

# Congratulations, December 2018 Graduates!

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## Meet New Faculty Members

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# Summerour Hall Abuzz with Research Projects

by Davida Phillips



*Psychology Professor Ruth Williams addresses her Research Design & Statistics I students.*

The students and faculty of the School of Education and Psychology are consistently engaged in research. Specifically, Ruth Williams, PhD, in the psychology department has been presenting her research from a racism study done last year. Titled “We Asked and They Answered: Perceptions of Racism at Southern Adventist University”, her study focused on the question: “Is Southern Racist?” This quantitative study was based on the apology video following a racial incident at Black Christian Union Night, where University President, David Smith posed that question. Professor Williams wanted to focus on students’ perception of racism and their beliefs of its impact on equal opportunities. The results varied by reported ethnicity, showing that although we may live in the same world, we each have different experiences. The study also highlighted students’ honesty and eagerness to voice their concerns. Williams and her team plan to submit this racism study for publication in the near future, and they also hope to start a new study focused on student responses for why they believe Southern is or is not racist.

Tron Wilder PhD, is also busy with research projects as the lead researcher in a study titled “Vocabulary of Calling on the Campus of Southern University”. This qualitative study aimed to develop a definition of “calling” on our campus. *(continued from page 3)*

# UNRAVELLED

Newsletter for School of Education and Psychology



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# FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

Fall changes are in the air, with signs of leaves changing colors, a bit cooler weather, and all things pumpkin appearing everywhere we look. Changes have also come to the School of Education and Psychology (SEP) John McCoy, EdD, retired from the dean position on May 31, 2018. In addition to his dean responsibilities, Professor McCoy taught courses in the psychology and graduate education areas. We are sure that his biking buddies will miss seeing him on the trails around Chattanooga, because he and his wife, Jan, have relocated to Maryland. We wish them well in their retirement and many happy years with their grandchildren.



**Bonnie Eder, EdD**

I am serving as interim dean for the 2018-2019 school year, and Professor Carol Raney, who joined us last year, is teaching some of the same classes along with several new courses. Gary Bradley, PhD, coming from the University of South Carolina Upstate, has joined our education team. A graduate of Southern Adventist University, he comes with a wide range of experience with a focus on math and other general education courses. Ronda Stone, MA, is the field experience coordinator, and she works for both education and school counseling to place students in their field experiences. Monty Murdoch, PhD, is the new director of the MEd Outdoor Education program. He has just finished his first Outdoor Education intensive, leading out in the annual trip to the Boundary Waters of Northern Minnesota. Professor Murdoch was most recently a teacher at Forest Lake Academy in Florida.

Despite our varying experiences and roles, the professors and staff here in the SEP shares something in common: we are committed to serving God and helping our students make lifelong decisions for Him. We welcome this opportunity and we welcome our students-past, present and future-to join us as we grow together in Christ.

Bonnie Eder,  
Interim Dean

## 2018 Adventist Education Teacher's Convention

by Kara Wait and Sergio Monterroso

Southern Adventist University's education department aims to turn professionalism into a lifestyle for their students and enhance growth in all aspects of their lives. As part of reaching this goal, Southern sponsored us both to attend the 2018 North American Division (NAD) Teacher's Convention in Chicago, Illinois on August 6-9. The NAD holds this convention only once every six years, making a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to attend as students.

Six thousand Adventist teachers, principals, superintendents, and other affiliates of Adventist education attended this three-day convention, including educational experts and motivational speakers such as Leisa Morton-Standish (NAD director of elementary education) and Manny Scott (author and motivational speaker). It is not often that one finds such a broad array of knowledge and resources in the form of expert presentations, resource-stocked booths,



*Senior Kara Wait reunited with her elementary teacher, Travis Johnson, who inspired her to teach.*

and unlimited networking opportunities within one of the largest gathering of Adventist educators on the continent.

The convention's theme was "Encounter Jesus, Experience Excellence" As future educators, being surrounded by thousands of professionals who share the same faith and calling was truly an inspirational experience of excellence.



*Junior Sergio Monterroso with one of the session speakers, Jasmine Johnson.*

UNRAVELED  
Volume 18, Issue 2

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UNRAVELED is the official newsletter for the School of Education and Psychology at Southern Adventist University.

## Summerour Hall Abuzz with Research Projects *(continued from page 1)*

This research was promoted by the importance of helping students discover what God is calling them to do in their lives and developing a common language for this goal. The results of the study are still pending, but Professor Wilder and his team hope to inform practices at Southern and influence other Adventist campuses with this research in the future.

