

Southern Scholars

Annual Report 2016-2017



SOUTHERN
ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Southern Scholars



Dear Friends of the Southern Scholars Honors Program,

I am pleased to share this report summarizing the activity of the Southern Scholars Program through the 2016-2017 academic year.

Southern Adventist University's Southern Scholars Program serves some of the most academically-motivated students through an intellectually rigorous program and by creating a community of students who seek to excel not only in their selected major but in a broad inter-disciplinary curriculum.

Our progress is made possible by the dedication of a number of people:

- Dedicated faculty from across the campus respond to students' intellectual curiosity*
- Honors students who volunteer their time by serving on honors-related committees and as student mentors to lower division honors students*
- The Southern Scholars faculty committee that considers student petitions, helps to evaluate senior honors projects, and provides guidance and counsel in improving the program*

As we enter the 35th year of the Southern Scholars Honors Program, we are looking forward to the continued development of the honors curriculum, original research, and the synergy that results from outstanding students combining their energy and talents, and your continued support.

Sincerely,



*Mark Peach, Ph.D.
Director, Southern Scholars Program*



About Southern Scholars

Southern Scholars is Southern Adventist University's Honors Program that seeks to enhance high-achieving and intellectually curious students' college experiences through an academically and socially stimulating and enriched education. The program provides the opportunity for students to learn and to cultivate their minds through an interdisciplinary curriculum with courses taught across campus, experiential learning through extracurricular activities, and active engagement in a culture of inquiry, research, and discussion.

Curriculum

Religion (choose one)

- * RELB 268: The Sermon on the Mount
- * RELT 421: Issues in Science and Society
- * RELT 317: Issues in Physical Science and Religion
- * RELT 467: Christian Philosophy and Worldviews

Literature

- * Honors Contract Upper Division Literature

English

- * ENGL 103: H: Critical Thinking in Academic Reading & Writing II
- * ENGL 106: H: Critical Thinking in Academic Reading & Writing II

Communications

- * COMM 145 H: Communications & Public Speaking

History

- * HIST 280 H: Technology and Power

Psychology

- * PSYC 234 H: Social Psychology

Natural Science and Lab (choose 8 hours)

- * BIOL 101-102: Anatomy & Physiology
- * BIOL 151-152: General Biology
- * CHEM 151-152: General Chemistry
- * PHYS 211-212: General Physics
- * PHYS 221-222: University Physics

Honors Seminar

- * HMNT 151: Freshman Honors Seminar
- * HMNT 251: Sophomore Honors Seminar
- * HMNT 451: Junior Honors Seminar
- * HMNT 452: Senior Honors Seminar

Honors Electives (choose one)

- * HMNT 205: Arts and Ideas
- * HMNT 211: Intro to Philosophy

Senior Project

- * 2-3 Credits in student's major area

Total of 35 credit hours.

Academic Benefits

- * Stimulating guests and seminars
- * Original and creative senior project
- * Opportunities to attend regional and national honors conferences
- * Same lending privileges as faculty at McKee Library

Social Benefits

- * Opportunities to join an interdisciplinary community of intellectually curious scholars
- * Uniquely honors events such as City-as-Text™ and Partners in the Parks™
- * Peer mentoring
- * Southern Scholars Study Room in McKee Library

Mission: Southern Adventist University seeks to provide motivated and capable students with an enhanced interdisciplinary educational experience that emphasizes the integration of spiritual values into our knowledge of nature and society. The Program was created to give intellectually motivated students enriched learning experiences and a community of peers devoted to a vigorous life of the mind that encourages student responsibility for their learning. Southern Scholars welcome intellectual challenge and learning opportunities, both in and out of the classroom.

Partners in the Parks™

Partners in the Parks™ is an outdoor experiential learning program coordinated by the National Collegiate Honors Council with the National Park Service.

