

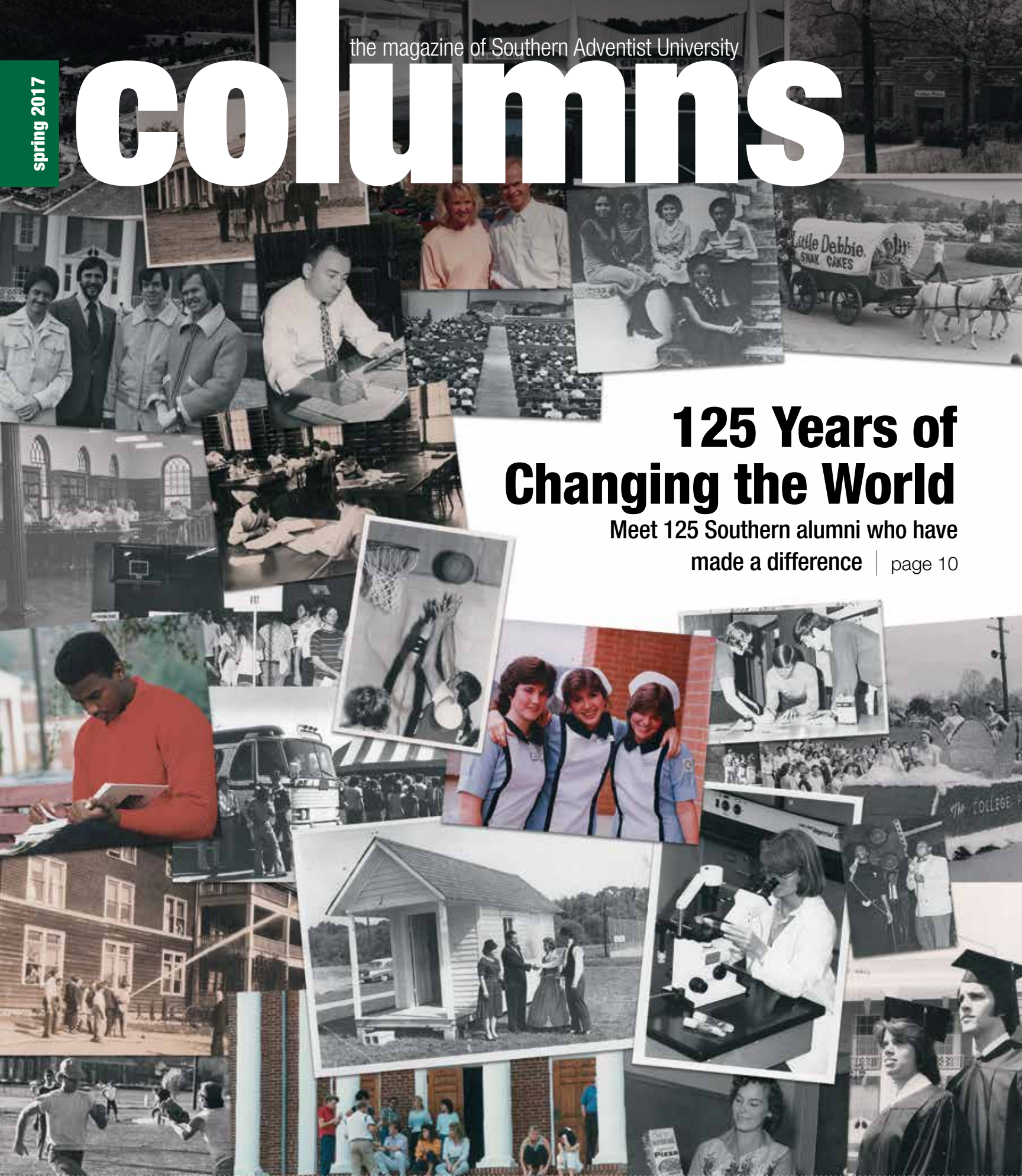
spring 2017

the magazine of Southern Adventist University

columns

125 Years of Changing the World

Meet 125 Southern alumni who have
made a difference | page 10





Columns Built to Last

Built in 1967, Wright Hall quickly became an iconic Southern symbol, with its columns featured prominently on the logo and in the name of this magazine. Serving as the administration building, it was named after Kenneth Wright, president from 1943 to 1955. During his tenure, Wright transformed Southern from a junior college into a fully accredited four-year college. Now a university offering master's and doctorate degrees, Southern is still graced by Wright Hall's presence at the heart of Southern's campus.

Photo: Ryan Pierce

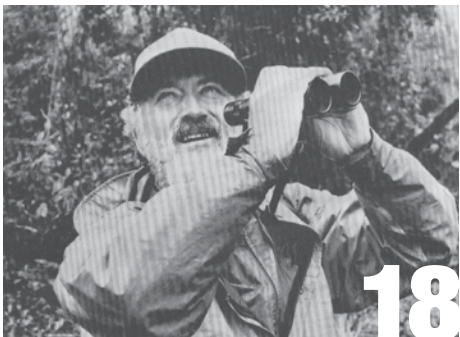
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On the cover: The clothes and hairstyles on campus may have changed through the years, but the thirst for knowledge and the desire to serve remain the same.

columns

Volume 69 Number 1
Alumni Edition

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youtube



Find the video links at southern.edu/columns.



Southern believes in opening doors so more and more young people can enroll to experience the life-changing environment that leads to personal transformation and readiness for careers, ministry, and service.



Braxton Young, junior computer systems administration major, visited some of the highlights of the greater Chattanooga area, sharing them in alphabetical order.



A group of Southern students recently challenged themselves to actively brighten the lives of others on campus. In doing so, they started a chain reaction of kindness.

twitter



twitter.com/SouthernNews

“Oldest baby getting on a plane to @SouthernNews for a college scouting trip. Where have the years gone?”

» Jean Boonstra, associate speaker for the Voice of Prophecy and author, @jeanboonstra

“It’s nice to see the students of #southernadventistuniversity cleaning the park on this national holiday. #MLKDAY”

» Jaclyn Bishop, community member, @jaclyn_bishop



“At Southern Adventist University interviewing education graduates.”

» Stephen Bralley, superintendent of education for the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, @StephenBralley

“Just got to talk with a @SouthernNews alumnus who worked on Project Gemini, Surveyor Program, and other ‘classified things.’ How cool!”

» Kenny Turpen, '09, Advancement employee, @Turpenator88



instagram



“Study time. Study time. Learning about early American writers and about history through their lives is really interesting. #booknerd”

» Jolene Clayburn, junior marketing major, @jojobeautifullyme



“Puerto Rico: Day 6. First school performance and also a nice evening concert. #orchestra”
(During the Symphony Orchestra’s spring break tour.)

» Thyrell Smith, sophomore marketing major, with Amanda Reed, junior psychology major, @thyrell_smith



“On the last day of VBS, the 50+ Peruvian children rushed all of us, screaming ‘GRACIAS!’ and gave us all hugs.... The biggest thing of all was that these children were so happy. They lived in shacks the size of my bedroom and wore the same clothes every day, but they were the happiest children I’ve ever met. I’d go back to Peru all over again just for the children.”

» Mia Spicer, junior nursing major, @mauvelousmia

worth a click!



For more than a century, Southern’s students, employees, and alumni have prioritized serving others, making it a way of life. From everyday activities such as helping an elderly neighbor to larger-scale events such as going on a mission trip, each person becomes the hands and feet of Jesus to the world. In celebration of Southern’s 125th anniversary, the university aims to collect a total of 125,000 hours of service by the end of 2017. All are welcome to contribute! Visit southern.edu/125 to participate and check progress.



facebook

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I had so much fun going to the market for the first time this week.... Look at this produce! Better than a Super Walmart. Okay, just for produce. I miss my Walmart! 😊

» Alicia (Wood) Harding, '05

Harding recently moved to Riverside Farm Institute in Zambia as a missionary.



Thanks, Dean Magers, for always looking out for us! You always keep us fresh with the best SAU gear! #SAUtoPalau #saualums

» Abner Sanchez, attended, principal of Palau Mission Academy and Elementary (second from left) with Corey Johnson, '10; Linski Cherisol, '14; and Edely Sanchez, '09



My Valentine made me a delicious home-cooked Peruvian meal ❤️

» Cheryl (Fuller) Torres, '05, with Alejandro Torres, '15

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Nursing Simulations Provide Real-World Experience

Beginning last year, Southern's School of Nursing added an additional type of simulation to its curriculum: an intensive care unit (ICU) multipatient interprofessional collaborative practice simulation. This learning experience includes undergraduate students from nursing, theology, and pre-med, as well as social work and acute care nurse practitioner graduate students.

"Simulation is an excellent way to provide real-life experiences in a safe environment," said Barbara (Davis) James, PhD, '75, dean of the School of Nursing.

During this interprofessional simulation, students take what they learned in the classroom and apply it in the skills lab, which is transformed into an eight-bed ICU with mannequins and volunteer "patients." To make the experience as real as possible, additional chaos and complexities surrounding the patients' "families" is integrated into the training.

Students complete three-hour shifts, which include an orientation, the hands-on simulation, and a thorough debriefing. During the hands-on segment, nursing students provide care for their "patients" while the acute care nurse practitioners and pre-med students make rounds and order diagnostic tests and treatments.

Social work graduate students act as case managers, patients, and family members, and theology majors offer spiritual support.

"The simulation was critical to my development of rapid assessment and critical thinking skills in an ICU setting," said Katie Mayfield, junior nursing major. "Working in a hospital environment can be intimidating because you're handling the lives of real people, while the simulation lab allows for a helpful 'time out.'"

After conducting two simulations of this kind, the School of Nursing hosted the local chapter of the Tennessee Organization of Nursing (TONE) and showed a video of the simulation. The group congratulated Southern on this innovative and high-tech teaching methodology.

"I was greatly impressed by the operation, the multiple layers of complexity and people, and the depth of the disease processes covered," said William Crowe, president of TONE.

Southern's nursing faculty plan to continue these simulations every semester due to the positive outcomes and the rave reviews from students.

"Simulation-enhanced intra- and interprofessional education provides a powerful opportunity for students to engage



During simulations, Southern's nursing students face real-life scenarios in an ICU setting.

in patient care in cooperation with other health professionals," James said. "We are pleased and proud to provide such relevant interactive experiences for our students."

The fully-accredited School of Nursing enrolls more than 1,200 students pursuing degrees ranging from associate to doctorate.

—Oksana Wetmore

» by the numbers

58,124

Total graduates and attendees of Southern Adventist University since 1892

216

Boxes of Cracker Jacks handed out on January 25 (1/25) in celebration of Southern's 125 anniversary

3,850

Hours of service given during Southern's MLK Community Service Day

36

Varieties of vegetarian meat substitutes served on campus

9,654

Student check-ins at Hulsey Wellness Center during the month of January

72

Hours spent reading the entire Bible out loud during Ancient Words Marathon

[news briefs]

School of Social Work to Train Police Officers

Southern's School of Social Work recently acquired a \$15,000 grant, that will enable its faculty to train 200 local police officers in the practice, values, and ethics of social work. A cooperative spirit and learning posture demonstrated by law enforcement personnel lessens tension between the community and officers and increases officers' ability to protect and serve.

Southern Begins Arboretum Process

Thanks to a donation from an anonymous Southern alumnus, the university is identifying and tagging trees on campus with the goal of creating a flourishing arboretum in the next three years. Labels on each tree will be interactive, linking to photographs of the tree in different seasons and the location of similar trees on campus. The project supports Southern's Vision 20/20 strategic plan and the Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning, both of which include an emphasis on the greening of campus.