The counseling department is involved in research directed by Liane de Souza, PhD, Ileanna Freeman, PhD, and counseling graduate assistants. The counseling department is currently researching academic entitlement and spirituality in counseling. The academic entitlement research is focused on graduate program satisfaction and the coping strategies of students, whereas the spirituality in counseling research is focused on spiritual well-being and counselor competencies.

Outdoor Education faculty members Carl Swafford and Jean Lomino, visiting professor Jiyoun Shin, and graduate

assistant Amanda Simmons studied the development of character strengths in Forest Kindergarten (FK) students aged 3 to 6 in Tennessee and Georgia. Soon to be published, the hypothesis of this study is that certain character strengths can be developed in FK taught in a natural environment. The study examined virtues such as justice, courage, and humanity, and character traits such as cooperation, perseverance, gratitude, and creativity. The results showed that character strengths can be developed in FK programs with key features such as frequent play opportunities and child-centered learning.

Summerour Hall takes pride in being able to use research to ask questions, better understand each other individually, and come to conclusions that encompass our many voices and stories collectively. If you are interested in joining a research team, please contact Ruth Williams in the psychology department or Zakeya Sisco at [zakeyas@southern.edu](mailto:zakeyas@southern.edu).

## ALUMNI UPDATE: Hayley and Eliseo Sanchez

Eliseo and Hayley Sanchez met at Southern their freshman year in 2010. Both clinical psychology majors, the couple attended every class together their junior year and began to date. Eliseo and Hayley graduated in 2014 with BS degrees in Clinical Psychology, Hayley with an additional BA in International Studies. After graduation, Hayley and Eliseo stayed to complete their master's degrees in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. They then got married in December of 2016.

They have since relocated from Chattanooga to Hamburg, Pennsylvania, where Hayley is currently working as a head dean of women at Blue Mountain Academy. The couple previously worked at a community mental health agency, with individuals from 3 years old and up. Their main responsibilities included individual counseling, advocacy, and maintaining strong communication with their clients' additional team members.

In their spare time, Eliseo and Hayley enjoy hiking, camping, trying out new restaurants and spending quality time together.

### How did the psychology program at Southern prepare you for your work?

It offered a strong emphasis on self-care and keeping spirituality in the center of our lives. Even where certain clients did not have



*Eliseo and Hayley Sanchez enjoy the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina*

a religious affiliation or belief, we had the ability as individuals to pray and find peace and guidance from God. That is a great resource to hold onto in any career.

### What do you miss most about being at Southern?

We miss the feeling of community with students and professors who offered great support and advice in academics and beyond, as well as the opportunities that Southern offered to participate in extracurricular activities and Adventist Colleges Abroad. We also greatly miss our church family at The Well in Chattanooga.

### What do you find most fulfilling in your current roles?

One of the most fulfilling aspects of being a therapist is the sacred privilege of sitting with someone through their most vulnerable and honest moments. To be included in what could be a turning point for someone is a beautiful gift. We also greatly appreciated the fact that our psychology degrees are a jumping-off point for many other fields or career opportunities. It's great to hear from professors or other alumni to see where their degrees took them and to realize that there is not one set path to follow.

**If you would like to receive future *Unraveled* newsletters electronically, please email [uas@southern.edu](mailto:uas@southern.edu) and request to be added to the list.**

# CONGRATULATIONS, DECEMBER 2018 GRADUATES!



**Brandi Batten**  
**Major:** MS Clinical  
 Mental Health  
 Counseling  
**Hometown:**  
 Murfreesboro, TN  
**Future Plans:**  
 Open a private  
 practice/non-profit  
 organization for  
 inter-city families



**Tiffany Baun**  
**Major:** Psychology  
**Hometown:** Gurnee,  
 IL  
**Future Plans:**  
 Graduate school  
 in TX for School  
 Psychology and travel  
 with husband



**Hope Behnke**  
**Major:** Elementary  
 Education  
**Hometown:** Ormond  
 Beach, FL  
**Future Plans:** Teach  
 at a local elementary  
 school



**Brandon Beneche**  
**Major:** English  
 Education  
**Hometown:** Stow,  
 MA  
**Future Plans:**  
 Becoming an English  
 teacher and graduate  
 school



**Daniella Clemons**  
**Major:** Elementary  
 Education  
**Hometown:**  
 Calhoun, GA  
**Future Plans:** Begin  
 teaching or begin a  
 Masters, eventually  
 returning to overseas  
 mission field



**Colton Eldred**  
**Major:** History  
 Education  
**Hometown:**  
 Nashville, TN  
**Future Plans:** Teach  
 high school history



**Amy Flores**  
**Major:** Elementary  
 Education  
**Hometown:** Los  
 Angeles, CA  
**Future Plans:** Work  
 in a low-income area



