



Annual SEPA Conference

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Congratulations, 2016 Graduates!

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ACA CONFERENCE

Graduate Counseling Students Go to Montreal, Canada



Photo courtesy of Shanna Dillard

Graduate students pose with Gerald Corey, Ph.D. renowned author and counselor.

By Hayley Baker

The American Counseling Association (ACA) holds a conference every year for graduate students and professionals. The 2016 ACA conference and Expo was held in Montreal, Canada. With generous help from the department, eight graduate counseling students, including myself, were able to attend. The conference took place in the Palais des Congres de Montreal, Canada. The ACA conference consisted of hundreds of educational sessions, poster sessions, and roundtable discussions that took place over the four-day event. We were able to attend numerous sessions whose topics ranged from Play Therapy with Children to Complex Trauma and Substance Abuse. The conference left me feeling empowered

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From the Dean's Desk

There is nothing quite like springtime on our campus as new life emerges. The flowers, budding trees, rich green grass, and warm temperatures make committing time for study most difficult. Even with rather severe cases of spring fever, I admire how our students remain on task as they finish the multitude of responsibilities before the semester ends.



John McCoy, Ed.D.

In this edition you will get a glimpse of two of the many activities in which our students and faculty participate regularly. The Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA) conference where several of our psychology majors presented research and the American Counseling Association (ACA) conference that our graduate counseling students attended in Montreal, Canada are excellent examples. As a department we are able to assist with some of the expenses, however, many students paid substantial fees to attend. This serves as another reminder of the dedication of our students as they prepare to be the best in their careers of choice. Additionally, Dr. Fuentes's mission work is highlighted in this edition. His dedication to a life of service is a fantastic model for our students and we hope you will be inspired by his story!

Congratulations to our May and July graduates featured in this edition. We wish God's blessings to each and every one. We also bid farewell to a true gentleman who has graced this campus for the past 19 years: Dr. Gordon Bietz, who will be ending his presidential career on May 31, 2016. He has been a solid, consistent spiritual leader here at Southern and will be greatly missed.

SEPA Conference

By: Thiffany Reynoso



On Wednesday, March 30, 2016 a group of 12 psychology majors, three graduate assistants, and two faculty sponsors (Ruth Williams, Ph.D. and Tron Wilder, Ed.D) began their eight-hour journey to New Orleans, Louisiana for the 62nd annual Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA) Conference. From our group, four students presented their own independent research studies conducted at Southern Adventist University: Marvin Campos, Seth Daly-Stennis, Jazmyne Page, and Zakeya Sisco. We applaud all of our students for presenting at SEPA. Seth won first place in the undergraduate research category of the Committee of Equality in Professional Opportunity, an organization that focuses on providing undergraduate students the opportunity to present research at SEPA.

When Violence Hits Home: Perspectives on a Campus Shooting was a very impactful panel to attend, especially because no one is ever ready for an such event like this to occur. One student victim shared how his classmates and he were fighting for their lives, barricading the door, and trying to stay as quiet as possible. No university or student expects to face an active shooter scenario, but it is important that Southern Adventist University focuses and plans for the unlikely event of a campus shooter with all of its attendant implications.

Psychology program director Professor Williams and many of our students were able to "Relax with BioSound." BioSound™ is the integration of music therapy and sound frequency massage that produces low frequency vibrations to trigger a natural relaxation response. This system is beneficial in crisis intervention, detox, and stress reduction.

SEPA is always a great experience. As stated by Ana DuVall, senior psychology major: "To me it was an affirmation of my love for psychology. I couldn't get enough of all the knowledge I found compressed in this event."

UNRAVELED

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ACA Conference

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and grateful. I found it amazing to be surrounded by so many diverse and inspiring counselors who are dedicated to helping others. The important role of a counselor was continually evaluated and discussed. I left feeling proud of my chosen occupation because I saw firsthand how counselors are dedicated to overall wellness, client empowerment, diversity, and emphasizing clients' strengths as opposed to a preoccupation with diagnoses. The conference also led me to reflect on Romans 15:1-2 (MSG), "Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, 'How can I help?'" To me, that is the perfect verse to illustrate faith and a counselor's role. My faith strengthens me to help those who are struggling. Several students shared their reflections on what the opportunity to attend the ACA national conference meant to them:

