Centered on Christ
Southern welcomes David and Cherie Smith as the university’s first couple. Page 12
Accepting the Commission
As a child, Dave Smith dreamed of being a doctor, but God had other plans. After years as an English professor at Southern, Smith felt God’s call to Union College, and eventually back to Collegedale as a pastor. Then the invitation came to serve as Southern’s president. Smith said in his inaugural address: “Serving as president here was not on my bucket list. But God convinced me this was what He wanted me to do, and I have never won an argument with Him.” As Smith accepts his commission at Southern, he looks forward to seeing how God writes the next few chapters of the university’s history. “This school, no matter what it faces, will move into the future grounded on the certain promises of God and the faith and dedication of those who serve Him.”

Centered on Christ: David Smith, Southern’s 26th President
When David Smith took his seat in the corner office in Wright Hall on June 1, 2016, a new chapter began for Southern Adventist University.

Discovering the Past in Ruins
Biblical archaeology is a field in crisis due to the secularization of culture, but it has never been more important.

Called to Care
For Will Otis, ’10, the plan was simple: go to college, go to dentistry school, then be a dentist like his father. However, as he entered his senior year at Southern, Otis began to feel that he was not on the right path.

Homecoming 2016
When alumni gather for Homecoming Weekend, they share the passion and purpose they developed as students.

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cover photo: Terry Henson
Page 2 photo: Ryan Pierce
Page 3 photos, clockwise from top left: Terry Henson, Ryan Pierce (x2), Zach Kast
After a long week, the promise of the Sabbath rest is a relief for many. Steven Luu, ’12, found a unique way to welcome in the Sabbath and share the experience with others. With a bachelor’s degree in computer science and a job as a software engineer at Microsoft, Luu created a simple website where visitors can enter their phone number and thereafter receive a text with a cheerful Bible verse to bring in the Sabbath. Recently “Sabbath Text” sent out its 15,000th message. Visit sabbathtext.com.
New Sabbath Trail Open to Community and Students

Southern dedicated a new walking path called the “Sabbath Trail” on September 10, 2016. Students and community members alike can now enjoy the 1.5-mile path, which loops around campus’ Fenton Forest on Bauxite Ridge, becoming part of the university’s larger network of approximately 37 miles of hiking and biking trails.

The Sabbath Trail’s main purpose is to serve as a place to get away and ponder. The inspiration came from a similar environment in which God’s presence can be felt. The inspiration came from a similar environment in which God’s presence can be felt. The dedication ceremony was held in a small clearing about a quarter of a mile from where the trail begins. Community members, faculty and staff, and former and current university presidents Gordon Bietz and David Smith, and the Landscape Services crew attended.

Along the loop, plaques and stones tell the history of the Sabbath, creating an environment in which God’s presence can be felt. The inspiration came from a similar environment in which God’s presence can be felt. The dedication ceremony was held in a small clearing about a quarter of a mile from where the trail begins. Community members, faculty and staff, and former and current university presidents Gordon Bietz and David Smith, and the Landscape Services crew attended.

Alumni family made the Sabbath Trail—along with the rest of the trails on Bauxite Ridge—possible with the gift of 250 acres adjoining campus, opposite White Oak Mountain and its system of trails. Marty Hamilton, associate vice president of Financial Administration, worked with the donors and Antone to help develop the project. Hamilton explained that the purpose of the trails is to enhance outdoor activity for the students.

“Antone took a mountain that no one could use and built a space that community members and students are able to utilize,” Hamilton said.

Hamilton also emphasized that the Sabbath Trail’s main purpose is to serve as a place to get away and ponder. The inspiration came from a similar environment in which God’s presence can be felt. The dedication ceremony was held in a small clearing about a quarter of a mile from where the trail begins. Community members, faculty and staff, and former and current university presidents Gordon Bietz and David Smith, and the Landscape Services crew attended.

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Enactus Team Excels at National Level

This summer, Southern partnered with regional transportation and power agencies to establish an electric car-sharing station on campus. Starting this fall, anyone will be able to rent an electric car from the faculty, while those who own electric cars will be able to charge them there for free.

The new facility, built between Talge Hall and Mabel Wood Hall, has four charging stations, which anyone with an electric vehicle is welcome to use. Solar panels, mounted on the covered spaces, help offset the power used by the cars. The only expense to Southern for this project was providing the concrete parking pad. Other partner companies built the shelter and provide the electricity, while the Green Commuter car-sharing company, which will maintain the rental program, contributed the charging points, solar panels, and the rental cars. Initially, two Nissan Leafs will be available at Southern.

“We’ve got a lot of people here on campus who have driver’s licenses; they just don’t have a car,” said Marty Hamilton, associate vice president of Financial Administration. “Historically, about 50 percent of students don’t have cars.”

Southern was approached to be a part of this project because of its location and the prospect of students renting an electric car. Apart from Southern, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga is the only other local university participating. Chattanoogans will soon have approximately 20 charging and rental stations throughout the area, with each station containing two to six vehicles. Those wishing to rent a car must become members of Green Commuter’s car-sharing program, which includes insurance whenever using a vehicle. The mobile app-based system provides members with instant access to cars, and no car keys are involved. Rentals will be round-trip, with hourly and day rates available.

“I have been at Southern for almost three years now, and for that whole time I have been without a car,” said Sierra Davis, sophomore biology major, likes what the charging station says about Southern: “Having an electric car station demonstrates how our university is involved with clean energy and environmental awareness.” —Melanie Ramirez, sophomore biology major, likes what the charging station says about Southern: “Having an electric car station demonstrates how our university is involved with clean energy and environmental awareness.” —Melanie Ramirez, sophomore biology major, likes what the charging station says about Southern: “Having an electric car station demonstrates how our university is involved with clean energy and environmental awareness.” —Melanie Ramirez, sophomore biology major, likes what the charging station says about Southern: “Having an electric car station demonstrates how our university is involved with clean energy and environmental awareness.” —Melanie 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Southern is expanding medical degree options by adding the Physical Therapist Assistant program. While this new degree is still in the development stage, it will offer a unique addition to Southern’s available majors. In the last five years, physical therapist assistant careers have become among the top medical fields for growth, giving great potential for student success in this area. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics, healthcare careers are among the top sectors in the U.S. The Bureau predicts that “Physical Therapist Assistant” will be within the top 10 healthcare careers in the next five to 10 years.

