The Little Things
Sometimes small gestures leave big impressions | page 12
Tasty Treats
Homemade pottery, greeting cards, soaps, clothing, and a wide selection of food options drew crowds to the second annual 423 Night Market. Hosted by the Student Association, students and employees set up more than 70 booths that showcased their talents and diverse cultures. Pictured from left to right, junior biology and allied health majors Madison, Gnieki, and Caleigh Tsuchiya and their friends sold “Tsuchi Balls”—rice flour dumpings also known as Japanese Dango.

features
12 | The Little Things
Kindness manifests itself in a wide variety of actions, both big and small. But while big expressions of kindness may blow us away, sometimes it is the little gestures that add up and leave the biggest impressions.

16 | Missions Near & Far
Every year, Southern students spread out around the world as missionaries, quickly realizing that they benefit as much as or more than those they serve.

18 | All in the Family
Each of these three married couples is bound together through a love of nursing, which gives them a unique opportunity to touch many lives while supporting each other along the way.

24 | Homecoming
Homecoming is always a high point of the year on campus as we welcome Southern alumni from all over the country. Attendees enjoy a long weekend of fellowship, shared memories, worship, and fun.

departments
4 | Photo Essay
6 | Headlines
10 | Community Connection
22 | History Nugget
23 | Alumni Profile
26 | Beyond the Columns
31 | The Word

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Photo: Calvin Serban

Cover caption: Cheryl Craven, '99, an employee in the School of Social Work, shares her love for others by cultivating and sharing African violets.

Photo by Ryan Pierce
Academic Summer Camps 2019

The fourth annual Academic Summer Camps had the highest attendance so far. More than 150 students from 13 different states participated in the 11 camps offered, taking advantage of the opportunity to explore potential careers and think about their callings while still in high school. Each topic offered hands-on experience, from dissecting a real animal joint in the Pre-Med Camp to writing an article in the Multimedia Journalism Camp, which was published in Southern Tidings magazine.

1. The School of Journalism and Communication’s studio provided the setting for camper Maiya Banks to practice fashion photography.
2. After a full day of classroom activities, campers participated in a lighthearted cardboard boat race, constructing and paddling their own cardboard creations.
3. Robert Ordóñez, associate professor of computing, worked with camper Josh Tary on mobile phone app development. On page 12, read how Ordóñez and others on campus brighten the lives of those around them.
4. As a fun yet insightful outing, psychology campers were grouped into teams based on who had the least in common according to personality assessments. Each team then worked together to solve an escape room.
5. Camper Ashley Ford captured a pollinating bee for Photography Camp’s nature assignment.
6. On the last day, the students from each camp showcased what they had learned for their parents, the other campers, and Southern employees.
7. Automotive repair campers received hands-on experience working in the shop.
8. Pre-med campers Ryan Howell (right) and Ethan Lin took each other’s blood pressure while learning how to check basic vital signs.
9. The Vegetarian Culinary Arts Camp gave high school students such as Otis Woolfolk (left) and Zachary Bradley practical experience baking and cooking.
10. Students in the Multimedia Journalism Camp interviewed local refugees for an article they published in Southern Tidings magazine.
11. Students in the Social Work and Missions Camp worked together on a collage about social issues.
12. During a hospital simulation, students in the Pre-Med Camp demonstrated some of the skills they learned.

Academic Summer Camps next year will be June 14-17. For more information, write to visit@southern.edu.
Southern Welcomes New Vice President for Spiritual Life

Southern Adventist University is pleased to welcome Joseph Khabbaz as the new vice president for spiritual life. Along with serving as campus chaplain, Khabbaz will help prioritize Southern’s spiritual goals through this newly restructured position.

“For some time, I hoped for an administrative position focused on spiritual life that would provide direct input into top decision-making processes,” said President David Smith, Ph.D. “I believe that spiritual life is at the heart of everything that is important to us at Southern and that we are best served by leaving the flag of spiritual life as high as we can. I know that the focus on spiritual life will be greatly enhanced through Joseph’s ministry and that our employees and students will be effectively ministered to through the work he and his team in the Chaplain’s Office will provide.”

Khabbaz was born and raised in Sydney, Australia, where he worked as an accountant before attending seminary at Andrews University. He has years of experience working with young people, including his most recent position as the youth and young adult pastor at Siglo Seventh-day Adventist Church in Takoma Park, Maryland. His hobbies include international mission trips, basketball, and spending time with friends and family, including his uncle, retired Southern religion professor Philip Sarnaan, DMin.

“I’m excited to serve young adults as they matriculate through Southern,” Khabbaz said. “This is a time of life where they will be making critical decisions that will set their future direction in areas such as career, finances, friendships, and spirituality. As faculty and staff go through life alongside students, I pray that both we and the students will be transformed through a vibrant relationship with God.”

Khabbaz assumed his responsibilities in the new dual role of chaplain and newly restructured position.

Media Partnership Serves Young People

Recently Southern partnered with the Carolina Conference to support the initiative “Project ReFresh.” This multimedia project aims to create spiritual and engaging content for young adults across various media platforms, including blogs, videos, and podcasting.

“The goal of Project ReFresh is to create discussions and answer questions about biblical and social issues, which is something that young adults have been searching for within the Adventist church,” said Rebecca (Mills) Carpenter, ’97, director of communications at the Carolina Conference.

Since Carolina Conference launched Project ReFresh in 2018, several Southern students and employees have been involved in the initiative’s various media channels. This summer, the university officially joined in supporting the project.

“We believed in the content that Project ReFresh is producing and their willingness to not shy away from tough topics,” said Isaac James, ’08, director of Marketing and University Relations at Southern. “We saw this as an opportunity to promote that idea and show that Southern is also supportive of young people and their thoughts about church issues.”

