Reading Time

Would you like to be a judge for the Legacy? Freshman outdoor leadership major Suzanne Ocsai asked, her face radiating with the same excitement as when I had assigned her a story on the Adventist Robotics League (page 25).

"Oh!" I paused, trying to buy time as my mind raced. I looked over at the wall where I had just hung a complicated multi-colored schedule that mapped out the details of the next four months of my life. I had an exciting but busy summer planned: producing two periodicals, starting grad school, writing a children's book. I just didn't see how I would have the time.

On the other hand, the Legacy has such a special place in my heart. As a student, I had worked with the literary publication, and judging the Legacy would be like coming full circle. (Be sure to read about the Legacy's start on page 31.) Certainly I could find time for something so special! After several broken sentences that I'm sure made no sense to Suzanne as my words tried to keep up with my thoughts, I agreed to her request.

I know I'm not the only one who struggles to find extra reading time. If I were tempted to think I were, all I would have to do is review the readership survey we conducted last year to see that I'm not.

Those of you who were randomly selected to participate in the survey said that you love the magazine. You love the articles, you love the design, and you feel proud to have this magazine associated with your alma mater. Yet, over and over again, we heard you saying that you just didn't have time to read as much of it as you would like.

That is why we've made some changes to this magazine. We're including more brief articles, keeping our features shorter, and decreasing the size of the entire magazine so you can better squeeze Columns reading into your busy lifestyle. My goal is to keep the magazine inspiring enough to read on Friday night, intriguing enough to bring on vacation, and brief enough to read at the doctor's office.

Lori Futcher
Editor

P.S. Looking for more to read? Southern has a new archaeological library that should keep you busy for a while. Learn more about it on page 18.

Features

8 Summer School in the Tropics
This summer, the jungles and beaches of Indonesia served as a classroom for about 20 Southern students. Take a peek at their journey through pictures and journal entries.

12 Christians in a Postmodern Society
Education Professor John Wesley Taylor takes a philosophical look at how Christians should respond to the influences of current cultural trends.

14 Romantic Reunions
Three stories that prove graduation day doesn't necessarily close the book on Southern love stories.

18 A Library to Dig Through
The story of how our small Christian university in Tennessee became a powerhouse for the study of Near Eastern archaeology.
Busted!
I really enjoyed the most recent issue of COLUMNS. However, I have “busted” one of the information concerning Rachel’s Ladder. The author writes that the steps were modified in the early ’70s. Having graduated in 1971, I remember walking those modified steps daily. I passed through the ’69 and ’70 annals and found a picture on page 179 of the 1970 Southern Memories. The picture shows shorter steps on the steps than were originally built.

Peg Griffin, ’71

Wrong Wife
I was delighted to find an article on my father (Brecher Lafever) in a recent issue of COLUMNS (Spring 2008). I am disappointed, however, in the editing. Firstly, his name was spelled two different ways in the article (Lafever and Leafever). Also, he is not married to Susan, my mother’s name is JoAnne (Wassell) Lafever (class of ’66).

I love your magazine and the graduate features.

Mindis (Lafever) Guttill, ’91

Southern Marriages
Congratulations to Ashley Cheney for “Mythbusting Southern Edition” in the spring issue. It was interesting to me that when it comes to the total number of graduates and attenders since the school’s beginning, Southern’s rate of marriages is no higher than other Adventist schools. I have a feeling that the rate was higher in the 1940s and 1950s, when a SMU stood not only for Southern Missionary University but also “Southern Matrimony College.”

Whether the rate of marriages is high or low, couples often get acquainted and fall in love at Southern. Their wedding was in June 1995, one year after Andy graduated from Southern. Andy and Vanessa Pham came already married to Southern in 2005. Anh to complete a bachelor’s in journalism and Vanessa to investigate the master’s program in evangelism and world mission. Anh is planning to graduate this year.

R. Lynn Sauds, ’56

Retired From What Job?
I’m not sure who submitted the information for Ken on page 38 of the Spring 2008 COLUMNS, but a correction is definitely in order. The item under “SA” states “Kenneth Wright Jr., attended, retired from working as a treasurer at the General Conference.” No doubt that would be a big surprise to the GC Treasury Department! Ken did work in the department, but not as treasurer. We now live in “wild and wonderful” West Virginia.

Ruth Wright

Futcher Fan
I wanted to mention what a nice job Lori Futcher is doing as the editor. The writing and articles are very well done.

By the way, my parents, Wolfgang, ’72, and Hazel von Maack, attended, and grandparents William and Mercedes Bernal knew/know Cyril Futcher’s family and have fond memories of their time with them at Southern.

Jennifer von Maack, ’89

* * *

InBox
A forum for reader feedback.

Questions, concerns, compliments, criticisms, and even discussions—all are welcome and encouraged. Letters may be edited for length or clarity. Please send InBox letters to: COLUMNS Editor, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN, 37315-0370 or email columns@southern.edu.

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COLUMNS Volume 80 Number 2

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It was 10 p.m. My long day of teaching at the sprawling city campus of the state university was finally over. I wished to gather my books and lecture notes and deposit them in my office. The students were gone; the building empty and still. With car keys in hand, I opened the main building door prepared to move quickly to the safety of my car. I nearly tripped over a student sitting decidedly on the dark step.

“Tuyet! What are you doing here?” I asked. As it turned out, Tuyet’s backpack had been stolen. Not just a backpack, but all of Tuyet’s most precious possessions—her passport, visa, journal, books, car keys, and a picture of the brother who had been her sole parent and had just died in a Vietnamese prison.

“May I take you home?” I asked. “You can’t stay here. It isn’t safe.”

After much persuasion, she agreed to come home with me for the night. What I knew of Tuyet before that night was that she often missed class. When she appeared in class, she slept soundly in the back row. After getting an incomplete one semester, she was repeating the class the next semester.

But She Had a Story...
Born under the wrong moon, Tuyet was going to be given away by her mom when her older brother decided to raise her as his own in military camp. When South Vietnam fell, she was scooped up by a soldier and put on the last plane out of the country. Tuyet eventually reunited with her mother and relocated to the United States. Now, Tuyet’s family kept sending her to Texas against her will to be married to a family-selected man. Each time Tuyet would escape, return home, and reappear in class. She supported herself by working a full-time night-shift position at the regional postal center. She showed up at the university gym and slept in a back study carrel at the library. In spite of missing class dates, this determined young lady stayed on the Dean’s list of eligibility. My previous critical view of this student’s lack of participation in class was replaced by awe at her strength of resolve and persistence at acquiring an education.

Southern Stories
Twenty years later, I can still picture Tuyet asleep in the back row, and I’m reminded to listen for the story. By listening, I get to know students at Southern Adventist University.

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I’ve Learned to Listen for the Story
by Sylvia Meyer, School of Nursing

Cherie* tentatively tapped on my office door to request another day or two to complete her class assignment because she needed to add a couple more days to her hospital work schedule. The real story? Cherie was doing her best to help her parents, who had filed for bankruptcy for the second time. As a result, she was carrying more than $60,000 of debt. After tears, prayer, and a plan, Cherie slipped out the door.

*Name has been changed

The Rest of the Story...
As time went on, Tuyet learned that it had been one of her brothers who stole her backpack full of precious possessions. Another brother stabled her in the university library. Although eventually forced to marry a family-selected husband, Tuyet had the marriage annulled. Despite all this, Tuyet finished both her undergraduate and graduate degrees. Now she has married the husband of her choice and raised three boys of her own, plus a niece and nephew who would have been given away. Like Tuyet, I know my students will overcome with God’s help.

I will always keep listening for the story.

*Name has been changed
Frances Andrews
Publishing Pioneer

Becoming an Adventist in 1943 at age 21, Frances Andrews, ’49, had already spent years in the workforce. She wasn’t considering an Adventist college—or any college, for that matter. Then one day a friend told Frances that arrangements had been made for her to attend Southern.

Frances arrived on campus in the fall of 1945. Her well-developed ability to type (resulting from her years with Red Cross) and her composition skill caught the attention of English Chair Elaine Buckingham, whom one will come in contact when applying to graduate school. The couple’s friendship with Lopez, administrative assistant for Graduate Studies, began developing while they were still in Austria, when Monticello applied for graduate school.

Lopez, who is often the first person with whom one will come in contact when applying to graduate school at Southern, understands what it’s like to make transitions. Her latest transition was only a couple years ago, when she moved to Southern to pursue a new career and finish her graduate degree.