Gala Raises $350,000 for Student Scholarships

Southern’s October 12 Inauguration Gala for President David Smith, PhD, raised $350,000 for endowed student scholarships, Legislative officials, area businesses, alumni, employees, and friends of the university were among the more than 225 guests whose ticket purchases, silent auction bids, and other significant contributions made the evening a success.

Fenton Forest Murals Brighten Pediatric Facility

The School of Nursing’s new pediatric simulation area now features a mural based on the popular Fenton Forest series by Gordon Blez, DMN, former Southern president. The artist, Rebecca Johnson, ’12, adjunct professor in the School of Visual Arts and Design, also illustrated the series. Barbara James, DSN, dean of the School of Nursing, believes the mural fits the location.

“Our new facility needed to be an attractive and comfortable place for kids,” James said. “The mural of Gruff the Bear tenderly caring for a hurt rabbit was just the ticket.”

Employees Published

Norman Guilley, PhD, research professor in the School of Religion, completed the book Systematic Theology: The Church and the Last Things. This is the fourth and final volume in Guilley’s biblical research series, making it the largest theological work ever written by an Adventist author, according to Ronald Knott, director of Andrews University Press, which published the book.

Donald Keefe, MFA, assistant professor in the School of Visual Art and Design, presented his work in an art exhibition at the Catskill Art Society in Livingston Manor, New York, throughout August. He was also featured in the October 2016 issue of FreshPaintMagazine. Additionally, his artwork was featured in the juried book International Drawing Annual 10.

Valerie Lee, MA, assistant professor of biology and allied health, wrote a book about loss for young people. Called When Sparrows Fall, this is her second book, the first having followed her experience as a student missionary in Africa.

Ben McArthur, PhD, professor in the History and Political Studies Department, published a biography, A. G. Daniel: Shaper of Nineteenth Century Adventism. The book garnered high praise from Gilbert Valentine, PhD, Australian historian of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Tron Wilder, PhD, associate professor in the School of Education and Psychology, published an article in the April/May 2016 issue of the Journal of Adventist Education. It was titled “Addressing Behavioral Addictions in Adolescents: Creating a School-wide Culture of Prevention.”

Southern Ranks in Top Tier for 15th Consecutive Year

For the 15th year, Southern ranked in the Top Tier of U.S. News and World Report’s “Best Colleges” guide. The difference this year is that Southern’s ranking category has switched from college to university for the first time. The change is due to Southern’s growing graduate program, which includes numerous master’s degrees and one doctoral program.

Another study, SmartAsset’s “Best Value Colleges,” ranked Southern as one of the most economically valuable institutions in Tennessee. The average starting salary for Southern graduates is $45,000.

Donald George demonstrates camera operation during a class in the School of Visual Art and Design.

Lighting a Passion

At the age of 5, David George, MFA, ’95, associate professor of Visual Art and Design, had acquired his love for film and photography, and he also had the opening sequences of Chariots of Fire begin to roll. As the cinematography in the film transported him to a new time and space, the groundwork for his future started to fall into place.

As he grew up, George frequently accompanied his father to his job at a local TV station, fueling his passion even further. George’s newfound access to equipment allowed him to expand his knowledge of film, and he eventually found himself as a broadcast journalism major at Southern Adventist University.

Teaching on the Fly

After graduating and working in the industry for a few years, George returned as a professor to Southern’s School of Visual Art and Design. He proved instrumental in the development of Southern’s film program in 2001, an experience he described as “like trying to fly an airplane that you were building.” Since then, the department has produced many projects and films, such as Secret of the Case, and has contributed to ventures such as the 2015 movie Old Fashioned. George believes the program has grown tremendously in the last 15 years.

“At the beginning, it was sort of like the frontier; we just found a way to make everything work,” George said. “As time passed, the quality of the classes and the kind of equipment students had access to significantly improved. We saw the quality of students’ work getting a lot better, but the bar continues to rise.”

According to George, even though he has much to teach his students, he feels that to be an effective teacher he must first seek insight from and about his pupils.

“It’s less about what I can get across to them as it is about what I can learn about them,” George said. “And based on that understanding, I figure out how I can help them best get to where they’re trying to go. Obviously there are things that I try to convey to students, but I feel that’s less important than understanding them and helping them figure it out themselves.”

Students and colleagues alike find value in George’s teaching style and leadership in the department, which earned him Southern’s 2016 President’s Award in Teaching Excellence.

Randy Craven, dean of the School of Visual Art and Design, believes that the award was very fitting for a professor like George.

“He’s a guy who’s on top of things, very proactive,” Craven said. “He’s proved that working diligently pays off. He deserved the award for sure.” According to George, his productivity is a result of traits learned while teaching at Southern.

“If there is one thing that I’ve learned, it is that healthy, authentic relationships and a dogged unwillingness to give up are the most important keys to getting most things done,” George said. “I wish I could say that I’m a patient child for these things, but I’ve learned as much through failure as success.”

Striving for Success

Craven, the years, many have noticed George’s effort to find ways of advancing the film program at Southern.

“I can definitely see that he is always looking for ways to inspire students to achieve their goals,” said Mark Combes, 15, a production and facilities manager for the School of Visual Art and Design. “I’ve seen firsthand the effort behind the scenes in what he does for current students. He’s not satisfied to leave everything as it has been. We’re continually improving to find exactly what works, and knowledge our students need in the field after graduation.”

George’s childhood friend and colleague, Zach Gray, MFA, ’99, associate professor of Visual Art and Design, has watched George transition into a new time and space, the groundwork for his future started to fall into place.

“At the end of the day, George wants to continue to show the department through exploring his love of film and his passion for his students.”

“I don’t want to sound cliché, but it’s the students that keep him going every day; that’s what makes it worth it,” George said. “To be able to be a part of their journey as they grow and learn is incredibly rewarding.”

"Striving for Success"
For many Southern students, a year serving as a student missionary is a normal part of the college experience. But for Jeremy Holt, a junior business administration major, his year in Peru wasn’t enough; his mission followed him home.

Holt spent the past year working at the AMOR Projects clinic in Pucallpa, Peru. He helped to run the business side of the mission and said that the experience brought him closer to God. “I got to see God work all the time,” Holt said. “That is the most exciting part of working with missions. It amazes me every time to see how much God cares, that He would do so much just to help save one person.”