Southern sponsors three of Project ReFresh’s channels: The Loop video series; “What If,” a vlog that explores awkward questions, and “ReFresh,” a multimedia project aimed at young people and their thoughts about church issues. “The goal of Project ReFresh is to help us make positive use of our diversity,” said President David Smith, Ph.D. “It’s another form of learning, a higher education experience, a learning experience, a higher education experience.”

During the 2018-2019 school year, the university officially joined in supporting the project.

For more information about Project ReFresh, visit theprojectrefresh.org.

Senior Advisers Appointed to Assist Administration

Southern has appointed two new advisers to the president, thanks to the generosity of alumni. Stephanie Guster, MSW, associate professor in the School of Social Work, will serve as senior adviser for diversity with an emphasis on race. Alan Parker, DTh, professor in the School of Religion, will serve as senior adviser for sexual integrity.

“To me, diversity is something that totally enriches a learning experience, a higher education experience,” said President David Smith, Ph.D. “It’s another form of learning, a higher education experience, a learning experience, a higher education experience.”

During the 2018-2019 school year, the university worked to hire a vice president for unity and inclusion, but because of budgetary constraints that prevented us from temporarily putting the search on hold, then two alumni donors stepped forward, offering to fund the work for two years.

Thanks to their investment, two advisers will share the duties originally handled under one job description, while continuing some of their previous responsibilities on campus.

Guster, the senior adviser for diversity, will specifically focus on racial diversity. She will chair the Diversity Committee, aid in monthly employee cultural conversations, plan programming that provides a safe and open environment to address racial diversity issues, and more. “My goals include collaboration with the Student Association, developing strong connections with each ethnic club, and collaboration with international Student Services in order to expand our conversation beyond only black and white concerns,” Guster said.

As senior adviser for sexual integrity, Parker will oversee the work of the Committee for Sexual Integrity and facilitate the creation of subcommittees that will tackle different topics such as pornography and LGBTQ questions. “I hope students will understand that Parker said. “I hope students will understand that the Bible says about sex and will understand how the church relates to sexuality.”

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Improvements Scheduled for Library and Wright Hall

Southern’s Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning Initiatives are coming to fruition around campus. Shortly after the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year, donors exceeded the monetary goal by reaching $300.8 million and counting. These financial gifts are going to many projects around campus, including the Bietz Center for Student Life, which is quickly taking form despite seasonal delays.

One of the newest additions to the campaign is the upcoming facelift of McKee Library, adding much-needed space and better coordination with its nearest neighbor, the new Bietz Center. Plans for the $300,000 project began moving forward after the university received more than $300,000 in gifts from both corporate and individual donors. New additions will include an enclosed front entrance, an extra 2,000 square feet of space, and a new side entrance with large windows facing Hackman Hall. Additionally, there’s good news ahead for those whose age, injury, or disability makes navigating stairs problematic. Soon they’ll be able to get from the second to the fourth floors of Wright Hall using a new elevator with exterior access directly from street level on Cafeteria Drive.

The $250,000 project began in late summer and is scheduled for completion this fall. Along with brick-and-mortar projects, the Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning also includes a strong focus on student scholarships and Southern’s endowment. To learn more visit southern.edu/webelieve. – by Tierra Hayes

Southern Installs Cuban Distance Education Classroom

This summer, Southern helped the Cuba Adventist Theological Seminary become one of the most technologically advanced colleges in Cuba by installing a distance education classroom using funds donated to the College of Church of Seventh-day Adventists. This will expand the reach and options offered by the seminary.

The idea originated when Elvis Hernandez, principal of the seminary, came to Southern to study English. While here, he invited President David Smith to speak for graduation in Cuba, and during that visit, they discussed the potential for turning a storage room into a distance education classroom.

Smith assigned the technological part of the project to Gary Sewell, associate vice president for Information Technology at Southern. In preparation, Sewell bought everything the project might require, including cordless drills and screwdrivers.

“The amazing thing is that what we ordered was just enough for what we needed,” Sewell said. “God was in it from the beginning, and He just made it all happen.”

In addition to new equipment purchased using donor gifts, Southern shared other components from its own Information Technology department. In August, Sewell and Nick White, “10, an audio visual technician at Southern, traveled to Cuba and installed the equipment.

Throughout the two-day installation, the local maintenance workers at the seminary were actively involved. Before leaving Cuba, Southern’s team met with the seminary staff, explaining the inner workings of the system and answering questions.

“We wanted to make sure that they understand how it works and how to support it,” Sewell said. “When we turned on the computer, they were just overjoyed, and when my wife called in, you should have seen their faces. They loved it.”

The former storage room is now equipped with technology that allows classes to be taught and attended virtually. Because the Cuban government prohibits foreigners from entering the country to teach, and since there are not enough Adventist academic professors in the area, this classroom will allow the seminary to provide the three master’s degrees it has been approved to offer. The plan is to begin teaching classes next semester.

The festival, which is sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, had a record number of participants this year. The event provides young Christian filmmakers with opportunities to network, brainstorm, and dialogue with others who share their interests and values.

Southern employees (at right in white) join the seminary team in the new distance learning classroom.

David Barasoain, ‘89, an alum and adjunct professor at Southern’s School of Journalism and Communication, won a Peabody, one of the most coveted honors in broadcast journalism. The award recognized his work on the podcast "Buried Truths," which he produces with a team that includes Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Hank Klibanoff as the host.

The podcast also received a Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award for their work titled “Beep Bop Symphony.” The show explores the power of working together in harmony through a humorous, musical animation.

