

the magazine of Southern Adventist University

spring 2018

columns

Building a Stronger Southern Together

The Southern family grapples with a complex racial history, while making strides toward an inclusive, Christ-centered future | page 12



Celebrating Southern's Culture

Student Association (SA) ended the year with a festive night celebrating the diverse cultures that combine to enrich Southern's campus. "This Is Us" featured a wide variety of food, skits, and performances by students. Freshman Jamelis Figueroa, who is majoring in health, physical education, and recreation, carried the Malaysian flag during the opening parade of nations. This event was the brainchild of SA President Phillip Warfield (see page 19) and was the culmination of his year-long campaign to foster inclusion and unity on campus.



Photo: Barry Daly

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Graduation weekend is a high point in any college career. The pomp and circumstance, friends and family, and guest speakers contribute to the air of celebration. Yet Commencement is just the tip of the iceberg.

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A thriving university is like a stone cast into a pond, with a ripple effect that reaches far beyond grades and diplomas. As Southern strives to offer a first-rate education and resources for its students, it also welcomes the surrounding community to enjoy numerous enriching opportunities on campus.

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columns

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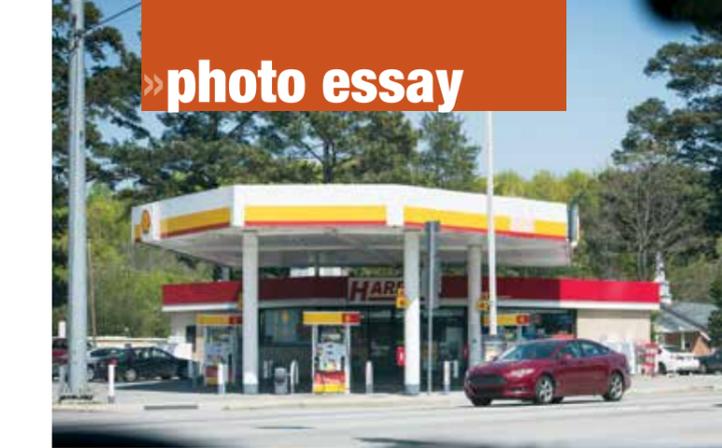
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>> photo essay



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Coming Home: Then & Now

In 1972, when Southern was still Southern Missionary College and Four Corners was a simple four-way stop, the yearbook staff documented the drive from I-75 to campus. While the last 46 years have brought significant change and growth to the surrounding area and to the school, travelers can still find familiar landmarks, such as the gas station at the intersection of Old Lee Highway and Apison Pike, and the iconic columns of Wright Hall. See how these photos compare to your time at Southern!

To view larger versions of these comparison photos, visit southern.edu/thenandnow.

Students Mentor Middle Schoolers in Computer Science

Southern Adventist University students have taken the initiative to mentor middle-school-aged girls through a program they call Hire Tech-Minded Ladies (HTML).

Headed by Enactus members Eileen Flores, junior management major, and Natasya Panjaitan, sophomore management major, the program is in collaboration with Girls Who Code, a nationwide nonprofit organization that works to increase the number of women in the field of computer science.

“I just wanted to do something bigger than myself, and I think there is a lot of potential in the Chattanooga area to impact women in the technology industry,” Panjaitan said. “With computer science, you can be really independent. You can start companies and have big opportunities just because of this one skill. So we wanted to bring this opportunity to the younger girls in our community.”

Each weekly meeting consists of spending time discussing the prior week, watching videos about prominent females in the computer science field, and working on a health and wellness app that the girls are designing and coding.

The middle school girls who take part in this on-campus program said they deeply enjoy being able to spend time with new friends, learn new skills, and be mentored by the college-aged girls.

“A friend told me about the program, and we had something like this at our school, but it wasn’t as interesting as HTML,” said Naomi Diaz, a participant. “I also want to do something like this in the future. I like the videos and learning about different jobs in the field.”

Her classmate Gaielle Price agreed.

“The leaders make it a very comfortable environment,” Price said. “I joined because I have made friends in this group, and I feel like girls should be more active with technology because we live in a tech age, so we should strive to be more out there.”

—by *Tierra Hayes*

» by the numbers

123

International students attending Southern this semester, representing 38 countries

11

Weekly opportunities for convocation and worship credits

175,194

Books in McKee Library

2,200

Parking spaces on campus, which will expand by 52 when the new Bietz Center for Student Life is built

662

Miles walked during the spring Duck Walk—a cardiorespiratory fitness assessment offered each semester

20

Number of years Philip Samaan, PhD, will have taught religion at Southern before retiring this summer

\$1 Million Gift Funds New Endowed Scholarship for STEM and Business Majors

Rahn Shaw, '78, MD, had glimpses of his calling to medicine even before attending Southern. He worked several jobs in a hospital cleaning lab equipment, performing housekeeping, and caring for patients as an orderly. Those experiences, along with his time on campus, laid the foundation for both a successful career and a heart for helping future students find their own career paths.

Shaw recently gifted \$1 million to Southern that will provide scholarships for students majoring in biology, business, chemistry, computer science, mathematics, and physics. The Dr. Rahn and Natalia Shaw Endowed Scholarship Fund is specifically designed to look at academic achievements and recognize students who have an entrepreneurial spirit as well as a willingness to explore their field’s content with fresh perspectives.

As a student at Southern, the ideologies of several faculty members impacted Shaw. Former physics professor Ray Hefferlin, for example, made a lasting impact on his outlook on life.

“I really enjoyed classes taught by Dr. Hefferlin; he had a natural ability to connect science, philosophy, and religion together,” Shaw said. “His course on the philosophy of how the universe works is what I remember more than any other academic experience in college.”

The first awards of the endowment will be given to students in the fall 2018 semester. Southern invites additional gifts to grow the Dr. Rahn and Natalia Shaw Endowed Scholarship Fund, part of Southern’s Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning.

—by *Lizzie Williams*

Southern Welcomes New Associate Vice President for Academic Administration



Dionne Felix, PhD, will join Southern’s administrative team as the new associate vice president for Academic Administration beginning this June. Felix will oversee institutional research, online learning, and much more as she works closely with Senior Vice President for Academic Administration Robert Young, PhD.

“I am delighted Dr. Felix has agreed to join the administration of the university,” Young said. “She brings a passion for faculty development and student success that will be very helpful in her daily work.

She is also a gifted communicator and good listener. These abilities will serve her and Southern well.”

Felix has 17 years of experience working in education at Capella University, University of Alabama, Oakwood University, and most recently Calhoun Community College. She has a doctorate in education, a master’s degree in English, and a bachelor’s degree in communication.

In her free time, Felix enjoys cooking, painting, and reading. She and her husband, Ron Felix, have one daughter, Saiuri, who is a sophomore clinical psychology major at Southern. Felix looks forward to the challenges ahead as she transitions to her new position.

“All my life, I have watched God order my decisions, my steps, and my reality; He has never disappointed me,” she said. “My journey to Southern was quite unexpected, but I covenanted with God that if Southern was the direction in which He was leading, I would go; however, He would have to be in the details. I am thrilled beyond words to be joining the Southern family because I know that even as I covenanted with the Father, He has covenanted with me. He will be in the details. I look forward to partnering with the Southern family as, together, we walk into God’s purpose.”

—by *Janell Hullquist*

Global Community Development Program Offers Local Field Work Option

The Global Community Development program at Southern can now be completed without leaving the United States. While previously the degree required students to spend several weeks abroad gaining hands-on experience in the field, now they can choose to work with the United Way in Chattanooga to gain applicable experience in a more affordable and accessible way.

“The skills our students are learning can be applied in any setting, whether here or internationally,” said Karon Powell, JD, MFA, director of the Global Community Development program. “The whole underpinning of the course is the idea that God has taught us to serve those who are in need and to build up our communities. We hope that by offering the training here, more people can pursue this field.”

In partnering with the United Way, students have connected with Eileen Rehberg, PhD, to work with grassroots community engagement projects. This year students focused on Avondale, a low-income neighborhood in Chattanooga, exploring a link between abandoned properties and an increase in crime. The information they gathered helped community members address issues surrounding affordable housing and holding out-of-state property owners accountable for maintaining vacant properties.

—by *Janell Hullquist*

Fascinated by People

by Natalia Perez, junior mass communication major

At the age of 3, Ruth gathered a stack of Christmas cards sent from family friends. She lined them up, named each one, and treated them as her students. She taught them everything she knew including the alphabet, counting, and Sabbath school lessons. Her makeshift classroom of holiday correspondence was the humble beginning for a now passionate and imaginative professor.