2017 SAU Participants:

- * Andrew Cuevas – Independence Hall
- * Imani Hamilton – Independence Hall
- * Michael Ciurea – Grand Canyon
- * Daniel Capo – Great Smoky Mtns. National Park
- * Chase Czaykowski – Mount Rainier National Park

2017 Great Smoky National Park/Appalachian Trail

- * Director Mark Peach will co-lead (with Professor Christina McIntyre from Virginia Tech) a Partners in the Parks™ which will include students from:
 - * Southern Adventist University
 - * Mississippi State University
 - * Ithaca College
 - * Lamar University
 - * Christian Brothers University
 - * University of Florida
 - * Long Island University

2016-2017 Southern Scholars Events

- * One Retreat
- * Two Symposiums
- * Four Convocations
- * Three Assembly Meetings
- * One Regional Honors Conference
- * One National Honors Conference
- * One City-as-Text™
- * One Southern Scholars Alumni Vespers
- * The Art of Observation at the Hunter Art Museum
- * One Analytical/Creative Event at the Chattanooga Regional Food Bank
- * One Analytical/Creative Event to a Tiny Houses Manufacturer
- * Participation in University of Tennessee Chattanooga's Honors College Ideathon

Changes to the Curriculum

HMNT 151: Freshman Honors Seminar

Southern Scholars will no longer be required to take a Scholars Southern Connections class. Instead, students will enroll in the Southern Connections class of their major in the fall semester and will take a Freshmen Seminar class for the Scholars program in the winter semester of their freshmen year.

Science Requirements:

The Southern Scholars Faculty Committee voted to change the science requirement from a science lab sequence to allow students to choose eight credits of lab sciences from the already established list of approved science classes. This change will allow students to explore different disciplines within science. For example, a student may choose to take General Biology I and General Chemistry I.

“

While it was tough academically, the opportunities it gave me were invaluable.
–Melissa Rodas

The Scholars Program has given me the chance to challenge myself in my education and has taught me that I can challenge myself in any area of my life.

–Avocet Brooks

”