Two other Southern students also were honored for their work: Joshua Trevellick, senior film production major, received “Best Comedy Short” for his piece “Missing Sock”; and Brittany Danese, senior film production major, received “Honorable Mention, Comedy Short” for her work titled “Beep Bop Symphony,” also and received “Audience Choice Award” and “Best Animated Short” for their work titled “Beep Bop Symphony.” The show explores the power of working together in harmony through a humorous, musical animation.

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Barasoain began his career in radio as a student working at Southern’s radio station, Classical 90.5 WSMC. After 10 years at Adventist World Radio, Barasoain began working for WABE in Atlanta, where he is the director of radio production. He has taught as an adjunct instructor at Southern since 2005.

Martin Klingbeil, DIL, professor in the School of Religion, was recognized for his outstanding writing by the Associated Church Press (ACP). During its “Best of the Church Press Awards,” the national association awarded Klingbeil with the “Award of Excellence in Devotional Inspirational (short format)” for his article “When Failure Is (Not) an Option,” which was published in Adventist World.

Klingbeil has written at Southern for nine years and is a regular contributor to publications such as Adventist World, Adventist Review, and Journal of the Adventist Theological Society.

– by Staff Writers
Music With a Smile
by Trisney Bocala, sophomore mass communication major

It was Rita Vital’s 89th birthday. Her family had gathered to celebrate, and as they visited, the doorbell rang. To everyone’s surprise, a group of chamber musicians from Southern’s Music Club was on the doorstep. Without knowing that it was Vital’s birthday, the group had decided to provide a mini home-concert to brighten her day.

Vital and her family gladly welcomed everyone into the house, and the music group performed a few classical and hymn selections, then took requests. Following the music, the students visited with the family, and before they left, Vital had all of the students sign her guestbook with their names and contact information. As the visit came to a close, the students invited everyone to the final Symphony Orchestra concert of the year. When Vital explained that she did not have a ride, the students connected her with Southern’s Lights Volunteers, who were able to get her to and from the concert.

“Just our smiling presence was uplifting to them, and they encouraged us, as well.”

Sharing Joy Through Music

Serving others takes many forms, and these students—mostly music majors—decided to bring joy to the elderly or homebound through music. Before their mini-concert for Vital, the Music Club had frequently organized groups of four to 20 students to perform in local nursing homes.

“Music, mentioned to Esperante that Vital was a dedicated supporter of the School of Music, Esperante organized the group to perform for her at home.

Seeing how inspired their audience was by this in-home concert, these musicians hope to continue this ministry.

“Just our smiling presence was uplifting to them, and they encouraged us, as well,” said Alissa Tanguay, senior music education major. “It is a really cool witnessing opportunity to reach out and make these connections in the community, and we are hoping to do it more this year. It’s great to have big concerts, but it can be easy to forget about those who can’t come. With this, we get to share the experience of live music and learn from our audience. It’s like you’re stepping into someone else’s world.”

“I always enjoy making music with my friends,” said Cameron Wilcox, sophomore music performance major. “Music connects people in a special way, and I find it rewarding to bring smiles to the faces of elderly people who don’t get the chance to hear live music very often. I feel blessed to be in an environment where I get to hear music wherever I go, so I enjoy sharing that joy with others.”

As a member of the Music Club, (left to right) Danny Pauliah, senior liberal arts education major; Bailey Krall, sophomore music major; Alissa Tanguay, senior music education major; Janelle Dobson, senior music education major; and Daniel Esperante, ‘19, spread joy through music.
Kindness manifests itself in a wide variety of actions, both big and small. But while big expressions of kindness may blow us away, sometimes it is the little gestures that add up and leave the biggest impressions. Whether it is a warm smile, a simple gift, a kind word, a helping hand, or maybe an unexpected treat, great joy is found in the little things.

Jesus talked frequently about being kind to those around us; the Bible even lists kindness as a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Being kind, the Bible indicates, is a symptom that Jesus is in your heart. In John 13:35, He says it this way: “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Cheryl Craven, ’99, has served as the administrative assistant in the School of Social Work for almost 10 years. During that time, she has created many opportunities to show kindness to the staff and students around her. From giving away her fresh garden produce to baking hundreds of “midterm muffins” for students each semester, she is always searching for new ways to spread joy. Last year, Craven and the School of Social Work began a new program to help students who are grieving.

“We have always written cards to the students who have lost loved ones,” said Christie Wilder, ’03, dean of the School of Social Work. “Cheryl recently joined the Chattanooga African Violet Society and asked me what I thought about giving our students some of the flowers as well. It has already made such a positive impact.”

Craven’s inspiration was a story she had once heard of a woman who overcame suicidal depression by giving away flowers. When African violets came into her life, she realized that she could show kindness in the same way.

“This is a simple gesture, but it can make a big difference,” Craven said. “By giving away a potted plant, we can bring extra cheer, to support them.”

Last year, Craven gave African violets to 13 students, and already this year she has given away more. Trecia Lyon, a student in the master’s degree program who received a violet, said that the flowers lifted her spirits after she had lost her sister.

“I felt loved and understood when I received the potted plant,” Lyon said. “The thought behind the gift made it impactful to me, and I named the flower after my sister.”

“Sometimes after people experience a great loss, it’s hard to keep showing up to class,” Wilder said. “We want the students to know, ‘We see you, we acknowledge your loss, and we are not asking you to ignore it.’ It has been a very tangible way to show Jesus to students without preaching.”

Kari Shultz, ’79, has served as the director of Student Life and Activities since 1999. Well-known on campus as one who creates opportunities for fun and connection, her latest project has been orchestrating pop-up food events.