Coming from Forest Lake Academy in Apopka, Florida, Lopez had been assistant to the principal. By serving as a member of the school’s administrative team and helping with numerous responsibilities within the school, Lopez had gained valuable experience in guiding students through challenging situations.

Now at Southern, Lopez directs prospective and new graduate students through the application process, helping them gather and fill out all the needed forms. If they are missing anything, she not only lets them know but will help them find exactly what they need. Lopez views what she does as far more than just a job.

“I enjoy connecting with people,” Lopez says, “and I see my job as a form of ministry.” Because Lopez is working toward the same goal as the students she works with, it makes it easier for them to connect with her.

“She knows what kind of tensions you have to face because she is right there in the classroom and can share the experience with you,” says Daniels. “That’s a great thing.”

Steve Bontekoe, ’08, outdoor education graduate, agrees. “Melodie has been immensely helpful in my grad studies,” he says. “Personal interaction and Christ-focused discussion with Melodie really give me a feel for what is important here at Southern—people and God.”
Snorkeling in waters with the highest number of marine species in the world. Standing face to face with monkeys in their jungle home. Walking on a black sand beach at the foot of a volcano.

On alternating years, Indonesia becomes a classroom for Tropical Biology. This summer, 16 students spent nearly three weeks in a learning experience that this class could never duplicate inside a building.

Here’s a peek at images from the experience and journaled thoughts from three of the students: junior biology major Chelsea Foster, junior biology major AJ Pastor, and senior biology major Ben Smith.

I particularly enjoyed observing the people of Manado. The majority of the people we saw were extremely poor. Even though, the people I saw seemed to have a joy of life and living. People were very friendly and unabashedly curious. Instead of hiding away from our camera flashes, people would stand and pose. Shouts of hello and enthusiastic waves seemed to follow us wherever we went.

Today we toured around the market areas. While riding the bus and checking out the way of life, I felt like I was back in the Philippines. The heat, the houses, the constant beeping of horns—it was very similar to that of the Philippines. Something about it made me feel at home. Time seemed to go slower.

We chose a particular 3 meter by 3 meter plot and counted each tree, fern, herb, vine, shrub, epiphyte, moss, and grass in the area. By this raw data collection, we made certain deductions on how our data could be interpreted. We came to the conclusion that because of the extreme canopy cover of the jungle at this elevation, the undergrowth was limited to flora that could survive the reduced sunlight, which highly favored moss. This insight helped us to better comprehend the complexity and order of how the environment works.
Watching tiny clown fish aggressively defend their anemones against humans hundreds of times their size was especially amusing.

This was the jungle that we had all read about before, the jungle where you had to tuck your pants into your socks because of chiggers, the jungle where wild bands of monkeys wandered around and the trees grew untamed. Apparently, we were not supposed to smile at the monkeys because showing teeth is a sign of aggression, which seemed strange and was difficult to do.

We saw monkeys, tarsiers, flying lizards, wingless grasshoppers, thousands of spiders, and much more.

Captivating colors in both sky and sea are part of the Bunaken Island experience. A boat takes students from the dive resort of Bunaken to an underwater adventure. In a moment of reflection, Sam Willis gazes across the ocean near Bali’s Uluwatu Temple.

As part of Southern’s outreach ministry while in Indonesia, Megan Sezui plays American games with the local children. Students also got a taste of the local culture while in Indonesia.

The amount of smiles and laughter in each interaction we encountered was the best trademark of this marketplace [in Manado].

Snorkeling below the water was just as clear as the cloudless blue skies above. The coral we saw was of every variety and color, and the abundant fish diversity swimming through the coral was stunning.

Climbing Mount Klabat, we looked for tropical birds, observed intercropping habits of the locals, and caught the most spectacular of insects.

Today, we walked on a black sand beach. As you might expect from the name, the sand was black, absorbing all the heat from the sun. I had to keep hopping around so I wouldn’t get burned.

I got a chance to try green bean drink and it tasted how it sounds, something like sweetened green beans with some pulp. After encouraging others to try it, it ended up in the nearest garbage.

Never in my life have I seen so many fish at once.

In the matter of an evening, we saw two different kinds of monkeys, climbed a tree from the inside, and hiked 13 kilometers.

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In the matter of an evening, we saw two different kinds of monkeys, climbed a tree from the inside, and hiked 13 kilometers.
Christian Living
in Postmodern Society

Ready or not, here we are! You and I are now living in a vast and relatively uncharted landscape, the postmodern world.

S
ince the mid-20th century, a remarkable shift in the way people think has lead to an increasingly pervasive worldview—postmodernism. Postmodernism is essentially a reaction against earlier modernist principles that governed the world in which many of us grew up. As Christians, we shouldn’t mindlessly accept or reject contemporary culture but rather affirm those elements of culture that are in harmony with God’s plan.

Let’s take a brief look at some major principles of postmodernism with reflections on how Christianity fits into our current world.

**Principle #1**

**Human-Constructed Reality**

In postmodernism, truth and reality are constructed by humans. In this anti-realist approach, our world is not just about external things but is dependent on our internal experience and feelings, one that we actively construct by the thoughts that we bring to it.

This way of thinking promotes the emotive while rejecting the rational. Christians, however, must maintain the crucial balance between reason and emotion. We should see that the rational and the emotional each have limitations and work most effectively together, as crosschecks.

A gut feeling, for example, should be weighed in terms of its potential consequences. Similarly, a logical course of action should incorporate kindness and compassion.

Remember, God is the ultimate reality and the source of all knowledge (Proverbs 2:6; Daniel 1:17). There are multiple avenues, however, for attaining this knowledge. While some knowledge is received through special divine revelation, discovered through scientific research, or confirmed by logic (Job 29:16; Ecclesiastes 1:13; Revelation 1:1), other knowledge is acquired through experience and reflection under the guidance of God’s Spirit (Psalm 77:6, John 16:13). As Christians, we must note that our experiences and feelings as well as things around us are dimensions of truth and reality.

**Principle #2**

**Abandoning Comprehensive Explanations**

In postmodernism, there is skepticism of comprehensive explanations for reality. Such sweeping explanations are known as metanarratives. The suspicion of metanarratives proceeds partly from the subjective nature of truth and reality in the postmodern mindset. Nevertheless, a Christian claiming to have the answers may be viewed with a certain level of wariness by postmodernists. Emphasizing the journey of discovery and the search for spiritual understanding may be one way for Christians to ease the distrust of the answers found in the Bible.

**Principle #3**

**Pluralism**

In postmodernism’s view, there is no “one right way” but rather multiple viable traditions. This is known as pluralism. For example, the European influence that once colonized the accepted view of history is giving way to diverse views—African, Islamic, feminine, and indigenous, among others.

Pluralism, while freeing society from the potential tyranny of one voice—such as what led to the Holocaust—has also resulted in the fracturing of values.

While the Christian worldview disagrees with the pluralistic approach because we believe that universal Truth does exist, we also recognize the human constraint of partial knowledge and the potential for faulty interpretation. No one can claim flawlessness or a full understanding of any topic. When one realizes that “I don’t know” becomes a more appropriate response than hiding behind technical jargon in a pretense of knowing.

We should be careful, however, not to buy in completely to the idea of pluralism and the accompanying concept of moral relativism. While all human points of view may, in a sense, be considered equal (each with significant insights as well as “blind spots”), God has shared His own divine perspective through His Word, and this revelation supersedes all others. So while Christians endeavor to understand viewpoints different from our own, we should seek above all to see life from God’s point of view (Matthew 6:33).

**Principle #4**

**Significance of Context**

Under postmodernism’s model, all human knowledge is viewed through the lens of culture being understood only when context is taken into account. Furthermore, people are not alone but are dependent on the community in which they live. As a result, postmoderns have a strong need for relationships, and building community becomes a prime goal.

When discussing social issues, historical events, and biblical passages with students, this postmodern approach helps me to avoid imposing my interpretations of meaning and motive. It also reminds me to develop relationships with my students and to try to create a community of faith in my classroom.

On a personal level, the Christian should recognize the influence of one’s setting (Psalm 11, John 146). Humans, however, are not merely pawns of circumstance. While not autonomous, we do possess free will. We should remember that we have been granted the power of choice (Joshua 24:15; Proverbs 3:1; Isaiah 7:15-16), which rises above the grip of culture and calls us to be led by the Spirit.

**Principle #5**

**Celebration of Diversity**

Postmodernism does not simply tolerate or affirm differences. It celebrates diversity.