**Do Something**

Krista Bonney, a senior biology major, also spent the past year at AMOR projects. She gave Bible studies and helped in the medical clinic, a life-changing experience for her. Bonney recalls the story of two brothers, Carlos and Ubaldo. After consistently attending the small Bible study for children that Bonney and her fellow Bible worker held, one day the boys did not show up. Their parents had changed their minds about letting them come. Later on, Bonney found out that Carlos and Ubaldo’s mom was sick. Bonney visited their home and later returned with the mission’s nurse. Every day after her Bible studies, Bonney visited the family’s home, even after the mom got better.

“God has a purpose for each one of us,” Bonney said, “if we will just step out in faith and accept God’s plan for our lives.”

**Bringing It Home**

Since their return to Southern, Holt and Bonney have been working to raise awareness for the work in Peru, as well as talking with their fellow students on the importance of missions. Holt shares his mission experience through sermons, vespers, and prayer meetings.

“God and serve others. It is also a ‘job’ that has eternal value.”

Bonney has also preached sermons and helped run a mission booth at the Carolina Conference Camp Meeting. While she hopes people will be inspired to donate time or money, her biggest goal is to share Christ. “I love going to new places and experiencing different cultures,” Bonney said. “But we each have a purpose wherever we are, and we can serve God through our interactions with others.”

**More Than a Visit**

“While I was in Peru, my eyes were again opened to a need that I have seen around the world,” Bonney said. “I realized that if I let God take control, He can use me in His work. My greatest desire is to share my faith with everyone whom God brings me in contact with for that purpose. That’s what He puts us here for.” Along with sharing about their time in Peru, both Bonney and Holt are encouraging others to get involved. From going on trips to donating funds, and living every day as an example, they hope their testimonies will spark interest and start a mission movement. “I hope that others understand that although going on a mission trip requires a lot, it yields a great reward. “It can be tough at times, and it calls for sacrifice; however, it is totally worth it,” Holt said. “It is the biggest blessing to get to work for God and serve others. It is also a ‘job’ that has eternal value.”

Bonney said. “But we each have a purpose wherever we are, and we can serve God through our interactions with others.”

“God has a purpose for each one of us,” Bonney said, “if we will just step out in faith and accept God’s plan for our lives.”
When David Smith took his seat in the corner office in Wright Hall on June 1, 2016, a new chapter began for Southern Adventist University. Selected by Southern’s Board of Trustees by a unanimous vote, Smith accepted the position of president after much prayer and consideration. He began training with former President Gordon Bietz in April, and they worked together until June 1, when Bietz officially passed the torch of leadership, making Smith Southern’s 26th president.

“Ever since 1981 when Gordon and I first moved to Collegedale and met,” Smith said, “I’ve always been impressed with how God has blessed Southern through his leadership. Spending time with Gordon has inspired me to do all I can to give myself and my time to the campus as he has.”

During a meeting with all Southern employees, Smith set the tone of his presidency, emphasizing humility, service, trust, and transparency. He called for “all-in” participation in living out Southern’s mission to provide a Christ-centered, student-focused, and excellence-driven campus.

Ready to lead, ready to serve. With years of experience and high-profile leadership roles at Southern as well as other institutions, David Smith is well prepared as he steps into his new role as president. Most importantly, he is committed to allowing Christ to work in and through him for the good of the university.

Southern Roots

Although Smith’s position as Southern’s president is new, he has a rich history with the university. His involvement began in 1981 when he accepted a position as an English professor, later becoming chair of the department. He was voted “Most Humorous Faculty Member” and remained at Southern for 17 years. Smith also served for five years on Southern’s board, which acquainted him with the university’s finances and operations. Since Smith’s wife, Cherie, ’91, and two daughters graduated from Southern, he understands the Southern Experience from the standpoint of both a spouse and a parent. Throughout his many interactions with the university over the years, one feature stands out to Smith as Southern’s strongest asset: the mission-mindedness of its students and faculty.

“I love to hear how students, employees, and alumni have followed God’s will for their lives through their experience at Southern,” Smith said. “They have distinguished themselves in their professions, communities, and churches. For nearly 125 years, Southern students and employees have, in the name of Jesus Christ, turned the world upside down.”

Big Plans

Smith’s multifaceted relationship with Southern has made him both passionate and pragmatic about the steps he must take to help the university continue to thrive in a rapidly changing world. His top priority is to stay true to Southern’s mission. Smith longs for all students at Southern to have an authentic spiritual experience where they can discover first-hand God’s plans for their lives and commit in their hearts to live for Him. Through classes, personal interactions with faculty, and immersion in opportunities for spiritual growth on and off campus, Smith hopes students develop a biblical worldview and learn to make life decisions based on God’s principles. He believes that the college years are a critical time for students to get the spiritual support and guidance they need to mature into adulthood; cement the beliefs that will shape the rest of their lives; and remain positive, engaged, and loyal in their relationship with the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

On top of that strong spiritual foundation, Smith plans to continue Southern’s tradition of academic excellence, grow
enrollment, make Adventist education more affordable, and reduce student debt. He hopes to nurture a campus built on trust, teamwork, open communication, and inclusive decision-making. Smith believes that the way God has led him, and the career path that brought him here, has given him the faith and abilities that he needs to successfully guide South- ern into the future.

With a bachelor’s degree in history and a master’s degree in English from Andrews University and a PhD in English from the University of Tennessee, Smith is well-versed in higher education. He also has significant experience leading Adventist institutions, including 13 years as the president of Union College (1990-2011) and five years as the senior pastor of the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists (2011-2016). He has gained extensive experience speaking publicly around the world and collaborating with community, state, and civic officials. Beyond credentials, however, Smith believes that acknowledging the One who started it all is the only true path to success.

“The first thing we have to do is humble ourselves before God and give Him full credit for what He has done for us,” Smith said. “We also need to align our mission and campus experience so that the life we live out on our campus reflects our intentions. This involves being authentic in every aspect of our life and work, while serving our students, parents, visitors and guests, constituents, and each other with the respect, priority, and empathy that marked Jesus’ ministry to others.”

Getting Personal

Smith feels immeasurably blessed to have his wife of 45 years, Cherie, by his side as he begins this new adventure. Cherie is the associate pastor for visitation and prayer at the Collegedale Church.

“In college, we kept standing in registration lines together, so I naturally thought of Cherie when I was deciding whom to ask for a date,” Smith shared. “I’m a real believer in the value of registration lines!”