“We started a couple of years ago,” Shultz said. “The events aren’t advertised in any way. We put up a sign that says, ‘Pop-Up Event’ and have something that we make in my outdoor kitchen on the Promenade available for students to enjoy. I want to bring joy at unexpected times.”

Once last year, Shultz and her crew made fresh French fries. (“Nothing frozen in my kitchen,” she said with a smile.) After serving 50 pounds of potatoes, still more were needed. For students to know, ‘We see you, we acknowledge your loss, and we are not asking you to ignore it.’ It has been a very tangible way to show Jesus to students without preaching.”

“Some students have lost multiple family members at one time,” Craven said. “School is hard, and when you lose someone in addition to that, it adds so much stress. Many of them are away from home, and I just thought, ‘How can we bring extra cheer, to support them?’”

In addition to homemade fries, Shultz has served crescent rolls, pancakes, fried PB&J sandwiches, and more. The tradition will continue this school year with more delicious food on the menu, but Shultz makes sure it is always a surprise for students.

“I’m not sure when we will be planning my next pop-up! That is the beauty of these events. I can decide to do one on Tuesday, and if the weather is bad, I shift it and no one but me and my worker are the wiser.”

Since 2009, Linda Case (attended) has greeted students as the Dining Hall hostess. Beyond a friendly smile or a kind word, she calls them each by name.

“My first year, I learned more than 1,000 names,” Case said. “I pray at the start of each semester to be able to remember everyone’s name, and I do.”

Over the years, people have commented about Case’s ability to study the campus directory so intently and remember everyone’s name.

“I don’t study anything,” Case said with a laugh. “I just pray and ask God to help me remember. It is persistence. I ask students their names until I remember. Usually by the second month, I know the majority.”

When Case’s daughter Crystal, ’15, first came to Southern as a student, the job they found for her was in the Dining Hall. Linda Case wanted to work with young people, so she asked if there was a job there for her, too. She began working as the Dining Hall hostess and quickly realized the importance of remembering the students’ names.

“That first day I was so nervous,” she said. “I prayed, ‘Lord please help me smile and help them to believe how much I care.’ Then I thought, ‘You know, if I learned their names, I will really make a difference.’”

Beyond just a nice gesture, Case has found that learning the students’ names has struck them on a deeper level. Some of the students are lonely when they first arrive on campus and don’t know anyone, and her intentional connection helps them know that someone cares. A few students have even cried the first time Case remembered their names.

“Linda is always so friendly, and the way she treats others is full of love,” said Karen Cruz, junior nursing major. “Last year I went to her house for home vespers, and she told us how she prays every day to remember people’s names. That meant so much to me! She is a true blessing for this campus.”

“She is a mission to me,” Case said. “I don’t give myself credit; it’s God. He has something for each one of us to do to be used by Him, and whatever that is for you, He is going to help you do it.”
PAPER GIFTS

On many desks around campus, you will find origami creations. These colorful folds may be in the form of a crane, jumping frog, or even an intersecting tetrahedron. If you spot one, it is likely a gift from Robert Ordóñez, ’95, associate professor in the School of Computing.

“I carry a packet of origami paper in my pocket at all times,” Ordóñez said. “I have been doing it for years, but only recently did I begin giving them away around Southern.”

Ordóñez’s love for origami was first shared primarily with his son’s Adventurer group and Sabbath School class. Now, he makes them during meetings or downtime to give away.

“It keeps my fingers busy,” Ordóñez said. “Some people doodle; I fold origami. Many of them I have memorized, and they take only a few minutes to make. Some of the modular ones take an hour.”

Typically, after creating an origami piece, Ordóñez will give it away to someone in the meeting.

“It is a great conversation starter, a chance to connect,” he said. “Someone almost always comes up to me afterward. It bridges the gap with someone I might not normally talk to.”

Katie McGrath, ’00, public services librarian at McKee Library, experienced Ordóñez’s kindness during a meeting at her son’s school.

“Both Robert and I were in a parent meeting for the school where our children attend. My son was getting restless, and Robert kindly made a few origami figures for him to play with,” she said. “In addition to helping me entertain my son during a boring school parent meeting, pieces of Robert’s work are on display in more than one office around campus. Whenever I comment on the pieces, the owners always light up and tell me how much they enjoy having them.”

Ordóñez’ origami gifts have become so popular that McGrath suggested he display some of his work at the library.

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Being a computer science professor, Ordóñez says that sometimes it is hard for people to see past the exterior stereotype.

“It gives a perspective completely separate from the stereotype. It brings us down to earth and helps us connect with someone we might not get to know otherwise.”

A NEW COMMANDMENT

In John 13:34 Jesus gave a new commandment: “Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” Individuals such as Craven, Shultz, Case, and Ordóñez have embraced this concept, making loving others a habit. Through simple, meaningful gestures, they not only brighten the lives of those around them, but also share Christ’s love.

The cumulative effect of these gestures is huge, creating an atmosphere at Southern that can be felt immediately.

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The cumulative effect of these gestures is huge, creating an atmosphere at Southern that can be felt immediately.

“The second I stepped foot on Southern’s campus, it felt like home, like it was the place where I belonged,” said Emily Ramirez, senior nursing major. “I enjoy the different relationships that I’ve made since coming here. I’ve had the opportunity to interact with professors who genuinely care about my well-being, not only academically but also personally.”

Every individual has something to contribute; it may not be growing African violets or learning thousands of names, but each kind act helps to make the world a better place.
Every year, Southern students spread out around the world as missionaries, quickly realizing that they benefit as much as or more than those they serve. Whether they go for a couple of weeks or a full year, their lives are forever touched by the experience.

