

# Southern Factor

CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER

## BIETZ BYLINE

We have confronted the unthinkable on our campus as Rick Seidel, a member of the Biology faculty, took his own life over the weekend. My immediate thoughts are to wonder how someone could come to such a place and then what might we have done to prevent such a tragedy. The feelings that overwhelmed Rick are not uncommon in this world. A number of Bible characters had feelings like Rick experienced. Moses said to God, "If this is how you intend to treat me, just go ahead and kill me. Do me a favor and spare me this misery!" Numbers 11:15 (NLT).

One thing that we all may be confident of is that no single act of a person defines a life, even if that action takes his or her life. We can be most grateful that issues of judgment are in the hands of a God who looks at the whole of a person's life. Not only in this circumstance but in all circumstances, we must remember that we don't know the heart and mind of any individual. At this time, it is important for us to focus on the unfailing love and goodness of our heavenly Father. We can know with assurance of His love for Rick. It is the goal of this university to provide an environment of safety for all who work and learn here. That environment should not only provide physical safety, but it needs to be a place of emotional safety where anyone can sense that they are encircled by an atmosphere of accepting grace. We should learn from this tragedy and focus on continuing to build a community of supportive love for faculty, staff, and student alike.

—Gordon Bietz



Power for Mind & Soul

## SOUTHERN 6 TRAIL RACE

Runners and walkers are invited to participate in the second annual Southern 6 Trail Race along the Biology Trail, benefiting Southern's outdoor leadership program. The race will be held February 21, 2010.

"We are getting out to run for a good cause," says Joy McKee. "Proceeds will benefit Southern as well as draw attention to the importance of getting outside."

New to this year's race is a Kiddie K for anyone ages 12 and under.

"We are happy that Southern is part of the Rock/Creek Trail Series, says Jonathan Mobley, Rock/Creek race director. "This is the only trail race available on this side of Hamilton County." It is also the only Rock/Creek race held on Sunday, opening this event up to local Adventists as well as regular participants of Rock/Creek race events.

The trail race is \$30 (\$20 for current Southern students). The Kiddie K is \$10.

For more race information and to register to race or volunteer visit [www.rockcreek.com/southern6](http://www.rockcreek.com/southern6). Online registration will remain open through February 17.

## EMERGENCY TEXT MESSAGE SYSTEM

Last week's tornado warnings occurred during a temporary break in Southern's ability to send text message alerts as a result of upgrading to a service that is expected to be more effective. As of today, you may register for the upgraded service to receive text messages during future emergency situations. In the case of a tornado alarm, go to the lower level of the building you are in or near. Keep in mind that just because the building alarms have stopped does not mean it is safe to leave shelter. Find a central location, and stay put until an "all clear" is sounded in the alarm system. Sign up at [www.southern.edu/notify](http://www.southern.edu/notify).

## NURSING PASS RATES

The School of Nursing's NCLEX-RN pass rate for both 2008 and 2009 was 99 percent. The MSN nurse practitioner's certification pass rate was 100 percent. For those who have taken the MSN nurse educator certification (Two years of full-time teaching is prerequisite), the pass rate is 100 percent.

## COMING EVENTS

- Deans/Chairs Advisory  
*Thursday, February 4*
- Mother/Daughter Weekend  
*February 12-14*
- Faculty Portfolio Workshop  
*Tuesday, February 16*
- Southern 6 Trail Race  
*Sunday, February 21*
- University Assembly  
*Monday, February 22*

## SOUTHERN IN THE MEDIA

Here is a sampling of recent media coverage that mentions a Southern event or person:

WSMC improves programming for new year  
*East Hamilton Community News Weekly*, December 30

Southern museum uses iPods for tours  
*Chattanooga Times Free Press*, January 1

Free Health Screenings  
*News Channel 9*, January 14

Community Service Day  
*News Channel 3, 9 and 12*, January 18

**René Drumm** lead an active interdisciplinary research group working on qualitative research in the area of domestic violence within the church and had an article published in *Social Work and Christianity* the last quarter of 2009. The article, "Because of my beliefs that I had acquired from the church...": Religious Belief-based Barriers for Adventist Women in Domestic Violence Relationships" by Marciana Popescu, René Drumm, Sylvia Mayer, Laurie Cooper, Tricia Foster, Marge Seifert, Holly Gadd, and Smita Dewan, is only one of the efforts of this group to make a difference and stop spouse abuse in the church.