Music Students Represent Tennessee at Convention

Over spring break, students from Southern's School of Music choral ensembles represented the state of Tennessee at the National Conference of the American Choral Director's Association (ACDA) held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, by singing in the ACDA Collegiate Honor Choir. Three senior education majors—Jeffery Dean, Daniela Monzon, and Deysha Williams—along with Steven Blondo, '15, and Gennevie Brown-Kibble, professor and director of choral activities, participated.

Students Assist Mayor's Office with History Project

Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke asked area educators and nonprofits for help honoring the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. History students from Southern and other local colleges are collecting 200 oral histories of women who have made the city a better place. Southern students have conducted 60 interviews, including 10 that were either Southern faculty, staff, or alumni.

Southern Offers New Political Science Major

Students interested in law and government careers will soon have a major tailored for them. Southern's History and Political Studies Department will begin offering a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science this fall.



Professor Kris Erskine, PhD

Professor and chair of the department, Kris Erskine, PhD, said many students have expressed an ongoing interest in the major.

"The department as a whole is excited," Erskine said. "This is such a fundamental part of what a department like ours should offer."

Political science was previously available only as a minor. This new major will equip students with a wide range of skills, not only sharpening their critical thinking and analytical aptitude, but also advancing their ability to communicate verbally and through writing.

Students will engage in core political science classes while further enriching their learning in a specific area of their choice, including political theory, American politics, comparative politics, or international relations.

Shannon Martin, assistant professor of both political studies and global community development, said the areas of focus are designed with the students' futures in mind. After graduation, students will be equipped to work nationally and internationally or to further their education through graduate school.

Martin said the department conducted extensive research while creating and developing the degree. By comparing political science programs offered at other private and public universities, the faculty sought to create a competitive and holistic program for Southern students.

—Staff Report

More Than Diapers

by Abigail King, sophomore marketing major

Interactions with David Nelsen, PhD, assistant professor in the Biology Department, leave an impression on students. Inspired by the care he showed them, both in and out of the classroom, a group of six junior biology majors—Pablo Huerfano, Aaron Keiser, Nicholas McCall, Gus Moretta, Alphie Rotinsulu, and Gus Suarez—found a way to give back to the professor who had given so much of himself to them.

Student Guide

While in the classroom, Nelsen views himself as a guide rather than a teacher. He believes that students learn the most during quiet study time and, therefore, the professor's job is to provide the student with the necessary tools to succeed.

"I present the information with plenty of examples and connect new knowledge to previous knowledge using practical application," Nelsen said.

Prior to teaching at Southern, Nelsen studied at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where he received a degree in biology. He then studied at Loma Linda University (LLU), where he received his doctorate in biology. While at LLU he focused his attention on the study of spiders and venom, particularly black widows and how they utilize their venom. Nelsen developed a love for research that he hoped to one day share with his students. Shortly after graduating from LLU, Nelsen accepted a job at Southern.

"It was a dream come true," Nelsen said.

Making Connections

During his first year at Southern, Nelsen taught general biology as well as a general biology lab.

"We were all freshman when Dr. Nelsen started teaching here," McCall said. "Since then, he has become someone we have all been able to go talk to in serious situations and in casual ones."

Beyond serving as professor and adviser to his students, Nelsen has also become their friend.



Students connect with David Nelsen in his biology classroom as well as in their free time.

"Ever since I started here at Southern, he has been a professor I felt close to," Keiser said. "He is someone I can feel comfortable talking to as a professor and joking with as a friend."

Many of Nelsen's other students feel the same way and willingly share about his kindness toward them.

"I enjoy sitting in Dr. Nelsen's office listening to him talk about things that he is passionate about," Moretta said. "He has very eccentric interests that are fascinating."

Giving Back

As Huerfano, Keiser, McCall, Moretta, Rotinsulu, and Saurez talked with Nelsen at the beginning of this school year, they learned that his wife would be having a second child in January of 2017. They decided that they wanted to give him a very special gift.

"We wanted to show our appreciation for him as well as congratulate him on his new baby girl," Keiser said. As college students without much money to spend on a gift for the baby, they decided to give him the gift of their time, as Nelsen had previously done for them.

The young men stopped by Nelson's office, bringing with them a box of diapers and a card. Inside the card was a coupon book with vouchers for two free hours of babysitting from each of them.

"It was really cool of them to do that," Nelsen said. "My wife was very happy and excited, since she knows most of the guys who offered their child-care services."

The Nelsens' daughter, Olivine, was born on January 15. Since she is still a newborn, the new parents are choosing to wait to redeem their coupons from the students until she is older. However, the young men continue to approach Nelsen, excitedly asking about when their services will be needed.

As Nelsen has become more involved in the Biology Department at Southern, he is thrilled to not only get to know students and fellow professors, but also to share his passion for science and research. He recently started a medical toxicology class in which he and his students study venom and poison. Nelsen continues to show Christ's love through his interactions with students, and in return, they are paying it forward. ■

Professors Capture the Moment

Academic regalia, *Pomp and Circumstance*, and broad smiles abounded during Southern's Spring Commencement on May 7, as 352 undergraduate, 55 graduate, and nine doctoral students received their degrees. Several English professors paused to capture the joy of the moment: Autumn Schillerman, holding the phone, and clockwise, Jodi Ruf; Rachel Byrd, PhD; Linda Tym, PhD; Kathy Goddard; and Clarise Nixon. The professors prominently display their 125th anniversary pins, which all of this year's graduating students and participating faculty will receive during the three 2017 graduation weekends.



125 Years of Changing the World

More than 50,000 individuals have attended Southern, and each has uniquely impacted the world. From working in the White House to teaching first-graders, from serving as healthcare administrators to building tiny homes, each has left an important mark. In honor of Southern's 125th anniversary, here are **125 Southern alumni who made a difference in the world.**

Rochelle (Philmon) Kilgore, 1904

A pioneer in Adventist elementary education in the South and in Nebraska, she also spent 25 years at Atlantic Union College, where she guided the English Department, directed the school's job placement service, and worked closely with its alumni association.

George Gentry Lowry, 1908

Influential in taking the Adventist message to India as a pioneering missionary pastor, he founded Spicer Memorial College in 1915 and later led the Southern Asia Division. He remained in India until he died suddenly in 1942 at the age of 57.



John Francis Wright, 1911 — First a minister and evangelist, he became a lifelong church leader, serving as president of the Alabama and North Texas conferences, president of the Cape Conference in South Africa, president of the Southern African Division, and later as a vice-president of the General Conference.

Robert Ellsworth Cowdrick, 1923 With many years of experience in hymnology, he served on the committee that created the Adventist hymnal that debuted at the 1985

General Conference Session. He also contributed to the *Companion to the Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*.

Robert Leo Odom, 1924 — His 60-year ministry included 17 years in Spain, Greece, and the Philippines. He also taught university courses in Germany, England, Indonesia, India, Argentina, and the United States, and he wrote more than 30 books, ranging from literature for the uneducated to profound scholarly works. A world-class scholar of Sabbath history and the history of calendars, he learned more than 10 languages.

Anna Ruth (King), 1926 and O.D. McKee, 1928 — The couple founded McKee Baking Company in 1934, which eventually became the nation's largest independently owned snack cake company.



William Kuester, 1929 — He ran in the Los Angeles Marathon many times and won two gold medallions for placing first in his category.

Clyde Franz, 1932 — As a Seventh-day Adventist Church executive, he oversaw membership statistics and missionary recruitment for international outposts; this year he turned 104 and is the oldest known Southern alum.



Robert H. Pierson, 1933 — For 46 years he ministered around the world in various church roles, including as the General Conference president; he also wrote hundreds of articles and about 30 books.

Lettie (Sibley) Collins, 1935 — She spent more than 25 years as a missionary teacher in Colombia, Guatemala, and Puerto Rico.

Charles E. Aebersold, 1938 — As a public educator for 50 years, he traveled to 49 states and 79 foreign countries.

Pierce Jones Moore, Jr., 1939

The governor of North Carolina honored him with The Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award in 2011 for his record of extraordinary community service.

Elsie (Landon) Buck, 1941 — Dedicating her life to music education, she championed the use of music as part of multicultural education in Russia and China. She was also president of the International Adventist Musicians Association (IAMA) from 1992 to 2009 and was elected to the National Guild of Piano Teachers Hall of Fame.

Pansy (Parker) Dameron, 1944

For her dedication as a teacher and principal, she was elected to the Education Hall of Fame in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Joe Crews, 1946 — He founded Amazing Facts, a media ministry known for its nationwide radio (and later television) programs that begin with an attention-grabbing historical scientific fact followed by a related biblical message.

Alice (Perkins) Kimber, 1947

Awarded an honorary doctorate in social work by the World University Roundtable International Secretariat in Tucson, Arizona, she was also included in the 1985 book *2,000 Notable Americans* and the 1984 edition of *The World Who's Who of Women*, published in Cambridge, England.

Frank Jobe, attended — He made sports medicine history when he performed the first reconstruction of the ulnar collateral ligament (UCL) of the elbow, using a revolutionary procedure he devised. Now internationally known as the

Tommy John surgical procedure, it not only rescued the career of the Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher after which it was named, but also enabled John to pitch 14 additional seasons post-surgery.

Edna (Stewart) Manley, 1948

For 50 years she worked as a secretary for the Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service. She also owned her own retail art supply business and taught art classes at night in her studio.

Cecil Coffey, 1949 — An early leader in Adventist marketing and advertising, he and his wife, Barbra, founded Coffey Communications, Inc., a leading agency that provides custom healthcare publications for hospitals.

Frances Andrews, 1949 — The first editor of the *Southern Accent*, she later became the editor of *Columns* and revised the

publication from a four-page newsletter to a 16-page magazine. She taught English and journalism in Virginia for 38 years before returning to teach at Southern. She retired in 1987.

Ruth (Risetter) Watson, 1949

Her book, *Backwoods Girl*, is told through the eyes of a child growing up in Eastern Tennessee in the late 1920s and then facing the Great Depression.

Charles Pierce, 1951 — The first Southern Missionary College music graduate to earn a doctorate in music, he taught at four academies and three colleges. Nearly half of his career was spent at Adventist colleges in Brazil and Canada. A frequent piano recitalist and active singer, he also played organ and directed choirs in churches of different denominations throughout his career.

Wilbur "Buddy" Brass, 1951 — As a new Adventist who had just completed naval service during World War II, he earned his theology degree at Southern and then pastored for 10 years. Next, he followed his dream of full-time evangelism. God blessed his efforts over the next 30 years with more than 3,000 baptisms.

Mary Elam, 1951 — As the registrar at Southern from 1953 to 1993, she established the department of Institutional Effectiveness and Research on campus and advocated for women in leadership and management positions.



P. William "Bill" Dysinger, 1951

After working with Native Americans in Montana and Arizona, he served the U.S. State Department in Cambodia. He then spent 28 years in teaching and administration at Loma Linda University, where he helped found the School of Public Health. He was the first physician to advise the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) on its health programs around the world, and he has visited more than 160 nations.



In the spring of 1892, 23 students took their seats in a rented room above the general store in Graysville, Tennessee, for the first time. Though small, this class marked the beginning of what is today Southern Adventist University. Many things have changed in the last 125 years, but the core values of placing God first, nurturing students, and serving others have never wavered.

To read a short history of the school by President David Smith, PhD, visit southern.edu/columns.



Chester Damron, 1957
Well known as “Uncle Dan” from the Adventist radio program “Your Story Hour,” he also served as a missionary in the Far East and gave convincing costumed portrayals of Abraham Lincoln.