Student Facts

3.81

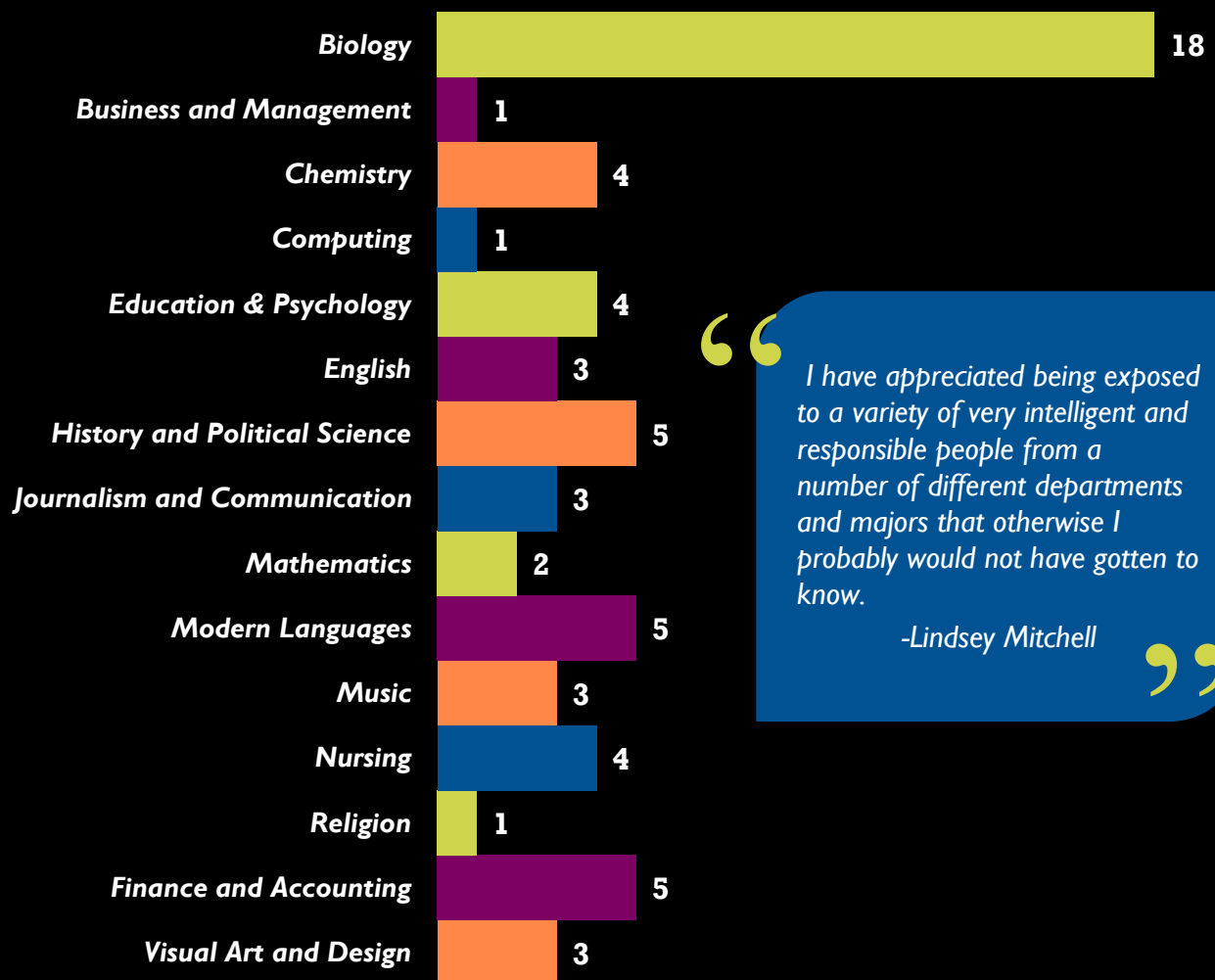
Average GPA

19%

Students with more than one major

I am glad I participated in this program because I was able to meet other students who were just as excited about learning as I was and my perspective in different areas was widened as I learned from other scholars.
-Loren Hall

Students by Department



I have appreciated being exposed to a variety of very intelligent and responsible people from a number of different departments and majors that otherwise I probably would not have gotten to know.

-Lindsey Mitchell

53

Southern Scholars

6

Scholars graduated this academic year

Academics

Graduates and Their Projects

- Meghan Baranda** – Nurse Burnout and the Effects of Coping and Stress Management
Olivia DeWitt – Red Masters & Their Black Slaves in a White Man's War: The Five Civilized Tribes' Relationship with the Confederacy in Light of Slavery
Denee McClain – Investigating Language With Artificial Intelligence.
David Orvek – Ex Nihilo: An Inquiry Into the Nature of Musical Creation
Amanda Ruf – Theatre and Drama in Confederate Richmond
Paul Turner – The Sanctuary of Hebrews 8-10 and Implications on SDA Theology

Top Achiever Awards

- Matthew Lopez** – Biology
Emma Winegardner – History
Emma Winegardner – English

Challenge By Choice

Campus Research Day Presentations

- Adeline Piotrowski** – War, Reformation, and Antebellum Ink: Southern Authorship and Eliza Frances Andrews
Amanda Ruf – The Text in “Mourning”: Oh Caledonia and Janet
Claire Brewer – Polygamy: A Second Look
Daniela Monzon – Filling the Void: Perspectives of Females and Coping Mechanisms in F. Scott Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby and Jean Rhys’ Good Morning, Midnight
Denee McClain – Investigating Language with Artificial Intelligence
Erin Burke – In Search of Jaws: How Climate Change Is Causing Shark Attacks
Jonathan Shephard – The Hand That Feeds: Teacher Burnout
Joel Negrillo – The Causes and Effects of Indecisiveness
Laura Garcia – Art in Education: Is It Worth It?
Madeline B. Uhrik – Opening the Mind of Dementia: Music Therapy Minimizes Effects of Dementia
Mark Galvez – The Medicaid Crisis and Hope
Matthew Lopez – The Effect of Osteoarthritis in Cartilage
Meghan Baranda – Originality of the Harlem Renaissance Black Culture
Michael Baranda – The Comparison Between Non-Affected and Affected Nervous Tissue in Patients With Cauda Equina Syndrome
Paul-Anthony Turner – Critical Analysis of Sexuality and Power
The Investigative Judgment in Daniel 7 and 8
Shanti James – Men Are From Mars; Women Are From Peppermint
Sierra Correia – Putting Money Where Your Beliefs Are: Two Paths, One End Goal
Sierra Garrett – Exercise and Academic Success
Tessa Corbin – Fragments