"Having the opportunity to experience a new culture in another country, along with gaining practical information for my future career was an amazing opportunity. Getting to talk with people who are passionate about the same things I am and are more than willing to support me in seeking them out helped me solidify my professional goals. Also being treated as a peer even though I am still a student was something I did not expect, but greatly enjoyed!" – Erin Bush, M.S. Clinical Mental Health Counseling

"ACA was an incredible experience! I learned so much by attending the education sessions. It was a great opportunity to meet well-known counselors from our field. It definitely solidified that the counseling profession is for me. I will most certainly be attending the next conference." – Francisco Ortiz, M.S. Clinical Mental Health Counseling

"Attending this year's ACA conference in Montreal was an amazing experience! Bonding with my classmates on a 20 hour drive and exploring the city with them is an experience I will never forget. Being surrounded by peers and professionals in the field who are so passionate about what they do really helped to shape my identity as a counselor and reminded me of the important role that we play in the lives of others." – Amber Buchanan, M.S. Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Traveling to Montreal is an experience I will never forget! From the incredible ACA Workshops to exploring the city and the food, I am so thankful for this opportunity. The speakers were phenomenal and I learned so much just from being in their presence! I think I will forever be an ACA Conference attendee! I am looking forward to next year's conference in Nashville, Tennessee! - Shanna Dillard, M.S. School Counseling



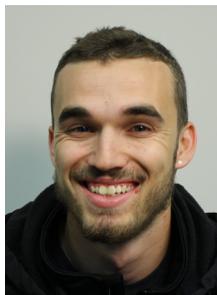
On left: ACA President Thelma Duffy on the opening day of the conference.
On right: Students touring at the Montreal Basilica.



School of Education and Psychology

May & Summer Graduates

PHOTOS COURTESY OF
SOUTHERN'S WEBSITE



Name: Jordan Antone
Major: Psychology
Hometown: Chattanooga, TN
Future Plans: Go to Vanderbilt University Law School to specialize in criminal justice



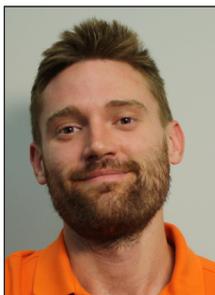
Name: Chase Bennett
Major: M.S. School Counseling
Hometown: Cleveland, TN
Future Plans: Work at whatever school will allow me to grow as a professional



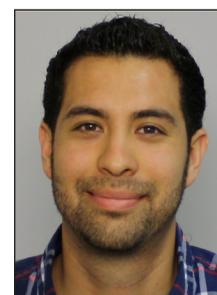
Name: Emmanuel Cabrera
Major: Psychology
Hometown: Seattle, WA
Future Plans: I want to use the skills I have learned in my studies to pursue a career in business



Name: Marvin Campos
Major: Psychology
Hometown: Minnetonka, MN
Future Plans: Pursue a master's in social work



Name: Josh Cash
Major: M.S. Outdoor Education
Hometown: Phil Campbell, AL
Future Plans: Undetermined



Name: Ben Castellanos
Major: M.S. Outdoor Education
Hometown: Snellville, GA
Future Plans: Undetermined



Name: Seabree Clemonds
Major: Family Systems
Hometown: Agana Heights, Guam
Future Plans: Attend graduate school for School Counseling and CMHC



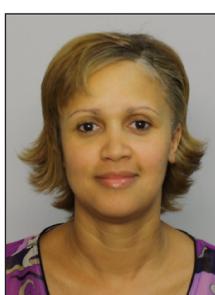
Name: Shanna Dillard
Major: M.S. School Counseling
Hometown: Cleveland, TN
Future Plans: Apply for school counseling positions in the area



Name: Landon Duff
Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: Chattanooga, TN
Future Plans: Teach and get a master's degree



Name: Emily Durichek
Major: M.S. Outdoor Education
Hometown: Vancouver, WA
Future Plans: Become an elementary education teacher



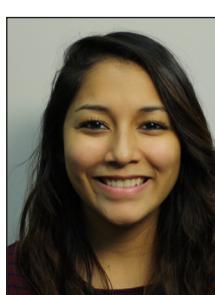
Name: Melody Fields
Major: M.S. Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Hometown: Huntsville, AL
Future Plans: Work in Greenville, MS at a counseling center



Name: Lindsay Gardner
Major: Secondary Education
Hometown: Tillamook, OR
Future Plans: Move to Taiwan to teach science to middle school students



Name: Karen Garza
Major: M.S. School Counseling
Hometown: Houston, TX
Future Plans: My husband and I will welcome our baby girl in June and I plan to teach



Name: Alexy Gatica
Major: Psychology
Hometown: Fayetteville, GA
Future Plans: Teach in Palau for a year and then attend graduate school at Andrews University



Name: Stephanie George
Major: M.S. Outdoor Education
Hometown: Kemanti'an, Palawan Philippines
Future Plans: Continue in my field, pursue a doctorate

Congratulations, Graduates!