Ruth Williams, PhD, psychology professor at Southern, can't remember ever wanting to pursue any career other than teaching. Her love for it was further expanded by her father's love of reading. She craved knowledge and the growth it fostered, and she yearned to share it with others.

Purpose in Psychology

After graduating from Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) with a bachelor's degree in psychology, Williams earned a master's at Andrews University and a doctorate at the University of Minnesota. Then in 2000, she joined Southern's faculty in the School of Education and Psychology. Her fascination with people, paired with her deeply rooted passion for psychology, made for a vibrant addition to the department.

"People never cease to amaze me," Williams said. "There's almost an infinite variety of ways people fascinate me. There is never a single moment for boredom. I don't know that we can ever get to the point where there isn't something new or interesting about someone."

Williams' passion is also instrumental in guiding students to the true meaning of being a Seventh-day Adventist psychologist.

"We have lost so much because we have not taken advantage of the power and the usefulness that the field of psychology offers to achieve an abundant life," she said.

Williams believes that the true principles of psychology are found in the Bible. Her goal is to do more than just provide knowledge; ultimately, she hopes to inspire students to apply what they learn



Ruth Williams is passionate about teaching psychology from an Adventist perspective.

and become real, Christian psychologists.

"Psychology is one way to learn about God while learning about each other," she said, "because God brings psychology into the full picture."

Williams' work is characterized by a missionary zeal, especially in Research Design and Statistics I and II, her infamous, year-long research course required for psychology and social work majors. As part of the class, students must develop an idea for an independent, scientific research project, which they conduct over the course of the year, presenting the findings on Campus Research Day.

"Every time I think I should back off on the difficulty, I get emails from students who thank me," Williams said. "They say things like 'Thank you so much! I hated it, and I had a love-hate relationship with you, but it was the one thing I feel has built my character and has been instrumental in forming the person I am today.'"

She explained that everything comes into perspective on Campus Research Day; once students see the culmination of all their hard work, they carry a sense of accomplishment. Williams takes joy in that. "Seeing them thrive and flourish, that's my pay."

"Dr. Williams is an inspiration," said Adonijah "Nina" McCann, junior psychology major. "She pushes you to reach limits that you didn't know you could reach. When she speaks, you listen, and you know you'll come out a better person because of it."

"When I think of Professor Williams, I think of power and wisdom personified," said Dylan Gibbons, junior social work major. "When she steps into a room, the atmosphere changes. She is a motivator of enormous proportions, a challenging professor, but most of all an incredible witness of God's wisdom and goodness."

For All Students

Part of Williams' fascination with people comes from their differences; she is particularly intrigued by people who think differently from her. Her openness has made her office a haven for students. For example, after the presidential election in 2016, students from all over the political spectrum sought out Williams.

"I need to care for all students," Williams said. "If I stop caring, I shouldn't be here ... but I am here because God wants me to be. I am happy here. This diverse environment provides great opportunity for discussion. I've had a good experience at Southern Adventist University with faculty, with staff, and with employees. I have friends and people I love all across campus." ■



Pi Day With an Astronaut

With 20 years of experience working for NASA, Don Thomas knows a thing or two about space. He flew four space shuttle missions, logging 44 days in space and orbiting the Earth nearly 700 times. To celebrate Pi Day (March 14) this spring, the Physics and Engineering Department partnered with Collegedale Academy to invite Thomas to campus, where he inspired a new generation to look to the stars. After the talk, Josiah Lucas, son of John, '02, and Lora, '00, presented Thomas with his drawing of a rocket.

READY TO SERVE

by Natalie Boonstra, freshman public relations major

Graduation weekend is a high point in any college career. The pomp and circumstance, friends and family, and guest speakers contribute to the air of celebration. Yet Commencement is just the tip of the iceberg; it represents the culmination of hundreds of hours of lectures, mountains of papers and projects, and for many, a new clarity of purpose. Southern congratulates the 424 graduates this May! Chelsea Dancek is one of them.

As she wraps up four years at Southern, Chelsea Dancek, '18, plans to use the talents she cultivated here to serve God. While she was initially drawn to campus by the friendly environment and helpful professors, she quickly noticed something else: numerous opportunities to actively participate in ministry.

Realizing she was in the right place, Dancek jumped into volunteer work, joined a praise team, and eventually led out in a small group Bible study. She also helped with Southern's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Service Day and the Feed My Starving Children event during Homecoming last fall—an initiative to pack nutritious, ready-to-eat meals for children in areas ravaged by disasters.

Proudly embracing the title of “church hopper,” Dancek spent her Sabbaths playing piano on praise teams for many different churches in the area. She found that as she dedicated time to

this musical ministry, she grew in her spiritual walk.

“Music has been an excellent way for me to connect with God,” she said.

As a biology major, Dancek initially planned to attend medical school after Southern, but over time she realized that was not the right fit for her. Feeling a clear call to mission work, she decided to prepare for dental school, recognizing the need for more dentists to help underprivileged children.

“Southern really pushed me academically and spiritually. It gave me the opportunity to ask questions, along with the resources to answer them,” Dancek said. “Southern is a safe place to grow.”

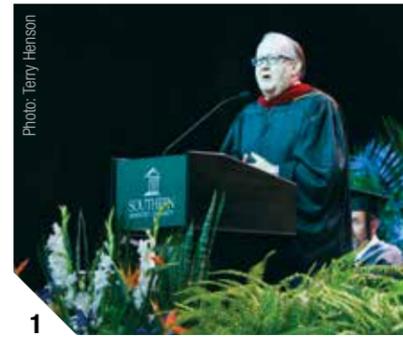
With her diploma in hand, Dancek plans to spend next year as a student missionary.

“I've always wanted to serve as a missionary,” she said. “My time here at Southern was pivotal in making that decision a reality.” ■



Chelsea Dancek, '18

Photo: Ryan Pierce



1

Photo: Terry Henson



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Photo: Barry Daly



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Photo: Terry Henson



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Photo: Dillon Forsey



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Photo: Terry Henson



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Photo: Barry Daly



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Photo: Barry Daly



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Photo: Terry Henson



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Photo: Barry Daly



10

Photo: Terry Henson



12

Photo: Dillon Forsey

1 In his Commencement address, Dan Jackson, president of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, challenged the graduates to invite God's guidance in their lives.

2 Alysia Wright, '18 (chemistry), hugs her friend Amanda Chase, '11, '12, Southern alum and guest graduate from California Southern University.

3 Graduation brings families together for a joyful celebration.

4 Andrew Caban, '18 (theology), poses with Doug Jacobs, DMin, who is retiring after 16 years as a Southern religion professor.

5 Roby (Hirst) Sherman, '68, MD, marches with fellow members of the Golden Anniversary Alumni Class of 1968.

6 Yesenia Sosa, '18 (theology), proudly wears the Philanthropy Medallion indicating her participation in the class gift.

7 Following the Commencement address, Senior Class President Jordan Layao, '18 (marketing), accepts Jackson's challenge on behalf of the class of 2018.

8 L to R: Romel Juba, '18 (nursing) and Michael Schultz II, '18 (management), congratulate each other on a job well done.

9 Indira Strachan, '18 (nursing), celebrates the special moment with her father, Alexander Strachan.

10 Alexandria Martin, '17, '18 (nursing), excitedly waves as she marches in to receive her Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

11 Madai Lugones, '18 (biology), displays pride in her academic department.

12 Naomi Cruz, '18 (international studies and allied health), receives her diploma from President David Smith, PhD.



Building a Stronger Southern Together

The Southern family grapples with a complex racial history, while making strides toward an inclusive, Christ-centered future.

Compiled by Janell Hullquist, '05
Illustrations by Rebecca Johnson, '13



As a campus, Southern has changed dramatically in its 126 years: location, size, buildings, professors, and demographics are all very different now than in 1892. Certain core values remain firmly rooted, such as staying centered on Christ, prioritizing service, and providing quality Adventist education. However, some of the early decisions made by school and church leadership continue to haunt Southern, such as remaining racially segregated until 1965. This year the university administration is making strides to lay that history to rest and commit to more intentional inclusion moving forward, growing together as a family—not just the Southern family, but the family of God.