Mary Anne Poulson and Star Stevens organized the community-wide Handel's Messiah Sing-Along, which was held on Sunday, December 20, at the Chattanooga First Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Carlos Martin went to Chiquimula, Guatemala, January 13-17 and to San Pedro Sula, Honduras, January 28-31, to discuss evangelism with administrators, pastors, and church officers. In each occasion, he attended committee meetings and made four presentations to large audiences. Two teams from Southern of 15 preachers each are scheduled to present full evangelistic series of 19 sermons each in these two locations this summer.

## PERSONAL NEWS

**Pegi Flynt** announces the birth of her first grandchild, Audrey Claire Raymond, born on November 14.

**Stephen Bauer** officiated his son's wedding in December.

**Henry Kuhlman** announces the birth of his 19th grandchild, Luke Tobiah Sammer, born on January 7.

## HATS OFF!

Thanks to all our IS and other helpers; Isaac James, Eli Courey, Josh Rhodes and any others who've come to the rescue recently. Everyone is always so willing to work through my lack of understanding of the computer world and I truly appreciate it. Thanks a bunch!

—Sue Kaufman

## CHANGING FACES

Fond farewells to the following employees:

Elizabeth Del Aguila from Food Service

Terri Long from School of Social Work

Daniel Paynter from Plant Services

## VOICE AND PEN

Pam Gammenthaler attended Mosby's Faculty Development Institute in San Diego, California, on January 4 and 5.

## BIRTHDAYS

- February 1 Wendy Boyd, *Village Market*  
Casey Henson, *Campus Shop*  
Richard Johnson, *Food Services*
- February 2 Bonnie Hunt, *Nursing*
- February 3 Ryan Pierce, *Marketing and University Relations*  
Clayton Greenleaf, *Plant Services*  
Leon Weeks, *Business and Management*
- February 4 Leslie Ann Schwarzer, *Advancement*  
Derek Sherbondy, *Information Systems*  
Larry Turner, *Plant Services*
- February 6 Henry Hicks, *Information Systems*
- February 8 Stephen Ruf, *Journalism and Communication*  
Faye Steen, *Village Market*
- February 10 Robert Coombs, *Education and Psychology*  
Patrice Hieb, *Advancement*
- February 11 Janita Herod, *Journalism and Communication*
- February 13 Samson Chama, *Social Work*  
Adolfo Granada, *Plant Services*  
Kent Robertson, *Enrollment Services*
- February 15 Michael Dant, *Computing*
- February 16 Delores Franks, *Village Market*  
Helen Pyke, *English*
- February 17 John Klinger, *Plant Services*
- February 18 Chamra Anthony, *Thatcher*  
Lisa Diller, *History*  
Ruth Sauders, *Nursing*
- February 19 Genevieve Cottrell, *McKee Library*
- February 20 Chad Raney, *Plant Services*
- February 21 Cindy McBryar, *Marketing and Enrollment Services*  
Jeri Pewsey, *Food Services*  
Keith Snyder, *Biology*  
Jayne Wyche, *Enrollment Services*
- February 22 Angela Teague, *Accounting Services*
- February 24 Donn Leatherman, *Religion*
- February 27 Mike McClung, *Information Systems*
- February 28 Pierre Nzokizwanimana, *Modern Languages*  
Michael Cafferky, *Business and Management*



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### Marketing and University Relations

editor | **Manuela Asaftei**

We welcome your comments and news.

Please contact us at  
news@southern.edu or call 236.2581.