Activities and Events

Fifth Annual Honors Retreat

Once again, we used Florida Hospital Hall to spend a day beginning our honors year by sharing ideas, good company, and good food. Linda Tym, Assistant Professor of English, organized a round-robin discussion event based upon Marilynne Robinson's Pulitzer Prize winning novel *Gilead*, an intimate tale of three generations, from the Civil War to the 20th Century.

Winter Vespers

We utilized McKee Library for our Southern Scholars Alumni Vespers, complete with a catered meal. We had a panel discussion on the topic of "Intersections of Faithful Living and Popular Culture." The panelists included Dr. Seneca Vaught (Kennesaw State), Dr. Tanya Cochran (Union Adventist College), Mike Fulbright (The Well), and Dr. James Londis.

City as Text™

Freshmen Scholars participated in a City-as-Text™ event to kick start the year. Occurring in downtown Chattanooga, students used the analytical process called urban mapping in which learners look for clues for what neighborhoods are used for (commercial, industry, recreation) and who uses them (residents, tourists, commuters). City-as-Text™ is all about taking classroom skills and applying them to the real world.

Honors Conferences

Southern Scholars attended the National Collegiate Honors Council conference. Seven students traveled to Seattle in October, attended sessions, met other honors students, and brought home a variety of new ideas for building our honors program. In March, ten students traveled to Asheville for the Southern Regional Honors Council conference where Shanti James presented "Seeking the Anatomy of the Soul: Researching the Neuroscience and Philosophy of Spiritual Experiences," Imani Hamilton co-presented "The Urban PIP Experience," and a group of Southern students presented "Honors Program to Honors College: Logistics, Benefits, and Detriments of the Transition." Overall, 25% of Southern Scholars have attended honors conferences this year.

Partners in the Parks™

Partners-in-the-Parks™ is a collaborative experiential learning opportunity jointly sponsored by the National Park Service and the National Collegiate Honors Council. These week-long events offer inter-disciplinary (history, archival preservation, fire ecology, Native American culture, recreational impact on the environment, volcanology, river hydrology, etc.) learning opportunities. In January of 2017, two Southern Scholars participated in the Independence Hall PIP. This summer several other students will be participating in varying locations. The Southern Scholars director co-led the Appalachian Trail: Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Partners-in-the-Parks™ in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.



The Sacredness of Questioning Everything

DAVID DARK
CONVOCATION

11 AM on
JANUARY 10th
BROCK HALL RM 3009

Sponsored by the History Department
and Southern Scholars

Changes and Goals

Changes

- *Introduction of Freshmen Honors Seminar. Students will participate in the Southern Connections Class of their major rather than a Scholars Southern Connections Course.

- *Honors Council Elections

- *An increased number of honors events.

- * Increased student leadership and ownership in the program.

- *Targeted recruitment of promising students.

“

The Scholars Program has given me an intellectual advantage and has helped me develop an internal drive to challenge myself. It also provided a social atmosphere where I met my best friend.

—Tessa Corbin

”

Goals

- * Expand Scholars Program to represent 5% of undergraduate population.

- *Acquire needed space for administration.

- *Expand advisement for Scholars.

- *Continue to develop Scholars curriculum (Aesthetics and Honors Statistics).

- *Develop peer mentoring to enhance retention in Scholars.

- *Expand events that call for analysis and creative problem solving.



SOUTHERN
ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Southern Scholars

scholars@southern.edu
southern.edu/southern scholars