The apostle Paul’s description of the body and its various members (1 Corinthians 12:12-28) is, in fact, an apt metaphor for the concept of unity in diversity. Each perspective suggests that while there are fundamental beliefs, the Christian view must be open to consideration of multiple perspectives and of different views.

Each individual has limited perspectives and cultural “blinders.” We can all learn from each other and perhaps especially from those who see things differently from the way we do, provided that we, as Christians, can connect that knowledge back to its source and apply it to our lives through the “truth-filter” of His Word.

A Call to Christians

Postmodernism is a double-edged sword. On one hand, its rejection of metanarratives, its moral relativism, and its denial of objective truth all threaten the values that Christians hold dear. On the other hand, postmodernism provides us with a number of opportunities. It suggests that Christians must be ambassadors of generosity, benevolence, and tolerance. It reminds us that in order to best meet the needs of others, we must understand where they’re coming from. It implies that witnessing may be best be formulated as relational—developing conversations about God, sharing one’s personal experience with God, and seeking a deeper understanding of the Spirit.

As Christians living in a postmodern world, we must think deeply regarding our beliefs and convictions. We must be able to speak persuasively regarding our Christian worldview (1 Peter 3:5). Above all, we must share a hope for the future.
Chad Harlin and Carrie Garlick

Chad Harlin, ’99 and ’00, has been a nurse in the Chattanooga area ever since he graduated from Southern. Carrie Garlick, ’01, began working in public relations after completing her bachelor’s in mass communication. Although their student years at Southern overlapped and they resided in the Collegedale-Ooltewah area after graduating, their paths did not cross until they attended an alumni function on a Saturday night in 2004.

While working in Southern’s Alumni Relations, Carrie was charged with planning events that would attract young alumni. Her first event was a karaoke night at The Warehouse in the Red Bank area of Chattanooga. Carrie invited all of the young alumni from the area to the event. Chad came with two of his friends.

As the hostess, Carrie moved among the group to collect suggestions the participants had written out for titles of songs and the names of alumni to sing them. When Carrie was later called to come up and sing “Somewhere Over the Rainbow,” she looked around to see who might have suggested her name. Chad had a big grin. She walked over and reached out her hand to him. “I won’t sing alone,” she said. “You’ll have to join me.” He complied.

On the way home that night, Chad told one of his friends that Carrie and he had hit it off. “She’s going to make someone a great wife someday,” he said.

That next Monday, an intern who had helped with the event said to Carrie, “Chad was really taken by you,” which got Carrie thinking.

Nothing came of it, however, until June when Chad’s co-worker told him about one of her church friends. “I think she is someone you would like,” his co-worker said. As she went on to describe Carrie, Chad remembered her and asked her to dinner.

“We were seated at a corner table,” remembers Carrie. “It was quite romantic. Afterward, we sat outside the Tennessee Aquarium talking and eating ice cream.”

Courtship was fast after that. “We really got to know each other in July,” says Carrie. “We did lots of things together. We went to Coolidge Park on Saturday nights—not to watch the movies but to sit and talk. We spent time with friends and relatives.” One evening Chad held her hand as they strolled along the Riverwalk. After church two days later, Carrie reached over and grabbed his hand.

“What does that mean?” asked Chad. “Dating? Going steady?”

“How did you meet?”

“It’s a question often asked of couples in love. For 20 percent of Southern Adventist University alumni, an easy answer would be, “at Southern.” But for some couples, that wouldn’t be completely true. While these couples all attended Southern together, they didn’t fall in love until some time after graduation.

For ever-hopeful romantics, these three stories provide evidence that graduation day does not necessarily close the book on Southern love stories.
Three years into marriage, we are together, we enjoy holding hands, but
isn’t that okay?”

Don West Sr. and Edwina Smith Meister Miller

Don West, ’42 and ’49, and Edwina Smith, attended, knew each other while at South-
ern Junior College Preparatory School (now College Dale Academy) and Southern Junior
College. They will never forget the day they were honored as King and Queen of Court-
ey. But they did not date. Don was already dating Edwina’s roommate, Georgette Damon, ’44.

I don’t know who he is or where he is. You’ll
have to bring him to me.”

Three weeks later, all the pastors and
conference officers and staff were introduced at a Carolina Conference meeting in Charlotte.
When Dwight was introduced, Janita remem-
bered how she had admired him at Southern.
“I was so impressed by him,” Janita recalls.
“He was handsome, well-dressed, and kind to
everyone.”

Dwight also remembered Janita even though
he was several years ahead of her.

“I remembered watching her play tennis at
the tennis courts,” Dwight shares. “She was an
attractive and sweet young lady.”

As Dwight drove back to Goldsboro after the
conference meeting, he could not get Janita
out of his mind.

“I’m going to date that girl,” he said to himself.
“I believe the Lord intends for her to be my
wife.”

At campmeeting, Dwight asked her for a
date. To Janita, this was an answer to prayer.

“The Lord had saved us for each other,” she
says.

After that, the four hours that separated
them weren’t enough to keep them apart. Be-
ginning monthly and progressing to bi-week-
ly, Dwight would pack his Sabbath
boro church, and then drive to Charlotte to
see Janita. They would go to a park, visit places
around Charlotte, and go out for supper. Now
and then, Janita and her mother would be the
ones to make the drive to Goldsboro.

From the time Janita and the most eligible
pastor in the conference started dating, mem-
bers of his church and the conference officers
were waiting and watching to see where this
courtship would lead.

While together on a group tour of New Eng-
land, Dwight said to Janita, “I’ve been asking
myself for a long time, ‘Do I love this girl?’
Janita responded, “Have you ever answered
yourself?”

“Yes,” he said.

“What was your answer?” asked Janita.

Dwight said, “Yes! Yes! I love you.”

Three weeks later, Dwight proposed. He had
planned to wait until he could take her to a ro-
mantic spot by the lake at Nosoca Pines youth
camp in November, but one day in October just
before he returned to Goldsboro, he accidently
proposed the words just rolled out: “Will you
marry me?”

Janita answered, “Yes! But will you marry
me?” It was a double proposal.

Edwina said, “Yes,” and all their children ap-
proved. They were married February 18, 2017.

“The Lord brought us together,” says Edwina.
“We needed each other.”

“Edwina is one of the most loving and
thoughtful persons I have ever known,” says Don.
“She is not only the Queen of Courtesy but also
the Queen of Love.”

Three or four weeks later, Don said to them,
“Holding hands is good, but we would like to
indulge in a kiss now and then. Is that okay?”

By Christmas time, Don asked Edwina to marry
him, subject to the approval of all of his and her children.

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Don West, ’42 and ’49, and Edwina Smith, attended, knew each other while at South-
ern Junior College Preparatory School (now College Dale Academy) and Southern Junior
College. They will never forget the day they were honored as King and Queen of Court-
ey. But they did not date. Don was already dating Edwina’s roommate, Georgette Damon, ’44.

It would be another 65 years before the two
would fall in love.

Don had top roles among student literature evangelists in the Southern Union the summer of
1941. After he graduated with an associate degree in 1942, he became assistant publishing secre-
tary of the Carolina Conference for the
summer and was appointed publishing secre-
tary in the fall. He and Florence Harmon, ’78, secretary to the Book and Bible House manager,
were married in 1943.

After Don and Florence started their family,
Don returned to Southern and in 1949 finished
requirements for a bachelor’s in Bible with
minor in secondary education and business
administration before becoming a teacher and
treasurer at Forest Lake Academy. He later
served as assistant business manager and direc-
tor of student finance at Southern and then
personnel director at McKee Foods.

Don speaks warmly about his wife Florence
and the 61 years they had together: “She was
intelligent, kind, and hard-working. Later in
life she went back to college, earned a nursing
degree, and worked as a nurse until she was 93,
when she developed diabetic retinopathy.”

She passed away from complications in
2004. After Edwina graduated from high
school, she took some pre-nursing-college
courses at Southern Junior College. Then she
entered the nursing program at Loma Linda
University, where she married Adam George
Meister Jr., a medical student she had met at
Southern. After George completed his M.D.,
they moved to Sarasota, Florida, where he
served as a physician. When the Korean War
broke out, George became an army doctor. He
died in a plane crash in 1953 while stationed at

Edwina was a widow for 36 years. During
that time she finished registered nurse require-
ments at Florida Hospital and worked as a nurse,
first in Florida and later in California. During
the early part of her career, she did what
she could to help her five children complete
t heir education. Two became nurses, one a
dental hygienist, one a dentist, and one an
investment counselor.