Intelligence plus character
—that is the goal of true education.

—MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



Name: Laura Giordano
Major: M.S. School Counseling & CMHC
Hometown: Ooltewah, TN
Future Plans: Enter the work field and pursue a PhD



Name: Robyn Gold
Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: Orlando, FL
Future Plans: Plan to be a teacher for elementary students in the Adventist school system



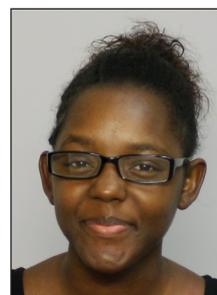
Name: Heidi Gomez
Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: Kenosha, WI
Future Plans: Teach K-1st grade at Hoover Christian Academy in Hoover, Alabama



Name: Heyli Gomez
Major: Secondary Education
Hometown: Chicago, IL
Future Plans: Find a job in Chattanooga or Chicago



Name: Joel Greve
Major: Secondary Education
Hometown: Knoxville, TN
Future Plans: Move to Ohio, work, and continue my education



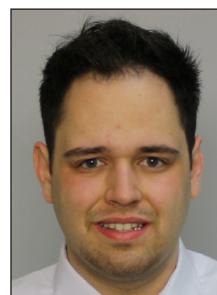
Name: Kandyce Harris
Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: Denver, CO
Future Plans: To teach either Kindergarten or 1st grade



Name: Emily Henson
Major: Psychology
Hometown: Gainesville, FL
Future Plans: Attend University of FL for graduate school in the marital and family program



Name: Melanie Hubbard
Major: M.S. Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Hometown: Sacramento, CA
Future Plans: Work at a nonprofit agency



Name: Robert Jepson
Major: Psychology
Hometown: Frederick, MD
Future Plans: Pursue a master's degree in social work back in Maryland



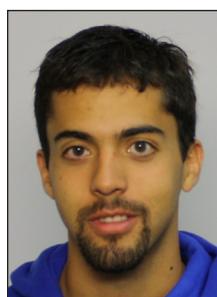
Name: Victoria Johnson
Major: Secondary Education
Hometown: Olive Branch, MS
Future Plans: Work as a high school history teacher in Taiwan



Name: Carrie Jones
Major: M.S. School Counseling
Hometown: Great Falls, MT
Future Plans: Get a school counselor job anywhere they will take me!



Name: Nicole Kioa
Major: M.S. School Counseling
Hometown: Salt Lake City, UT
Future Plans: Take over the world! But for tax purposes and health insurance, be a school counselor



Name: Ross Mason
Major: M.S. Outdoor Education
Hometown: Montrose, CO
Future Plans: Get married on graduation day and seek employment in outdoor education



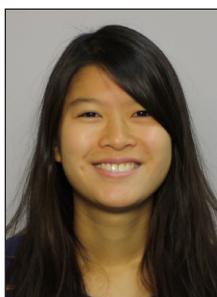
Name: Shaunda Mejeur
Major: M.S. Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Hometown: Chattanooga, TN
Future Plans: I plan to work in a mental health agency



Name: Savannah Minear
Major: Psychology
Hometown: Columbia, TN
Future Plans: Get my master's degree in school counseling



Name: Sydney Parton
Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: Tipton, IN
Future Plans: Be a forest kindergarten teacher



Name: Nancy Pham
Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: San Jose, CA
Future Plans: Become a teacher



Name: Heidi Quarles
Major: Psychology
Hometown: Ooltewah, TN
Future Plans: Hope to pursue a career in the field of psychology



Name: Carol Raney
Major: M.S. Instructional Leadership
Hometown: Collegedale, TN
Future Plans: Staying here, continuing to work for Southern



Name: Robby Raney IV
Major: Secondary Education
Hometown: Collegedale, TN
Future Plans: Introduce students to the One to Whom I sing



Name: Ryan Roberts
Major: Psychology
Hometown: Montgomery, VT
Future Plans: Begin work in a PhD program in the fall of 2016



