A Family Born of the Heart

The Brass family may seem unconventional at first glance, but love is a powerful bond that holds them together. | page 12
Capped by Joy
Graduation is a major accomplishment, one earned through countless hours of study, hard work, and seemingly endless exams. As loved ones help Marceline Ndahayo prepare to march on May 5, 2019, she radiates joy. Graduating with honors and receiving two degrees—a Bachelor of Science in Health Science and an Associate of Science in Allied Health—Ndahayo sees a bright future ahead, saying, “Southern has given me the resources and connected me to a lot of people who have shown me it’s possible to dream big.” This spring, 473 undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral students received their degrees from Southern. For more photos, visit southern.edu/columns.

features

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The idea of family is inseparable from Christianity. Scripture calls us sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters in Christ. External differences fade when believers join together as the family of God. Likewise, the Brass family may not look like a typical family, but love binds them together.

18 | Music: A Connecting Thread
Music transcends language, age, occupation, income, and gender. It breaks down barriers and stirs souls. The School of Music at Southern empowers music majors and minors to achieve excellence, while bringing together students from all areas of campus in its performance groups. Through these opportunities, thousands of Southern alumni have embarked on their careers better equipped for life.

20 | Generosity for Future Generations
Thousands of scholarships have been awarded to students at Southern throughout its 127-year history, and many of those students have literally depended on the generosity of others in order to continue their education. Behind the generous contributions, however, are numerous touching stories.

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Spring 2019
Color, Caring, and Community in Morocco

Photos by Ryan Pierce, attended

During Spring Break, Southern’s short-term service program, uQuest, sent more than 160 students and volunteers to six countries to serve on a wide variety of projects. One of these groups travelled to Morocco to take part in a project at the Inara Elementary School in Casablanca. The Southern team worked with several local organizations to provide a health education program. They also worked with Beyond Wells—a group that uses art to build cultural bridges—to paint a large mural on the school grounds. Additionally, the team enjoyed visiting the cities of Rabat and Marrakesh.

1. Southern students (in green T-shirts) enjoyed spending time with children from the school.
2. Sihatouna Kids, a local Moroccan organization, coordinated the health education program for the elementary school students. The program consisted of lessons on the importance of fresh air, healthy food, temperature, friendship, exercise, water, sunshine, and proper rest.
3. Adeline Piotrowski (left), senior international studies major, and Alexandra Tennyson, senior computer science major, mix one of the many buckets of paint used on the wall project.
4. Children from the school enthusiastically helped the Southern team paint the mural.
5. A local television crew showed up near the end of the project and interviewed several members of the Southern team as well as teachers and students from the school. Later that day, while eating in a nearby restaurant, the group was surprised to see the report appear during the evening newscast.
6. While in Marrakesh, Southern’s group had the opportunity to wear traditional desert garb while riding camels among the palm trees.
7. In Rabat, Morocco’s capital city, the team was able to spend Sabbath with a group of local Adventists.
8. In Casablanca, they visited the Grand Mosque of Hassan II. It is the largest in Africa and the fifth-largest in the world. Its minaret is the world’s tallest, measuring 689 feet.
9. Around the world, food brings people together. The Southern team enjoyed learning how to eat traditional Moroccan couscous from local college student Salma Sadkiy.
10. The Southern team appreciated the opportunity to serve, bond with each other, and soak up a different culture.
11. At the end of the week, Abdel Ouhassane (at right), director of the Tremplin Association for Social Integration, presented Southern and Beyond Wells Director Brian Manley with an award celebrating the successful collaboration.
12. The completed mural was nearly 180 feet long and took five full days to complete.
**Archaeological Museum Preparing New Exhibit**

This fall, a special exhibit will open in the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum. “From Script to Scripture: The History of the Bible” will explore the history of the alphabet, the transition from scrolls to books, and the role of the written word—particularly the Bible—during the period of the Reformation and beyond. This exhibit will feature rare, original Bibles including a copy of the 1611 King James Version, the Vulgate, and a translation by Martin Luther. *Original materials from the Reformation, such as Pope Leo X’s document excommunicating Martin Luther and Fox’s Book of Martyrs as well as original art works by Albrecht Dürer, will illustrate one of the most important periods of history,* said Michael G. Hasel, PhD, curator of the museum. Never before displayed publicly, this exhibit is slated to open in early November. In the meantime, the museum will be closed for the new installation.

by Staff Writer

**Southern Expands Graduate Options**

“We’re teaching students the type of biblical counseling that can work alongside clinical counseling,” Parker said. “Even if a person needs professional counseling, the gospel can help them and the church community can help them, too.”