“When I turned 65, I was extremely tired,
so I stopped working,” says Edwina.

Soon after that, she got a call from J.D.
Miller, who had been principal of Forest
Lake Church when she was a nurse in Florida.
He had lost his wife and wanted to come out to
see her. They were married in 1989 and retired
to a home they bought on
the side of a mountain in North Carolina.

After they had been married nearly 13 years, J.D. developed cancer.

He was under hospice care for eight months
before he passed away in December 2004.

When Edwina lost J.D., Don knew of the
situation and wrote a sympathy letter to her.
He could empathize because he had lost Florence only four months before.

“It’s terrible to live alone,” says Edwina. “At night I felt afraid. I was miserable.”

Her children insisted that she sell the
house and come live near one of them.

When she found out about Collier Place in
College Dale, she came and talked with her
daughter, Joan Anderson, attended, and the
people who were developing the condominium
community. “I was one of the first to put a
down payment on one of the townhouses,” says
Edwina. “It was finished in May 2004.”

After Edwina moved to College Dale,
she invited Don every time her family came over
for a meal. Don and Edwina agreed to just be
friends, saying that neither of them wanted to
get married.

Over time, they changed their minds.
The first date was around the time of Alumni Home-
coming 2006.

A gala had been planned in Chattanooga to
raise money for Southern’s new nursing com-
plex. Don bought two tickets. Unbeknownst to
Don, Edwina did the same. When Don invited
Edwina to go with him, they discovered they
had more tickets than they needed. So for their
first date, they shared a table at the gala with
Don’s daughters, Shanda Weddins, ’74, and
Alrene McFarland, ’70, and Arlene’s husband
Thomas McFarland, ’59, who had also pur-
chased a ticket.

After that, Don and Edwina became more
than just friends. Once when they were visiting
some members of Edwina’s family, Don reached
over to hold Edwina’s hand and said, “When
we are together, we enjoy holding hands, but
that’s all.”
Kenneth Mathews was absorbed, his neck craned over an archaeological site report that his son had studied only a few semesters before. Kenneth already had several degrees—was Dr. Kenneth Mathews, in fact—but when his son had come home on fire with excitement about his archaeology class at Southern Adventist University, he had ignited his father’s interest as well.

Since then, Mathews had not only enrolled in the program himself but had also joined hands with Southern’s archaeology program to do all he could to broaden the program’s resources. Little did he know that prayers and efforts would bless the program far beyond expectation.

The First Collection

Upon becoming acquainted with Southern’s archaeology program, Mathews discovered that it had a glaring need. “It severely lacked library resources,” he says. So with the guidance of Michael G. Hasel, professor and director of Southern’s Institute of Archaeology, Mathews prayerfully began the hunt for new books. At first his purchases were sporadic—a book here, a book there. Then, after many inquiries, he hit a gold mine.

“I caught wind through a bookseller that the collection of Kent Weeks, a world-famous Egyptologist, would be up for sale,” says Mathews. About this time, Mathews also came in contact with the agent of an artifact seller who had recently purchased that collection: his personal library, one of the most comprehensive collections of Near Eastern artifacts in North America.

Even as he made this loan, Dever began to contemplate sharing with Southern something that would equitably complement his artifact collection; his personal library, one of the most extensive in the field. Although many other universities were also vying for this same collection, Dever selected Southern as the recipient.

“His decision sent shock waves through the academic community,” remembers Hasel. “Everyone wanted to know why Dever would place the museum collection and his library at a small institution in the rural hills of Tennessee.”

Oddly enough, Southern’s stance as a Christian university had been very influential in Dever’s decision. “The major support for archaeology work in Israel and Jordan comes from conservative and evangelical circles where the Bible is still taken seriously,” says Dever, “and no one is more serious and committed about archaeologi- cal study in the Middle East than Adventists.”

The Dever Collection

Long before meeting Mathews, Hasel came into contact with someone whose influence would help to launch Southern’s archaeology program—William G. Dever. Hasel still remembers the moment in 1990 when Dever, a famous leader in the field of archaeology and director of Hasel’s first excavation in the Middle East, verbalized an interest in Hasel’s professional future.

“The whole dig was a wonderful archaeological experience; the equivalent of learning how to do brain surgery with Ben Carson,” Hasel reflects. “Then toward the end of the first session, we were eating dinner, and Dever said, ‘I want you to come and study with me in Arizona.’ It was one of those moments in life when your fork stops halfway to your mouth.”

Eagerly Hasel followed Dever to the University of Arizona, which at the time was the national leader in the field of archaeology, drawing students from around the country and the world to garner Dever’s extensive knowledge, study his large collection of artifacts, and possess his extensive library. Although thousands of students passed under Dever’s tutelage, Hasel remained one he would never forget.

The Dever Collection

Two years after graduating from Arizona, Hasel came to Southern’s School of Religion. Jack Blanco, the dean of the school, had a dream of starting an archaeological museum, and in the course of events, Hasel was encouraged to contact his former professor at Arizona. Though aghast, Dever was impressed with Southern.

Dever expressed this by placing his Near Eastern Collection of ancient artifacts, which were no longer being used by Arizona after the closure of its archaeology program, in Southern’s Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum. Together with other donations and acquisitions, this collection became one of the largest and most complete teaching collections of Near Eastern artifacts in North America.

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Collections to Study

What Dever liked most about the prospect of leaving his legacy to Southern was that by doing so, he could be confident his collection would remain in use—not in storage.

“To me it’s important now that my materials help place the next generation, because the future belongs to them,” says Dever. The daunting process of cataloging the library to make it easily accessible for study is already under way, and with the help of both paid staff and volunteers, Hasel plans to have it completed by November.

There is much to catalog. Weeks’ collection brought a wealth of Egyptology materials, and Dever’s brought around 840 volumes; complete sets of 12 major journals between 10,200-15,000 pages; and many out-of-print final reports of excavations in Jericho, Megiddo, Lachish, Hazor, Gerar, and many other locales.

Some of these resources have been out of print for more than 100 years. As a result, “The Lord had his hand in this transaction completely.”

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I am receiving high fixed payments with a gift annuity. You can too!

“I discovered that I could fund an annuity with Southern Adventist University and secure an 11.3 percent pay-out rate, based on my age. Best of all, I have the satisfaction of contributing to a young person’s education while getting a liberal percentage back.”

—Robert Wearner, retired pastor and teacher

If you would like more information on how you can set up your own gift annuity to secure a fixed income for life and receive generous tax benefits, contact Southern’s Planned Giving office today.

1.800.SOUTHERN or 423.236.2818
plannedgiving@southern.edu

Charitable Gift Annuities are not insurance and not guaranteed by any guarantor association or governmental agency. Consult your tax and legal professional concerning the applicability of this information to your situation and location.

Where Imagination Comes to Life

The School of Visual Art and Design’s art gallery was packed. Visitors squeezed past one another to get a glimpse of what was hanging on the walls—human cells. These 21 mixed-media abstract paintings were created by Zach McDonald, ’08, for his senior fine art show.

“The art gallery is the heart of the school,” says Gaetelle Haed, assistant professor and gallery curator. “It sets a standard of quality for the department, and it’s a great venue for the School of Visual Art and Design to interact with the community.”

Spacious as the gallery is, it would take great ingenuity to display the scope of the school’s work within this space. Such is the challenge the COLUMNS staff faced when attempting to squeeze all the department does into one page. Readers, your imaginations may come in handy here.

**Graphics**

Imagine earthy stripes of color with white-line images of fruits, vegetables, and grains.

What began as a friendly class competition turned into a whole new visual identity for the Village Market. Assistant Professor Randy Craven split his packaging design class into groups, and each designed a new logo for the Village Market. The Village Market then chose the design it liked the best. Winning team member Isaac James, ’08, also created an entire corporate identity guide, which details how the logo is to be used. Through projects like this, students gain practical experience in this diverse field.

**Interaction**

Imagine looking at a display of animated grass. The grass stands at attention until you move on to the next piece of art. Motion sensors on the ceiling catch your movement, and the grass nudges in sync as if you were in a real field.

Drawing on a core of graphic design and digital media, interactive media students learn about the innovative ways that people interface with convergent technologies and how to use these technologies aesthetically. For example, to create the field of grass, students and faculty used a projected animation, which responded to movement detected by motion sensors, to create an interactive work of art.