**Seth Fogg**  
**Major:** Health and  
 Physical Education  
**Hometown:**  
 Noblesville, IN  
**Future Plans:**  
 Become an athletic  
 director and find  
 time to travel the  
 world



**Samantha  
 Francois**  
**Major:** Elementary  
 Education  
**Hometown:**  
 Columbia, MD  
**Future Plans:** Teach  
 third grade at an  
 elementary school



**Ariana Guptill**  
**Major:** English  
 Education  
**Hometown:**  
 Mankato, MN  
**Future Plans:**  
 Become a Christ-  
 centered, successful  
 English and History  
 teacher



**Aaron Hall**  
**Major:** MA  
 Instructional  
 Leadership  
**Hometown:** Hot  
 Springs, AR  
**Future Plans:**  
 Continue teaching



**Nicole Hanson**  
**Major:** Industrial  
 Organizational  
 Psychology  
**Hometown:**  
 Houston, TX  
**Future Plans:** Start  
 in Human Resources  
 and attend graduate  
 school



**Vannida Kim**  
**Major:** Elementary  
 Education  
**Hometown:** Phnom  
 Penh, Cambodia  
**Future Plans:**  
 Teach any grades  
 on elementary level  
 and attend graduate  
 school



**Hunter Lindberg**  
**Major:** MS Clinical  
 Mental Health  
 Counseling  
**Hometown:**  
 Ooltewah, TN  
**Future Plans:** Start  
 PhD program in  
 Clinical Psychology



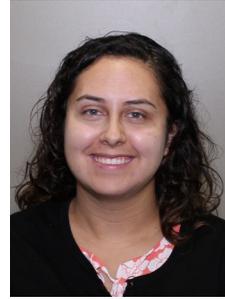
**Adam Littell**  
**Major:** MEd  
 Instructional  
 Leadership  
**Hometown:**  
 Candler, NC  
**Future Plans:**  
 Continue work  
 at Mount Pisgah  
 Academy as VP of  
 Academics



**Gaby Martinez Lugo**  
**Major:** Psychology  
**Hometown:** San Juan, Puerto Rico  
**Future Plans:** Become a clinical mental health counselor



**Jessica Malloch**  
**Major:** Psychology  
**Hometown:** Chattanooga, TN  
**Future Plans:** Graduate school and become an ER Physicians Assistant



**Katherine Melgar**  
**Major:** Elementary Education  
**Hometown:** Boston, MA  
**Future Plans:** Graduate school and become a school counselor



**Ava Mimbs**  
**Major:** MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling



**Carlos Montes**  
**Major:** Clinical Psychology  
**Hometown:** Woodbridge, VA  
**Future Plans:** Graduate school for PsyD in Clinical Psychology and specialization in neuropsychology



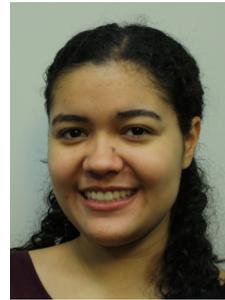
**Annie Morris**  
**Major:** MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling  
**Hometown:** Cleveland, TN  
**Future Plans:** Open private practice as a counselor for adults and adolescents



**Clayton Neil**  
**Major:** History Education  
**Hometown:** Macon, GA  
**Future Plans:** Become an amazing history teacher and go to graduate school



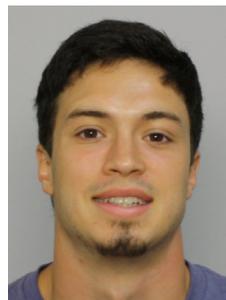
**Melany Orellana**  
**Major:** Elementary Education  
**Hometown:** Orlando, FL  
**Future Plans:** Become an elementary teacher in Georgia



**Amanda Perez**  
**Major:** Psychobiology  
**Hometown:** Cornwall, NY  
**Future Plans:** Serve as a student missionary somewhere in the islands and graduate school for occupational therapy



**Maggie Pickens**  
**Major:** Health and Physical Education  
**Hometown:** Cleveland, GA  
**Future Plans:** Become a PE teacher, fitness trainer and missionary worker



**Dale Pickett**  
**Major:** MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling



**Crystal St. Pierre**  
**Major:** MSED Outdoor Education  
**Hometown:** LaFayette, GA  
**Future Plans:** Impact the world with one kind act at a time



**Ryan Roberts**  
**Major:** MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling  
**Hometown:** Montgomery, VT  
**Future Plans:** Moving to Vermont with my wife and practice counseling part-time



**Chase Shireman**  
**Major:** MSED Outdoor Education  
**Hometown:** Centralia, MO  
**Future Plans:** Keep teaching and become a boy's dean



**Zakeya Sisco**  
**Major:** MS Clinical Mental Health and School Counseling  
**Hometown:** Miami, FL  
**Future Plans:** Work in the Clinical Mental Health field, then become a School Counselor