Robert E. Bowers, 1957 – Recognized by the Chattanooga Trial Lawyers Association for his “outstanding and unselfish contributions” to improve public health and access to healthcare in his community, he created a program that provides healthcare services donated by more than 700 doctors to the underserved and uninsured in Hamilton County. A retired otolaryngologist, he was president of the Tennessee Medical Association and the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Medical Society.

Harold Johnson, 1958 – For decades he served as a volunteer chaplain at Florida Hospital in Avon Park, Florida, and for Civil Air Patrol units. He also produced a weekly evangelistic radio program that aired in his community for a number of years.

Juanita (Jones) Hamil, 1958
She published an inspirational book, *From a Nobody to the Daughter of the King*, as well as a children’s book, *Best Buddies*. Her work as an author, artist, graphics technician, and fine-arts painter has appeared in magazines, books, and syndicated columns for many years.

Donald Hall, 1961 – After earning a doctorate in physics and a master’s degree in music, he blended the two passions and became a recognized expert in acoustics, the physics of sound; he wrote two textbooks on the subject. Now a professor emeritus at California State University in Sacramento, he has taught courses in relativity and astrophysics since 1974.

James “Jim” Tucker, 1962 – Founder of the American Birding Association, he launched the journal *Birding* (see page 18 for the full story).

Gerald Kovalski, 1963 – He influenced Adventist education, first as an academy principal and then as Education Department director in several Southern Union conferences, as well as the North American Division.

Darleen (Davis) Sanford, 1964 – She has been a Disney cast member in Florida as well as a news correspondent in Clarksville, Maryland.

Gilbert Burnham, 1964 – A professor at Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health, he is an internationally renowned researcher for treatments and cures of tropical diseases and has been honored by Johns Hopkins, Loma Linda University School of Medicine, and the American Public Health Association.

Des Cummings, Jr., 1965 – President of Florida Hospital Foundation, he founded Celebration Health Hospital and authored several books on healthcare in the 21st century.

Kenneth “Ken” Spears, 1966
During the 36 years he worked at Southern, Ken helped lead the development of the budding City of Collegedale, serving eight years as city councilman and vice mayor, besides volunteering on numerous boards in the community.



Bill Wood, 1966 – He directed youth camps throughout the North American Division before serving as the NAD Youth Ministries director.

Robert Potts, 1966 – An influential figure in higher education, he served as chancellor of Arkansas State University, chancellor of the North Dakota University System, and president of the University of Alabama.

Susan (Rozell) Pettibone, 1966
She taught in India before serving as a missionary in Africa for 32 years with her husband, Don.

Allen Steele, 1967
After pioneering Adventist World Radio, he was elected chairman of International Communications Research for Evangelization, a consortium of Christian broadcasters.



Gary Councell, 1967 – Besides providing pastoral care for more than 1,000 members scattered in 12 military worship groups, he also served as a director in the office of the Chief of Chaplains at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

Jim Herman, 1967 – He established and organized the Student Missions program for Southern and served as a pastor for many years.

Edwin M. Shafer, 1968 – With more than 35 years of fundraising experience, he was named Outstanding Fundraising Executive of 2013 by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Greater Wichita Chapter.

Richard Garey, 1968 – As the featured performer for Bermuda’s 400th anniversary celebration, he did the show “Mark Twain Himself” at the request of Bermuda’s governor. He performs as Samuel L. Clemens regularly in his own theater, near the Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum in Hannibal, Missouri.

Annie (Robinson) Brown, 1969 – The first African American graduate from Southern, she was a nursing professor for many years and a director of nursing.



Jackie (Hiser) Tucker, 1969 – She hosted a television program with her husband called “Windows of Hope” and served as the ministry relations coordinator for The Quiet Hour.

Jim Davis, 1969 – As a North Carolina state senator, he focuses his life on serving others.

Mary Jo “Joie” Davis, 1970 – As a pediatric nurse practitioner, she worked at the Tennessee Department of Health, Southeast Region, as nursing coordinator of Crippled Children’s Service, and later at the Laboratory of Clinical Infectious Diseases. She also spent two years serving in a combat support hospital during Operation Desert Storm and then worked for the National Human Genome Research Institute.

Phil Garver, 1970 – His 43 years of denominational service as a health and physical educator included teaching at Southern for 37 years—26 of them as dean of the School of Physical Education, Health, and Wellness.

Vikki (Heath) Murphy, attended
Named “Outstanding Business Woman of the Year” in 2001 by the American Business Women’s Association and “City of Orange Citizen of the Year” in 2004, she also received the “Good Scout” award from the Boy Scouts of America.

Jim Ingersoll, 1973 – He served as educational associate director for secondary education at the Southern Union and aided in the development and implementation of the Adventist EDGE initiative.



Dwight Nelson, 1973 – He is senior pastor of Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Carl Pedersen, 1974 – As vice president for finance and technology at radio station WPLN, he oversees all Nashville Public Radio business, accounting functions, and technical systems. In 1989 he received the Corporation for Public Broadcasting’s Program Gold Award for Outstanding Technical Achievement, the highest public radio award given.

Eva Lynne (Zollinger) Disbro, 1974
McKee Foods vice president for human resources for more than 20 years, she broke a 96-year tradition when in 1998 she was named the first woman to chair the board of Chattanooga Manufacturing Association, the oldest group of its kind in the nation.



William B. Broome II, 1974 – As a military chaplain at the Pentagon, he ministered to the nation’s top military commanders, regardless of denomination or beliefs.

Dave Weigley, 1977 – He is president of the Columbia Union Conference and chair of Washington Adventist University’s Board of Trustees.

Tom Fogg, 1977 – With more than 40 years of denominational service, he is currently the principal at A.W. Spalding Elementary School in Collegedale.

Robert Benge, 1977 – Currently dean of Southern’s School of Physical Education, Health, and Wellness, he has served for 40 years as a health and physical educator.

Becky (Norskov) Weigley, attended
When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, she and her husband, Dave, ’77, were the first American evangelists to visit Russia in more than 70 years. They led a team conducting meetings in seven large cities along the Volga River.

Steve Darmody, 1978 – He is an internationally renowned Christian music evangelist, recording artist, and World Vision advocate.

David Canther, 1979 – As of 2012, Active Christians That Serve (ACTS) World Relief, which he founded, had given \$66 million in emergency supplies and medicine, served 1.1 million hot meals, removed 5,640 pounds of debris, and utilized 80,100 volunteers.

David Kay, 1979 – After the Berlin Wall came down in 1989, he was one of the first U.S. officers to cross into the interzonal, no-man’s land to coordinate arrangements with East German guards. He also served as vice consul at the U.S. embassy in Kigali, Rwanda, for two years.



Lars Gustavsson, 1979 – He serves as Chief Futurist for World Vision International.

Alberto Valenzuela, 1978 – In 1998, as director of video production for the General Conference, he led a communication campaign in Italy that put the Adventist Church in every major publication and led to millions of dollars for development and relief work.

Del Schutte, 1980 – Loma Linda University School of Medicine honored him for his work as an orthopedic surgeon in South Carolina and for his hundreds of hours volunteering in medical mission work.

Penelope Duerksen-Hughes, 1982
She is renowned for leading in cutting-edge biochemistry research at Loma Linda University School of Medicine.

Glenn Van Arsdell, 1983 – As a pediatric heart surgeon in Canada, he developed cutting-edge, internationally-recognized, pediatric heart transplant procedures.

Ingrid Kirindongo, 1983 – As a medical professional in West Palm Beach, Florida, she knows what happens when people neglect their health. To educate children on disease prevention, in 2014 she published her third book, *Body Wars: The Battle for Good Health*.



Jeffrey Kuhlman, 1983 – He worked as a White House physician, serving George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

Ron Bunch, 1983 – As a student at Southern, he began fixing computers, eventually opening ComputerConnection in Chattanooga.

Rhonda Jeannine Hanson, 1984
Taught Bible and English to all ages and backgrounds in Moscow, Russia, where she worked with the International Teachers Service of the General Conference.

Donna (Lynn) Lee, 1985 – Partner in the civil defense law firm Hart Wagner LLP in Portland, Oregon, where she defends physicians, nurses, dentists, chiropractors, naturopathic doctors, and other healthcare providers in malpractice lawsuits.



Terry Cantrell, 1985 – He has traveled the world as international producer/director for “Making Waves,” producer/director of “ASI Video Magazine,” and line producer for It Is Written Television, Breath of Life, Lifestyle Magazine, Voice of Prophecy, and many other programs and events.

Darryl and Cheryl (Stuyvesant) Hosford, 1989 and 1985 – Their Hosford Web Service designed the Net ’98 website as well as the Discover Bible Lessons online.

Kevin Rice, 1986 – With more than 20 years of experience, he runs his own ophthalmology practice in Memphis, Tennessee.

Deirdre (Rivera) Martin, 1987 and 1990 – She co-founded dream*VISION ministries, dedicated to empowering young people in Christian lifestyle and leadership, and was a co-presenter with her husband for marriage conferences sponsored by NAD Family Ministries. She celebrated her 50th birthday while training for the IRONMAN triathlon this year.



Neal Gallion, 1987 – While serving in Japan as religious program specialist petty officer for the U.S. Navy, he coordinated religious activities for commander fleet activities and organized charitable deliveries to refugee centers and orphanages.



James Gulley, 1987 – As director of the medical oncology service at National Cancer Institute, he runs multiple clinical trials in immunotherapy for solid tumors with an emphasis on immunotherapy for prostate cancer. In 2011 he received a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers.

Bob Folkenberg, Jr., 1987 – Currently the president of the Chinese Union Mission, headquartered in Hong Kong, he previously served as president of several NAD conferences and as associate director of ShareHim, a global evangelism organization.



Robert Jimenez, 1987
Named one of *Hispanic Business Magazine's* "100 Most Influential Hispanics in America" in 2007, he is also an International Association of Business Communicators/Atlanta Catalyst Award winner.

A. Allan Martin, 1990 – As an associate professor at Andrews University, he received the National Council on Family Relations' Certified Family Life Educator designation.

Jeff Grange, 1990 – President and CEO of Symons Ambulance in Southern California and associate professor of emergency medicine at Loma Linda University Medical Center, he invented Advanced Emergency Geographic Information System (AEGIS), which lets emergency service

professionals check traffic and weather and see which hospitals are accepting patients and where helicopters and ambulances are located.

Christopher Hulin, 1991 – He serves as dean and program director at Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia located in Madison, Tennessee.



Mark McKenzie, 1991 – As a medical doctor, patients have sought his care at The McKenzie Center for Internal Medicine in Chattanooga, Tennessee, for 15 years.

Franklin Farrow, 1993 – Co-founder of Independent Healthcare Properties, LLC, he was named Chattanooga's "Outstanding Philanthropist" by the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

James Dittes, 1993 – One of 80 educators nationwide to be chosen as a national fellow with America Achieves Fellowship for Teachers and Principals, he served as a 2014-2015 fellow with Teachers for Global Classrooms and blogs regularly about teaching ideas, the paperless classroom, and education issues.

Luc Sabot, 1993 – He recently served as ADRA country director in Laos and has also served that role in Senegal and Timor-Leste.

Paul Evans, 1993 – Director of the Intelligent Systems division at Southwest Research Institute, he helped develop a robotic device for a NASA project called DEPTHX, which aided scientists in exploring what is beneath the ice layer on Europa, the sixth moon of Jupiter.

Joseph Eunkwan Choi, 1995 – As a conductor who brings music to life, he was a winner at an international conducting workshop in Macon, Georgia. As a result, he was invited to study with Yuri Temirkanov and guest conduct the St. Petersburg Philharmonic (Congress) Orchestra in Russia.