A CLOSER LOOK

As he took his place in the corner office of Wright Hall in 2016, President David Smith, PhD, recognized that something was not right. On the surface, the diverse student body seemed as happy and well integrated as any university president could hope. But Smith picked up on an undercurrent, and it concerned him. So for the next year and a half, he sought out opportunities to listen. He listened to students, parents, employees, alumni, community members, and other constituents. And over time, something became clear to Smith: a significant number of people, particularly in the black community, viewed Southern as a racist, white institution.

Many who held this view had never visited campus but had heard about the history of segregation at the school, and despite an increasingly diverse student body, the narrative persisted that Southern had not done enough to move past that history. Even black students on campus expressed a sense that Southern could do better.

Smith began planning. He met with the leadership at other universities to learn how they had addressed the issue. He pursued leadership options to re-energize Southern's Diversity Committee and explored what it would look like to introduce an administrative position focused on unity and inclusion. And he prayed.

Then, this February, a campus visitor from the local community posted an anonymous racist message on social media during the students' annual Black Christian Union Saturday night event, stimulating intense dialogue across campus. During one of those discussions, Smith suggested that it was time for Southern to apologize for the past and pledge to make intentional changes moving forward. The resulting video can be viewed at southern.edu/diversity.

STEPS FORWARD

One of the key advances introduced in the video was the immediate creation of a new vice president position. This individual will dedicate his or her time to serving people of all ethnic backgrounds on campus in a broad way, facilitating unity and community while celebrating the unique cultures represented at Southern.

To expedite the process of filling the position, President Smith stepped into the role of chairperson for the university's Diversity Committee, which had been without a leader for several months. The committee is responsible for developing a job description and leading the search process for the new vice president.

The process began with a series of sharing sessions to help identify the priorities for the new position and to better understand the perspectives, concerns, and challenges students are facing. Facilitated by professional consultants, these sessions gave students the opportunity to participate and confidentially share their thoughts.

Recognizing that education is a key component of bridging divides and increasing understanding, the committee also began planning relevant educational opportunities and programming for campus. These efforts will continue into the future.

"We are not under the illusion that the steps we are taking, including the new vice president, will prevent individual problems from springing up," Smith said. "That isn't why we are pursuing these initiatives. But taking these steps and having this dedicated individual on our campus will help us experience better unity and harmony—and better support for our students—throughout the year, even when unfortunate incidents do happen."



One of the grassroots campus initiatives began in early 2016, when Januwoina Nixon, PhD, and Doug Tilstra, PhD, (Southern employees at the time) saw a need for open, honest, constructive dialogue about race. They began holding monthly group discussions, welcoming any Southern employee to participate. These sessions continue, now facilitated by Stephanie Guster, MSW, assistant professor of social work, and Tom Verrill, senior vice president for Financial Administration. Below, they share a few thoughts from their experience:

Why is it important to have these discussions?

Tom: The act of talking about the issues, opening up and hearing each other's stories and experiences, is how we grow. The interactions that we have together help us know each other better and grow in relationship, adding clarity to the conversation. I think, partly, people are afraid of discussing racial topics. But by having the dialogue, it says: "We can do this. We can have this conversation."

Stephanie: The things that we fear, we usually stay away from. Like me and spiders—I don't like them, and I definitely don't seek them out. But we have choices. To choose to be part of something that you're afraid of or that creates discomfort for you helps you grow to the point where that fear no longer controls the dialogue or your ability to interrelate with other people. I think it's important, because we'll never get to a place of loving each other if we don't talk to each other.
It's Relationship 101. We're just starting a relationship, if you will, at its basic level by coming together to

talk. No pressure, no expectations, just talk and grow and learn. In each discussion session, we ask everyone to share something about themselves—nothing glamorous, but something that helps us get to know each other in a way we never would outside of this setting, like "What is your favorite dessert?"

Tom: Now when my wife and I come to your house, I'm expecting blueberry pie.

Stephanie: I know, and not just typical blueberries: wild blueberries from Maine. I learned that in one of our discussions, and I wouldn't have known it otherwise.

You touched on fear. Why is this topic so difficult for people to address?

Stephanie: There's a lot of fear about saying the wrong thing—using the wrong word or not knowing the most up-to-date politically correct term. And fear usually causes us to shut down. In addition to that, I think strong emotion makes it difficult; because of personal, negative experiences, sometimes people would rather not be part of anything that could trigger that strong emotion.

Tom: Being afraid of not knowing what to say was definitely my experience—and still is to some degree. Saying the wrong thing seems so dangerous; the fear of making a mistake and potentially offending someone leaves people very guarded. You have to be willing to take a risk, and you have to feel like it's worth taking the risk. Some people don't think that talking about the issue is productive, either that discussions only make things



Photos: Terry Henson

worse or that "We're Christians. If we just treat each other as Christians, this isn't an issue." There's some truth to that, actually. If we all treated everybody perfectly as Christ would, it is likely that all of the issues we deal with in society would go away. But the reality is, we're all broken people, and I believe that part of the process of growing as Christians is to engage in the necessary dialogue and work through the issues.

Stephanie: It reminds me of when I studied Spanish. I made so many mistakes and embarrassed myself all the time—use the wrong word or intonation and it's a completely different meaning. That happened once when I was baking cookies. The word for flour is very similar to the word for sand, and I asked for sand. These dialogues are almost like learning to speak another language, learning to understand how someone else communicates, how they've received messages, and what's important to them. And like learning another language, we have to give ourselves permission to not do it perfectly but to keep trying.



Can you share some tips for how to approach such a sensitive topic?

Tom: First, acknowledge the fear and apprehension of the topic and the words. I've found that people are very gracious and understanding if you can be real with them. In the first conversation Stephanie and I had, I told her I wasn't sure of the right word to use—should I say black? Or African-American? I didn't know. Just acknowledging those things helps disarm the situation and allows us to talk. Another tip would be to start with less controversial topics and let the dialogue and people grow through the process, rather than getting into difficult topics that put people on edge right from the beginning.

Stephanie: Additionally, it helps to realize that all of us are on a different point in the journey. My perspective may be different from that of someone who's coming to the dialogue for the first time; everybody has a

A PATH TOWARD UNITY

1870s-1880s - In post-Civil War America, leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church faced three hurdles in reaching Southerners with the gospel: Northern pastors and teachers—"Yankees"—were viewed with suspicion, Adventists worshiped on the "wrong" day, and the Northern Adventists wanted blacks and whites to attend the same meetings. Due to strong resistance on the last point, the church moved to having segregated meetings and schools in the South in order to more effectively reach both groups.

1892 - Graysville Academy (now Southern Adventist University) was founded.



1899 - Anna "Annie" Knight became the first black instructor at the school, teaching nursing and cooking for a summer.



1965 - Despite knowing that the Ku Klux Klan was monitoring the school—even reportedly burning crosses on campus—Southern's board voted to accept qualified applicants "regardless of race, color, or national origin." Students greeted the announcement with a standing ovation.

1969 - Annie (Robinson) Brown, '69, became the first African American to graduate from Southern; she earned an associate degree in nursing. That same year, the school adopted a racially nondiscriminatory employment policy.





different foundation or starting point, but the reason we're all there is to grow and learn and hopefully leave with a greater knowledge than when we arrived. So be patient with yourselves and with each other, and approach the table of conversation hungry for whatever it is that you're trying to grow through and learn from.

On a personal level, what inspires you to be engaged in this process?

Stephanie: I am motivated by my 19-month-old son, Joshua Luke. When I think of the type of world and church and school setting that I want for him, I want it to be one that is so loving and doesn't see his skin color but sees who God has created him to be. Since there's so much racialized tension right now in our nation and around us, the only way that I can think of to create a better world for him is to be involved.

Tom: One of my deeply held core beliefs is that God has chosen to draw to Himself a dying, sin-filled world by revealing His character and glory through the church and, by extension, our educational system. The way I see it, how we relate to each other and work together is the means He has chosen for showing people who He is. If there's racial disharmony or unaddressed hurts, we can't effectively do that.

How have you personally grown through this experience?

Stephanie: It actually goes back to everybody being at a different point in the journey. Sometimes when Tom and I sit down to plan for our group discussions, I'm ready to be at mile marker 10, and Tom has to remind me: "Let's come back a little bit. That's for three months down the line. It's not for right now." I've grown in my ability to be patient with the process. It's not a sprint. It's more of a marathon.

Tom: For me, probably more than for Stephanie, learning the tools to have a meaningful dialogue about race has been valuable. Knowing the terminologies and the issues—plus gaining a better sense of what other people's experiences and history have been—gives you the opportunity to feel a little more comfortable in the dialogue and feel that you can engage in it more effectively. When you hear the personal stories of colleagues and friends, it provides a face and a name to these issues. It causes you to reconsider how you think about things, your perspective and how you act, how intentional you are in addressing issues and making things better.