## DECEMBER 2018 GRADUATES



**Brooklynn Springs**  
**Major:** Elementary Education  
**Hometown:** Chattanooga, TN  
**Future Plans:** Teach at an elementary school



**Kaitlyn Warman**  
**Major:** Clinical Psychology  
**Hometown:** Newport, VT  
**Future Plans:** Take a year off to work, then graduate school to pursue MS in Counseling

**Not pictured:** Anita Bates (MSEd Instructional Leadership), Tiffany Britt (MSEd Instructional Leadership), Jim Hughes (MSEd Outdoor Education), Andrew Jamieson (MSEd Instructional Leadership), Janel Jensen (MSEd Instructional Leadership), Jerson Malaguit (MSEd Instructional Leadership), Katherine Roland (MSEd Outdoor Education), Zachary Roland (MSEd Outdoor Education), Allyssa Sharpe (MSEd Instructional Leadership), Jessica Zollinger (MSEd Outdoor Education)

*Photos courtesy of Southern's website*

## FACULTY UPDATE: Ronda Stone



*Ronda Stone relaxes with her husband and two children.*

Ronda Stone is a teacher with a wealth of knowledge and experience. Growing up in Florida, she attended Forest Lake Academy before coming to Southern to study elementary education. From fourth grade, she knew that she wanted to be a teacher someday. After working as an elementary teacher for a decade, she was led to the counseling field. Professor Stone

**“I have always loved Southern and hoped that someday God would lead me back here to help with the work of preparing young people to send into the work field to share the gospel.”**

**-Ronda Stone**

decided to develop counseling skills because of the need to help students and families with the issues they shared with her. She received a M.A. in Counseling Education: Mental Health Counseling from the University of Central Florida, and became a National Certified Counselor.

Professor Stone was recently asked to present with Faith Laughlin at the NAD Teacher's Convention in Chicago, IL on ADHD and Anxiety. Professor Stone now works as the Field Experience Coordinator for education and school counseling in our department, and considers it a “dream” to come back and work for her alma mater.

Her passion for teaching comes from a love for helping students ignite a love of learning and pointing them to the Great Teacher, Jesus Christ. In her spare time, Professor Stone loves spending time with her family, reading, hiking, cooking and playing the French Horn with SAU students.

## FACULTY UPDATE: Gary Bradley

With 28 years of teaching experience, Gary Bradley, PhD, is bringing his wealth of knowledge to our education department as an associate professor. Bradley grew up in Fletcher, North Carolina, where he realized from a very young age that he wanted to be a teacher. Working as a counselor at Camp Kalaqua and being a student missionary in Taiwan helped solidify his goal of working with young people.

After receiving his B.A. in Physics with a minor mathematics and a secondary teaching certificate from Southern, Bradley went on to receive his MA in Mathematics Education from Western Carolina University and his PhD in Curriculum and Instruction from Andrews University. He has experience in both public and Adventist schools, teaching math and science from middle school through university levels.

Professor Bradley also served as the South Carolina Association of Math Teachers president, as well as the Piedmont Region III Science Fair Institutional Review Board chairman. He was also named 2016 Teacher of the Year at the University of South Carolina Upstate.

This new faculty member feels that God has led him to serve here at Southern and is pleased to be working with the education team. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking, motorcycles, and spending time with his family.



*Gary Bradley vacations with his wife and their two children.*

**“Giving students the tools to learn ... and leading them to see Jesus as their source of strength and wisdom, has been my greatest joy.” -Gary Bradley**

## FACULTY UPDATE: Monty Murdoch

As the new director for the MSED Outdoor Education Program, Monty Murdoch has been preparing for this position since childhood. Spending hours of his childhood in nature with his father, Murdoch knew he wanted to be a science teacher from a very young age. This sparked a passion to show people God through nature, which led him to the field of education and eventually to teach high school Biology at Highland View Academy (1993-2007) and Forest Lake Academy (2007-2018). Having no plans to teach at the college level, Professor Murdoch’s journey to joining the faculty at Southern was clearly guided by God after a prayer for the position to stay open for a full year until he was available to interview.

Professor Murdoch graduated from Southern with a BS in Biology in 1991, from Loma Linda in 1993 with a MS in Biology, and then received his PhD in Leadership in 2012 from Andrews University. As new director, he plans to link people to their Creator through nature and looks forward to being part of the team to make the program thrive and grow. In his spare time, he enjoys outdoor activities such as birdwatching and fishing.



*Monty Murdoch enjoys time with his wife, Debbie, and their two sons.*

**“I do not think you can spend time in nature without seeing God’s handiwork.”  
-Monty Murdoch**



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