James Appel, 1996 – He has served as a medical missionary in Chad for many years, and he also volunteered in Liberia during the Ebola outbreak.

Khari Bocala, 1996 and 1997 – While studying computing at Southern, he helped develop a next-generation cellular phone system for Lucent Technologies. Later he mentored eight teams of programmers to upgrade the ground control system for the Hubble Space Telescope.



Daniel Wolcott, 1997 – President and CEO of Lodi Health, he has also been an administrator at Takoma Regional Hospital and Florida Hospital Memorial System.

Crystal Candy, 1999 – As the official on-air presenter for Dyson, Inc., she was responsible for all live demonstrations of the company's products on the Home Shopping Network. She also worked for several years as a TV host/producer and news reporter in Orange County, Florida.

Jennie (Dee) Janssen, 1999
Now managing changing exhibits at the National Aquarium in Baltimore, Maryland, she also worked as an aquarist at Ripley's Aquarium in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, and the Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta.

Khalid Sorenson, 1999 – He co-founded CAMotion Cranes, a robotic crane company that provided technology to companies such as Caterpillar, General Motors, and Hyundai.

Crischelle Shank, 2000 – For seven years she served as director of Malamulo Adventist Hospital in Malawi, Africa.

John P. Sterner, 2001 – Northwestern Mutual honored him multiple times for helping clients achieve financial security.

Gary Roberts, 2001 – An Adventist Aviation Indonesia pilot, he has flown around the world in a small aircraft by lines of longitude and previously served as a missionary in Africa.

Brad Mills, 2002 – He is the president and general coordinator of Amazon Lifesavers Ministry, bringing health education and care to the jungles of Brazil with his wife, Lina (Gates), '02.



Kyle Warren, 2002 – He was one of the first 3-D animation modelers for Three Angels Broadcasting Network.

Aaron Adams, 2002 – Besides working at Walt Disney Animation Studios, he has also taught at Southern and used his animation skills in ministry work for Martoos Studios.

Esther (Kim) Liu, 2002 – The first to graduate with biophysics from Southern, she is now the chair of Pediatrics at University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center.

Steven Baughman, 2003 – Presented with the 2011 Excellence in Teaching Award from the national Alumni Awards Foundation, he was commissioned by the Southern Union and the North American Division to write subject-area standards for its secondary school curriculum.

Sarah (Matthews) McDugal, 2003
As a Hollywood brand strategist, she wrote the book *One Face: Shed the Mask, Own Your Values, and Lead Wisely*.

Matthew Mundall, 2003 – He serves as fire captain at Tri-Community Volunteer Fire Department in Collegedale, Tennessee.

Rob York, 2003 – Previously a writer and editor for the *Korea Herald* in Seoul, he also served as chief editor for news and features at *North Korea News*.

Alan Darmody, 2005 – He began Magic Hour Foundation, a nonprofit that provides those fighting cancer with the ability to celebrate the truly important things in life through photographs of themselves and their loved ones.

Kelly Razzouk, 2005 – She served as an adviser to Ambassador Samantha Power at the United Nations.

Matt Schiller, 2005 – Currently a character technical director at Walt Disney Animation Studios, he has contributed to movies including *Wreck-It Ralph*, *Big Hero 6*, and *Moana*.

Marianela Osorio, 2006 – She became a CEO at age 22, hired straight out of college, and is now an administrator at Florida Hospital.

Troy Churchhill, 2006 – Received the 2010 New Administrator Award from the American College of Health Care Administrators for his exceptional commitment and potential as a leader, innovator, and motivator in long-term healthcare.

Thomas Wentworth, 2006 – As senior director of production at NBCUniversal, NBC Skycastle, his recent work includes branded content for the 2016 Rio Summer Olympics and Super Bowl 50.

Maranatha Hay, 2007 – She has received five Emmys, won "Best Documentary" at the 2008 SONscreen Film Festival, and became the first American to win the World Nomads Travel Documentary scholarship.

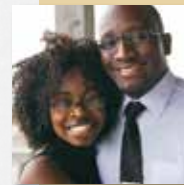
Sharon Smith-Hensley, 2007 and 2011 – As social services director at The Samaritan Center in Ooltewah, she received the 2016 Advocate of the Year Award from the Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare's Southeast region.

Natalia Lopez-Thismon, 2008

After working for the Miami Heat basketball team, ADRA, the National Communication Association, and La Sierra, she is now an assistant professor at Southern.



Charity (Matandiko) Smith, 2008, 2009, and 2013 – After completing her AS, BS, and MSN degrees through Southern's School of



Nursing, she now serves people with urgent health needs as a family nurse practitioner.

Rainey (Park) Turlington, 2010 – Received the 2011 Student of the Year award from the Society of Adventist Communicators for her book, *Love, Kirsten*, based on the tragic loss of beloved classmate Kirsten Wolcott.

Jeremy Weaver, 2010 and 2015 – Co-owner of Wind River Tiny Homes, a Chattanooga business that specializes in building tiny homes that support personal economic independence and a minimalistic lifestyle.



Jason Neufeld, 2010 – While a student at Southern, he created five phone applications to teach music theory and skills. He sold more than 40,000 apps, including a popular fretboard trainer app that reached the top 100 overall paid apps distinction. He now works at Google as a senior software engineer.

Julie Vincent, 2012 – She is the chief nursing officer for Kettering Adventist HealthCare.



Hans von Walter, 2012 – While a biochemistry major at Southern, he placed third in the *Jeopardy! College Championship*, taking home \$25,000 in cash winnings. Later he was a successful contestant on both

Who Wants to Be a Millionaire and *Wheel of Fortune*. He graduated in 2016 from Loma Linda Medical School.

Hai Vo, 2014 – He is a senior Android developer for DJI, a leading consumer electronics company.

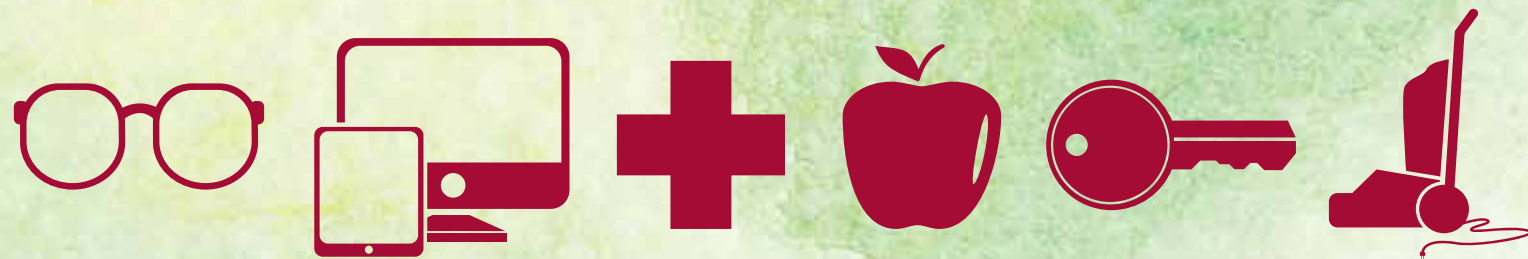
Jamie Howell, 2014 – She started a one-teacher elementary school on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

Dillan Forsey, 2015 – As a freelance filmmaker, he was the producer for *In the Grey*, a short film that took home Best in Fest and Best Dramatic Short from the SONScreen Film Festival.

Seth Hill, 2016 – Founder of SWAYY® Insulated Hammocks, he also co-founded Adventist Mountain Missions, which uses innovation to reach the mountainous regions of the world with the Good News.

Note: This information is accurate to the best of our knowledge and is not intended to be comprehensive. Everyone has a story to share, and we would love to hear yours! Email columns@southern.edu or call 423.236.2581.

WHATEVER YOU DO



From pulling weeds to grading papers, student workers are an integral part of Southern. The university employs at least half of the student body in approximately 1,250 jobs. Not all jobs are glamorous, but each one gives students the opportunity to gain valuable experience.

Sierra Emilaire Southern Accent Editor

While most people on campus are asleep at 2 a.m., Sierra Emilaire is steadfastly editing articles, catching the latest news, and finalizing content for the *Southern Accent*. Emilaire, junior English major, is editor-in-chief for the *Accent*. As such, she manages a team of student writers, editors, designers, and photographers as they produce the weekly student newspaper. Emilaire aims to capture and report the moments that people might otherwise miss.

"It is worth the stress and the sleepless nights because we are the student voice," Emilaire said. "This is also laying a foundation for my future career."

With Emilaire's passion for news editing and her strong work ethic, she has poured herself into the editor role. In the process she has learned that "a positive work environment produces positive results." — by Michael Steinke

Stephen Wade Software Programmer for CIRC

Every day Stephen Wade, senior computer systems administration major, gains real-world experience as he writes software for Southern's Center for Innovation and Research in Computing (CIRC). The center's goal is to enhance student learning by engaging in development projects for actual clients.

With his laptop, Wade could work from anywhere, but he mostly chooses to work in the School of Computing with his boss, Michael Babienko, CIRC lead programmer and analyst.

"I appreciate that CIRC allows me to learn on the job," Wade said. Whenever he runs into a snag, he is able to take time to research a solution or ask Babienko for assistance.

"What I really enjoy about working for CIRC is that every project I finish is going to be used and appreciated," Wade said. "Once I graduate, I will have experience writing software and will understand project management."

— by Abigail King

Delaney Harris Head Lifeguard at Hulsey Wellness Center

Unlike many college students, Delaney Harris, sophomore psychology and missions double major and lifeguard at the Hulsey Wellness Center, has had the same job since her junior year of high school.

Her interest in water safety began at the age of 8. Harris was on her cousin's



Sierra Emilaire



Stephen Wade



Delaney Harris



Diadem De Guzman



Jeremy Holt



Starling Eargle

back in a pool and, without warning, he tossed her off. Harris thrashed around and quickly figured out how to keep herself afloat. Her mother then arranged for formal swim lessons, starting her down the road to becoming a lifeguard.

"I'm really glad she did, because now I am the head lifeguard at the pool, and I love this job," Harris said. "It's so much fun!"

As head lifeguard, Harris' duties include watching those in the pool and on the deck, maintaining the facilities, and interacting with visitors. Harris also enjoys teaching swim lessons.

"I like watching people's faces light up when they learn a new stroke," Harris said. "The responsibilities of this job have taught me leadership skills and so much more." — by Tierra Hayes

Diadem De Guzman Tutor at Spalding Elementary School

Teachers at A.W. Spalding Elementary School may refer to her as an "angel," but Diadem De Guzman is just doing her job. As a junior elementary

education major, she tutors second-grade and third-grade students.

This job not only provides De Guzman with opportunities to put her college classes into practice, but it also prepares her to work in the education field after graduation. For example, the math methods course that she is currently taking teaches her different strategies to effectively explain math problems to students.

Interacting with the children is De Guzman's favorite part, especially answering their questions. Their appreciation is her greatest reward.

"It makes me happy to know that I am inspiring children and am able to help them," she said. "There is a second-grader who comes to me as soon as I enter the room. She'll sit next to me and give me a big hug. It is very touching."

— by Oksana Wetmore

Jeremy Holt Talge Hall Student Dean

Connecting with people is a passion for Jeremy Holt, senior business administration and pre-dentistry major. It's one reason he loves being a student dean in Talge Hall—a position he describes as rewarding, team-centered, and decision-oriented. Previously, Holt worked as a resident assistant for a year in high school and a year at Southern.

Effectively communicating with people from different backgrounds came easily to Holt. Learning the deans' perspective in order to effectively lead and make appropriate decisions took a little

more time and observation.