Cherie considers their many years of teamwork to be one of God’s richest gifts for her life.

“Dave’s wisdom comforts me, and his kind heart offers safety and peace,” Cherie said. “I measure the practical ways Dave shows love, such as cleaning the house, taking care of my car, meeting me for a Walmart run, or planting a butterfly garden because he knows I love butterflies. But it’s been daily prayer together that keeps us moving in the same direction.”

The couple has two children, Jacie and Kim. Their oldest, Jacie Smith, ’94, is a stay-at-home mom who lives in Cleburne, Texas, with her three children and her husband, John, an engineer for Boeing Corporation. Their youngest, Kim Hutchinson, ’99, is a teacher and vice principal of Keene Adventist Elementary School. She lives in Cleburne, Texas, with her three children and her husband, Chad, ’98 and ’04, who teaches at Southwestern Adventist University.

Smith has enjoyed extensive traveling, visiting his oldest daughter as she has lived in various places around the world, including Singapore, where he was impressed by the beauty of its gardens and the sense of safety in the city. In his free time, Smith relishes almost anything that takes him outdoors, like bird-watching, wildlife photography, and team sports. He also reads extensively and enjoys public speaking. And in all that he does, God is front and center.

“My most important goal is to always do what God asks me to do and to live my life within the boundary of His will,” Smith said. “I love to partner with God to see what He will do and then give Him glory for what He does.”

Student-Focused

Of all the experiences Smith has had over the years, he especially values opportunities to influence students, both as a professor and an administrator. He looks forward to working side-by-side with them to create a more meaningful Southern reality for everyone. Smith believes that through God’s blessing and the dedication of Southern’s employees, the university has huge potential to shape the lives of young adults.

Although Smith knows that committees and paperwork will demand their fair share of his time at Southern, students will always be his top priority. He loves to interact with them through informal visits. One-on-one or in large groups, he enjoys getting to know them and hearing about their lives.

“Every student has a story,” Smith said. “Whether they know it or not, God is the author of that story, at least as far as they have let Him be. I get excited when I see how God works in students’ lives. I love Southern’s rich heritage as a place where Seventh-day Adventist Christian higher education has the opportunity to transform young people and further the mission of the church.”

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Dave the Professor

by Andy Nash, PhD, ’94, journalism professor

Once in freshman composition class, Professor Smith was showing us the typical way to write an essay: how to write a thesis, how to write a paragraph, how to transition between paragraphs, how to return to your thesis. I raised my hand and asked if we had to write our essays this exact way. I mean, would it be okay if we tried another way?

Professor Smith didn’t say anything. He just took a piece of chalk and wrote two words on the board: “Whatever works.”

When he turned back to me, I stammered, “You mean... so we can just...”

Professor Smith smiled his famous smirk-smile, and I finally smiled, too.

I loved this teacher. He taught us the rules, but he also let us break free from the rules—as long as it worked.

Ten years later, I was teaching my own freshman composition class when a student raised her hand and asked if this was the only way they were allowed to write their essays.

I didn’t say anything. I just smiled and turned to the board.
Dave the Pastor
by Jacki Blanco, PhD, Former School of Religion Dean

As a church family, we praised the Lord for calling David Smith back to our community as senior pastor at Collegetdale Church, and we are grateful for his years of service. Dave’s love for Jesus Christ and us as members will never be forgotten, and his authentic, Spirit-filled sermons are a lasting legacy. He was in high demand as a speaker and occasionally preached elsewhere, but on those Sabbaths, we missed hearing his voice ringing from the pulpit here at home.

He and I met together weekly to pray for his ministry and the needs of the church and local schools. We prayed for people in need, the pastoral team and church officers, staff, church volunteers, teachers, and students. Without a doubt, Dave’s pastoral heart was invested in us, and every action he took demonstrated his concern and care. His family was always uppermost in his mind, and his affection for his wife, Cherie, and their children and grandchildren was evident during the times we petitioned the Lord together on their behalf.

Dave will be greatly missed as our minister. We send our love to his family and our thankfulness for his ministry to our church.

Dave the Father

My dad exemplifies God’s love for humanity by parenting with consistency, authenticity, and generous sacrifice. I will never forget his selfless love during a family canoeing trip. The rapid water surprised all of us, capsizing the canoe. Both of my parents secured branches in the rushing river, but I was trapped underwater, our overturned canoe. Without a thought for his own safety, my father, who doesn’t swim, dove under the water to rescue me. This is just one example of his innate desire to parent like Jesus, who willingly paid the highest personal price to show God’s love to the world.

I am blessed with a dad who has been there for me at every stage of life. From surprising me with my first puppy to coaching my softball games and teaching me to drive, my dad has helped me to become the wife, mother, and educator I am today. No matter what I am going through, I can always count on him to be in my corner.

First Ministry, Now First Lady
by Eloise Ravell, ’16

Cherie Smith, ’91, is no stranger to Southern. Originally a student and an employee, then later a pastor at the campus church, Cherie now steps into a new role at the university: first lady. She sees this as a good fit with her ministerial position.

Dave and I have worked as a team throughout our whole married life, no matter what positions we were in or the tasks at hand,” Cherie said. “The plan is for me to continue in my role as full-time pastor at the Collegetdale Church of Seventh-day Adventists while supporting my husband in any way that I can in his new commission at the university.”

When the Smiths first moved to Collegetdale in 1981, Cherie began working on campus and got first-hand experience in a variety of departments through the years. She worked in Student Finance, Alumni Relations, Public Relations, and finally for the vice president of Academic Administration. In 1996, Cherie began her ministry at the church, serving for two years before Dave accepted the position of president at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska.

“At the time, it appeared that God was closing the ministry door for me because there were no pastoral positions available in Lincoln,” Cherie said.

But God had other plans. A few months later, Cherie was invited to serve as part-time pastor at a local church, which soon grew into a full-time position. Most of Cherie’s ministry revolved around visiting the sick, shut-in, and grieving. She was able to shine a light in the darkness for those suffering, believing the Holy Spirit works through those who help others in difficult circumstances. Besides her commitment to visitation, Cherie demonstrated a passion for women’s ministries, working with deaconesses, and seeking ways to welcome, include, and nurture new members.

The couple returned to Collegetdale in 2011, where Cherie now serves as the associate pastor for visitation and prayer at the campus church. As her husband steps into the presidential role at Southern, Cherie hopes to partner with him to further God’s work and encourage students during their college careers.