One of the programs now available online is the literacy education emphasis for the Master of Science in Education. The School of Education and Psychology made the shift from a traditional classroom setting to online in order to serve those who are not able to be on location for an extended period of time.

“Many of the people who sign up for classes are elementary school teachers with children and families who need counseling but it is difficult for them to leave home to pursue their master’s degree,” said Bonnie Eider, professor in the School of Education and Psychology. Designed to be completed online in two years, with a two-week intensive on campus, the degree prepares teachers to engage and empower students to be strong communicators and critical thinkers. “Our goal is to make this program doable for more people and available for those who might have difficulty meeting a set schedule,” Eider said. “We would not want anyone to miss out on the chance to pursue a master’s degree.”

To learn more about these and other graduate programs, visit southwestern.edu/graduates.

by Tierra Hayes and Natalie Boonstra

**Students Provide Branding for Cuba’s First Official Adventist Daycare**

Craven’s students received the project in October, and in December, five church members met with them to review the branding concepts. They chose from six student projects, deciding on the name “Corderitos: Circulo Infantil Adventista,” which translates into English as “Little Lambs: Adventist Children’s Circle.”

“When Stull and Hernandez saw ‘Corderitos,’ it resonated,” Craven said. “It was one of those sticky ideas that stays with you. I think the appeal of the name had carried it from the beginning, with the metaphor of the children being the little lambs.”

Caleb Cook, senior graphic design major, was on the team that created the Corderitos branding. “It’s a lot of responsibility; you’re trying to communicate a mission in a visual way,” Cook said. “You have to get to know the mindset and the culture that the company operates with, otherwise you can’t represent it accurately. But all said and done, it’s so fulfilling to see something that I’ve worked on being put to use.”

Corderitos is scheduled to open this June, sponsored by the Adventist church in La Vigia, Cuba. 

by Trisney Bocals

**Students Regularly Participate in Southern’s Merge Multicultural Worship Service**

Students regularly participate in Southern’s Merge multicultural worship service.

**Tours of campus are given every year**

**1,200+**

**84**

**37,049**

**13**

**200**

**57**

Tours of campus are given every year.

Dumpsters worth of general recycling was collected last year, plus 128 tons of cardboard.

People follow Southern on Facebook.

Seventh-day Adventist Church divisions are represented on campus.

Students regularly participate in Southern’s Merge multicultural worship service.

Student and employee vendors showcased goods and services in the first student-run 423 Night Market.

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by the numbers
Alumni and Donors Continue to Shape New Bietz Center

As retaining walls go up and concrete is poured for the foundation, buzz surrounding construction of the Bietz Center for Student Life is at an all-time high. The 40,000-square-foot structure—a centerpiece of Southern’s $50 million Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning—is scheduled for a fall 2020 grand opening, and it has already become a local point of pride for those walking the promenade between McKee Library and Hickman Science Center.

“There is real excitement on campus now that we see the building going up,” said President David Smith, PhD. “It’s even of great interest to prospective students as we conduct our campus tours!”

Students are getting actively involved in the process, helping to make the Bietz Center environmentally responsible. While other buildings on campus are eco-friendly, the Bietz Center is on track as the first at Southern to receive an official certification.

“We are really excited to see Southern leaders work between students, university leaders, and community members to see a project through to completion, thanks to the efforts of students in our Castellow Hall House,” said Steve Tarkowski, faculty advisor for the Castellow Hall House. “This is an example of how students can get involved on campus and work towards a common goal.”

In the coming months, students, employees, and alumni will have opportunities to participate during milestone construction moments, such as topping-off ceremonies. Alumni and friends will be able to see the progress firsthand. Alumni gifts will shape the second floor, and the surrounding construction of the Bietz Center is expected to start in May.