"I learned a lot by watching my predecessors," Holt said. "As a problem came up, I learned how to handle it."

Holt keeps an eye out for students who are struggling. He tries to lend a helping hand or listening ear, which ends up blessing both parties.

"Working as a student dean allows me to minister to the guys, and it's very rewarding." — by Oksana Wetmore

Starling Eargle Thatcher Hall Janitor

Starling Eargle, junior nursing major, aspires to one-day roam hospital halls to care for sick patients. But for now, she's satisfied roaming Thatcher Hall to keep it clean.

Between classes and involvement in other on-campus activities, her job brings a much-needed reprieve.

"I can plug in my ear buds, turn on the vacuum, tune out the world, and just take a breath," Eargle explains.

Although working as a janitor is often overlooked and isn't most students' first job choice, Eargle has observed that every job has unpleasant moments.

"Sometimes it's just not fun to clean up trash and other 'dirty' items, but that's part of life," Eargle said. "Nothing is too 'low' for a person to do. As a future nurse, I need to remember that working in a healthcare setting is a team effort. Everyone has his or her role, and no job should be taken for granted. After all, 1 Corinthians 10:31 says, 'Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.'" — by Sheann Brandon ■

How Birding Took Flight

by Angela Baerg, '06

The thrill of the hunt, the joy of discovery, and the beauty of God's nature blend together in the popular pastime of birdwatching. One of the fastest-growing hobbies in North America, birding wouldn't be what it is today without the influence of several Southern alumni.

Back in the 1960s, students Jim Tucker, '62, Nat Halverson, '63, and Benton Basham, '66, worked alongside each other in the broom factory on Southern's campus. They were paid by the piece, not by the hour, and over time they developed a friendly rivalry to see who could be the most productive. Then one day something happened that gave their competitive spirit a new focus.

A flock of birds landed outside the window, and Basham eyed them through his binoculars.

"See those birds?" he murmured thoughtfully. "What are they?"

"I don't know," Halverson shrugged. "Some kind of sparrow, I guess."

"Just look!" Basham pushed the binoculars into his hands.

Halverson peered through them, first reluctantly and then with increasing interest. The birds' were a beautiful gradient of color, ranging from reddish-brown at the head to a purplish-blue with a bright yellow band at the tail.

"They were the most remarkably dressed birds I'd ever seen," Halverson remembers 40 years later. "Those Cedar Waxwings were my first sighting. After that, I was hooked."

Birdwatching Breaks

From then on, breaks at the broom factory became birdwatching bonanzas. The three students would dash off to the woods along the nearby creek to see who could spot the most birds before their agreed-upon time was up. As the son of two birdwatchers, Tucker's first childhood memory was of watching a White-breasted Nuthatch on a birdfeeder. He was thrilled to find two new friends who shared his interest. The three friends' love of the game pushed them to improve their

skills, and soon they were good enough to recognize the birds around them just by their calls.

Tucker, Halverson, and Basham became deeply involved with the Chattanooga Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, making friends from all over the area. Several times a year, the members would divide the county into various sectors, split off into groups, and birdwatch all day. Then in the evening they would regroup for what they

called "the countdown" to list the birds they had observed and, for fun, determine who had spotted the most.

After the three friends graduated from Southern, they went their separate ways. Basham pursued further education and became a nurse anesthetist, and Halverson and Tucker went on to teach in the Seventh-day Adventist school system.

But there was one thing they never left behind: their insatiable, contagious love of birdwatching. Through their passion and dedication, each would help to mold the birding world as we know it today.

"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"

Matthew 6:26

Inspiring Young Bird Lovers

The broom factory was not just a job for Halverson; it was also where he met his wife, Margaret (Richardson) Halverson, '70. In Margaret, he found not only an amazing life partner but also a fellow bird lover. She assisted her husband as he became deeply involved in many scientific bird-banding research projects that involved catching birds, marking them with an identifying band around the leg, and then releasing them to be tracked in the future. The Halversons spent many years teaching at Standifer Gap Seventh-day Adventist School and integrated their avian knowledge into the curriculum there. They gave their students the opportunity to have tactile involvement with bird banding, an experience that resonated with many, including Carl Swafford, '75, now dean of Graduate Studies at Southern, who never thought he would be interested in birds.

"I loved bird banding because I could hold the bird in my hand," Swafford remembers. "We tagged birds and tracked their travels throughout the seasons. Many of them were

This beautiful image of a female Osprey defending her nest was captured by Southern business professor and photographer Braam Oberholster at the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge near Birchwood, Tennessee. You can see more of his wildlife images at momentsofprovidence.com.

Inspiring The Next Generation

Edgar Grundset became a birding icon at Southern. As a biology professor, he spread his passion for nature and birding to his students for nearly 40 years. Through his ornithology class and spring break birding trips to Florida (during which students routinely identified at least 150 bird species), many people caught his enthusiasm for the sport. In his honor, Southern hosts the annual E.O. Grundset lecture series.

The love of birding is still being nurtured at Southern. When David Hollie, '14, arrived on campus to study biology, he already had an interest in birds. However, as a student he spent two summers in the Smoky Mountains doing bird research and discovered that he

wanted birding to be more than a hobby—he wanted it to be his career.

Since earning his biology degree, Hollie has combined his two favorite things: travel and field research. His work with birds has taken him from

Texas to Australia and many places in between.

This fall Hollie looks forward to starting his graduate research and studying the effect of forest management on breeding birds in the Missouri Ozarks.

"I am continually impressed by the amazing complexity and diversity of birds," Hollie shares. "They are an amazing window into the mind of our Creator."



Hollie nets a male Golden-cheeked Warbler in Texas.

re-trapped in states across the Northeast. One bird, a Chimney Swift, was re-trapped in Peru! Now that was exciting to a 13-year-old boy who loved nature."

Chris Haney, '81, was another Standifer Gap student deeply influenced by his time with the Halversons. In fact, their influence is one reason Haney pursued a career involving birds. During the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster, Haney led a survey to document the impact of spilled oil on marine birds. Currently he is the senior adviser of a survey tracking the geography and seasonality of marine birds across the Gulf of Mexico for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management for the Department of the Interior.

"Margaret was so instrumental in combining high expectations with praise," Haney remembers. "She and Nat taught all of us to apply ourselves to the maximum in everything we did."

Big Days and Even Bigger Years

Although Basham was a nurse anesthetist by day, the rest of the time he was 100 percent birdwatcher. Even after graduation, Basham and Tucker stayed close, spotting birds together when they could and collaborating on what birders call a "Big Day." In a Big Day, one attempts to see as many bird species as possible within a 24-hour period.

Basham, Tucker, and the three other members of their team attempted one Big Day so elaborate that it was profiled by *Sports Illustrated Magazine* in 1979. The day started at 2 a.m. in east Texas at the marshes of Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, moving next to the local hardwood and pine forest, and then to Galveston. From there they were whisked off to Rockport by Learjet, where they watched the ducks of Copano Bay and the shorebirds of Mustang Island and Oso Bay. After that, they flew to the Mexican border to see the birds of the Rio Grande Valley. Next they went to the Huachuca Mountains in Arizona before their grand finale in San Diego and Mount Palomar. Their goal was to beat the U.S. record of 231 sightings and perhaps the world record of 288; unfortunately, bad luck left them at 183. Still, they had a thrilling and memorable time trying.

Basham's ambitions didn't end there. In 1998, he set out to break the "Big Year" record. With 711 sightings that year, he became the No. 1 birder in North America. Eventually, with the help of rare-bird Internet blog updates, his record was surpassed. Still, at that time and with the resources Basham had, his achievement was incredible. Even now he remains a hero of the birding community.



Benton Basham, '66, (left) reunites with Margaret, '70, and Nat Halverson, '63, in 2016.

"Dad flew all over the United States and probably went to Gamble, Alaska, six to eight times that year alone," remembers Jeff Basham, '83, his son. "It could be frustrating; you could go all the way out there just to have the bird fly away two minutes before you arrived. I loved having a dad who was a birder. All through my childhood, he would take me out of school once or twice a week. Then we would hop on a plane to go find a bird."



The Birth of the American Birding Association

Tucker always loved fellowshiping with other bird lovers. For him, shared interest easily overcame age barriers. While at Southern, he was the youngest member of the Chattanooga Chapter of the Ornithological Society and became president at age 21. When he moved to Florida to teach, he joined the Florida Audubon Society and became president of the Orange County chapter. There he continued doing counts with his new friends and also became deeply involved with the movement to save the forests, swamps, prairies, and lakes. The members of the Audubon Society had a wonderful time together but faced a recurring challenge; they could not figure out how to get the youth on board.

In 1968, Tucker moved to Texas to pursue his doctorate.

He missed his buddies back East, so on a whim he put together a little newsletter chronicling the adventures of his birdwatching friends around the country. He cranked out 12 copies on a ditto machine and mailed them with a letter asking for feedback and suggestions. Not long afterward, he was bowled over by the enthusiastic response he received—both in ideas and names to be added to the mailing list.

"I laughingly called it *Birdwatchers Digest*, Volume 0, Number 0," Tucker recalls. "One of the best suggestions I received was to change the newsletter's name to 'Birding.' A friend of mine had heard the term used in England, but it hadn't been used in the United States up to that point."

After its debut as the title of the next issue of the newsletter, the term "birding" rapidly entrenched itself in popular U.S. vernacular. *Birding* also laid the foundation for what would later become the American Birding Association (ABA). Its goals were to informally connect passionate birders, to communicate the latest bird identification techniques, and to establish the rules for listing (a system for logging one's sightings). *Birding* also included top 10 lists of birders around the world, which inspired

many younger birders to take up the sport and attempt to get their names on the prestigious list. It turned out that the secret all along for getting the younger generation involved was to harness that same friendly, competitive spirit that had initially motivated Tucker, Halverson, and Basham to get out in nature during their broom factory breaks.

Tucker became the ABA's executive director, and Basham helped with marketing as the membership director. Within a few years, they had hundreds of subscribers and held their first national conference. As of 2017, the ABA has more than 13,000 members.

"It really caused an explosion," Tucker says. "It put birding into the realm of fun for the nation. Not only did it bring people together in a friendly exchange, but it gave people a reason to want to save a swamp or other bird habitat. In 2011, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service reported that the economic impact of birding in the United States is now more than \$100 billion annually. It's hard to believe that all of this started with our experiences at Southern and translated into this amazing movement." ■

Southern Birders

Jessica Winters Clifford, '00

Clifford's favorite sightings were the Elegant Trogon in Southeast Arizona and the Himalayan Monal, the national bird of Nepal, while she was overseas as a student missionary. She has started taking her two young children on birdwatching expeditions, as well. In 2016 they visited Argentina, where they saw Magellanic and Gentoo penguins and got to watch them roost.



Carl Swafford, '75, graduate dean

One of Swafford's favorite expeditions was to the Bering Sea, where he saw Emperor Geese soaring against the backdrop of the Aurora Borealis. Another was his birding trip to the Yungas Road in Bolivia, the "most dangerous road in the world." In 1981, Swafford and Chris Haney, '81, set the record for a Big Day in Tennessee, sighting 154 bird species in a single day. They held the record for 10 years.

Cathy Lockwitz, '15

In the 1980s, Lockwitz worked as Basham's executive secretary and had no interest in birds. Over time, however, due to the influence of Basham, his son Jeff, and Haney, she became a serious birder and eventually served as treasurer of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, Chattanooga Chapter, for 12 years. Her favorite sightings include the White-collared Seed-eater, Willow Ptarmigan, Blue-footed Booby, and even one bird that Basham doesn't have on his list—the Red-footed Falcon!