“Being a student missionary was life-changing for me. It gave me the opportunity to step out in faith and go outside of my comfort zone. I learned that life is so much more rewarding when you spend it serving others. This experience gifted me with friendships, adventures, and memories that will last a lifetime.”

— Kathryn Woodcock, junior liberal arts education major, who was a first-grade teacher in Pohnpei.

By Rachel Beaver, Senior Public Relations Major, and Trinsey Bocala, Sophomore Mass Communication Major

Last year, eight Southern students served as missionaries in “undisclosed countries.” Christian Bunch, ’17, director of Student Missions, unpacks what that means.

What is an “undisclosed country”? These are typically non-Christian areas where missionary work is largely unwelcome. We cannot publish the names of the countries, student missionaries (SMs) serving there, or organizations involved because it might jeopardize their safety and long-term effectiveness. For example, if a student is serving in Asia as a nurse, we would prefer that people assume he or she is a volunteer until they get to know the student on a more personal level, along with the student’s God. To be recognized as a missionary from the start would limit the opportunities to reach people.

What do the SMs do in these countries? Most are nurses, teachers, or friendship evangelists, but they may need to perform their tasks privately. Though they cannot do any public evangelism, the students are often able to reach people whom a career missionary could not; our students may be able to teach English to kids whose parents would never set foot in an Adventist church. How do you pair up the right students with these opportunities?

We explore the student’s ability to handle potentially difficult situations and ask questions such as, “How would you feel about not being able to post on social media for a year?” or “What does success look like for you as a student missionary?” We evaluate their responses along with references from pastors, professors, peers, and employers to determine whether or not they are ready for such an adventure. If they are, we recommend them to one of our partner organizations, where they receive more in-depth training on handling difficult cultural and spiritual contexts.

Is there danger associated with these assignments? Safety is an integral part of our program, and employers to determine whether or not they are ready for such an adventure. If they are, we recommend them to one of our partner organizations, where they receive more in-depth training on handling difficult cultural and spiritual contexts. Essentially, if we want to see Jesus, we have to go to the people groups who don’t yet know Him.

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Why has Southern decided to send SMs to these challenging areas? Jesus said in Matthew 24:14, “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached to all nations, and then the end will come.” Essentially, if we want to see Jesus, we have to go to the people groups who don’t yet know Him.

UQUEST Missions: Short-Term Service

Last year, 175 Volunteers Served in 6 Countries

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Long-Term Student Missionaries Found Plenty of Ways to Serve Last Year, with the Majority (29) Working as Teachers

For more information about missions at Southern, visit SOUTHERN.EDU/CHAPLAIN.
Out of the 134 individuals who graduated from Southern’s School of Nursing this May, six stand out for an unusual reason: they all earned degrees side-by-side with their spouses. Each of the three pairs is bound together through a love of nursing, giving them a unique opportunity to touch many lives while supporting each other along the way.

**Shawn and Loniann Farris: Associate of Science in Nursing**

They first lost their hearts to each other on the cardiac floor. Shawn Farris and Loniann Moore were working as certified nursing assistants at a hospital in Knoxville, Tennessee, when they met in 2007. They fell in love, married three years later, and in 2017 decided to earn their associate degrees in nursing together at Southern.

Although they both love working in healthcare, they arrived in their professions by very different paths. Loniann had always wanted to be a nurse; as a little girl, she would bandage up her younger brother whenever he got hurt.

Shawn, on the other hand, didn’t realize that he wanted to enter healthcare until unexpectedly facing his own mortality 18 years ago. Discovering a tumor on his neck sent him into a tailspin, and for several months, Shawn didn’t know if he would survive. Fortunately, the care he received was both lifesaving and full of compassion.

“It was the kindness of the nurses that drew me into healthcare,” Shawn remembers. “I wanted to be like them and pay it forward.”

At Southern, Shawn and Loniann worked hard to earn their degrees, and they are grateful to Southern’s nursing professors for going above and beyond to help them succeed. They describe how their adviser, Associate Professor Beth Snyder, frequently emailed them and stopped to talk with them in the halls to see how they were doing in their classes and in their personal lives. Even at graduation, Snyder came up to them and again expressed how proud she was of them.

“Our professors were always so willing to help,” Loniann said. “We knew they wanted us not only to graduate but also to succeed as great nurses and make a difference in the world.”

Now both, Loniann and Shawn work in Cleveland, Tennessee, where Loniann works as a home health nurse and Shawn is an intensive care unit (ICU) nurse. Their memories of their dedicated and passionate nursing professors continue to inspire them daily to be the best nurses they can be.

**Ted and Agnes Haveman: Bachelor of Science in Nursing**

Like the Farrises, Ted Haveman and Agnes Wielch met in 2007. Ted was teaching English in Agnes’ home country of Indonesia; she happened to work at the same school, and when they met one day in the school office, they felt an instant connection.

“I saw this beautiful young woman, and I said, ‘Wow!’” Ted recalls. “Seven months later we were married.”

Prior to teaching, Ted had earned an associate degree in nursing from Southern in 1986, then he worked for many years as an ICU nurse. He had thrived in the ICU with its intensity, variety, and teamwork. When his mother developed health problems, he left his job to care for her, and after she passed away, Ted decided he needed a change and felt called to Indonesia.

Agnes had also wanted to work in the medical field; however, the Indonesian healthcare system has specific vision and height requirements. Since Agnes wore glasses and was barely over 5 feet tall, she did not qualify to study nursing. When she and Ted moved to the United States in 2009, Agnes realized she had a second chance to pursue her passion, and she enrolled at Southern.

After she graduated in 2016 with her associate degree, she and Ted decided to pursue their bachelor’s degrees together. Studying the nursing content in English was an additional challenge for Agnes, since it was her second language, but through hard work and mutual support, they achieved their goals.