“For 37 years, my husband and I have worked in college settings,” Cherie said. “It has been fun to support students at this pivotal time when they are making big decisions that will impact the rest of their lives.”

Cherie hopes to connect with students by affirming their life paths, listening to their stories, being a mentor, and even baking treats for them. She has faith that together, she and Dave can accomplish God’s will by trusting Him to move mountains, open doors, and give them the spiritual gifts they need.

“As we follow God through this new part of our journey,” Cherie said, “we do so with one goal: to make an eternal difference for His Kingdom.”

Turn to page 31 for Cherie’s philosophy of living in gladness.
Biblical archaeology is a field in crisis due to the secularization of culture, but it has never been more important. In the 1940s and 1950s, there were an abundance of biblical archaeological programs at Ivy League universities, according to School of Religion Professor Michael Hasel, PhD, director of the Institute of Archaeology and curator of the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum. However, by the 1980s and 1990s, many of those programs were closed. From 1950-1970, 45 excavations in Israel were sponsored by American institutions, whereas in the last 20 years there have been only four or five major projects.

“It is imperative that those of us in this discipline who are still interested in the Bible retain a voice in the discussion” Hasel said.

The Institute of Archaeology at Southern, under the auspices of the School of Religion, took root following a 1999 visit from respected professor and archaeologist William Dever of the University of Arizona. Subsequently, Southern established a Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology with two concentrations: Near Eastern Studies, which focuses on Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and Mesopotamia during the Old Testament period; and Classical Studies, which looks at the Greco-Roman world.

Now the Institute of Archaeology also includes the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum, opened in 2004, and the William G. Dever Research Library, housing more than 3,500 volumes. Students utilize the extensive archaeological resources on campus, but the knowledge they gain in classes becomes most meaningful when they go on the Middle East Study Tour and participate in hands-on archaeological excavation projects.

Uncovering Rare Artifacts

The Institute of Archaeology first conducted an archaeological excavation in Idalion, Cyprus, in 2003. Since then, hundreds of participants have had the life-changing experience of excavating in the ancient Israelite cities of Hazor, Khirbet Qeiyafa, and, most recently, Lachish. Southern is partnering with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for this excavation, which is currently the largest archaeological dig in the Middle East.

“The biblical city of Lachish is mentioned 22 times in the Old Testament,” Hasel said. “Some of the most notable references include the Israelite conquest of Lachish, the Assyrian siege and destruction of the city by the Assyrian king Sennacherib in 701 B.C., and the destruction of both Lachish and Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar II, king of Babylon, in 586 B.C.” Lachish, during the Iron Age, stood as the most important city in Judah after Jerusalem.

The process of excavation is time-consuming and, as observed by Martin Klingbeil, D. Litt., associate director of the Institute of Archaeology and professor in the School of Religion, sometimes it is not what a participant expects at first.

“The first couple of days everyone is working to remove the topsoil, digging out roots and larger rocks,” Klingbeil University of Arizona. Subsequently, Southern established a Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology with two concentrations: Near Eastern Studies, which focuses on Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and Mesopotamia during the Old Testament period; and Classical Studies, which looks at the Greco-Roman world.

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explained. “It is important to main- 
tain the size of each square as we dig 
two meters deep. Finally work begins 
on the layers, where sitting and care- 
full digging begins to uncover floors of 
buildings where artifacts are preserved. 
Everything found within each square is 
recorded in great detail using tablets 
with a specialized database, drones, 
GPS and survey equipment, and other 
site-of-the-art technology.” 

Participants, such as Guillherme 
Brasil de Souza, ’16, especially relish 
finding something important that has 
been hidden out of sight for thousands of 
years. “This past summer, I uncovered 
a very tiny inscribed stone weight,” Brasil 
de Souza said. “There are less than 200 
of these that have ever been uncovered 
in all of Israel. It dates back to the time of 
King Hezekiah.” 

Catalina Hannah, junior business 
administration and international stud- 
ies double major, also made a discovery 
while excavating a beautifully preserved 
stone floor dating to the time of Sen- 
rucher’s destruction, 689 B.C. 

A small oval object caught my eye,” 
Hannah said. “I picked up the little artifact, took it in a deep breath, and I 
don’t think I let it out for a whole two minutes as I studied the object. One side 
looked like the backside of a beetle. 
Rewinding 10 months back to my 
archaeology class, I remembered learn- 
ing about how Egyptians made their 
seals with a special back that replicated 
the dung beetle. So there I was, trying 
to contain my excitement while hold- 
ing a beautiful carnelian stamp seal, 
which has an inscription from 3,000 B.C. to 500 B.C. These artifacts were 
used as a beautiful form of life insurance.” 

The experiences students have in 
the field deeply impact not only their 
professional and personal lives, but also 
their spiritual lives. After her time at 
the dig, Judit Manchay, ’16, came away 
with a new perspective. “Time and space divide us from the 
events and people of the Bible,” 
Manchay said. “In a sense, biblical 
archeology gives us the opportunity to 
come face-to-face with the historical 
context of the Bible.” 

The biblical stories become 
tangible and real as we take a boat 
ride across the Sea of Galilee, visit the 
sites in Jerusalem, and Design, have 
also collaborated at the dig site. 
“An artist visualizing the past, it is huge 
to be able to have these images in your mind,” said 
Megan Winetgarder, junior fine arts major. “This 
will impact my work for the rest of my life.” 

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For Will Otis, MBA, ’10 and ’15, the plan was simple: go to college, go to dentistry school, then be a dentist like his father. However, as he entered his senior year at Southern, he began to feel that he was not on the right path. “I really felt like dentistry was not where God was calling me to go,” Otis said. “I took a semester off, and when I returned, I decided to start looking at the School of Business.”

The next semester, Otis took general business classes, and he talked to his business law professor about which career path to take. “I went by his office and shared with him how I had no clue where I was going. Then he asked me if I had ever thought about long term care,” Otis recalled. “Absolutely not! I had volunteered in nursing homes before, and I knew that it was not a passion of mine.”

After further encouragement and time in prayer, Otis decided to give the long term care industry a shot. “I got a job as a resident assistant at Morning Pointe Assisted Living in November 2011. I started working from the bottom up and absolutely fell in love with the industry.”