During one of the discussion groups, a black employee shared a story about his two sons. They are close to my age and had lived in the same Northern town where I went to school and worked for many years. He told how as teenagers driving around my hometown, his sons were stopped 17 times by police in one year alone. They weren't doing anything wrong, and they didn't get any tickets; they were just stopped, and often searched.

In the same timeframe, on the same roads, at about the same age, I didn't get stopped at all. The only conclusion I could draw is that they were being treated differently because of skin color. I had been totally oblivious to any issues there, and gaining that understanding and knowledge changed my thought process about race in society. This was not something that happened only in certain big cities around the country. This was in my little rural hometown, and it was very real to hear the pain of that story. It has had a profound effect on how I look at things.

As Christians, what is our responsibility? What unites us?

Stephanie: I believe what unites us at Southern is the reality that all of us want to look at the face of Jesus and please Him. That's the Christian aspect. I think the human aspect is that every parent wants something better for their children than they had growing up. I think that desire unites us, regardless of what it looks like in your world or what your experience has been.

Tom: As we look to the Bible, we're called to do two things: to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. I don't believe you can do that if barriers or prejudice stand between you and your brother or sister. When we acknowledge that we are all sons and daughters of God, created in His image, all part of the same family looking forward to going home to the same heavenly Father, what greater reason could there be for unity? I think that as we draw close to Jesus, breaking down walls becomes a natural part of what we do. But it's a journey.

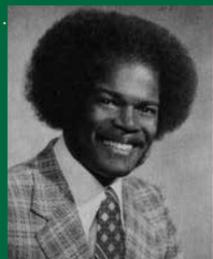
1970s – Southern began celebrating Black History Week, and students formed Beta Kappa Tau (now Black Christian Union).

1973 – The school adopted an affirmative action policy for the employment of women and members of minority groups.

1974 – Students elected Gale (Jones) Murphy, '76, as Student Association president, becoming the first female and the first black person to hold the office.



1975 – Southern hired its first black professor, Garland Dulan, PhD, who taught behavioral science.



1988 – Of Southern's 1,443 students that year, 18 percent represented minority groups. International students attended from 29 different countries.



1990s – The two most active clubs on campus were the International Club and Beta Kappa Tau. Asian Club nights also developed into a highlight of the school year.

1997 – Gordon Bietz, then president of Southern, and Delbert Baker, then president of Oakwood College (now Oakwood University), initiated the Diversity Education Exchange Program (DEEP), which has allowed leaders and students from both campuses to fellowship and learn from one another.

Stephanie: Our responsibility as Christians is to literally look into the faces of those around us and to recognize and remember that they were created in the image of God. If that step is absent from the dialogue, then it would be very easy for this to become a regular conversation where we're measuring people based on our own human interpretation and not on their eternal value for the kingdom of God. There will forever be only one Tom Verrill, and so if I interact and engage with Tom as that very unique creation by God's own hand, then how I engage with him should be completely different.

Tom: That reminds me of a saying that the ground is level at the foot of the cross. We're all equal. We're all made in God's image, so the distinctions that we make and the categorizations or the values we put on various people disappear at the foot of the cross.



What is your sense of where we're headed at Southern?

Tom: My experience has been that Southern is a wonderful place. It is filled with many gracious, loving people and is mostly harmonious. That doesn't mean there's no room to grow. I see us starting from a good place and heading toward a better place both on this Earth and ultimately, in heaven. We're hoping to be part of that growth. We have the opportunity to be a model of unity on our campus. That's really something that I'm praying for—that people of all races and cultures and backgrounds and experiences can find love and grace and acceptance at Southern in a unique and exceptional way that many don't experience in society.

Stephanie, I know that might be easier for Tom to say as a white male. What has your experience been?

Stephanie: My experience at Southern has been almost entirely positive, but I have to recognize that my experience has not been everyone's experience. What would our campus be if every single person's experience had been exclusively positive? Knowing that hasn't been the case is what keeps me engaged. I've heard people say, "We're going to have these race issues until Jesus comes." That might be true, but maybe OUR campus will become a model for racial harmony. By God's grace, I hope that's what we will become known for. ■



Phillip Warfield, Student Association president and senior history major, set a high goal for himself: to redefine how people view Southern's culture.

“I’ve been here for four years and realized that we have a really unique opportunity, because of where we are and the mix of people that make up Southern—so many people from all over the world and across the country,” Warfield said. “Unfortunately, some people still look at us as this old, racist, white institution that doesn't care about any other culture. But that's not true today. I want to showcase what Southern's culture looks like today.”

With the theme “This Is Us,” Warfield initiated tangible ways to celebrate the unique cultures represented on campus, showing how together they unite to create Southern culture. In addition to collaborating with McKee Library to create cultural media lists and initiating cultural dialogues, he partnered with the university to create banners displayed throughout campus.

The first set of banners, which were hung in February, featured significant African Americans who made contributions both to the country and to Southern's campus. A similar set of

banners was created in April to celebrate Asian/Pacific American history, and in the fall a third set of banners will celebrate Latin American culture. (To see each of the individuals and a short description of their achievements, visit southern.edu/celebrates).

Warfield's efforts culminated in “This Is Us: Multicultural Performance Night.” Historically the three cultural clubs on campus—Asian Club, Black Christian Union, and Latin American Club—each have a Saturday night event celebrating their culture; but to close out this school year, Warfield wanted an all-encompassing celebration. Through music, choreography, and a thought-provoking play, his hope was for people to “come together and see the true, whole culture of Southern. I want people to take a piece of Southern culture with them wherever they go, and that culture is made up of so many different people groups.”



1998 — Luis Chanaga, '99, was elected as Student Association president—the first Latin American in that role. He was influential in making the Latin American Club a popular, vibrant student organization. The same year, the university formed the Diversity Committee.

2016 — Monthly employee race dialogue meetings began. Newly inaugurated President David Smith held a listening session for students to share their perspectives, concerns, and ideas regarding race issues.



2017 — Stephanie Guster and Tom Verrill began leading employee race dialogues. President Smith also held a panel discussion on the topic with Ruth Williams, PhD, professor of psychology, for an employee town hall meeting.

2018 — Southern is ranked by U.S. News and World Report as tied for most diverse university in the South. Of Southern's 2,600 undergraduate students, 53 percent represent minority groups. International students attend from 38 different countries.

Smith released a video apologizing for any discrimination in Southern's past, introducing new initiatives, and soliciting prayer. The initiatives included the creation of a vice president position to focus on unity and inclusion, holding sharing sessions for students to share their thoughts, and greater involvement of the Diversity Committee, with Smith stepping in as chair to add weight to its actions.



Let Your Light Shine

Southern's mission of fostering an uplifting, spiritual environment on campus goes deeper than the many corporate worship opportunities available. This atmosphere is shaped in large part by students who are so full of God's love that it overflows to those around them, brightening the entire campus and inspiring others. Meet a few of these shining lights.

Gabrielle Williams: Vespers Coordinator

Every Friday, hundreds of students gather at the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists to take part in vespers, bringing in the Sabbath. In addition to a speaker, the program usually includes musical selections, prayer, and announcements, which all require planning and coordination behind the scenes. That's where Gabrielle Williams, a sophomore psychology major, comes in.

"As vespers coordinator, my role is making sure the Friday program is a time when people can encounter God and have a celebration of the Sabbath," Williams said. "I think it maintains a sense of family, all coming together as a way to unite."

According to Assistant Chaplain Marc-Anthony Pierre, '17, Williams is more than an asset to the Campus Ministries team.

"Gabrielle makes an effort to encourage our team to be the best we can be," Pierre said. "She is an amazing young lady who helps those around her grow spiritually."

Her devotion to the spiritual lives of others extends beyond her work with vespers. In her personal life, Williams tries to make sure that others can see God working through the way she carries herself; she believes that cultivating a relationship with God is important for every situation that a person faces in life.

"If God is our daily bread, we can't just eat once a week," Williams said. "We need to be incorporating that into our everyday lives to thrive." —by *Tierra Hayes*



Photo: Ryan Pearce

Vanessa Hernandez and Jamil Hairston: Founders of First Love Ministries

Vanessa Hernandez, senior elementary education major, and Jamil Hairston, senior clinical psychology major, began dating their senior year of high school. Since then, God has used them to create something bigger than either of them.