Some of the projects that interactive media students have worked on include designing interactive websites, video games, museum displays, and interactive music-making displays. Exhibits similar to the field of grass, including chimes that sounded as a visitor walked past and a game in which a visitor ran back and forth moving a bucket to catch falling balls, were demonstrated by Assistant Professor Ken Willes at the NASA Ames Research Center for Yuri’s Night.

**Film**

Imagine an unseen voice giving directions as a gawky teenager sits in front of a photo backdrop. As a camera shutter is heard, the moving color picture becomes a black-and-white portrait.

This is the opening of Yearbook, produced by southern film production major Philip Sherwood. Yearbook was among several films by southern students and alumni at the SOnscreen Film Festival in California, where Philip’s piece received the Best in Fest Award.

In addition to short student projects, the school strives to provide the opportunity to work on an international feature film project during the summer every two to three years. The School of Visual Art and Design’s production company is exploring scripts for its next feature film project, all while facing the contingencies of logistics and funding.

**Animation**

Imagine a fluffy sheep chasing a butterfly across a field into dark woods.

While film production majors would struggle to make a live sheep and butterfly behave, animation majors can create lovable characters without the need to let them out to pasture. Lost Sheep, an animation based on the parable of the lost sheep, was created as a collaborative project by animation majors under the supervision of Assistant Professor Aaron Adams.

The four-minute animation took 64 weeks to polish to completion. The Rock in the Road, an animation based on the parable of the lost sheep, was created as a collaborative project by animation majors under the supervision of Assistant Professor Aaron Adams. For this piece, a visitor ran back and forth moving a bucket to catch falling balls, while student animators worked on a collaborative project, they keep busy completing short animations, like cartoons, video game characters, or visual effects for films.

If imagining isn’t enough for you, you can see some of this work (including Lost Sheep). The Yearbook, and the end-of-the-year art show, featuring the best of student artwork of 2008-2009, at art.southern.edu. 
School of Nursing Group Travels to Peru

A group of students and professors from Southern’s School of Nursing, along with volunteer dentists and other community volunteers, traveled to Iquitos, Peru, last spring to provide health care and education to Peruvian residents.

Though the School of Nursing has been organizing spring break mission trips since 1970, this is the first time a group has gone to Peru. Another group traveled to Nicaragua.

The nursing students were able to provide much-needed medical care to the residents of poverty-stricken Iquitos.

The group saw about 1,200 patients, treating dehydration, pains, tooth decay, wounds, growths, and other minor problems as well as some major problems.

They were even able to bring hearing to a girl who hadn’t used one of her ears for about four years. “This gift ear had been impacted with wax for so long that she could not hear,” says Nursing Professor Shirley Spears. “It was so joyous to back in a heartbeat.”

Princeville according to the locals to have special music.

“It was so worth it to back in a heartbeat.”

In addition to caring for others, the group experienced the culture of the area. Students, staff, and community volunteers traveled on the Amazon River by boat, camped out in the jungle, went for hikes, and played with the animals of the area, including squirrel monkeys and snakes. The group also participated in different Sabbath services and was asked by the locals to have special music.

“It was so joyous to be able to help so many people,” says Heather Blake, senior nursing major. “It made me feel humbled to see the things I did. I would go back in a heartbeat.”

New Home Visitation Service Gets Nursing Students Involved in the Community

Senior nursing majors Lindsay and Meghan Gorenz live in the kitchen of the elderly woman’s house preparing a nutritious supper for her. Earlier that day, they had helped the homemaker clean her entire house. At a previous visit, the three had sat together talking about the illness that kept the woman’s husband in the hospital.

The twin sisters were part of the Community Health Nursing class, taught by Sylvia Mayer, associate professor in the School of Nursing. At the beginning of the winter ‘08 semester, Mayer started her students on a new program called Door 2 Door, a free home visitation service.

As part of the class, students learned how to care for people holistically by visiting with and assessing individuals in their homes. Whether by helping an individual set up an exercise program, taking blood pressure, or setting up a meal plan, the students learned to assist the patients on a different level than if they were in the hospital.

“I want them to use the experience that they have had,” says Mayer, “but I want them to use it with interaction, finding out where the person is, who they are, what they need—and then help to support the person that they meet toward a better level of wellness.”

Many students felt nervous going into homes to help people they hadn’t met before, but the patients were glad to have the students there.

“We found that most people were very lonely,” says Gabe Nobles, senior nursing major.

As time passed the students and their patients grew very close. “We became like her adopted grandchildren,” says Lindsay and Meghan. “When the woman’s husband passed away, the two were there to find someone to stay with her.”

“God put us in her pathway,” says Lindsay, “because she wouldn’t have had anybody else to help her.”

Southern Student Donates Bone Marrow to Leukemia Patient

While completing her associate degree in nursing, Jenny Blanzy, ’08, learned she was a potential bone marrow donor for a 50-year-old male with leukemia. Her first thought was about the pain that would be involved in donating, but then she mused, “If I have the opportunity, why not just do it?”

As Jenny went through the many required intervals, consent forms, and options, she didn’t feel scared. But the night before the surgery, Jenny began to feel fearful.

“It burst into tears that night when I started imagining all the worst-case scenarios,” recalls Jenny. “All I could do was pray for the man who would receive my donation.”

Months after her surgery, Jenny continued to feel a pain that she described as being kicked by a horse. Yet she had heard no news on how the man was doing. She became anxious as every time she bent over, the nagging pain reminded her of the man she knew nothing about.

Finally Jenny received a phone call letting her know the man had just been released from the hospital and gone home to the family.

An hour later, that pain in her back returned. But this time, she wasn’t irritated.

“I’d never been so happy to have pain in my life!” she exclaims. “The first thought that came to me is, I saved someone’s life, and this pain is so worth it!”

New Construction Management Degree Offers Hands-on Experience

The Technology Department is known for preparing students for hands-on careers. In keeping with this reputation and Southern’s principle of serving, the department has restructured the construction management degree.

The new construction management degree will include opportunity for hands-on experience and have many other components the previous degree didn’t offer, such as business courses to help prepare students for the possibility of owning their own construction company.

“All the programs that we teach,” explains Walters, “enable you to run your own business.”

The construction management degree, like every degree offered by the Technology Department, promises to provide students with the ability to not only find a job when they graduate but also be able to create jobs for others.

Upcoming Events

“Faces of Power” archaeological exhibit
Alumni Homecoming
Huley Wellness Center Grand Opening
Devos Library Opening
PreviewSouthern
Symphony Orchestra/Organ Concert
Thanksgiving Break
Christmas on the Promenade
Christmas Break

October 6-May 3
October 23-26
October 26
November 5
November 13-14
November 16
November 26-29
December 2
December 18-January 4

A series of events was held to teach students about the culture of Peru. They were able to experience the local cuisine, music, and art, as well as connect with the local community.

“We had the opportunity to stay in a local family’s home and experience their culture,” says Lindsay. “It was amazing.”

The group also saw a variety of animals, including squirrel monkeys and snakes. They were even able to bring hearing to a girl who hadn’t used one of her ears for about four years. “This gift ear had been impacted with wax for so long that she could not hear,” says Nursing Professor Shirley Spears. “It was so joyous to back in a heartbeat.”

In addition to caring for others, the group experienced the culture of the area. Students, staff, and community volunteers traveled on the Amazon River by boat, camped out in the jungle, went for hikes, and played with the animals of the area, including squirrel monkeys and snakes. The group also participated in different Sabbath services and was asked by the locals to have special music.

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Southern's New Treasurer Makes Mission a Priority

While sitting upon a granite knoll, Jesus taught that where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Fast-forward 2,000 years to Southern Adventist University’s campus and you will find Southern’s new senior vice president for Financial Administration, Tom Verrill, living this principle.

Discovering the Ministry

Verrill grew up in rural Maine, where he spent many summer days playing sports in a large open field cleared by his father. He soon discovered that baseball wasn’t the only thing he enjoyed. He loved math—and was good at it.

Leaving for Atlantic Union College (AUC) in the fall of 1983, Verrill studied accounting and business administration. His years there proved to be pivotal, leading him to the woman he would marry, the career path he would choose, and the development of a passion for ministry that he demonstrated in his leadership position today.

“Because of the commitment to soul-winning and ministry that he demonstrated in his life and the way he handled church finances,” says Thomas, “it was clear that he was interested in finding any way he possibly could to use church resources for outreach.”