Otis then enrolled in the Long Term Care Administration program offered through Southern’s School of Business. After he graduated, he furthered his career with Morning Pointe and now works for Morning Pointe at Greenbriar Cove near the university’s campus. As senior executive director, Otis is involved in all areas at Morning Pointe: finance, budgeting, customer service, employee management, and public relations. However, what makes Otis’ career choice worth it is the positive impact he is able to have on the senior residents and their families. “One of the biggest reasons I went into senior care was because I wanted to serve people. That is why I thought about dentistry at first; I wanted a profession where I could help other people,” Otis said. “What I have learned in hindsight, even though I was reluctant at first, is that it is incredible to work with seniors.”

Whether it is assisting residents with the decision process of care services; building a relationship with them; providing them a warm, caring, and loving environment; or simply making them smile, Otis believes the long term care industry is an incredible opportunity to show Christian care. “Even though I am a director, I still get to know each resident personally,” Otis said. “I get to learn from them; I get as much from them as they get from me. Just to make an impression on senior’s lives makes it worth it, makes it easier to get up in the morning and come into work.”

 Called to Care

by Annalyse Hasty, ’13

Mission service could mean traveling to a foreign country, or it could mean enriching the lives of senior citizens here at home. Southern’s Long Term Care Administration program prepares students to manage caregiving facilities while equipping them for a life of service.

With all that the long term care program has to offer prospective students, at its heart is Christian service. An Unknown Mission Field

When someone visits a medical facility, they often see the doctors, nurses, and support staff. They do not always think of the employees who are in the office helping all of the people and departments work together, according to Scott Edens, ’91, adjunct professor of long term care. Edens went through the program himself and has served on the long term care advisory board for almost 10 years. Currently he is the regional vice president of Ethica Health and Retirement Communities. “We often think of nursing as a service career, but long term care administration is as well,” Edens said. “It is not only a career where you serve seniors, but it is also leadership of peers. We need mission-minded, Christian young people coming into long term care to serve these people in need.”

Long term care facilities are focused on providing ongoing medical and personal care for patients who are unable to live independently. Long term care facility managers are highly trained leaders who oversee the daily operations of nursing homes, assisted living facilities, rehabilitation centers, and home health services. They wear many hats in handling the staffing, budgeting, marketing, billing, legal, and other aspects of their center.

Duties of a long term care facility manager often go beyond operations. Administrators help educate patients on their path to recovery, while also assisting their loved ones as they navigate the complicated healthcare system. “Long term care managers are helping seniors, widows, and the poor who may not have the assets to get the care and services they need, and these professionals point people to the right resources.”

“Long term care administration is directly aligned with the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is a mission field and a service opportunity,” Edens affirmed. “To serve
another person is the greatest calling. Long term care is a major with a broad career path, and the demand is very high for young professionals.

A Shift in Focus

The Long Term Care Administration program at Southern originated in 1978. Since its inception, the program has focused on the management of skilled nursing facilities, such as nursing homes. However, changes in the long term care industry are causing a major shift in Southern’s program, as well as national education for long term care administration.

Southern’s bachelor degree in long term care administration is accredited by the National Association of Long Term Care Administrator of Boards (NAB). The NAB governs the long term care licencse in all 50 states and creates the exam that students need to pass to earn national accreditation. Southern’s program was the first in the country to meet the NAB’s criteria for top quality education and training of long term care administrators.

Lissa Kuhlman, ’10, assistant professor in the School of Business, became the director of the program in June 2016. She explained that the NAB is developing a new exam. “It will license people across a continuum of care,” Kuhlman said. “Because of this change, the NAB also recommended that we alter our program, so we are now in the process of rebranding the degree.”

The revised program will include skilled nursing but will add classes and internship hours for assisted living and home health, which are the two sections being added to the NAB exam.

“Most people immediately associate long term care and skilled nursing with nursing homes,” Kuhlman said. “In reality, skilled nursing has morphed into more of an extension of the hospital. Hospitals are no longer keeping patients for long periods after surgery, so skilled nursing has become essentially a place where patients go when they need an extra week with more care before they go home.”

By contrast, assisted living communities provide varying levels of care. Some patients may only need someone to remind them to take their medication, while others need assistance showering and eating.

Home and community health organizations are what most people serve, but to serve” (Mark 10:45). Therefore, even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve” (Mark 10:45).

A Heart of Service

With all that the long term care program has to offer prospective students, at its heart is Christian service. Otis and many others in the field agree that the most rewarding part is what they are able to give to their residents.

“I had a daughter of a resident come to my office one day. She was looking for a placement for her father,” Otis said. “Her dad had some recent health issues and could no longer live in his own home. She was completely beside herself, just sitting there crying. She felt so much guilt for having to place her father in an assisted living setting.”

It was very difficult for her to make that decision, but the daughter knew that she needed to make a change for her father. Her dad was reluctantly, too, at first. “After about a month in our community, the dad started getting involved in activities and began getting to know the other residents,” Otis said. “Soon his entire demeanor changed, and he became the Morning Pointe greeter. He would sit up at the front and welcome people and then tell them how much he loved living there.”

The man lived at Morning Pointe for several years, and when he passed away he was buried wearing his Morning Pointe greeter name badge.

“Being able to provide that care for him and be his advocate when they were so reluctant was so satisfying. To this day, the family still advocates for our community,” Otis said. “It isn’t always easy for people, and there are many emotional ups and downs in that process and calm their fears and care for their needs makes all the difference.”

By contrast, assisted living communities provide varying levels of care. Some patients may only need someone to remind them to take their medication, while others need assistance showering and eating. Home and community health organizations are what most people know as hospice care. These organizations are called upon when people want assistance showering and eating.

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Improvements With a Higher Purpose

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he School of Education and Psychology recently underwent significant changes. Degrees were updated, programs received accreditation, and the school returned to a renovated Summerour Hall. The school is now stronger and better prepared to guide students to their career paths.

Curriculum Enrichment

The Teacher Education program has added two Response to Intervention classes to teach elementary education majors how to better assist children struggling with math and reading.

“Not many teacher education programs provide intervention training, unless they are special education,” said Krystal Bishop, EdD, ’75, director of the Teacher Education program.

“Psychology broadened its bachelor’s degree offerings by adding a concentration for students wishing to focus on marriages and families as a vital foundation for later careers in clinical psychology, counseling, and marriage and family therapy.