Agnes now practices nursing at CHI Memorial Hospital in Chattanooga in the orthopedics unit. Although it can be extremely busy when 20 people undergo surgery in one day, she loves witnessing her patients rapidly improve and return to their own homes.

“The smiles of my patients and their friends and families are what make my day,” Agnes says. “I try to share my smile, as well, and do everything I can to lift their spirits.”

Over the years, Ted has volunteered extensively at Southern. Now retired, he continues to serve as a patient for aspiring nurses to examine. The students check out his eyes, neck, or whatever area they are studying and ask him questions. One time the students actually discovered a skin cancer on Ted’s ear, and he was able to go to the doctor and have it removed! Ted and Agnes love encouraging young nurses who are just starting out.

“Nursing is a wonderful profession,” Agnes tells them. “Work at it with all of your heart. Above all, trust in God and rely on Him in your daily work.”

George and Julie McBride: Master of Science in Nursing

Looking back, George and Julie McBride identify mutual respect as a key factor that drew them together. They first met in 2011 at the doctor’s office where they both worked; she was a medical assistant, and he was the practice manager. He was struck by her kindness to everyone around her, and she was in awe of his respect and consideration for others. One of the many things they discovered they had in common was that they both had chosen to enter healthcare to be servants of God. They fell in love and married in 2013.

“I’ve always wanted to be God’s right-hand person,”
Julie said, "I want to be whatever He wants me to be each day." George and Julie were very intrigued when they heard that Southern’s nursing program was Christ-centered, and they enrolled together in 2013 to earn their Master of Science in Nursing degrees. George especially loved the small class sizes and the way his professors cared about him as a person. Julie enjoyed the devotions they had before each class, which helped remind her what was really important. They also adored their adviser, Holly Gadd, PhD, who bent over backward to keep them encouraged and on track.

Before he became a nurse, George was a firefighter, a policeman, and a paramedic. He also served in the military in various capacities for 27 years. While George and Julie were enrolled in Southern, his military unit was deployed to Afghanistan, putting a pause on his nursing training. In the conflict zone, George served in a medical capacity, helping remove casualties from the battlefield and stabilizing them before sending them to a better-equipped facility. His professors at Southern were very supportive during his absence. To say thank you, George presented a certificate and a flag to the School of Nursing on behalf of his surgical unit during the School of Nursing’s 60th anniversary celebration in 2016.

“I’m so grateful that Southern is a military-friendly school,” George said. “When I returned in the winter of 2017, Southern took me back, no questions asked. Nursing is a hard job, but it’s a wonderful way to serve others as a child of Christ. I feel privileged to share a career with Julie. She is my partner in work and my partner in life.”

Tonya (Faith) Ameredes, ‘03 and ‘05 (MSN), was a little girl, her father worked at McKee Foods, so she frequently passed by Southern’s campus. However, never did she dream she would be a nurse working toward her master’s degree. Tonya’s teacher at Southern was a labor and delivery nurse and her nurse working toward her master’s degree, Tonya said. “I was pregnant with my first child, and often Tonya would bring a maternity outfit that she had purchased with me in mind.” Those acts of kindness, in addition to the grace and love shown by the nursing faculty, made Holly feel very cared for and loved. About two years later, Holly began searching for another student, Julie and George McBride.

“Tonya always sought me out to ask how I was doing, and she would frequently invite me to lunch,” Holly said. “I was pregnant with my first child, and often Tonya would bring in a maternity outfit that she had purchased with me in mind.” Those acts of kindness, in addition to the grace and love shown by the nursing faculty, made Holly feel very cared for and loved. About two years later, Holly began searching for biblical truth. She was Christian but not Seventh-day Adventist, and at the time, she was not feeling fed in her religious activities. Holly asked Tonya about her church; she had never been to an Adventist church, and she wondered aloud what attire would be appropriate. Tonya’s response blew her away. “Come as you are. God sees you right now just like He will see you in the morning.”

Holly and Tonya went to church together for His glory,” Holly said. “I can’t wait until I get to heaven so that I can see how all of the pieces fit together.”
Celebrating Student Labor

Throughout its history, Southern has relied heavily on student workers. By the 1950s, it was such a part of the culture—with nearly all students employed on campus—that the administration implemented an annual Work Festival. By 1954, the event included decorated floats featuring the various student-employing entities, musical performances, work contests, and more. Though Southern no longer hosts such an elaborate festival or parade during Student Employee Appreciation Week, we still value the students who are an integral part of the university’s workforce—1,315 of them this year.

Steven Luu, ’12

Software engineer, photographer, and outdoor enthusiast Steven Luu, ’12, waits patiently for the sunrise, capturing the first light as it breaks over distant mountains, casting a pink glow on freshly fallen snow.

“For me, photography is my personal time with God,” Luu said. “Every time I see a mountain, a river, or a lake, I am reminded: ‘If this is His creation, how much bigger is the Creator?’”

It was the outdoor programming offered during SmartStart at Southern that initially sparked Luu’s interest, eventually transforming it into a passionately held hobby.

“I’ve always been into hiking and outdoor activities and wanted to capture the beauty of nature,” Luu said. “Then one day, I just decided to pick up a camera.”

Day-to-Day

After earning a degree in computer science at Southern, Luu went on to work at Microsoft for several years and is now a software engineer manager at Facebook. He and his team take care of the day-to-day operations at Facebook, running internal and external software pieces that serve both Facebook users and employees.

Luu explains that he developed many connections at Southern that helped him along his journey.

