates, visit southern.edu/columns.

Gene Clapp, '78, and Sherry (Alford), '74, are both in church work. Gene finished his master's in pastoral ministry this year and is pastoring in Waco, Texas. Sherry is teaching grades 5-8 at Cleburne Adventist Christian School.

Audrey (Mayden) Campbell, '80, is media center director for Rogers Adventist School in College Place, Washington.

Paul LeBlanc, '82, pastors a three-church district outside San Antonio, Texas, and his wife, Argenta (Chappel), '84, teaches at San Marcos Adventist Junior Academy.

Stephanie (Heath) Nash, '99, has been married to Jeffery, '99, for 19 years. She is teaching kindergarten at Carman Adventist School in Marietta, Georgia, and has completed a contract with the North American Division for writing the new Pathways 2.0 for first and second grades.

Shawnessey Cargile, '03, is an epilepsy educator for the Epilepsy Foundation of Southeastern Tennessee. He lives in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Heather (Meliti) Martinez, '05, is teaching grades 5-6 for the Oklahoma Conference.

Ryan Heilman, '06, is athletic director for Shenandoah Valley Academy in Virginia.

Byron Schurch, '09, teaches in the Washington Conference, where his wife helps as an aide. They often travel together to India and sponsor a young lady there who is attending Spicer Adventist University. They live in Oak Harbor, Washington.

husband, Douglas, attended, whom she met at Southern. She taught in Adventist schools all over the United States for more than 40 years, from kindergarten to academy seniors. She is survived by her husband, Doug; brothers Philip and Wilfred Starr; sisters Helen Bacus and Marilyn Sowder; 14 nieces and nephews; and many grandnieces and grandnephews.

Marijane (Tupes) Elmendorf, '76 and '77, passed away on March 15, 2018. She was born on April 7, 1925, in Muskegon, Michigan. When her daughters were in high school, she taught home economics

Jennifer Fos, '11, is teaching for Bass Memorial Academy in Mississippi.

Dawnmarie Simmons, '12, has taught grades 1-2 at Memphis Junior Academy in Tennessee for the last five years.

Raquel (Valentin) Arvizu, '14, has been married for three years and is working for the Michigan Conference teaching grades K-2. She is working on her master's degree in literary education.

Kristina (Forberg) Windham, '14, has taught grades 1-8 at a one-room school in the Illinois Conference for three years. She married in 2015 and had a daughter in 2016.

Adele (Marsh) English, '15, is married and is teaching grades 3-6 for Green Bay Adventist Junior Academy in Wisconsin.

Cecilia Simmons, '15, is music director for Gem State Academy in Caldwell, Idaho, where she has added a jazz band and an a cappella choir.

Cara Simonds, '15, is teaching grades 1-8 for Poplar Springs Seventh-day Adventist School in South Carolina. She plans to begin a master's degree at Southern soon.

Allissa Wright, '17, is teaching grades 5-8 for Three Angels Christian School in Madison, Wisconsin.

Amber Ballesteros, '18, is teaching third grade for Portland Adventist Elementary School and lives in Gresham, Oregon.

and typing, served in the library, and directed the school choir. At age 50, she earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Southern Missionary College. Marijane was active in the St. Johns Seventh-day Adventist Church (Michigan) in youth ministries. In 1945 she married Robert Wohlens. After his death in 1976, she married Dwight Wallack, attended. After his death in 1988, she married Edward Elmendorf. She is survived by her daughters Mary Becker and Barbara Wohlens, '73; and stepsons Jere Wallack, Edward Elmendorf, and David Elmendorf.

Batting the Night Away

All-Night Softball, a tradition at Southern for more than 20 years, continues to draw energetic teams and die-hard fans. This September, the tournament that marks the end of the softball intramural season began at 8:30 p.m. and lasted until after 4 a.m.—more than seven hours. Victoria Hansbury, senior biology major, and her team, The Lucky 13, played hard, but at the end of the night, The Homies and The Bloop Singles teams emerged victorious from the test of skill, endurance, and community.



Photo: Terry Henson

» the word

The response reveals their belief that material advantages equip a person to follow Jesus. The more one has, the better one can follow. They failed to grasp that following Jesus is dependent on giving all, not having all—and trusting Him to provide.

The disciples never fully gave of themselves during Jesus' earthly ministry. They ran from the demoniacs, despaired in the storm despite Jesus' presence in the boat, and deserted Christ when He needed them most.

A New Perspective

However, Jesus' death and resurrection opened their eyes, and it changed everything. They finally understood what we need to understand: giving our all is nothing in comparison with Jesus giving His all. It is an unequal exchange significantly in our favor. We offer everything we have, but it is nothing without the power of Jesus. Jesus offers everything He has, and it is all we need.

With this realization, the disciples held nothing back. Jesus had paid the price; they were ready to do the same. And they did. After being faithful witnesses for their Lord, most were martyred.

As Peter wrote: "In [salvation] you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith ... may result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed" (1 Peter 1:6-7).

What a statement from the man who had once denied Jesus three times! Peter made clear to his readers that all of their suffering was worth eternal life and the joy that serving Christ provides.

As David Platt notes in *Radical*: "[Jesus] is ... someone worth losing everything for. And if we walk away from the Jesus of the gospel, we walk away from eternal riches. The cost of nondiscipleship is profoundly greater than the cost of discipleship. For when we abandon the trinkets of this world and respond to the radical invitation of Jesus, we discover the infinite treasure of knowing and experiencing Him" (page 50).

Jesus says, "Come, follow me." He wants you to consider the cost—His cost and yours. He wants you to give Him everything. In return He will give you everything He has to give, far more than you would ever want or imagine. ■

cost

by David Smith, PhD, president

The price of following Jesus is high. Alexander Mackay understood that, but he was determined to give his all for the sake of God's children in Uganda, Africa. The Scottish engineer-turned-missionary left the comforts of his home in 1876, never to return. In Uganda, Mackay frequently endured serious illness, witnessed hundreds of his converts martyred, saw thousands of innocent people slaughtered to satisfy the country's king, observed and fought the horrors of slavery inflicted by Arab and European slave traders, and escaped death numerous times. He eventually died from malaria at the age of 41, homeless and broken in body though not in spirit.

Was it worth the cost? Mackay had the option to work for several companies as an engineer making good money, but he turned down every job offer. He could have returned home for a much-deserved furlough, but he refused to leave his place of ministry.

As a result of his labors (though not in his lifetime), the country's leaders, along with tens of thousands of Ugandans, eventually became Christians. Slave trading was abolished, innocent people were no longer slaughtered to appease pagan gods and rulers, and the torture and murder of Christians ceased. Was it worth it? Mackay certainly felt so.

Giving All

Jesus wanted His followers to clearly understand the cost of following Him. He would invest everything into a relationship with them, and He would ask for everything in return. Luke 9:57-62 tells this story:

"As they were walking along the road, a man said to [Jesus], 'I will follow you wherever you go.' Jesus replied, 'Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.' ... Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.' Jesus replied, 'No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.'"

The disciples willingly followed Jesus, but they struggled to understand the cost. Their struggle is evident in the story of the rich young ruler who turned away in sadness when Jesus told him to sell everything he had and give it to the poor. Jesus stated, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" to which those around responded, "Who then can be saved?" (Luke 18:18-27).

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