On the graduate level, outdoor education students earning their Master of Science in Education participated this summer in the Dinosaur Project, led by Arthur Chadwick, PhD, of Southwesten Adventist University. They joined others from across North America for dinosaur excavation field experience in the Lance Formation of eastern Wyoming. This is part of a renewed effort to encourage deeper thought about issues of origins and biblical worldview.

“The master’s degree in instructional leadership, which puts students on track to be principals or school administrators, is now fully online to accommodate working students.

Program Recognition

In 2015, the School Counseling program achieved accreditation through the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). This recognition is an indication of program quality and enhances employment opportunities for graduates.

“We’re thrilled that our graduates have this recognition of their counselor education program,” said Ileana Freeman, PhD, director of graduate programs in counseling.

The undergraduate teacher education program is preparing for reaccreditation through the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) in 2017.

“Data should demonstrate that our students have the skills and knowledge to be effective teachers who positively impact student learning,” Bishop said. She expects the process to go well.

The previous program review cited no areas for improvement, a status achieved by only 2 to 3 percent of programs being reviewed at the time.

The quality of some research conducted by Southern’s psychology majors was recognized by the Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA).

Fernando Barrientos, ‘15, and Seth Daly-Stennis, ’15, were awarded for best undergraduate research study in 2015 and 2016.

Home Again

The complete renovation of Summerour Hall, which was completed in May 2014, kept the name of the building or the use of the small statue of Father for updates catered to the needs of students and faculty. I wanted instructors to walk into a classroom, plug in their computers, and have everything take off,” said John McCoy, EdD, dean of the School of Education and Psychology. “But ultimately, it’s really about making things easier for our students.”

New podiums feature automated screens, compatibility with a variety of computers, plus internet, DVD, and Blu-Ray capabilities.

The building is so well equipped,” Bishop said. “We have everything we need right at our fingertips. All of the technology is very usable.”

Student work areas and the Teaching Materials Center provide additional resources, while large windows offer inspiring views of the campus below.

The Focus of It All

While the inside of Summerour Hall caters to learning, a visual representation of the school’s mission graces the entrance. A bronze statue depicts a student on a bench, pointing to an open Bible as Jesus kneels beside her. The words “I Am the Way” are inscribed on the bench.

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Alumni Passion, God’s Purpose

By Shanna Brandt, junior broadcast major

When alumni gather for Homecoming Weekend, they visit together and share their life stories. As they do, one thing quickly becomes clear: through the years, Southern has consistently been a place where students could bring—or discover—their passion, then learn to shape it into a life of purpose, driven by the will of God. No matter their career paths, Southern’s graduates spread out and change the world. Following are a few examples.

Passion for Music

Robert (Robby) Raney, ’16, graduated with a degree in music education and a double minor in history and religion. God immediately put Raney’s gifts to work as a grade school teacher at Shetton Valley Christian School in Shetton, Washington. As a freshman, he received a scholarship from the School of Music, chose music as his major, and never looked back.

During Raney’s time at Southern, he took every opportunity to enrich his scholastic experience through national and international choir tours, a European history tour; an evangelistic trip to Madagascar; and in-depth involvement at church, while also working at Southern’s classical radio station, WSMC.

Raney’s current teaching job has challenged him in every way he had imagined and in many ways he hadn’t. Yet his time at Southern taught him how to share Jesus in a way that he relates to personally.

“I am not an evangelist,” Raney said, “but the language God has given me for sharing the gospel is music. Through Southern, I’ve gotten to do that in more ways than I can even count.”

Passion for Young People

William (Bill) Wood, ’66, graduated with a degree in history and a minor in religion. He’s currently using his passion for youth ministries as coordinator of North American Division Camp Ministries.

Before starting his academic career at what was then Southern Missionary College, Wood knew that he wanted to work for the church. His time at Southern solidified those goals. As Wood made new friends and created memories of band trips and “singspirations” on the front steps of Lynn Wood Hall, he grew spiritually and found direction in life.

After graduating from Southern, Wood served as a boys’ dean, teacher, principal, and youth leader at the local, conference, and union levels. The greatest challenge Wood faced in his career was balancing family and ministry. However, witnessing young people he had worked with giving their hearts to Jesus and becoming active, contributing members of the church made the challenges worthwhile for Wood.

“Ellen White tells us that God leads us in a way that we would choose ourselves if we knew the end from the beginning,” Wood said. “Even though life has not been perfect, my family and I are very grateful for how God has led us and absolutely have no regrets. It has been an amazing journey.”

Passion for Sharks

Jennie Dee Janssen, ’99, graduated with a bachelor’s degree in biology from Southern. She’s passionate about living things and has worked in various aquariums around the country. Since 2012, she has directed that energy into managing the changing exhibits at the National Aquarium in Baltimore, Maryland.

Janssen arrived at Southern her freshman year, unsure which major to pursue. Her father, a physician, encouraged her to take the pre-med track to keep her options open. Her career took shape after her biology professor, Bill Hayes, PhD, learned of Janssen’s special passion for sharks and contacted the Tennessee Aquarium. For the rest of her time at Southern, Janssen interned at the aquarium, growing her research, analytical, and lab skills.

While considering a biology career, Janssen was concerned that keeping Sabbath would be an issue. During a 14-day shark tagging expedition, she was surprised how accommodating her fellow biologists were to her religious beliefs. Since then, God has placed understanding people in her path every step of the way. Janssen is certain that God instilled her fascination for sharks, brought her to Southern, and orchestrated the pivotal discussion with her biology professor that started her journey.

“I had the passion, but it took someone at Southern showing me that my passion could be funneled into reality,” Janssen said. “The Lord has totally blessed me. He led me to all of this.”
In the previous issue of COLUMNS, I talked about building bridges for students and alumni through the Leadership Education through Alumni Partnerships (LEAP) mentorship program. We have heard from many of you about your desire to be a part of this program, and I look forward to seeing many more bridges built through these relationships.

When I first heard about the LEAP program, I was encouraged prospective students to visit and attend Southern? I want to hear how that worked. Did you connect with a Southern graduate? Tell me the story. Is there a current student at Southern who will count you as an integral part of his or her academic journey? Share with me the techniques you utilized. There are many intangibles that go into this process. Have you been doing it successfully, the easier it will become for all of us to participate.

Our Alumni Association would love to provide the tools for supporting your bridge-building activity! Visit southern.edu/alumni or call Alumni Relations at 423.226.2800 to learn how you can be involved.