“I made a lot of lifelong friends, and we learned from each other,” he said. “And I really enjoyed the mentorship and the patience of the professors. I learned not just the technicalities and theory, but also how to treat people with respect and dignity, as Christians should. Southern gave me the resources I needed to succeed.”

Since graduating, Luu has maintained strong friendships at Southern and periodically visits the area. When he does, he is frequently invited to speak with classes of computer science majors, sharing from his experiences operating in a work environment outside of the Adventist community.

Flourishing

Rick Halterman, PhD, dean of the School of Computing, is one of the professors with whom Luu stays in touch. Two years ago, while Luu worked at Microsoft, Halterman attended a computer science conference near Seattle, Washington, and the two were able to get together. Luu invited Halterman to visit Microsoft, where he gave him a personal tour of the campus.

“Steven was a pleasure to have as a student,” Halterman said. “He frequently went beyond the expectations I had for students in a course and sought to explore the topics more deeply. As a faculty member, we know we have quality students with amazing potential, but it is especially satisfying to see graduates like Steven flourish in their careers.”

by Trisney Bocala, sophomore mass communication major

November 18 at 12:34 p.m.

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November 18 at 12:34 p.m.
Homecoming is always a high point of the year on campus as we welcome Southern alumni from all over the world. Attendees enjoy a long weekend of fellowship, shared memories, worship, and fun.

1. During a celebration of milestones progress on the Bietz Center for Student Life, Ellsworth R. Hawks (’70), Millie and other alumni, student leaders, board members, employees and supporters of Southern signing a metal plate that will become part of the building. 2. In recognition of her outstanding professional accomplishments and humanitarian work, Debra Davis (Bland) Netteburg, ’02, MD, received the Alumni of the Year Award. 3. Walter Pan, ’90, was among those honored during the School of Business Breakd. 4. In honor of the Bietz Center’s 25-year reunion, a limited number of Gordan Bietz bobbleheads were given as prizes during the annual Antique and Classic Car Show, hosted by the School of Business’ Industrial Technologies program, showcased approximately 100 noteworthy cars owned by Southern alumni. 5. The 16th annual Picnic in the Park. 6. Former Die Meistersinger director, Marvin “Doc” Robertson, ’72, and many others enjoyed the annual Picnic in the Park. 7. Janene (Hudgins) Reuer, ’69, celebrated with the rest of this year’s 50-year honor class. 8. Despite the rain, Ron Brown, ’72, and many others enjoyed the annual Picnic in the Park. 9. Michael Looby, ’09, who gave the scripture reading for the worship service, enjoyed Homecoming Weekend with his family. 10. During the Southern Scholars reunion, Claudia Allen, content manager of Message Magazine, shared her testimony. 11. Michael (Kremen) ’99, assistant professor of history, led the group’s reunion concert. 12. During the Southern Alumni Association’s Homecoming Weekend reunion vespers, worship during the Black Christian Communication studies major, Cierra Dabne, sophomore, embraced the spirit of joy and ministry among community members. 13. Danae McKee joined other alumni, employees, and supporters of Southern for a construction celebration. Visit southern.edu/columns for a related video. 14. Former members of the male chorus, Die Meistersinger, came together to reminisce and sing. 15. Debra Davis, senior psychology major, and President Chevez Smith introduced the worship speaker, Eric Bates, ’99.

Membership in Southern’s Alumni Association is a complimentary service provided to graduates and attendees (those who enrolled at Southern for one semester or more) in good standing. The Alumni Council is a group of volunteers serving the Association in advisory capacities to help fulfill the mission and strategic plans of the university as determined by the Board of Trustees and administration. To better represent the interests of young alumni, or Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD), the position of GOLD president was recently added.

During Homecoming Weekend, the following Alumni Council officers and members were officially introduced:

- Moses Maier, ’17 – GOLD president
- Eric Dunkel, ’99 – senior president
- Janice Cosme, ’15 and ’18 – vice president for Homecoming Weekend
- Raymond Liu, ’13 and ’16 – vice president for Alumni Engagement Initiatives
- Carl Sauterford, ’19 – member
- Jay Dedeker, ’88 – past Alumni Association president (ex-officio)
- Evonne Crook, ’79 – director for Alumni Relations (ex-officio)
- Ashley Fox, ’16 – assistant director for Alumni Relations (ex-officio)
- Carolyn Hamilton – vice president for Advancement (ex-officio)

Left to right: Raymond Liu, Jay Dedeker, Janice Cosme, Moses Maier, and Eric Dunkel.
Alumni Notes

60s

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<tr>
<td>Jeanie (Pontis) Miller</td>
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<td>Lynette (Smith) Goodrich</td>
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<td>Colorado Springs, Colorado</td>
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<td>Don (Stein) Cardenas</td>
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<td>Tony (Lauren) Holloway</td>
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<td>J. Mark (Susan) Harrison</td>
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<td>Jana (Chad) Moore</td>
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<td>Matt (Caitlin) Fisher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anita (Karen) Spangenberg</td>
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We’d love to hear from you, and so would your classmates! Send updates about additions to your family, accomplishments, marriage, professional recognitions, or other news you’d like to share to:

alumnirelations@southern.edu
Alumni Relations • P. O. Box 3070
Collegeged Hall, TN 37315-0370
southern.edu/alumni/updates
**Remembered**

Relieve Walden, ’53, passed away on May 29, 2017, in Apopka, Florida. He is survived by his wife, Beverly (Unkovich) Walden (attended) and children, Linda, David, and Neal.