The conference took notice, and it wasn’t long before Thomas recommended that Verrill be ordained.

“I was thrilled,” says Kim Johnson, under- treasurer for the Florida Conference and Verrill’s primary spiritual mentor. “I do not believe that pastors are the only ones who can receive a call from God, and it is very appropriate for someone in Verrill’s leadership position to have their ministry confirmed through ordination.”

The day ordination took place proved to be a moving and emotional time for this dedicated, soft-spoken man.

“It was very humbling,” says Verrill, “to have pastors, administrators, and peers come put their hands on you and pray for the Spirit to be poured out on you as you lead—you never feel worthy of this.”

Following the Call

As his career progressed, Verrill never lost his passion for ministry, a passion he and his wife, Caralee, share. “Ministry is really a big part of how we see our lives,” says Caralee, who is now part-time children’s pastor at the Col- legiate Church, “and we’re big proponents of getting involved in ministry.”

Leading out in his children’s Sabbath School and small Bible study groups in their home, the Verrills built a foundation of service, not only for themselves but also for their children: Christina, 18; Katie, 16; and Andrew, 13.

Ordained for Service

Verrill’s passion for the ministry side of account- ing eventually led Halvord Thomason, then president of the Southern New England Conference, to recommend Verrill as the Southern New England Conference’s evangelium coordinator.

Coming to Southern, Verrill was reminded of his own college days and how he worked his way through school. “I pretty much paid my way,” says Verrill, “I understand the pressures of balancing your studies, work, and finances.”

As a result, he is sensitive to the stresses that financial aid programs can create. Because of this sensitivity, he seeks to enrich the lives of students by allotting funds to areas that will best help them succeed in college.

“Someone’s commitment to Christian education and helping young people obtain it is becoming more than evident as he settles into his new position. Already he is demonstrating his passion for investing the funds he manages into the treasurers that hold his, and Southern’s, heart—the students.”

— James Myers

KeyTrain Helps Students Prepare for Workforce

In keeping with Southern’s goal of helping stu- dents succeed both in college and the work- force, Learning Success Services is implementing a new learning application called KeyTrain into Academic Power Tools (a class required for all students who score lower than 18 on the ACT). Two workshops skills that employers are looking for in employees such as good skills in reading, mathematics, locating information, and more. Computerized tutorial sessions on each topic are divided into levels one through five. Throughout the semester students work on KeyTrain assignments until they reach level five.

Alum Arness, ’93, developed KeyTrain in an effort to increase the level of practical skills that individuals in the workplace possess.

“There is a gap between the workforce skills and what we are learning in college,” says Janauwona Nixon, director of Learning Success Services. “We are trying to build a bridge between these two so that when students leave college they have the skills that are needed for any job.”

Homeschoolers Wins National Robotics Competition

When 14-year-old Andrew Donesky showed up in the BES Center with his team (The Brick Boys) and a LEGO® brick robot to participate in the Southern Challenge, something, which has never before been achieved in the Southern Challenge history, was clear—Andrew and his Brick Boy team had entered this competition.

Yes, he had entered this competition twice before, and his tea had won each time. But this year he was set to go on to the national — a trip he’d always turned down before in order to go on an annual mission trip with his family.

Every year, he made up his mind quickly. “I won’t be able to make it,” he’d say as he left for the competition. “I think it was one of the happiest ways to go out,” says Andrew. “It was exciting—we’d made it there, and it was our final accomplishment.”

— James Myers

Computer Science Program Receives ABET Accreditation

The bachelor’s degree in computer science recently became the first and only computer science program in Adventist higher education to be accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET, Inc., the recognized accreditor of college and university programs in applied science, engineering, technology, and computing. This internationally recognized accreditation demonstration that Southern's computing program meets quality standards formulated by the computing profession in conjunction with a number of technical societies.

During the accreditation process, the computing program underwent comprehensive, periodic evaluations conducted by teams of volunteer professionals working in industry, government, academia, and private practice in the field of computing. These evaluations focused on, among other things, the program’s curricula, faculty, facilities, and institutional support.

“The message this accreditation sends to current students, potential students, parents, employers, and postgraduate institutions is clear,” says Richard Hultman, dean of the School of Computing. “Southern is committed to providing a quality academic experience for its students.”

— Lori Futcher
Southern Adventist University hosted the Association of Adventist Colleges and Universities (AACU) this spring. The association brings the presidents from the 15 Adventist colleges and universities in North America together for collaboration.

One of the outcomes of the meetings was a declaration to inspire graduates to practice the “way of Christ” through the following:

• God’s transforming grace
• careful, thoughtful, truth about ideas and faith
• wholeness as physical, intellectual, and spiritual beings
• educated servant leadership in community and congregation
• the pursuit of truth and the pleasure of learning
• authority toward self and others
• life work as a divine calling
• compassion, peacemaking, and stewardship of God’s creation
• the Meaning of the Sabbath rest
• hope for the future as a basis for witness and action

At the meetings concluded, participants agreed that they had enjoyed their time at Southern. “Thank you, on behalf of all of us who have attended the meetings,” said John McVay, president of Walla Walla University.

“The hosting of the event by Southern has been first rate.” — James Price

Students Volunteer Firefighters Win Adventure Race

Southwestern had a hub of activity from the evening of April 12 to the early morning hours of April 13 as students climbed, ran, and even flew at various points on and around campus.

The second annual Dusk ‘til Dawn Adventure Race included challenges such as zip lining off the library, climbing Wright Hall, and exploring the Student Park Cave.

This year, the addition of a helicopter brought a buzz beyond that of its engine as it took participants to and from a nearby farm. Many participants who had never flown in a helicopter said this was their favorite part of the event.

“This race is one of the greatest things that Southern does,” says Rika Grimmel, ’09, who was on the 2007 winning team. For her senior year, Rika helped operate one of the race’s challenges instead of racing. “I wanted to give other people a chance to win,” she jokes.

Covered in mud and smiles, those who won the 2008 race arrived at the finish line at 2:41 a.m., about 8½ hours after the race began. The winning team was made up of four Southern students who also volunteer at Tri-Community Fire Department. Winning team members were Jeff Richardson, ’08, senior; outdoor education major Stephanie George; Brandon Otis, ’08; and junior outdoor education major Casey Walter.

“This was a well-rounded experience,” says Brandon. “We go to do things we wouldn’t have otherwise experienced.” — Lonn Futcher

University Purchases Local Spalding Cove Apartments

On September 14, Southern purchased the Spalding Cove Apartments for $2.6 million at a public auction. The 28-apartment complex is located less than a mile from the campus and connected via the Collegedale Greenway. The apartments will be transitioned to house married and graduate students as current residents choose to move to other housing.

“The purchase of the Spalding Cove apartments will allow us to continue our enrollment growth,” says Tom Vorrell, vice president for financial administration. “This fall we reached our maximum housing capability, and administration, along with the Board of Trustees Executive Committee, felt this was an opportunity we could not pass up at this time.”

Southern has grown steadily from around 1,600 students 12 years ago to more than 2,700 students this fall. Record-breaking enrollments have been posted for the last nine years. The university has increased its housing capacity over the last decade by adding a wing to the men’s residence hall and constructing eight on-campus apartment buildings.

“We have a residential philosophy that we call a living-learning environment,” remarks Gordon Bietz, president of the university. “It is our desire to provide housing to students either on campus or within a very close proximity so that they can enjoy the benefits of the full educational community.” Currently two-thirds of Southern’s student population lives in housing provided by the university.

— Vinita Sauder

Southern’s Film Program Purchases Cutting-Edge Camera

The RED ONE™ digital cinema camera has been making a splash all over the film industry, and now Southern Adventist University has one.

The new camera, which School of Visual Art and Design acquired this summer, accepts standard cinema lenses and accessories, and it shoots the highest-quality video available directly onto an onboard hard drive or compact flash card. In the past, filmmakers have typically preferred traditional film cameras because the quality was superior; however, the RED is revolutionizing the industry’s perception of film versus digital.

Famous movie directors and Academy Award winners such as Peter Jackson and Steven Soderbergh have been using this camera to record some of their more recent projects. Assistant Professor David George became familiar with the RED camera this summer while working on a short film project in which the digital camera won him awards.

“I was amazed at how closely it mirrored the workflow of shooting on film but with much lower price point,” says George. “I was excited to put the new camera to use in our Cinematography class this fall.”