Gary Council, 81 and 89, has spent 11 years in active service after a chaplain with the U.S. Army. After ordination in the North Dakota Conference, he moved to Salt Lake, Utah, and assisted with growing and maintaining a congregation on the base. While overseas, he helped provide pastoral care for more than 3,000 members assigned to military worship groups. Since then he has assisted the Mountain West churches, Potomac, Rocky Mountain, Pennsylvania, Gulf States, Texas, and Hawaii Conferences as a supply preacher and minor pastor of 11 churches in addition to planting two churches. Prior to ordination in 2015, Gary served as a director of the Office of the Chief of Chaplains at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. He and his wife of more than 52 years, Joyce, live in Manassas, Virginia, and are the parents of three adult children: their son’s family lives in Sparks, Nevada. Gary was interim pastor of 11 churches in the Potomac, Rocky Mountain, and Hawaii Conferences.

Ronda (Hurlbert) Bolton, 72, and her husband, Bob, recently celebrated 45 years of marriage. She is an administrative associate for the religious liberty department of the North Pacific Union Conference, and he works in information technology for Union Corporation in Vancouver, Washington. Bob enjoys summering in Kentucky, and Ronda occasionallychauds with him. Their daughter’s family lives near them, and her son’s family lives in Sparks, Nevada.

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When I first heard about the LEAP program, I was encouraged prospective students to visit and attend Southern? I want to hear how that worked. Did you connect with a Southern graduate? Tell me the story. Is there a current student at Southern who will count you as an integral part of his or her academic journey? Share with me the techniques you utilized. There are many intangibles that go into this process. Have you been doing it successfully, the easier it will become for all of us to participate.

Our Alumni Association would love to provide the tools for supporting your bridge-building activity! Visit southern.edu/alumni or call Alumni Relations at 423.226.2800 to learn how you can be involved.

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The word

**Glad**

by Cherie Smith, ’91

In the movie *Pollyanna*, a 12-year-old girl’s missionary parents die, and she moves in with her rich Aunt Polly. Despite her loss and transition, Pollyanna is cheerful, optimistic, and, no matter what the situation, always focuses on finding something to be glad about. The “Glad Game,” she explains, was created by her father one Christmas when a gift barrel arrived with crutches instead of a doll, which devastated her. Her dad was glad that Pollyanna didn’t need the crutches!

Later, Pollyanna falls off of a roof, leaving her legs paralyzed and challenging her ability to play the Glad Game. Temporarily she declares the Glad Game to be stupid. She isn’t going to play it anymore. However, in time she learns to be glad again, even when life is hard.

That is God’s desire for us. I’ve often longed for a faith that helps me play God’s version of the Glad Game. I want to “always [give] thanks to God the Father for everything” (Ephesians 5:20), no matter what tragic loss, big transition, or confusing life circumstance occurs. I want to authentically give thanks to Him in the midst of difficulty.

Although I’m still learning, God has taught me some ways to work toward being glad in the midst of painful experiences:

**Choose to run TO God, not FROM Him**

Adam and Eve hid from God (Genesis 3:8), and when we are hurt and confused, our initial reaction may be to turn away from Him, too. Figuring out how to be glad about a difficult life experience requires God’s Spirit. The good news is that even if we don’t want to run to God, we can ask Him to give us a heart to do so. Ezekiel 36:26 reminds us that it is God’s job to give us a new heart and a new spirit. If we have the courage to go TO God and dialogue with Him, He can give us the gifts we need to be glad when life is hard.

**Stand on God’s Promises**

One of the greatest interferences to our gladness in the midst of difficult experiences is that we believe the lies of Satan and doubt God’s love for us. To combat the lies, we must use the sword of the Spirit, “which is the word of God” (Ephesians 6:17).

God reinforced this lesson for me one horror morning when I felt totally abandoned. My sadness culminated with a near accident on ice as I drove to work. Pulling into a parking spot outside the church, I cried out to God, “Do you really love me?” Immediately, these words went through my mind: “I love you with an everlasting love.” God’s response to my hurt with His words, found in Jeremiah 31:3, shocked me, and my list of things to be glad about immediately grew!

**Practice Praising God**

Learning to “always [give] thanks to God the Father for everything” is a big step in surviving life’s traumas. Remembering how God has revealed His love and care in the past, we face the future with the assurance that He is with and for us. One way to remember is to write down when we’ve seen God work in our lives and to thank Him.

Recently I paused through my prayer journal and was reminded of a day God saved the lives of two of my grandsons. Our then 10-month-old grandson was eating breakfast and choked. As his Mom worked to dislodge the food from his throat, I prayed. When the baby could breathe again, we thanked God for His gift.

Hours later we received a call that our 2-year-old grandson had been separated from his parents in an airport. Security joined them in looking, while we joined them in prayer. A few moments later, he was found.

For days after these two experiences, I thanked God for His intervention. However, over time I totally forgot about that day until I reread the accounts. The written record reminded me of God’s personal intervention and great love. It gave me opportunity to praise God again for His care.

God longs for us to be able to be glad in good and bad times. During difficult experiences, we can choose to run to God, stand on His promises, and daily find things to praise Him for. Then, like Pollyanna, we will find gladness and healing and give hope to others.

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**Face Full of Life**

While traveling with 17 students and three faculty members in Bali this summer with the Tropical Biology class, Southern Marketing and University Relations employee Ryan Pierce, captured this image of a vendor in a local marketplace. The class trip is a unique academic and cultural opportunity, which takes students to Indonesia for a three-week intensive field course.
The 2015-2016 fiscal year was record-breaking and transformational because of your generous support! Southern Adventist University students, employees, and constituents say thank you!

4,539 alumni, friends, employees, students, corporations, and foundations gave $12,263,691 through Southern to impact our students, our community, and our world. This was a record-breaking year, with the most dollars ever given to Southern.

1,373 people gave to The Southern Fund, the lifeblood of Southern, which helps keep tuition 20 percent lower for students. This was a record-breaking year, with the highest number of donors ever contributing to this fund.

98,877 hours of community service and service learning initiatives were completed with 50 organizations.

752 students graduated from Southern this year, another record number!

Every Southern story includes you. Your gifts, no matter the size, impact every student's Southern Experience. Here are three ways to make your year-end gift by December 31:

Give online: southern.edu/give
By phone: 423.236.2772
Or mail: Advancement
P.O. Box 370
Collegedale, TN 37315

For a comprehensive view of giving in 2015-2016, visit southern.edu/annualreport.