Her freshman year at Southern, Hernandez found joy in LifeGroups—student-led small groups on campus—and quickly took on a leadership role. As she grew in her walk with Jesus, her motivation for leading out changed.



Photo: Barry Daily

"I used to do ministry publicly because it boosted myself," Hernandez said. "Now, the motivation comes from a deep-rooted relationship with Jesus."

Meanwhile, Hairston was a leader in gymnastics, and the idea of being a spiritual influence to others wasn't high on his list of priorities.

"I always liked gymnastics because I could get up front but never talk," he said.

Eventually Hernandez encouraged Hairston to join a Life-Group. Once he let go of his fear of public speaking, Hairston joined Hernandez in ministry, and together they started First Love Ministries. Their work focuses on young adults speaking to other young adults about relationships with God and with others, as well as purity.

In addition to traveling as public speakers, the couple, now married, still leads out in LifeGroups, where they are able to influence people like Hairston's mentee, Bryan Arvelo, who joined as a freshman film major. After a year in the group,

Arvelo switched his major to theology and is now a Life-Group coach himself.

Arvelo describes Hairston as someone who cares for people more than anything else.

"His love for ministering to others is a way of life," Arvelo said. "God overflowed him, and it all poured out on me."

—by *Oksana Wetmore*

Caleb Cook: Background Influencer

You may not always see Caleb Cook, senior management and graphic design double major, up front singing or speaking, but he gives back with his willing attitude and dedication to Christian service. Some might call him a "background influencer" here at Southern.

During his freshman and sophomore years, Cook was actively involved in the Eye Witness Club—a door-to-door outreach program that set the tone for the growth he experienced in his spiritual walk.

"My perspective changed; before I was doing things for my salvation, now I'm doing them because of my salvation," Cook said.

He describes his mission field as a "6-foot by 6-foot square." In other words, he sees his mission field as wherever God places him. His mission is to encourage those around him with the small things, such as a listening ear and kind smile.

"I've had many classes with Caleb; he's a calm and steady presence," said Tegan O'Keefe, junior graphic design major. "He's always friendly and willing to help. He's down-to-earth, and his actions, matched with his abilities, show that he has a clear goal in life." —by *Natalie Boonstra*



Photo: Gus Moretta

Claude Delille: Resident Assistant

Starling Eargle, a senior nursing major, met Claude Delille when they were both freshmen, and from day one, Delille struck her as different.

"I admire Claude for her constant positivity and kindness," Eargle said. "She is an amazing person with open arms and a willingness to serve others."

Now a senior biology major with a biomedical emphasis, Delille continues to minister to students around her as a resident assistant (RA) in Southern Village, the on-campus apartments for upperclassmen.

"People seem to think I have it all under control, and I truly praise God—that's Him in me!" Delille said. "I have a lot of insecurities, but I love to smile. I always ask God to give me a reason to keep smiling, and He does, but I'm a work in progress."

She describes her college experience as God working and showing Himself in every detail. She started at Southern with a four-year plan for her job, her major, and her living situation. God fulfilled and then exceeded her wishes, including her job as an RA.

"God has used me despite myself," she said. "My job opens the doors for deeper relationships. Yes, I do night check and unlock apartments, but my real job is being there for my girls. I want them to know, 'I'm praying for you, and you can come talk to me about anything.'" —by *Sheann Brandon* ■



Photo: Barry Daily

A Southern Welcome

A THRIVING UNIVERSITY IS LIKE A STONE CAST INTO A POND, WITH A RIPPLE EFFECT THAT REACHES FAR BEYOND GRADES AND DIPLOMAS. AS SOUTHERN STRIVES TO OFFER A FIRST-RATE EDUCATION AND RESOURCES FOR ITS STUDENTS, IT ALSO WELCOMES THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY TO ENJOY NUMEROUS ENRICHING OPPORTUNITIES ON CAMPUS.

by Angela Baerg, '06



Doug Coulter (second from left) brings a group to enjoy Southern's trail system almost every Tuesday evening.

A string of teenage boys on mountain bikes wind their way through the woods, slightly out of breath as they reach the top of the ridge. This group of students from McCallie School in Chattanooga comes frequently to Southern Adventist University to ride the extensive wooded trail systems.

"White Oak Mountain and Fenton Forest on Bauxite Ridge are the best beginner trails in the area," says Jake Altemus, director of Outdoor Programs at McCallie. "These trail systems are a great example of conservation, stewardship, public health, and recreation management. People come to town from all over the region to ride them."

Altemus regularly brings his mountain bike classes out to Southern, explaining that White Oak has such variety that his school groups can bike there three or four times before they see the same trail twice. He also appreciates the trails' technical elements, consistent maintenance, and excellent signage.

With more than 30 miles of hiking and biking trails, Southern's outdoor areas are a valuable asset to the local community. In recent years, generous donors helped expand the system, sponsoring exciting natural enhancements to White Oak Mountain (previously known as the Biology Trails) and Fenton Forest through Southern's Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning. The Sabbath Trail in particular is a unique opportunity for learning about the Bible as hikers explore a 1.5-mile loop punctuated by plaques with Bible verses and facts about the Sabbath.

"At Southern, we are blessed with a beautiful outdoor environment," shares Carolyn Hamilton, vice president for Advancement at Southern. "Because of our deep appreciation for God's creation, we desire to share these outdoor spaces so that our community can enjoy His handiwork and achieve better health, as well."

Doug Coulter, owner of Scott's Bicycle Centre in Cleveland, Tennessee, has been a fan of Southern's trail systems for a long time, dating back to 1984 when he attended Southern and hiked the trails. In 1999 he started a trail-riding group. On Tuesday nights in the winter, he and 25-40 friends ride Southern's trails for about 1.5 hours. These rides are made especially exciting because they are in the dark with bike headlights.

"I'm very thankful to the university and to the generous private donors who have helped make the trails what they are," Coulter shares. "I know a lot of non-Adventist people who come through my shop and have a really positive impression of Adventists just from their interactions with Southern's trail systems. These trails help us open up conversations where people want to learn what we believe and why."

A WINDOW INTO THE PAST

Clay seals and shards of pottery may be about as different from mountain biking as it gets, but they are another draw to Southern, offering a better understanding of ancient history. Through archaeological digs in Israel, the university offers students and community members the opportunity to be involved with hands-on research. And, for those unable to partake of that experience, the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum brings the Near East to them.

Home to the William G. Dever Near Eastern Collection, the museum dis-



The Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum provides a wealth of insights into biblical history.

plays more than 200 objects from Egypt, Babylonia, Persia, Syria-Palestine, Greece, Cyprus, and Anatolia. Exhibit highlights include an ancient Babylonian brick stamped with Nebuchadnezzar's name, a rare Syrian clay model of a chariot complete with wheels, a series of Syrian toggle pins from the Middle Bronze Age, and much more. Today this is one of the largest teaching collections of ancient Near Eastern ceramics in North America.

The museum is currently hosting a special exhibit titled "A World in Miniature: Creation, Cosmos, and Ecology on Seals from the Bible" that features ancient seals on loan from Yale University's Babylonian collection.

One of the goals of the museum is to

disseminate the latest research on the archaeology of the ancient Near East for the university and wider community. Several lectures each year feature research from leading scholars around the world and are open to the public.

"Seventh-day Adventists are known as 'people of the Book,'" says Michael Hasel, PhD, director of Southern's Institute of Archaeology. "We teach our disciplines from a biblical foundation. This museum focuses on the authentic history of the Bible and is appropriately housed at the center of campus in the School of Religion, where students study the Bible as they prepare to serve the church and the world."

Many homeschooling groups take advantage of this resource as a way to enrich their children's curriculum and understanding. Jennifer Pendleton, for example, arranged a visit for the Explorers Homeschool Group, a group that meets out of Grace Point Church. They especially enjoyed the section about how seals were made and used.

Stephen Black of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Chattanooga really enjoyed the museum, as well. His favorite sections were the chronological map based on the history of the biblical regions and the collection of identity rings and stamps, the largest he had ever seen.

"It was a great educational experience," he says. "I told all of my friends about it."

Bob Henry of Huntsville, Alabama, learned about Southern through his involvement with the Khirbet Qeiyafa dig in Israel. He heard that Adventists had been working there as well, and when he learned that they had a Collegedale campus and an archaeological library, he wasted no time in coming to check it out.