Jasmin Duany, senior biology major

Taking the ornithology class taught by Keith Snyder, PhD, chair of the Biology Department, was Duany's first exposure to birding. In the past, most birds looked the same to her; viewing them through binoculars has opened her eyes and helped her learn to distinguish their differences. Her favorite sighting so far has been the Eastern Bluebird.

Unlocking Their Futures



Photo: Terry Hanson

Southern is able to offer scholarships to a majority of students, thanks to a variety of generous gifts—from estate planning and endowed funds to corporate sponsorships. Donors and students alike receive blessings from witnessing how these tools of financial grace help build educational bridges for the next generation of church and community leaders.

by Lucas Patterson, communications and foundation relations

When a visitor burst into tears in her office recently, Student Finance Counselor Faith Anderson felt like joining in.

These were spontaneous tears of joy from a first-generation university student preparing for graduation in May. While thinking about the last four years, she revisited moments from study trips to New York City during Thanksgiving Break, time spent studying overseas with Adventist Colleges Abroad, and countless other memories unique to the Southern experience. Now in the middle of her busiest semester, she slowed down just long enough to consider both the past and the future, and it was enough to overwhelm her heart with gratitude for the scholarships that made attending Southern a reality.

“She came by to check up on her finances one last time, and through the tears I heard her say, ‘I shouldn’t have been

able to graduate from a school like this,’” Anderson said. “She told me that because of Southern, her life would never be the same.”

Renewed Emphasis

Although the details are always unique, like the students themselves, stories of transformation and gratitude resonate with faculty and staff on campus. That’s why Southern’s Board of Trustees voted in February to make Southern’s endowment the largest component of the university’s \$50 million Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning (see details, page 23), boosting the endowment by \$14 million.

“Southern is focused on how we can increase our scholarships to help students access the tools that unlock their future,” said President David Smith, PhD, “and we are committed to doing so as affordably as possible.”

Currently, 80 percent of Southern students receive financial aid, with more than \$12 million awarded each year in scholarships and grants from Southern. While that is a lot, additional funds are needed. The \$14 million boost to the endowment will help more students pursue an Adventist education with less reliance on student loans.

Serve Others, Help Yourself



Photo: Ryan Pierce

Jordan Morris, sophomore computer science major

Jordan Morris, sophomore computer science major, came to campus in a leap of financial faith. He knew he wanted to study computing but had no idea how to fund his education. The energy and enthusiasm were there—he applied for multiple jobs and scholarships—but the numbers still weren’t adding up.

Around that same time in 2015, Southern was pilot testing the Promise

Grant program. This work-study scholarship, fully funded through the generosity of local businesses and friends of the university, gives Southern students every possibility to stay enrolled, thanks to the program’s above-average hourly wages. After a rigorous selection process, students work in a Chattanooga nonprofit at no charge to that organization and put 80 percent of the earnings toward their tuition. This relationship benefits the students, nonprofits, and donors who have a passion for seeing the community thrive.

Morris works for La Paz, a small organization with a mission to empower and engage Chattanooga’s growing Latino population through advocacy, education, and inclusion. His database work and other contributions there have evolved beyond program expectations, both in terms of time commitment and emotional connection.

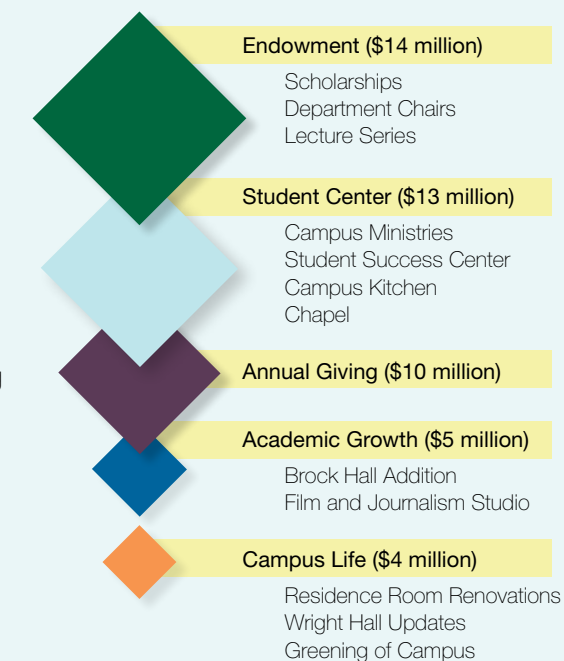
“The money from Promise has been a huge help, but what has had a larger effect on me was seeing firsthand all of the good things that are being done for the community,” Morris said. “I actually volunteer with La Paz now even when I am not getting paid, because it is such a blessing. This experience will always stay with me, and it has also opened my eyes to new career possibilities. As a computer science student, I knew I wanted to work in a technological field, but now I

Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning

Expanding horizons in the classroom, connecting with friends on the Promenade, having philosophical discussions that deepen faith—every day, students are shaping their futures here, and Southern recognizes that the quality of these experiences matters.

In addition to boosting the endowment, Southern’s Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning aims to continue improving students’ experiences by addressing the changing needs of campus. Announced publicly in April 2016, the \$50 million goal—the university’s largest to date—is allocated for the project areas shown here.

The remaining funds will cover



campaign expenses. More than \$36 million in cash and pledges have already been raised during efforts that began in 2013. Chris McKee, '88, campaign chair, attributes the campaign’s encouraging progress to a tightknit Southern community that connects around a common goal.

“Fundraising is simply the process of sharing the university’s vision with people who care about it,” McKee said. “I praise God that so many people care deeply about Southern, support the university’s values, and believe in the vision for the school.”

Visit southern.edu/webelieve to learn more.

know I want to do that in a way that interacts with and helps as many people as possible.”

It Takes a Village

Although the overwhelming majority of students on campus are Seventh-day Adventists, corporate sponsorships from local businesses have provided a significant boost to scholarship funds. SouthEast Bank—with 11 locations in Middle and East Tennessee, including one in Ooltewah—provides four \$7,000 scholarships to Southern students annually. Over the years, its contributions have totaled approximately \$350,000.

When the partnership began, bank administrators envisioned the funds freeing up students to experience college more fully, with less time spent working and worrying about finances. Testimonies show that to be true.

“I was prepared to work a lot on campus and take out student loans, but because of this scholarship I have not needed to borrow any money since I started at Southern,” said Caitlyn Bartlett, senior marketing major. “You can imagine the reaction at my house when I found out about it. My family and I cried and thanked the Lord for His blessings!”



Caitlyn Bartlett, senior marketing major

Linda White, senior vice president for SouthEast Bank, views the scholarships as a natural fit with her organization’s mission as a community bank.

“The university’s reputation of nurturing and advancing students in our region helps contribute to the success of our local economy and workforce,” White said. “SouthEast Bank is proud to support Southern in awarding scholarships that help keep our future leaders right here in Tennessee.”

Supporting Each Other

Students employed in Southern’s Call Center spend a lot of time talking on the phone with alumni. The stories they hear of how God continues to lead in graduates’ lives, along with the generosity that donors often display, has proven inspirational. Student workers recently created the Advance-Family Call Center Scholarship Fund, supplying \$500 in tuition assistance for one of their peers.

Although contributing to the fund was optional, call center workers were eager to help a fellow student and contribute to a cause beyond their own needs. Victor DeRose, a junior

marketing major and call center shift leader, is one of the students who made a gift.

“It always feels good to give when you have the right reasons,” DeRose said, “Plus, we wanted to create an opportunity for student callers to understand the process and importance of giving.”

Sometimes the right reasons even taste good and leave a warm feeling in your soul. Since 2013, the Papa John’s Pizza location at Four Corners in Collegedale has offered a large, one-topping pizza for \$6.99 to Southern students and staff who order online using a special promotional code. What makes this deal extraordinary is that even at such a highly discounted rate, 15 percent of each sale goes to the Merit Endowed Scholarship Fund on campus. Contributions resulting from this partnership continue to rise each year, with more than \$3,700 added to Southern’s endowment in 2016 alone.

“Either our students are really excited about supporting Adventist education, or they really love pizza,” said John Willis, residence hall assistant dean. “I genuinely believe it’s a bit of both!”

Future Value

As debates continue on a national level about student loan debt and the value of higher education, it’s comforting to know that a tight-knit Southern community is working to simplify this critical decision-making process and remove financial roadblocks. Increasing scholarship opportunities is a top priority, not just in The Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning but also in the hearts and minds of alumni and parents of students. Campaign Chair Chris McKee, ’88, father to a current nursing major, fits all of those descriptions.

“As Christ’s followers, we want to bring others along as disciples for Him, especially young people who have so many years of service before them,” McKee said. “Southern is a place where students can explore God’s purpose for their lives in an environment that supports such exploration. As you think about what causes to support, please consider joining me in contributing to Southern’s mission.”

To help support the education of students like Jordan Morris and Caitlyn Bartlett, visit southern.edu/endowments. Every gift makes a lasting difference. ■



Victor DeRose, junior marketing major



Sonya Reaves, '07, loves her work in Cambodia, which is the latest of many places God has called her to serve since graduating from Southern.

Her True Self

by Tierra Hayes, sophomore mass communication major

Since birth, Sonya Reaves, '07, has been surrounded by a mission emphasis. Her parents had served as missionaries in Brazil before she was born, and though she grew up in the States, the mission spirit prevailed.

“I grew up hearing about it in stories, hearing my parents speak Portuguese, seeing pictures, and meeting their friends from Brazil,” Reaves said. “I grew up wanting to be a social worker, and in high school I went on my first international trip to Costa Rica.”

Reaves earned a degree in social work and a minor in nonprofit management from Southern. During her time as a student, she went on several service trips. She also spent a year as a student missionary in Santa Barbara, Honduras, working at an orphanage with REACH International.

“I loved it,” Reaves said. “For the first time, I felt that I could live my dream. I was able to learn to speak Spanish, help children, and see a difference in people’s lives.”

Reaves recalls one young girl in particular who had been abused at home. At the young age of 6, the girl lashed out at everyone. Reaves made many attempts to show her God’s love while also providing discipline, and over time the child slowly warmed up to her.

“I often wondered if she understood that we loved her and gave her boundaries because of that love,” Reaves said. “I knew that the year I spent working with her wasn’t for nothing. God had big plans for this little girl, and He was getting to her via us, despite our flaws.”

Expanding Horizons

Service became a way of life for Reaves. She volunteered at Ground Zero in New York in 2002, helping people displaced by the events of 9/11, and in Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. After graduating, Reaves traveled to Chad, Africa, and worked at Bere Adventist Hospital for a year.

Although Reaves finds great joy in being able to serve others through missionary work, she has also experienced many struggles.

“There are always hardships—everything from language barriers to cultural differences,” Reaves said. “I think that being in another culture magnifies everything. It shows you your personal flaws, but it also shows you beauty.”

After returning from Chad, Reaves spent the next eight years doing a variety of jobs: serving as a chaplain at Georgia-Cumberland Academy, being a cook, working at an orphanage in Tanzania, and expanding her comfort zone as a teacher and principal at the Oakhurst Adventist Christian School in California.

Prepared to Serve

“I thought I was done with international work after leaving Tanzania in 2012,” Reaves said. “But I think God knew I needed to work as a principal and teacher for four years so I could have the skills to do my current job. Not a day goes by that I don’t thank God for his wisdom in having me work in California for those years. God’s timing is incredibly perfect.”

Now Reaves works for a company called Raw Impact, headquartered in Australia, and lives in Cambodia. She is the “head of educate,” a position similar to superintendent, in which she provides support to many schools in her surrounding area.