“ “In class, students will be able to learn dynamic focusing techniques much better with this camera because of its shallow depth of field and ability to use cinema lenses and accessories,” George predicts. “And at the end of the day you have high-resolution, high-dynamic range data.” Ultimately, George hopes that film students will be able to use the camera for another feature film for the big screen.” — Natalia Lopez-Thomson

Southern Sees Continued Enrollment Growth

For the ninth consecutive year, enrollment numbers broke records at fall registration. Southern’s doors opened to 2,777 students—137 students more than last year. This marks the 13th year of continuous growth.

Southern’s uninterrupted growth can be seen not only in increased enrollment but also in the expanding of its campus facilities including the new Holub Wellness Center, scheduled to open in October, and Florida Hospital Hall, the new nursing building that will accommodate Southern’s quickly expanding nursing program.

“Thanks to some generous friends and support- ers, we are now able to offer these new facilities to our students,” says Vinita Sauder, vice president for Marketing and Enrollment Services.

This year, undergraduate enrollment is up by 90 students and graduate enrollment is up by 40. In total to headcount, the number of full-time equivalents is up 69 overall.

“Enrollment has increased over the last decade by more than 1,200 students, allowing the university to expand its curriculum, its facilities, and its faculty and staff,” says Sauder. “Students are choosing Southern because of our high-quality living-learning environment.” — Natalia Lopez-Thomson
Students Lead 4,561 to Baptism

This summer, 87 students conducted evangelistic meetings in four locations as part of the summer evangelism program of the Evangelistic Resource Center.

Sent to Ghana, Tanzania, Guatemala, or South Carolina, Southern students—most of whom had never preached a sermon before in their lives—led 4,561 people to be baptized. “We are preparing the next generation of pastors, doctors, lawyers, etc. to conduct evangelistic series, because ordained ministers aren’t the only ones who can save souls,” says Carlos Martin, School of Religion professor and Evangelistic Resource Center director. “I want to create a culture of evangelism on campus. We want there to be a feeling that ‘I’m doing my part, I’m actively involved in the great commission.’”

Overcoming stage fright, enduring the rainy season, or surviving after failed technology were some areas students dealt with through patience and prayer. It is the unpredictability of the experience that has helped strengthen students’ faith, allowed them to see the wondrous ways in which God works, and given them confidence to speak to others about their faith.

“Preaching and traveling were two things that didn’t come naturally to me,” says Jelleke Stephenson, a junior nursing and Spanish major who was part of the evangelism team in South Carolina. “I knew that’s what I want to do; I want to be a ‘suffering servant’ and therefore engage with them. Without the debriefing, the participants won’t even have realized they could have very good English skills or a background in Christianity either.”

Yu’s experiences in Africa and how she wants to continue to minister to others.

Yu Yin and I sat on our floor, big task chaplain to win souls for Jesus. I had neglected something so simple yet so important as prayer. So from then on, we prayed. We prayed for God’s blessing as we studied, we prayed for Yu’s grandparents, and we prayed that she would make more friends. Sometimes I would pray, lifting up Yu’s prayer requests, and sometimes Yu would pray, quietly and sincerely asking the Lord to help her and those she loves. I began to feel more like I was studying about God and not just reading stories.

So longed for a close friend to share secrets with but mourned the language barrier that prevented that from happening. Even in the face of a continuing culture, a difficult language, and intense loneliness, Yu always had a smile on her face.

I often helped her with English and religion assignments. I’ll never forget trying to explain the meaning of the image in Neshadzharen’s dream so Yu could complete her response worksheet. I nearly confused myself more than once.

One day, Yu asked if I would have Bible studies with her. Yu had no background in Christianity. I had no idea how to teach someone about God if they lacked even a basic knowledge of Him. Where would I start? Yu viewed everything that went on at school, from eating in the cafeteria and religion assignments. I’ll never forget what Yu taught me. I learned that it’s never our dreams that are important, but our scriptures, our Bibles. I learned that it’s never our dreams that are important, but our Bibles. I learned that it’s never our dreams that are important, but our Bibles.

“After all,” he pointed out, “they were written for children, who don’t have very good English skills or a background in Christianity.”

“I thought it was perfect and borrowed the books from his family. Yu and I began diligently studying the Bible stories every Wednesday evening, though we never prayed. I was too cautious to bring God fully into the picture, not wanting to push upon her a personal relationship with a God she knew so little about. I would read slowly, with Yu following along intently, pointing out the characters in the pictures and explaining the harder words. At one point I even drew a timeline for her, explaining where Moses, Joseph, and Jesus fit in. At the end of that, we simply read the stories together. I would help her with any homework that she brought along with her, and then she would thank me and leave—until the night she reminded me to pray.”

The seven indicators used to assess these seven-page report. I nearly confused that was serving as a task force worker. In my hands, I held a My Bible Friends book. I turned to the Philippines for help and began to knock on doors. She had taught me out, telling me how much she had learned something powerful.”

Building Walls to Bring People Together in Romania

Usually walls are built to create a separation, but that’s not the case when outdoor leadership students are doing the building. This summer a team of seven such students built walls and other open-space-related objects at Adventist camps throughout Romania, then trained camp staff how to use these elements to instill principles of working together in unity.

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The concept of debriefing after an activity was perhaps one of the most important things incorporated into the training.

Thanks.

Activities can get really frustrating,” explains Ann Reynolds, graduate outdoor teacher education student. “Without the debriefing, the participants won’t even have realized they could have learned something powerful.”

The seven indicators used to assess these 12-page report. I nearly confused myself more than once.

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Southern Ranked in U.S. News Top Tier for Seventh Year

The university is ranked one of the “Best Baccalaureate Colleges” in the South in U.S. News & World Report’s “America’s Best Colleges” edition. This is the seventh year the university is ranked one of the “Best Baccalaureate Colleges” in the South. This summer a team of seven such students built walls and other open-space-related objects at Adventist camps throughout Romania, then trained camp staff how to use these elements to instill principles of working together in unity.

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Quotations:

**Did you know that 94 percent of incoming freshmen receive financial aid—and that nearly $4 million is awarded annually through Southern’s freshman scholarship program?**

For complete details about Southern scholarships and other financial aid, call 1.800.SOUTHERN or visit www.southern.edu/scholarships.

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**Scrappbook**

*The year was 1966. I was a junior English major, vice president of the English Club, and an aspiring writer. As news editor of the Southern Accent, I also contributed poems to the annual literary edition of the paper for students to exhibit original poetry, prose, art, and photography.*

That spring, fellow writer Ellis Adams, ’66, shared his desire to establish a literary magazine. This was exactly what I wanted to hear, since I had long been harboring the same dream myself.

After much discussion and many meetings later, we were thrilled when the magazine was approved by administration and became a reality.

We spent hours searching for a name. Someone suggested Legacy—a perfect choice for a magazine that, to my knowledge, has remained constant to this day more than 40 years later. It is ultimately satisfying to me that my contribution to student life in the 1960s has survived eight U.S. presidents.

In that other lifetime long ago, in that memorable spring of 1966, my fellow founders and I could not have foreseen nor imagined that our cherished creation would continue to flourish this far into the future, finding a place in the hearts of its creators, contributors, and readers—and assuring that it would truly become a living literary Legacy.

~ Barb Brooks, ’94 (attended ’62-’66)
Jack Parmel, '44, and his wife, Beth, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 1 with a three-day family reunion.

Caroline (Faunt) Smith, '44, is a retired teacher from Morganton, North Carolina. She volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and at the local soup kitchen. She and her wife have six children and 10 grandchildren.

Joy (Mary) Sykes, '72, is an internist in Nashville, Tennessee. She attended a granddaughter's wedding in Scotland. She is survived by her wife, Donna; two children, Wesley and Anna; two grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Bonnie (Benchina) Brett, '78, lives in Highland, California. Beverly is an elementary school teacher, and she and her husband, Daniel, announced a community foundation, established the only library in town, and hold summer camps and reading challenges for community children.

Jerry (Buncha) Buncha, '77, is retired in High Point, North Carolina. He and his wife, Beverly, are the parents of two sons: Matthew, who recently graduated from Texas Tech University, and Thomas, a junior at High Point University. They are the grandparents of three: Capri, 13; Lincoln, 10; and Jonathan, 8.

Catherine (Linrud) Biggs, '84, is practicing psychology in the private sector of the Shenandoah Valley. She and her husband, Steve, are the parents of two sons: Henry Kuhlman, '90, and Henry Kuhlman, '96, and two daughters: asian, Sarah, '90, and Kaitlin, '96. She is the grandmother of two grandchildren.