"The museum's exhibit filled me in on what I had missed on the dig," Henry recalls. "When I first got involved with the site, I had no idea that

Community Resources

Southern offers many resources, both on campus and online. While not an exhaustive list, here are some of them:

Classical 90.5 WSMC

→ southern.edu/wsmc

E.A. Anderson Lecture Series

→ southern.edu/businesslectures

E.O. Grundset Lecture Series

→ southern.edu/biologylectures

Evangelistic Resource Center

→ southern.edu/erc

Food Services

→ southern.edu/food

Hulsey Wellness Center

→ southern.edu/wellness

John C. Williams Art Gallery

→ southern.edu/artgallery

Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum and Lectures

→ southern.edu/archaeology

McKee Library

→ southern.edu/library

Origins Exhibit

→ southern.edu/faithandscience

Origins Online Resources

→ southern.edu/origins

Outdoor Leadership (Challenge Course and Student Park Cave)

→ southern.edu/outdoor

School of Music Concerts

→ southern.edu/musicevents

Teaching Materials Center

→ southern.edu/tmc

Village Market

→ southern.edu/vm

White Oak Mountain and Fenton Forest Trails

→ southern.edu/trails

it would become one of the most exciting digs of the century, the place where David's brothers waited for him during the fight against Goliath. The dig and the museum's exhibitions of its finds helped me draw pictures in my mind and imagine things more accurately. It allowed me to connect more deeply with the Bible."

A LIFETIME LOVE OF LEARNING

Not only has Henry visited the museum multiple times, but he also comes to campus frequently to hear the archaeology lectures. When possible, his wife, Rachel, a Charismatic pastor, comes with him to gain additional perspective about biblical history.

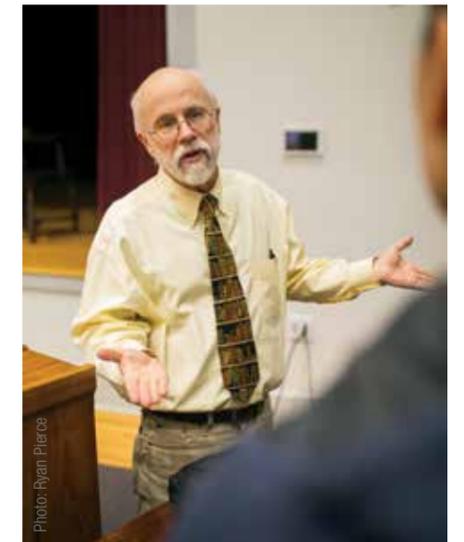
Southern actually offers a number of lecture series on a wide range of topics. For example, the E.A. Anderson Lecture Series features guest speakers who share lessons and insights from the business world. Hosted by the School of Business, the series was founded 50 years ago. Community and retired faculty members Nancy and Mitchell Thiel attend these events as often as possible and recommend them to their friends. In particular, they enjoyed a recent presentation by Ed Zinke, founder of Ann's House of Nuts. Another community member, Cindy (Gorony) McCaughan, '90, also frequently attends and appreciates these opportunities to earn continuing education credits.

Another long-standing lecture option is the E.O. Grundset Lecture Series, which is hosted by the Biology Department and presents a wide variety of topics relating to that field. Community member Rita Vital faithfully attends Southern's lectures on different topics and frequently brings guests along. A volunteer docent of the archaeology museum for nine years, she has an unquenchable thirst for learning.

Vital also has a keen appreciation of music; the great variety of events

open to the community was one of the reasons she chose to retire in the Collegedale area. The talent and dedication represented in Southern's musical ensembles results in programs ranging from pops and jazz to classical music. Many guest performers are invited to campus as well, broadening the offerings even further to include concerts by well-known groups such as the Fisk Jubilee Singers and the Saint Louis Brass.

"I really appreciate the spectrum of musical variety that Southern offers," Vital says. "There is always something to invite my friends of all denominations to enjoy with me. They all ask me to tell them when I am going again. I am very thankful to live under Southern's umbrella of cultural and spiritual activities." ■



Michael Behe, PhD, professor of biochemistry at Lehigh University, presented on intelligent design during the E.O. Grundset Lecture Series this spring.

Ministry in Music

At Southern, musical events are a time of celebration, a time of coming together as a community. Through instrumental and vocal performances, whether by ensembles or soloists, the School of Music aims to enrich the lives of listeners while also providing valuable experience for the performers. Each year, the public is invited to more than 45 concerts on campus. Students also have the opportunity to go on tour—the vocal ensemble *I Cantori* traveled through Italy last summer—and serve together on mission trips, such as one the Symphony Orchestra took to Puerto Rico last spring break.

Music has the ability to transcend the ordinary barriers of daily life and bring people together. Peter Cooper, DMA, interim dean of Southern's School of Music, wants to share this blessing and enjoys meeting with prospective music students and their parents. At some point in the conversation, talk naturally turns to money. Fortunately, thanks to generous donations through the Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning, many students receive scholarships to help them along on their journey.

"Campaign scholarships are a foundational investment in our students, and, therefore, an investment in the future of the church and the impact it will have on society," Cooper says. "I am deeply grateful to all of the donors who sponsor these scholarships. Because of them, we are able to stand behind and support the next generation."

To learn more about the campaign, visit southern.edu/webelieve.



The Day I Met a Ray of Sunshine

by Renee Mitchell, '18

We rarely wake up predicting that something impactful will occur on a particular day—or even recognize the moments leading up to a life-changing moment; rather, we see them in hindsight when we look back at the event itself.

I vividly remember a particular Sabbath two years ago. It was a bright, spring afternoon in April, with a bit of a chill in the air—the perfect weather for sweaters and jeans.

After attending church, I recall sitting in my room and wondering what to do with the rest of my Sabbath afternoon. Then, shortly after lunch, I received a text from one of my friends inviting me to join her for the afternoon FLAG* camp outreach activity (now known as SWAG** camp). I had participated in a couple of these Campus Ministries outings before and enjoyed spending time with the kids, so I thought, “Why not? I have a free afternoon.” Little did I know that this was the first step of a new journey and a new relationship with one special little girl.

Close to Heaven

Once we arrived at the regular FLAG camp location—a low-income neighborhood on the east side of downtown Chattanooga—we followed the routine procedure of going around in groups, knocking on each door, yelling, “FLAG camp! Come out to play!” The kids knew our group and began pouring out of their homes immediately. We played soccer, hide-and-seek, tag, football, jump rope, and hopscotch. Then we handed out snacks and drinks for them while the FLAG camp directors told a Bible story.

That day I remember attracting a group of girls like iron pieces to a magnet. They followed me everywhere I went and asked me a million questions. I adored their company, but as we were about to leave, I noticed one little girl who stood



After meeting at FLAG camp two years ago, Renee (right) and Micaela have become close friends.

off to one side with her mother. Without a second thought, I went over to them and struck up a conversation with the mom, Sherry.

They were locals, but they weren't from that particular housing complex. The little girl, who had celebrated her birthday only a couple of days before, shyly introduced herself as Micaela and told me her age by holding up three tiny fingers. I was immediately drawn to her innocent heart and radiant, happy personality. For the last few minutes before I had to leave, we played on the monkey bars together, and her laugh was infectious.

As we were preparing to board the van and head back to Southern, I asked Sherry for her contact information and had her snap a couple pictures of Micaela and me. Now, every time I look back on those pictures, I can't help but smile and remember a moment in time where I felt close to heaven.

The Seed of Ministry

Since then, we have created a string of wonderful memories together. I didn't know it at the time, but on that day, God planted the seed of ministry in my heart for Micaela and her mother. I invited them to attend church with me, and they began joining me every Saturday. It filled my heart with joy to give Micaela her very first preschooler's Bible.

Over the last couple of years, I have watched their relationship with God develop and flourish, season in and season out. I've had the privilege of entering this little girl's world and creating a relationship with her by showing her a life full of Jesus. Seeing her making new friends at Sabbath school, learning the true meaning of Easter, and telling me the birth story of Jesus makes my heart smile. I look forward to making more memories with her as she continues to grow.

In so many ways, she is a typical little girl who loves My Little Pony, Chick-fil-A, strawberry Dippin' Dots, and swings. But if you ask her why she is special, she will probably tell you, “Because Jesus loves me, and He made me beautiful.”

Sometimes, God allows a specific person to enter your life and change it to better reflect His glory. As much as I have taught Micaela about Jesus, she has taught me so much more about how to live for Him. ■

*Fun Learning About God
**Serve, Worship, and Glorify

Jeffrey Brownlow, '17

TransAmerica route leader and cyclist at last summer's “Bike the US for MS,” a 62-day journey that led a team of cyclists on a 3,785-mile ride from Virginia to California

Why did you start cycling?