“I love my job because there is no normal,” Reaves said. “I am constantly busy, challenged, and having to figure out ways to teach things.”

Reaves routinely encounters many diverse tasks, from helping lead service trips, to coming up with research ideas and managing budgets.

“I love Cambodia,” Reaves said. “I have lived in many places, but this one almost instantly felt like home. The people are incredibly friendly, quick to laugh, and peaceful by nature.”

Ever since her mission dream came to life as a student missionary in Honduras, Reaves has devoted her life to serving others. To her, it is God’s way of helping her see her true self.

“I feel like I am having a mirror held up to my life, and I am seeing my own flaws,” Reaves said. “Often when working in a new culture, I see myself differently and have to readjust, but I am seeing God work in my life in big ways.” ■

Developing Communities

by Oksana Wetmore, business administration and public relations double major

Southern's global community development graduate program equips students around the world with skills to impact international societies. The program's multicultural learning opportunities, practical focus, and biblically grounded curriculum contribute to its uniqueness.

Students work through nine specific, practical skills and competencies, followed by six weeks in the field assessing the innate resiliency of marginalized people groups and constructing a plan to further build the group's capacity. This puts the students' book learning into practice while making a tangible difference to a community in the process.

"We are eager for our church to be professionally prepared and ready to meet the real and urgent needs of our neighbors and communities, both in the United States and abroad," said Sharon Pittman, PhD, Global Community Development Department director.

Hands-on in Tanzania

After Robert "Breck" Lang, '14 and '17, graduated from Southern with a bachelor's degree in nursing, he knew that he wanted to go further in his education and explore the field of global community development through a master's degree.

"I was really interested in refugee migration, so Sharon Pittman helped me find opportunities and ways in which I could pursue that while doing my graduate studies," Lang said.

During his field experience, he worked with Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Tanzania to provide food for refugees at Nyarugusu, a refugee camp in west Tanzania. Lang and the ADRA Tanzania team were faced with the task of distributing food to nearly 140,000 people.

"There's something about working with the people that you are trying to serve. Once you are in the heart of their community, you see their resilience, needs, and strong community bond," Lang said. "Working hands-on with the people



Refugees receive food from ADRA Tanzania, a project adopted by Breck Lang, '14 and '17.

completely changes how you approach trying to help them."

According to Shannon Martin, assistant professor of global community development and political studies, the program aims to explore self-identified needs in the community rather than imposing nonessential services upon it.

"Development isn't an abstract thought," Martin said. "It's a hands-on task that we can work on with communities."

Current students are spread around the world, doing internships with organizations such as ADRA Mozambique, the American Red Cross, and World Vision International in Kenya, as well as locally in Chattanooga.

Opening Opportunities

Southern's goal is to make the program more accessible for working professionals and international residents. For example, students can complete the hybrid learning program online before doing the short-term field work. They can also do the program either part-time or full-time.

Because of this flexibility, Alexon Mwasi, '15, was able to pursue his dreams. As a young boy growing up in rural Kenya, Mwasi discovered his passion for community development when a non-governmental organization came to his village and gave the community the necessary skills to undertake development projects. Eventually Mwasi was given the opportunity to join World Vision Kenya as a senior program manager.

During this time, Mwasi pursued his master's degree in global community development and, thanks to Southern's online graduate program, was able to earn the degree without leaving Kenya. His dream is to influence governmental policies and initiate development that will alleviate poverty—a goal that he is now better fit to accomplish.

Students have done their field work mostly in East Africa, but the Chattanooga area has also been chosen as a future site for a field school. Sites in Lebanon and the Dominican Republic are also being explored.

The global community development team continues to find new ways to accommodate students. This year they began a bridge program that allows undergraduates to complete some coursework before they graduate and then apply for an abbreviated three-semester master's degree. Southern has partnered with Union College and Walla Walla University, offering other undergraduate programs this same accelerated option.

With these changes and initiatives, the Global Community Development Department continues to empower the next generation of professionals to do the work of Jesus while fostering growth and building sustainable and thriving communities. ■

Kahlilia Morris Blanco, '08, PhD

Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Neurological Surgery, School of Medicine and Public Health, at University of Wisconsin-Madison

Where has your career taken you since graduating from Southern?

After earning a PhD in neuroscience from the University of Miami in 2014, I entered the world of biomedical brain research. I am currently a postdoctoral scientist conducting research in the Neurological Surgery Department at the University of Wisconsin Hospital.

What do you research?

My work as a neuroscientist is focused on finding cures and therapies for neurodegeneration following stroke, brain injury, and diseases of the brain. I analyze the ability of the brain to protect itself at the cellular and molecular level by researching how genes involved in protecting brain cells can be turned on or off. My research is supported by fellowships and grants from the National Institute of Health, the American Heart Association, and the United States Veteran's Administration.

What do you appreciate about working in such a dynamic and demanding field?

One thing that I love about my career is that I am constantly challenged. There is always something new to learn, and new discoveries are constantly being revealed about how genes and cells function within the brain. The more we learn about the brain, the more we realize how much we don't know. This can be frustrating, particularly when researching cures, but also exhilarating with each new finding or breakthrough. I don't think that being a neuroscientist could ever become mundane.

As a researcher, what discoveries have you made that are most memorable to you?

Probably discovering how the brain has an innate ability to protect itself from injury. It has been fascinating to investigate how to further amplify and harness this natural "brain power" to disease states in hopes of finding therapies and cures.

How has your career pushed you out of your comfort zone?

Transitioning from being a student at Southern to a secular, atheistic science environment in graduate school was a big

change. I went from professors praying at the beginning of class at Southern to professors who openly criticized Christians and Christianity in science. These situations required me to be strong about my faith.

You originally planned to study occupational therapy in Orlando; why did you change course?

I realized that I wanted to learn more about the brain and body than what occupational therapy covers. Southern was the only Adventist university with a psychobiology major, which allowed me to study in depth about both the body and the brain. As a bonus, Collegedale was already home for me; my mother, Ruth Williams, is a professor of psychology at Southern, and my older brother also attended. Southern was not only a very familiar place but also the best choice for my academic pursuits.

Beyond the academics, what did you take away from your time at Southern?

I value the support I received and continue to receive from my former professors; it is a testament to how God uses Southern beyond the classroom. I hope that in my own career I can support and mentor students and young scientists in the same way. ■

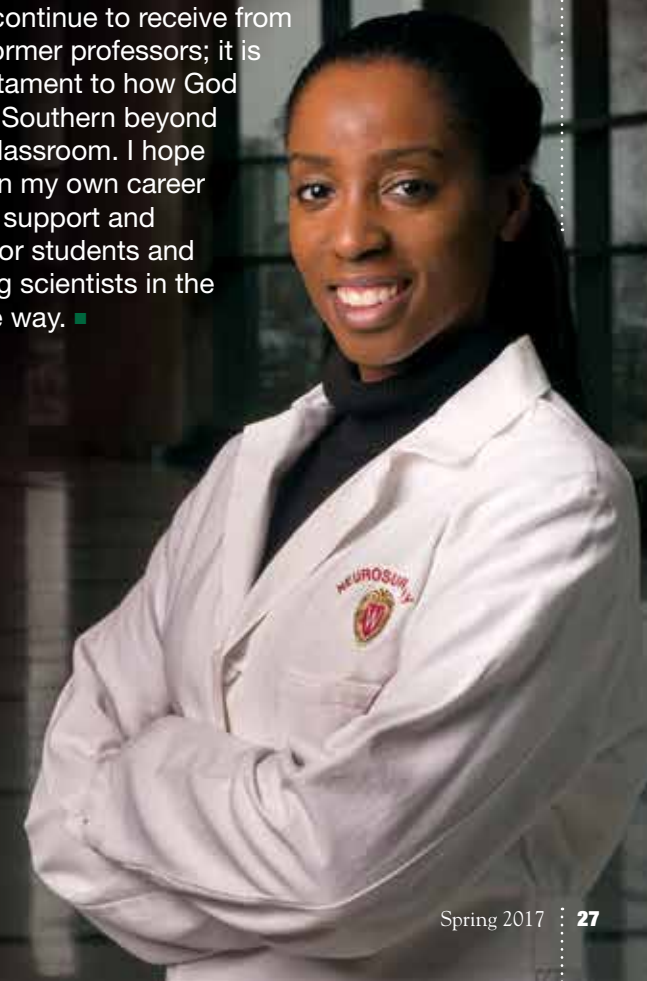


Photo: John Maniaci, courtesy of University of Wisconsin School of Medicine & Public Health

We'd love to hear from you, and so would your classmates! Send updates about additions to your family, educational accomplishments, marriage, professional recognitions, or other news you'd like to share to: alumni@southern.edu or **Alumni Relations • P.O. Box 370 • Collegedale, TN 37315-0370**

In the Fall 2016 issue of COLUMNS, I shared my passion for alumni getting involved in building bridges that benefit students. I'd like to share the story of a Bridge Builder I met recently in Southern California who is helping students on behalf of Southern.

Jessica Williams, '05, is an academy religion teacher. This young alumni ambassador introduces Southern to her students as a place where they can get a great education and develop authentic Christian relationships. She shares personal stories of her time at Southern and how this experience strengthened her ever-deepening relationship with Christ. When her students showed interest in visiting Southern last year, she took the time and made the effort, with the blessing of her school's administration, to transport the group across the country for a campus visit. She also helped arrange their on-campus experience. Williams recently brought yet another group of prospective students to campus this semester.

She shared with me her appreciation of the bridges that were built for her before she came to Southern—bridges built by Lisa (Clark) Diller, '96, and Mari Oskins, '01. The Alumni Association is happy to provide tools for supporting your bridge-building activities! Let us know how we can help by visiting southern.edu/alumni, emailing alumni@southern.edu, or calling Evonne Crook, alumni relations director, at 423.236.2830.



Jay Dedeker, '88
Alumni Association, President

30s Clyde Franz, '32, a retired Seventh-day Adventist Church executive who oversaw membership statistics and missionary recruitment for international outposts, turned 104 on March 1, 2017. He is the oldest known Southern alum. Clyde lives in Hendersonville, North Carolina, and has faithfully attended alumni meetings hosted during the Carolina Conference Camp Meetings in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina.



40s Milton Norrell, '42, and his wife, **Ethel (Cochran), '43**, were featured during an interview by Chattanooga television station WTVN in a segment about his service in World War II and the couple's unique love story. They live in Apison, Tennessee. A link to the interview is available at southern.edu/columns.

50s Howard Huenergardt, '57, and his wife, **Charlotte (Eldridge)**, attended, recently traveled to his 60th anniversary at the Loma Linda University School of Medicine post-graduate convention. They were joined by their daughter, **Carole Ford, '87**, one of four alumni children (the others are **Jim, '87**; **Chuck**, attended; and **Janet**, attended). Howard and Charlotte live in Orlando, Florida.

60s JoAnne (Wassell) Lafever, '66, works at La Sierra University as observation supervisor for interns and student teachers, as well as methods lab students. Her husband, **Beecher, '72**, keeps busy tutoring, volunteering at church, and picking produce from his garden. The couple recently visited Rwanda, where their daughter, **Mindi (Lafever) Guptaill, '97**, her husband, **Scott, '97**, and their three children live. Mindi is training emergency medicine residents for the Rwandan government, and Scott is a freelance graphic designer and communicator.

70s Rebecca (Stirk) Aufderhar, '72, works as a secretary in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky. Her husband, **Verlyn Keith**, attended, died in 2014 after an extended illness.