Herbert “Don” Kinsey, ’56, passed away on February 14, 2019, in Austin, Texas, at the age of 86. Don earned a degree in history from Southern Missionary College and a master’s degree in school administration from Boston University. He spent 36 years in education, both in the classroom and in administration. After moving to San Marcos, Texas, he worked with financial planning for the last 19 years of his professional life. Don served his local church as a deacon, elder, and Sabbath School teacher. He was known for his quick wit, kind smile, and compassion toward others. He enjoyed putting in his yard full of Texas wildflowers and bicycling the many bike trails of the Texas foothills. He loved photography, writing, international travel, and spending time with his grandchildren. He is survived by his daughter, Denise, his wife since 1995, and two sons, Scott, ’98, and Rick, ’88.

**Betrothed**

Rebecca Waldon, ’53, passed away on May 29, 2017, in Apopka, Florida. He is survived by his wife, Beverly (Unkovich) Walden (attended) and children, Linda, David, and Neal.

Randel (attended) pass away on April 14, 2019, in Leesburg, Florida. Randel attended Gretna College, Collegeville Academy, Southern Adventist University, and Tennessee Adventist University, graduating with a degree in biblical studies. Randel served the denomination for 43 years in positions such as educator, singing evangelist, pastor, denominational department, and secretary in three conferences: Ohio State, Texas, Georgia-Cumberland, Chesapeake, and Florida. Randel also served as pastor of the Religious Society of Seventh-day Adventists from 1990 until his retirement in 1997. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Corrita (Poter), ’54, two sons, Charger (attended) and Randy, ’96; two daughters, Karen McFadden, ’91, and Cindy, ’95; two grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Jeffrey Enfield, associate dean of men at Southern for 22 years, passed away on June 12, 2019, at the age of 62 while scuba diving in Bonaire. After earning undergraduate and graduate degrees at Andrews University, he worked as a teacher and coach at Spartanburg Junior Academy, Broadwater Academy, and East Pace Adventist University before coming to Southern. Enfield was an avid traveler and an English teacher at Southern. He is fondly remembered for his gift of connecting with people young and old and for bringing out strength in students that they may not have recognized in themselves. His booming voice and hearty belly laughs could regularly be heard echoing through Talge Hall—a signal to those in need of comfort or a friendly face that his door was always open to them. When he wasn’t indulging in his love of water, he could be found in his workshop building custom wood furniture or tending up his nursery for his next long ride. Jeff is survived by his wife of almost 39 years, Darla, sons, Nick, ’93, and Miles, ’95; and three grandchildren, mothere; Barbara, and brother, Jamie. A celebration of life service was held in the Collected Church of Southern Adventists. Gifts may be given in his honor to the Jeff Enfield Memorial Fund established to construct a remembrance garden and study area at Southern for the students whom he so loved and dedicated his life to serving.

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An Artistic View

During a departmental convocation this fall, students from the School of Visual Art and Design used colored tape to decorate the windows on the second floor of Brock Hall. They covered the panes of glass with colorful lines, shapes, and pictures surrounding the words “We ❤ Art.” Through the project, the professors emphasized their desire for students to use their artistic talents to point to God, remembering that He is the ultimate artist.

light

by David Smith, PhD, president

I once asked a congregation why they were Seventh-day Adventists, and one man yelled, “Because of the mark of the beast!” Ever since, I’ve been pondering the role of prophecy for end-time living.

Often believers read prophecy in an attempt to determine every fact and detail about what will happen just before Jesus returns to earth. I have known church members to get so carried away with trying to understand a prophetic view of end-time events that they make predictions about when Jesus will return.

However, there is a higher purpose for end-time prophecy than understanding the events leading up to Christ’s second coming. Peter explains:

“For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. … We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place … Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:16, 19-21).

We can’t miss Peter’s burden for his audience to understand that nothing he and the disciples preached was invented by human imagination. From Peter’s perspective, prophecy is like a light shining in darkness; it leads us to Jesus. Prophecy makes the identity and work of Jesus all the more certain to us and highlights His return and ultimate triumph over evil.

Spread of Darkness

To understand how prophecy can bring light into darkness, we need to consider what happened long ago that broke the harmony of heaven and brought to us great darkness. All had been love, peace, harmony, and oneness with God. Then the darkness came, and Satan brought to our planet distrust of God as well as promotion of self and personal ambition.

Eve ate the forbidden fruit, and the rest is history (Genesis 3:1-7). However, the prophecy recorded in Genesis 3:15 brings us hope. Speaking to the serpent, God said, “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel.”

Here, in concise terms, we read the future of the war begun in Heaven and now enacted on Earth. No matter how dark our world gets, no matter how much Satan seems to spread his lies, we know that Jesus will win. He will crush Satan’s head, and the war will be over.

Shining Light

Since the Garden of Eden, Satan has managed to deceive countless people and turn them against God. He has convinced them that God is not what He seems to be. He charges that God is not loving or trustworthy, and He is not on our side.

To combat this deception, God sent Jesus to shed light on His character and win us back to Him. Scripture and prophecy continue this effort. In fact, all Bible prophecy points us to God as He really is and builds our faith in Jesus as our Savior, King, and Victor in the war against Satan.

Ultimately, God’s goal is to bring us face-to-face with Christ. This is where we need to be as we live in end-times. Being face-to-face with the Light of the World keeps us from all of the distrust, fear, broken dreams, and heartache caused by the darkness of Satan’s lies. May the light of prophecy bring us into His presence.

“Then war broke out in Heaven. Michael and His angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in Heaven” (Revelation 12:7-8).

The name Lucifer means “light bearer,” but his fall from Heaven turned his light into darkness. As the scene shifted to Earth, the focus fell on Adam and Eve, perfect created beings living in paradise—a place of love, peace, harmony, and oneness with God. Then the darkness came, and Satan brought to our planet distrust of God as well as promotion of self and personal ambition.

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