During my sophomore year as a financial management major at Southern, I decided to purchase a road bike and began riding in the surrounding area. I found the environment to be a cyclist's paradise. My first big ride was with a large group during the 70th birthday celebration for Gordon Bietz, former president of Southern, in which we rode 70 miles to commemorate the event. A group of my friends and I chose to ride further, and I was able to complete my first “century ride” that day.

How did you become involved in this ride across the United States?

I was about to graduate from Southern and had been looking for job opportunities. I hoped to get an internship with local company CBL & Associates Properties based at Hamilton Place; however, that didn't work out. I decided to expand my search, looking on Craigslist in the nonprofit job section. I found a Help Wanted ad for a bike maintenance position for “Bike the US for MS.” I was torn. I felt as if I should be “furthering my career,” but I ended up taking the position and have never regretted it.

What inspired your desire to help those affected by multiple sclerosis (MS)?

We rode across America for those who can't. I was familiar with the condition through a family friend who has MS. Spreading awareness for such a great cause inspired me because of the people we met along the way who are affected by the disease.

How did Southern prepare you for life after graduation?

Southern gave me the opportunity to surround myself with peers who dared to dream and professors who were at Southern because of the mission, not the paycheck. Being around the professors at Southern shifted my focus from simply getting a job to wanting to change people's lives. It's not about how much money you make; it's about how many lives you impact. Riding across America gave me time to reflect on where I want my life to go.

What did you take away from this experience?

Luke 16:10 says that if we are faithful in the little tasks, we will be put in charge of larger tasks. Pedaling is a very small task, but it took each stroke for me to succeed. Every day we are faced with little decisions that will either bring us closer to our goals or farther away. Last summer taught me that even though the journey may be filled with road kill or covered in debris, you can get through it as long as you keep moving. Be faithful in the little things, because they can carry you far.

Brownlow now serves as accountant at Kibidula, a nonprofit in Tanzania, Africa.



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**

We live in a world of chasms. Thankfully, opportunities abound for spanning these divides with positive action!

While we alumni share a wonderful and rich experience of learning together in the Christ-focused environment that is Southern, we sometimes allow flawed humanity to get in the way of fully sharing God's love. I believe that He dearly loves each one of us in all of our individual uniqueness and longs for us to be a family bonded in unity.

I am confident that prayer is instrumental in building bridges between fellow humans and our loving God. I challenge you to rekindle friendships with fellow alumni. Meet with them, call them, or email them. Use whatever methods you feel most comfortable with for connecting. I also challenge you, as Southern alumni, to pray as a family for unity that reflects love—God's unconditional love—foremost in our lives.

I also encourage you to pray for and with our students, faculty, and administration. Encourage each other, nurture love, and be the supportive family that seeks out opportunities to build bridges rather than to dig chasms. Let's be models of God's unfailing love in order not only to build, but also to run eagerly across these bridges and embrace all that connects us to each other.

Our Alumni Association would love to provide tools to support your bridge-building activities! Visit southern.edu/alumni, email alumni@southern.edu, or call Evonne Crook, director of Alumni Relations, at 423.236.2830.



Jay Dedeker, '88
Alumni Association, President

50s Paul Gates, '59, pastored for 45 years before retiring. His wife, Evelyn (Killen), attended, passed away in April 2017. Paul is in good health and lives at Regency Park in Eustis, Florida.

70s Jay Gallimore, '70, retired as president of the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in January. He and his wife, Linda (Martone), '70, live in Eagle, Michigan.



George H. Whitsett, attended, and Susan (Gardner), '70, retired last spring. Susan worked over the years as a registered nurse, church administrative assistant, and kindergarten teacher. George served the Adventist denomination for nearly 44 years, 42 of them as a pastor. The couple lives in the Collegedale area.

Dennis Millburn, '72, retired in December 2016. After only four months, he was called back to active duty as interim treasurer for the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Dennis and his wife, Bobbie (Platt), '72, live in Snellville, Georgia.

Dayton Chong, '78, was awarded a lifetime achievement commendation by the Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in 2017 for his years of service in Asian/Pacific Ministries. His ministry began at a very young age: he preached his first sermon at age 11 and his first evangelistic crusade at age 13 in Malaysia. Dayton went on to earn master's degrees in divinity and counseling psychology, as well as doctorates in counseling, psychology, and theology. He has served God in the roles of pastor and psychologist and held various conference positions within the Adventist Church. Dayton and his wife, Yvette, live in Fresno, California.

80s Barron von Henner, attended, is medically retired from the armed forces. He has two children, seven stepchildren, and four grandchildren.

Russell Duerksen, '85, is the chief financial officer for Arizona Sonshine, a ministry of the Arizona Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists. This corporation provides more than \$1 million annually in free dental and medical services in Yavapi County. He was recently elected to serve

District 4 on the Yavapi County Board of Health. Russell also continues to practice law, representing a variety of Adventist entities. He and his wife, Nan, live in Chino Valley, Arizona.

90s Joy (Mavrakos) Litten, '96, teaches high school math and recently completed her master's degree in educational leadership. She and her husband, Lowell, have four children; their oldest daughter, Nikki, is a high school senior who plans to attend Southern in the fall. They live in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

Jeff Hocking, '99, was recently promoted to senior vice president and chief actuary for BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee after 18 years with the company. In this new role, he will be responsible for oversight, strategic leadership, and analytical best practices for all actuarial functions. He will also provide strategic counsel and analysis for decision support related to pricing negotiations, claims reserves, forecasting, and other budgeting and reporting needs. Jeff and his wife, Jennifer (Lemon), '01, have two children and live in Ooltewah, Tennessee.

Julie (Reaves) Phillips, '99, earned her Master of Social Work degree from Southern in December 2017. She lives in Harrison, Tennessee.

Elisa Rahming, '99, was recently voted chief financial officer of the Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. She holds a master's degree in business administration from Georgia State University and is a certified public accountant. Elisa began working for the conference in 2007 and has served as undertreasurer since 2010. She lives in Altamonte Springs, Florida.



00s Cecilia Luck, '05 and '16, works with abused animals at a rescue shelter in the Haram Pyramids area close to Giza, Egypt. She lives nearby in Saqqara.



Jonathan Russell, '05, has been named assistant to the president for multimedia communications in the Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. He previously pastored at the Sunnyside Seventh-day Adventist Church in Portland, Oregon. He and his wife, Jaclyn (Dove), attended, have three children and live in Vancouver, Washington.

Jessica Kisunzu, '08, completed her doctorate in chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley, in 2014. She then headed to Europe for postdoctoral research at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Switzerland. In 2017, she began



working as an assistant professor of organic chemistry at Colorado College in Colorado Springs.

Emmy Beltre, '09, was recently featured in a National Public Radio segment about Mister Rogers' Neighborhood. Emmy learned to speak English after arriving as a child from the Dominican Republic by listening to the deliberate cadence and careful enunciation of this venerable television show's title character. Emmy is a senior graphic designer at WFIU Public Radio and lives in Bloomington, Indiana. To watch his video, visit southern.edu/columns.



Jonathan Schilling, '09, attended Loma Linda University's School of Medicine in California. He is now working as an attending physician in emergency medicine departments at two hospitals in the southern part of the state. Schilling and his wife, Kristen, have a 1-year-old daughter, Jocelyn. They live in San Bernardino.



10s Adam Wamack, '10, has been named manager for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency's Connections program. In his new role, Adam will be responsible for engaging churches, universities, schools, camp meetings, and other entities in order to increase awareness and involvement with ADRA through mission trips. He previously served as a development officer for the Florida Hospital Foundation and interactive patient care manager for Florida Hospital Celebration Health.



Sherry Campbell, '11, received her Master of Social Work degree at Southern. After graduation, she taught the Aging and Society class on campus and also found local employment as a social worker. Using information and course projects developed while pursuing her graduate degree, Sherry helped start Welcome Home Chattanooga, a place for those who have a terminal illness and nowhere to go for end-of-life care. The organization offers shelter and family-type support while partnering with area hospices that provide professional medical services. Sherry lives in Rossville, Georgia.

Leo Macias, '11, and Hilary (Prandl), '12, work in video production for Maranatha Volunteers International and have been featured on 3ABN for their service in the mission field. They also help

Southern with freelance video editing for the capital campaign and other areas, as needed. The couple lives in Roseville, California.