Name: Astrid Rodriguez
Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: Mapoteng, Lesotho
Future Plans: Teach wherever God leads me



Name: Matthew Russell
Major: M.S. Outdoor Education
Hometown: Damascus, OR
Future Plans: Teaching technical rescue classes in Colorado



Name: Zakeya Sisco
Major: Psychology
Hometown: Miami, FL
Future Plans: Enter into Southern's M.S. Clinical Mental Health Counseling program



Name: Mindy Steele
Major: Secondary Education
Hometown: Apison, TN
Future Plans: Teach choir and private voice lessons



Name: Kaylee Vaughan
Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: Fayetteville, AR
Future Plans: Become an elementary teacher



Name: Aubrey Wallin
Major: M.S. School Counseling
Hometown: Centralia, WA
Future Plans: Work as a dean at an academy or college



Name: Joel Westberg
Major: Secondary Education
Hometown: Navarre, FL
Future Plans: Write novels and work toward a doctorate in choral conducting

Also Graduating:

- Diana Clemons - M.S. Literacy Education
- Jourdan Nichole Ford - Elementary Education
- Sonya Grice - M.S. Outdoor Education
- Alisha Strayhorn - M.S. Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- Ronald Arroyo-Watson - M.S. Instructional Leadership

Faculty Update:

An Emphasis on Missions: Freddy Fuentes, EdD



1. How many mission trips have you attended? Where have you gone?

In the last four years, I have been on 10 mission trips. I have been to Columbia, the Dominican Republic, Botswana, Chile, El Salvador, Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, and twice to Guatemala.

2. Please explain your most recent mission trip. What did you do there? What was your role?

My latest trip was to Cuba. A group of 21 individuals provided evangelistic series for five churches as well as Vacation Bible School programs, a vision clinic, and assisted in the construction of a clandestine church. I was the site coordinator for Quiet Hour Ministries. I facilitated the daily activities so that they ran smoothly and the mission trip was an uplifting experience for all participants.

3. What are your primary motives for taking these trips?

The purpose of each trip varies depending on the sponsoring agency. The first five trips were organized by the Evangelistic Resource Center (ERC) at Southern. Their primary purpose was to provide an evangelistic series to harvest souls for the local communities we visited. Students preached 19 sermons in 16 days. This experience provided students who had never preached in public the opportunity to learn that God will help reach souls if they allow Him to preach the gospel through them. The last five trips were sponsored by UQuest

at Southern. Their primary purpose is to advance the gospel in the same way that Jesus did. Not only by bringing the gospel to people but by offering a medical clinic and construction of facilities that will support local church ministries.

4. How do you see your role as an education professor integrating with your involvement in missions?

As an education professor, I have been able to use my previous experience as a teacher and principal to organize, teach, and encourage all of those under my supervision. I believe that each moment is a teachable moment for myself and the team members, not only in this life but for the life beyond. Service is the only certainty that we have when we go to heaven. I view the learning from these mission experiences, to love and to serve one another, as a gift from God. The more students, staff, and faculty learn from these experiences, the more likely we will become the “salt” of the earth.

5. Can you describe one of the most meaningful experiences you have had during a mission trip?

This is a difficult question, since every trip is a unique moment in life that leaves a lasting memory. However, I can think of two experiences that stand out to me. When I went to Botswana, Africa, 20 individuals who had no experience preaching went to conduct evangelistic series. The local pastor was upset that the

university sent inexperienced students to conduct the series. The students were scared and sought God for strength and courage. At the end of the series, there were over 500 baptisms, which was more than the entire membership of the church at the time. God used the weak for His honor and glory.

On my last trip to Cuba, I was impacted by the passion for life the people had. Many countries suffer from poverty due to lack of resources or lack of knowledge, but in Cuba the poverty is due to oppression. People are constantly oppressed by the government and are not allowed to advance or move ahead. Most churches do not have a Bible or a hymn book. The churches do not have the resources needed to partake in communion or potluck. Even toilet paper is a luxury, and one you will not find at the churches. Poverty may be rampant in Cuba, but the people are rich in the soul with an abundance of smiles and hugs. The people will give you all they have to make you feel welcome. Part of my heart remains in Cuba.

6. Is there anything else you would like to mention about missions?

I want to encourage everyone to go on a mission trip. Whether students are interested in preaching or providing other important services, the experience is rewarding. Students will come away feeling blessed and enriched.



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