Joan (Owens) Alexander, '87, is a Nurse Practitioner in Virginia. She attended a son's wedding in Chicago. She is the grandmother of four grandchildren.

Gerald (Dean) Octavio, '51, is a retired teacher from Mexico City. He and his wife, Carmen, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in the fall. They are the parents of two daughters: Carmen, who lives in Mexico City, and Patricia, who lives in Washington, D.C.

Calvin Acuff, '51, is a retired teacher from Morganton, North Carolina. He volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and at the local soup kitchen. He and his wife have six children and 10 grandchildren.

Ed Reid, '66, is practicing psychology in the private sector of the Shenandoah Valley. He and his wife, Catherine, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in the fall. They are the parents of two sons: Matthew, who recently graduated from Texas Tech University, and Thomas, a junior at High Point University. They are the grandparents of three: Capri, 13; Lincoln, 10; and Jonathan, 8.

Kerensa Anne Juniper, '89, is a retired school administrator from Southern University. She and her husband, Jay, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in the fall. They are the parents of two daughters: Taylor, '93, and Kaitlyn, '95. They are the grandparents of six grandchildren.

Gale (Koch) Stevens, '60, is married to Dr. Gene Stevens, '60, and has three children, John, 32; Anne, 28; and Scott, 24. They are the grandparents of eight grandchildren.

Beverly (Branch) McCracken, '64, is retired in Morganton, North Carolina. She recently attended her daughter's wedding in Aberdeen, Scotland. She and her husband, Jack, are the parents of two sons: John, who recently graduated from Texas Tech University, and David, a junior at High Point University. They are the grandparents of four grandchildren.

Bob, 80, and Terri (Wilde) Cundiff, '80, live in Raleigh, North Carolina. Bob is a farmer, and Terri just completed an anesthesia school.

Aaron Seaman, '78; was named the assistant director of the Shenandoah Valley chapter of the American Heart Association. He and his wife, Lisa, are the parents of two sons: Matthew, who recently graduated from Texas Tech University, and Thomas, a junior at High Point University. They are the grandparents of three: Capri, 13; Lincoln, 10; and Jonathan, 8.

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Robert Whitworth, '78, is a retired teacher from Waukesha, Wisconsin. He and his wife, Liz, are the parents of two sons: Matthew, who recently graduated from Texas Tech University, and Thomas, a junior at High Point University. They are the grandparents of three: Capri, 13; Lincoln, 10; and Jonathan, 8.

Response to the Arkansas River land purchase: A new land purchase for the Arkansas River Project was announced in July. The land is located in the Arkansas River valley, near the town of Russellville, Arkansas. The purchase is expected to support the development of new parks and recreational areas along the river.

David Varner, '52, is running to manage a group home in Austin, Texas. He attended a son's wedding in Dallas. He is the grandfather of two grandchildren.

Cindy Robinette, '91, has been an administrative assistant at Southern's School of Nursing, passed away on March 18. She was survived by her parents, July and Gary Robinette; grandmother, Helen Robinette; and sister, Robin Rankin.

Graeme (Maxim) Shall, '91, serves as the administrative assistant to the president in the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Maryland. He and his wife, Sarah, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in the fall. They are the parents of two sons: Matthew, who recently graduated from Texas Tech University, and Thomas, a junior at High Point University. They are the grandparents of three: Capri, 13; Lincoln, 10; and Jonathan, 8.

Tad Toster, '91, is a retired teacher from Walla Walla, Washington, after having taught school for 41 years.

Steve Wainwright, '84, makes his home in Hagerstown, Maryland. He and his wife, Lisa, are the parents of two sons: Matthew, who recently graduated from Texas Tech University, and Thomas, a junior at High Point University. They are the grandparents of three: Capri, 13; Lincoln, 10; and Jonathan, 8.

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Jennifer (Sommerville) Colburn, '92, is a resident at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Loma Linda, California, where Jessica just completed a residency in adult clinical pharmacy programs at Marion General Hospital. She is married to an Indian

Rick Seidel, '92, is a resident at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Loma Linda, California, where Jessica just completed a residency in adult clinical pharmacy programs at Marion General Hospital. She is married to an Indian

Mike G. Hession, '92, is a retired professor from Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio. He and his wife, Lisa, are the parents of two sons: Matthew, who recently graduated from Texas Tech University, and Thomas, a junior at High Point University. They are the grandparents of three: Capri, 13; Lincoln, 10; and Jonathan, 8.

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Finding My Purpose

by Natalia Lopez-Thorne, senior public relations major

My choice of major was tormenting me. Though I enjoyed public relations, I didn’t want to use my life to make more money for some rich individual or corporation, and I couldn’t imagine what else I could do with my chosen degree.

I normally make small, everyday decisions very quickly and confidently. When I was 9 years old, I decided that I would be on the honor roll by the end of the semester, even though I spoke no English, and I did that. I do what I set my mind to do. I’ve never felt indecisive, so when doubt came into my mind about something as big as my career choice, I was frightened to say the least.

So I set out assertively to Southern Adventist University’s Counseling and Testing Center to take aptitude and personality tests in order to find out what I should study instead.

A Life-Changing Class

Life went on after I took all of the tests that would determine the rest of my career life. On a normal Tuesday afternoon, I headed to a conference room in Talge Hall where we had History of the Holocaust class.

That day, we talked about the inaction of the surrounding communities and the world. The people in the communities around Auschwitz and Dachau saw Jews being taken to the local concentration camps in cramped train wagons daily and never saw them come out. They saw the smoke expelled from the gas chambers, but no one ever dared to ask why. The newspapers in the United States thought the stories of death camps were exaggerated, so they didn’t cover them. It wasn’t until the end of WWII that the Allies went into concentration camps, as part because the purpose of the camps was generally unknown.

Unknown? I pondered.

Yes, unknown to most of the world, because the people in the vicinity decided to do nothing about it. Unknown because the majority of the world decided to ignore what reports there were. Unknown because no one with authority was brave enough to speak up.

Overwhelming Frustration

As I thought about what we had learned in class that day, I felt frustrated and motivated to do something about it. It was a feeling so strong that I didn’t know how to describe it. I would later learn it’s called “holy discontent” when something that is probably breaking God’s heart also breaks the heart of someone who loves Him. God was using this frustration to get me to right a wrong.

After class that afternoon, I made my way to Brock Hall and to the office of the School of Journalism and Communication.

“I’m so frustrated,” I told Professor Lynn Caldwell, with my face between my hands. I shared my desire to change my major to something where I would be serving the greater good and how I wanted to do things about injustices such as the Holocaust.

“Are you part of American Humanics?” Caldwell asked, telling me about the national program that certifies professionals to lead nonprofit organizations. I had heard of the program and of the field, but I had never considered the possibility.

Speaking Up

I woke up the next morning ready to receive my test results. I got on my knees next to my bed and cried out to God. Knowing what to do with my life was a huge decision—I just wanted to make the right one. I got ready and stopped by the Counseling and Testing Center. With shaking hands, I opened the envelopes that would tell me what I’d do for the rest of my life. When I arrived at the page with career choices for my personality, I said another prayer and made my way to the list. The first thing I saw was: “1. Public Relations specialist.”

I laughed and sighed in relief. In that moment, everything began to fall into place. I could live a life of service with my public relations degree. In His infinite wisdom, God gave me exactly what I need to serve Him, and in this case it is public relations skills.

This summer, I started speaking up by working with the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation to help plan the fifth annual Youth Assembly for the United Nations, which trains young people to be the future leaders to help end the world’s injustices. Doing work like this, I feel satisfied that I am doing everything in my power so that wrongs like the Holocaust are never kept secret again.

A history class helped Natalia Lopez-Thorne learn that she could practice public relations while fulfilling her God-given life mission.

Finding My Purpose
Stretch your mind with educational seminars. Run into old friends from your college days. Jump for joy at the sight of the new Hulsey Wellness Center.

Southern's Homecoming Weekend is packed full of activities to keep you moving.

• Vespers with Bill Tucker, ’68
• Church with Ken Rogers, ’78
• Sacred Concert with Todd, ’83, and Lisa (Howe) Parrish, ’84
• Gym-Masters/Gymnastics Reunion Show
• Southern Shuffle
• Antique and Classic Car Show
• Hulsey Wellness Center Grand Opening
• and much more

For more information, visit alumni.southern.edu or call Alumni Relations at 423.236.2830.