Ashlee Chism, '13, received a master's degree in information from the University of Michigan and is now serving as an assistant archivist for the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. She is researching little-known Adventists who accomplished great things and made significant sacrifices for their faith. She also helps the scholars within our church through curating donations and tracking sources for denominational research. Ashlee lives in Columbia, Maryland.

Eric Brewer, attended, and Dara (Laing), '15, were married October 8, 2017.

Justin Hernandez, '15, and Natalie Herrera, '16, were married in July 2017 and live in Loma Linda, California. Justin attends Loma Linda University's School of Medicine, and Natalie works as a foster care social worker in San Bernardino.

Kim Quiambao, '15, and Erin (Tablang), '15, were married September 3, 2017. They live in Ooltewah, Tennessee.

Heather Peel, '16, earned her master's degree in organ performance from Arizona State University in December 2017. She returned to the Collegedale area after graduation and plans to marry David Orvek, '16, in 2018. She works as a teaching associate in Southern's School of Music and is also employed as an organist at First Lutheran Church in Chattanooga.



Silvana (Riano) de Jesus, '18, recently opened a business, Little Monsters Dog Care and Training, with services including dog walking, daily check-ins, and in-home doggie day care. The company has locations in both Florida and Tennessee. Silvana also operates Desilva, a small marketing and branding firm that caters to professionals, primarily lawyers, across the country. She and her husband, Andrew, '18, live in Collegedale.

REMEMBRANCE

V. Wilfred Stuyvesant, '52, passed away November 21, 2017. Wilfred was born in Fullerton, California, on July 12, 1928, and attended Madison College in Tennessee before coming to Southern, where he earned a bachelor's degree in biology. He completed medical school at Loma Linda University in 1956 and then served as a physician in the Alaska Native Hospital in Anchorage for two years. In 1971,

Wilfred started a pathology practice at Madison Hospital in Tennessee, where he worked until his retirement. An avid nature photographer and gardener, he also served on the boards of several Adventist organizations. Wilfred is survived by his wife, Florence (Nelson); his daughters: Ruth Chesnut, '79 and '82, Cheryl Hosford, '85, Heather Page, '90, and Valerie Anderson, '92; his sister, Carolyn Stuyvesant; and five grandchildren.

David Herbert Bauer, '56, passed away October 24, 2017, in Flat Rock, North Carolina. David was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on November 19, 1931, and attended Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) in Virginia before coming to Southern to earn his bachelor's degree in theology. He went on to pursue graduate studies at the church seminary, which was located in Takoma Park, Maryland, at the time. During that period David met Marilyn Haase, a Washington Missionary College coed. They married in 1957. During his early career, David held positions with SVA and Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church in Maryland as well as Mt. Vernon Academy and Kettering Medical Center in Ohio. In 1968 he began working for Andrews University and served in multiple roles, including vice president for University Advancement. While employed there, David earned his doctorate of education degree in 1982. In retirement, David served on several boards, taught a graduate class in development, and served as an elder in Pioneer Memorial Church in Michigan. Many young professionals are indebted to him for the intentional way in which he mentored them as they entered his field of work. Today they stand as his legacy. David is survived by Marilyn, his wife of 60 years, and his sister, Ruth Spangenberg.

Julian "Butch" Coggin, '57, passed away November 14, 2017, at his home in Virginia. Butch was born January 14, 1936, in Orlando, Florida, and grew up in the Cocoa area. Upon graduating from Southern Missionary College, he completed his medical degree at Loma Linda University in California. He served two years in the Army before being offered a residency in pathology at Fitzsimmons Army Medical Hospital in Denver, Colorado. Butch spent 20 years as chief of pathology at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and 20 more years as chief of pathology at Montgomery County Hospital in Maryland. In retirement he enjoyed playing golf with his friends in Wintergreen, Virginia. Butch was a member of the Waynesboro Seventh-day Adventist Church in Pennsylvania, serving as both a Sabbath School teacher and elder. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn; his daughter, Jill Oldiges; two grandsons; three great-grandchildren; and his brother, Dave Coggin, '61, of Lakeland, Florida.



Photo: Gus Moretta

Drawn to Jesus

Sophomore chemistry major Mason Clark, portraying Jesus, mingles with the crowd as he enters “Jerusalem.” Every year approximately 10,000 people come to Southern’s campus for the SonRise Resurrection Pageant, a collaboration between the university and the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists. Volunteer actors portray key events surrounding Christ’s crucifixion and resurrection, including the way people of all ages and walks of life were drawn to Jesus during His ministry on Earth.



Photo: Terry Henson

undivided

by David Smith, PhD, president

Last summer I heard a powerful sermon by a white South African. He had recently read *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah, and it profoundly impacted him—he wept through much of his sermon—so I decided to read the book. Although it has some pretty tough language, it also has some of the most amazing insights into human nature and human experience of anything that I have read.

Born into a mixed relationship in a country that prohibited the blending of races, Noah shares an account of growing up in South Africa under Apartheid.

“The genius of Apartheid,” he writes, “was convincing people who were the overwhelming majority to turn on each other. ... You separate people into groups, and you make them hate one another so that you can run them. At the time, black South Africans outnumbered white South Africans nearly five to one, yet we were divided into different tribes with different languages. ... Long before Apartheid existed, these tribal factions clashed and warred with one another. Then white rule used that animosity to divide and conquer” (page 3).

Man’s ability to divide, control, manipulate, even annihilate entire groups of people speaks to an evil power that is still active in our world today. I read an editorial in the *Chattanooga Times Free Press* earlier this year. It said: “The State of the Union in the United States can be summed up in one word. It wouldn’t take very long to report it: divided.”

Divided

Unfortunately we can see this even in our own church. A number of years ago my wife, Cherie, and I were asked to speak for a camp meeting in Hong Kong. But it wasn’t the main Chinese camp meeting; it was a special meeting for Filipinos, because they were not allowed to attend the main meetings. And you can see this same story repeated over and over around the world; only the specific details are different. As humans, unless we allow God’s love to fill us, we are going to be divided.

Because of this, we fight. We fight over ordination and female pastors, fundamental beliefs, lines of authority and control, lifestyle issues. Anything we can think of, we fight about it. To divide and conquer is one of Satan’s most effective strategies to defeat God’s church; to unify in love is God’s most effective strategy.

Jesus talked about the dangers of becoming divided. When He cast a demon out of a man, His critics accused Jesus of being in league with Satan. Jesus responded, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand” (Matthew 12:25, NIV). Jesus’ beautiful prayer in John 17 emphasizes unity. In verses 20-23, He petitioned his Father: “I pray also for those who will believe in me ... that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. ... Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

Nothing will appeal to people outside of the church as much as discovering a group of believers who are united, particularly if that unity is founded in the love of God. It is our most powerful witness to the world. This is clear in Jesus’ statement in John 13:34: “A new command I give you: Love one another.” How? Jesus said, “As I have loved you.”

Unconditional Love

I met a young man who had been a self-proclaimed all-out druggie, long-haired and filthy. One Saturday morning, he found himself in a small Seventh-day Adventist church. He was met by an elderly woman who pulled him in for a hug and told him, “I love you, God loves you, and we’re glad you’re here.” Even when his filth got on her Sabbath dress, she didn’t flinch. For two years, the young man attended every Sabbath, and he told me that during that time, not a soul ever said or hinted that anything was wrong with him. They didn’t tell him to stop drinking or to get rid of his drugs. All he got was a full dose of God’s love. At the end of that time, he told the head elder, “You people have something I want,” and he was baptized. Today he is the pastor of his own Adventist church and practices the same love that he found in that special congregation.

It is the nature of divine love to include and unite, not to exclude and divide. Throughout Jesus’ earthly ministry, He demonstrated that He came to save everybody who would believe in Him. His kingdom would transcend all human and political barriers and would include people from every race, kindred, tribe, and nation. Divine love invites people, pulls them together, and holds them together, undivided. ■

HOMECOMING WEEKEND

HIS STRENGTH, OUR UNITY

HONOR CLASSES

1938, '48, '58, '68, '73, '78, '88, '93, '98, '08

SAVE THE DATE!

October 25-28, 2018

- **Gym-Masters Reunion**
Past and current gymnasts reminiscing and performing together
- **Parade of Nations**
Vespers pageant featuring international costumes and flags
- **Missions Expo**
Opportunities for mentoring students considering mission service
- **Golden Anniversary Reunion**
Class of 1968 celebrating five decades



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