Gayle (Carpenter) Haberkam, '75, has served as a nurse for seven years with the Karen people in the jungles of Thailand, ministering in more than 70 villages. She not only provides necessary medical care but also offers spiritual relief by praying with patients after visits and hosting baptismal classes. When in the United States on furlough, Haberkam often speaks at churches and other venues to spread the good news about God's work in Thailand.

80s Marty Miller, '83 and '01, spent 25 years working for Adventist middle schools and academies before completing his master's and returning to Southern as Outdoor Leadership program coordinator. His passion for helping young men inspired him to leave the college classroom and start a nonprofit in 2014. Blueprint for Men encourages Christian brotherhood and teaches authentic manhood using tools such as addiction support groups, leadership training, father/son and father/daughter retreats, and even a vocal ensemble. Marty and his wife, **Gale (Covrig), '83**, live in Ooltewah, Tennessee.

00s John P. Serner, '01, a member of The Serner Financial Group in Chattanooga, was recently added to Northwestern Mutual's 2016 Forum Group, which recognizes company leaders who have eclipsed specific wealth management milestones. This is the seventh time he has received the Forum honor, an exclusive achievement awarded to approximately 5 percent of Northwestern's more than 6,000 financial representatives. Serner is a member of Southern's School of Business Advisory Board and lives in Chattanooga with his wife, **Elizabeth (Reeder), '02**.

Ted Struntz, '01, and his wife, **Lynnette (Aldridge), '00**, love living on the Gulf Coast, where Ted pastors the Cody Road Seventh-day Adventist Church in Mobile, Alabama, and Lynnette works as an office manager. Ted currently serves on the NAD Executive Committee and recently completed the Dale Carnegie Leadership Training course, receiving its highest award for achievement. They have two girls, Elizabeth (11) and Katherine (7), who love going to the beach.



10s Joshua Lewis, '10, and his wife, **Stephanie (Roberts), '14**, are preparing to serve with Adventist Frontier Missions in Southeast Asia, a part of the world where they both grew



Brittany McKee, '13, worked in product management and corporate wellness for one year after graduation before pursuing her MBA from Crummer Graduate School of Business at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida. She graduated in 2016 and is a client success manager for Vikus Corporation in Chattanooga. Brittany, a fixture in Hulsey Wellness Center while enrolled at Southern, remains passionate about fitness and is ranked in the top 100 for female Crossfit competitors in the Southern Region.



Myron Madden, '16, is working as a staff writer for the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*. He covers local government, business, and development stories in East Hamilton County and Signal Mountain for the Community News section. He also writes for two magazines under the Times Free Press banner: *Get Out Chattanooga* and *Chatter Magazine*.



Southern Bids Farewell to Longtime Professor



Ben McArthur, history professor, passed away on April 10, 2017, after battling cancer. With a doctorate in American history, he taught history at Southern for 38 years, with minor interruptions in 1998 when he was at Pacific Union College and from 2009 to 2012 when he served as academic dean at Southwestern Adventist University. Ben planned to retire at the end of this school year but ceased teaching in March due to his condition. Ben was passionate about his students' success and encouraged them to do what they could to make the world better. He is survived by his wife, **Caroline "Callie" (Thatcher), '73**, who is an associate professor of nursing; daughter, **Emily Decarvalho, '06**; son, **Mills**, attended; and two grandchildren.

Remembrance

Harold S. Johnson, '53 and '58, passed away August 15, 2016, at his home in Avon Park, Florida. He leaves behind a legacy of passionate and personal support for Southern. Johnson was part of the U.S. Army Corps Armored Division and Field Forces from 1945 to 1951, which included a stint in the Philippines. He also served as a missionary in Sudan, Jordan, Lebanon, Iran, and Malawi. Before retiring, he was chaplain at Memorial Hospital in Manchester, Kentucky. After that, he served for many years as a volunteer chaplain for several organizations. Johnson was preceded in death by his wife of nearly 40 years, **Harriet (Dinsmore)**, attended. He is survived by his son, **Stephen, '85**, and daughter-in-law, **Lynda (Magee), '90**; his daughter, **Karen Burns, '86**, and son-in-law, **Patrick, '94**; and three grandchildren: Ceilidh Johnson, John Burns, and Marjorie Burns-Watts.



Truman Parrish, '60, passed away in Portland, Tennessee, on January 20, 2017. He was born in West Fork, Arkansas, and graduated from Highland Academy and Southern, then earned master's degrees from the University of Arkansas and the University of Michigan. Truman taught in the Seventh-day Adventist school system for 49 years. He finished his teaching career in the West Palm Beach public school system. Survivors include his wife, **Peggy (Howard), '84**; son, **Clint**, attended; daughter, **Rosalie McCracken, '83**; stepchildren Rick Rodgers, Bob Rodgers, and Lisa Allen; and six grandchildren.

Sarah Lee (Whitt) French, '61, died January 10, 2016, in Portland, Tennessee, after a battle with cancer. She was born in 1938 in Kernersville, North Carolina, and married Norman French in 1966. She is survived by her husband, Norman; sister, Margaret Wilburn; son, **Steven French, '87**; stepson, Raymond French; three stepdaughters: Norma Whitehead, Donna Lennon, and Wanda Bonner; 11 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Michael Magursky, '92, of Atlanta, Georgia, passed away on April 4, 2017. He was born in Jacksonville, Florida, and attended Trinity Christian Academy there. Michael received his BS degree from Southern and his DDS at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, practiced dentistry in Atlanta, and was very involved in local community theater. Michael is survived by his husband, André Charles Castaing; parents, Wesley and Carolyn Magursky; sister, Cathy (Kyle) Crews; and grandmother, Mable O'Quinn.



Rob Fulbright, '92, passed away on April 11, 2017, in Orlando, Florida, following a heart attack. Born in Arkansas, he received a double major in accounting and marketing from Southern before working for Adventist Health Systems for 25 years. He was CEO of the East Florida Region of Florida Hospital at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife of 24 years, **Yvonne (Gibson), '91** and '93; daughters, Alexandra, Sophia, Isabella, and Victoria; parents, Rodney and Harriet; and siblings, **Mike, '88**, Shawna Wood, and **Michelle Young, '90**.

Preserving Traditions from Generation to Generation

-by Zachary Hagen, junior English and music double major

In celebration of Southern's 125th anniversary, campus leaders looked for an opportunity to honor the institution's rich history and recognize past, present, and future generations of alumni. As a result, Southern held the inaugural Alumni Generational Pinning Ceremony during the Parents Weekend brunch in February.

During the ceremony, Alumni Relations Director Evonne (Kutzner) Crook, '79, expressed that all families of students, whether they attended here or not, are a part of the Southern family. As Crook read the Pin Oath, alumni parents presented the pin to their students.

Pin Oath: "This pin is a symbol of your shared experience. Wear it as a representation of your family's legacy and your bond to the Southern family. May this pin serve as a reminder of the tie that binds past, present, and future generations of Southern alumni."

Southern's commitment to providing Christ-centered education has spanned more than a century, and for some families, as many as five generations of students have studied on the same campus.



Mark McKinney, MD, '83, is a second-generation alumnus and parent to Caleb McKinney, a senior finance major. Both participated in the pinning ceremony. Mark's sister, **Karen (McKinney) Brown, '90**, and her son, **Nikoli, a senior management major**, also shared in the event.

Spanning the Generations

Computing professor Tyson Hall, PhD, and his sons run to catch a tractor hayride on the Promenade as Southern launched its 125th anniversary celebration on January 25. Vintage display tractors, hayrides, and Cracker Jacks—a snack born the same decade as Southern—gave a festive nod to a bygone era. Participants, both young and old, enjoyed the nostalgia as they reminisced about what life would have been like so long ago.



Photo: Tierra Hayes



Photo: Terry Henson

»the word

passion

by David Smith, PhD, president

In his book *Not a Fan*, Kyle Idleman tells of a missionary returning to the United States after 30 years of serving overseas. Taking a bus to his daughter's home, he had to spend a night in Las Vegas.

Strolling down the famous Las Vegas strip for the first time, he observed the spectacular hotels, heard the loud music, and saw the shiny automobiles. He witnessed the casino games and heard coins spilling from slot machines. Billboards announced famous entertainers, and restaurants showcased exotic foods.

When he returned to his room, he left the light off and opened the curtains. In the stillness of his room, he knelt by the window and looked down at the Vegas strip. Then he gazed into the more impressive lights of the heavens and prayed: “God, I thank you that tonight I haven’t seen anything I want more than I want you.”

What do you want most in life? In Psalm 27:4, David reflects on what the object of our passion should be: “One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.”

Total Commitment

The lives of those whose greatest desire is to be in God’s presence are defined by their passion. Jesus’ true followers live extraordinary lives, risking and doing all for His sake.

In his book *Radical*, David Platt recounts meeting secretly with a small group of Christian leaders in an Asian country where worshipping God is prohibited and severely punished. Such a meeting could cost them their land, jobs, families, or even their lives. They shared tales of being threatened by the government for gathering and studying the Bible and of their congregants being tortured. One lay pastor said: “I need to know how to lead my church to follow Christ even when it costs them everything.”

The leaders fell to their knees, moved to tears as they prayed: “O God, thank You for loving us;” “God, we need You;” “Jesus, we give our

“God, I thank you that tonight I haven’t seen anything I want more than I want you.”

lives to You and for You.”

How is it possible to so fully seek one thing—to be in God’s presence and to serve Him no matter what? The answer is simple yet significant—God’s amazing love ignites an all-consuming passion for Him. Being in God’s presence and experiencing His love changes us.

As David states in Psalm 63:3-4: “Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.”

Living in Anticipation

Later in his book, Idleman describes visiting his grandfather’s gravesite with his grandmother. Beside the grave was a marker engraved with his grandmother’s name and day of birth, ready for her date of death to be added. Idleman wrote:

“If she were honest she would say she is ready for that day right now. She hasn’t been the same since my grandpa died. They were married almost 60 years. She misses him so much. We stood in front of his gravesite and she talked about feeling lonely. She told me of how she still reaches over for him at night. Sometimes she finds herself calling to him in the other room, just out of habit.

“We stood in silence for a few moments and then she said this: ‘I’m ready. I’m ready to go home and be with...’ and I knew what she was going to say next. She was going to say ‘...your grandpa.’ Of course she was going to say that. He was the love of her life. She loved him more than she loved anything. But she didn’t. ... What she said was, ‘I’m ready to go home and be with Jesus’” (*Not a Fan*, pp. 139-140).

Is your greatest passion a longing for God’s presence? If you do not have more passion for knowing and serving God than you do for everything else in your life, ask God to reveal Himself to you, to touch you with His love.

Pursue Him each waking moment. Give Him your all. Delight in His presence, and you will be able to resolve, along with Paul in Romans 8:38-39: “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” ■

Celebrating Adventist Education Since 1892



HOMECOMING WEEKEND

IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE:

NOVEMBER 2-5, 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

HONOR CLASSES 1937, '47, '57, '67, '72, '77, '87, '92, '97, '07

EARLY HIGHLIGHTS

>> 125th anniversary of Southern's 1892 founding in Graysville

- > Time-capsule opening ceremony
- > Recognition of the flagpole's original site

>> Missions Emphasis Weekend

- > Reunion for former student missionaries and alumni who have served as missionaries around the world
- > International food fair
- > Vespers – Parade of Nations pageant featuring international costumes and flags
- > Missions Expo – opportunities to mentor students considering mission service
- > Southern Serves – Join alumni and students on Sunday morning for a hands-on service project to help relieve local and global hunger

>> Golden Anniversary Class of 1967 Reunion



Visit us online to view updated Homecoming Weekend information, or contact the office of Alumni Relations directly.

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