“Alumni and donors have a significant role to play in this process,” said Dr. Smith. “I urge everyone to support the Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning.”

Engaging All Alumni

Once completed, the Bietz Center for Student Life, as seen in this artist’s rendering, will be a major student hub where networking and lifelong relationships are nurtured as part of Southern’s living and learning environment.

God’s Treasures

by Carolina Smith, Collegegale Academy junior

The decision to spend my Spring Break on a mission trip happened naturally. My parents, who are both Southern alumni, were going as part of Quest mission trip planners, and I wasn’t quite ready to make up any homework. I was ready to begin my journey to Haiti for my first experience in mission service. Then, everything changed.

Due to heightened safety concerns, followed by a flurry of alternate planning and miraculously opened doors, I found myself in El Salvador with a team of 15 Southern students, one professor fluent in Spanish, a physician, and my family. Our tasks included manning a mobile medical clinic, hosting a Vacation Bible School (VBS) program, and building chicken coops to provide a sustainable food source and income for families in the small community of Barra Salada. Construction didn’t progress as quickly or smoothly as everyone had hoped, but I now realize that God was allowing something much greater to take place. While delayed shipments of wood might have decreased the number of coops we built, nothing could prevent us from experiencing the love of Jesus with the Salvadorans every day.

Simple Acts

So many unconventional moments opened my eyes to the realities of mission work. The local children embraced every moment of VBS, overlooking the city of San Salvador. The city lights sparkled like stars while everyone oohed and aahed, but to me it felt familiar. Then I realized that God never intended for the city of Chantanoos to be a distance, and those similarities help me begin to understand the value of leaving my own country to give of myself in another. We all look the same from the mountain where Jesus lives. Our God treasures each one living on black sand beaches with palm trees just as much as He cherishes those on the banks of the Tennessee River and surrounding foothills. We are all different. We are all loved. And we are all lights shining for Him.

One night, we drove to the top of a mountain and ate pupusas (corn tortillas stuffed with beans) while overlooking the city of San Salvador. The city lights sparkled like stars while everyone oohed and aahed, but to me it felt familiar. Then I realized that God never intended for the city of Chantanoos to be a distance, and those similarities help me begin to understand the value of leaving my own country to give of myself in another. We all look the same from the mountain where Jesus lives. Our God treasures each one living on black sand beaches with palm trees just as much as He cherishes those on the banks of the Tennessee River and surrounding foothills. We are all different. We are all loved. And we are all lights shining for Him.

Our God treasures each one living on black sand beaches with palm trees just as much as He cherishes those on the banks of the Tennessee River and surrounding foothills. We are all different. We are all loved. And we are all lights shining for Him.

Carolina loved getting to know children from the community in El Salvador where she and her family served during Spring Break.
Learning to Adapt
by Tierra Hayes, senior mass communication major

Throughout his life, Hyunsok "John" Doh, PhD, has learned to adjust to new situations and surroundings, a skill that has proven vital to his work as an associate professor at Southern. As a self-described introvert, Doh spent most of his younger years with his nose in a book, but as he has gotten older, he has discovered new passions outside of his comfort zone, including teaching and exercise.

“People can change,” Doh said. “That’s my understanding. I’m very introverted, and I am shy. I don’t like to talk, but now I’m paid to talk 12 hours a week. I’m changing; I think the Lord is using me.”

Moving Forward
Doh’s philosophy of adaptability stretches into his personal life, as well. In recent years, he has made fitness a large part of his everyday life.

“Most of my life I’ve liked to sit down and read, but I’m slowly changing,” Doh said. “I want to get out and do activities. I jokingly tell my colleagues, ‘I am changing my major from theology to physical education.’”

And through this mindset of accepting growth and change, Doh hopes that his willingness to learn will help him and those he influences to embrace others and teach the gospel, the greatest commission of all. “We need to respect individuals with different backgrounds,” Doh said. “While we cannot be flexible in our principles, we can certainly be flexible in how we treat people. If our minds are open, we can make mutual spiritual growth.”

Adapting in the Classroom
With such a broad background, Doh recognizes the value of tailoring his teaching style and methods to fit the needs of his students.

“When I go to the science lab, I feel very comfortable, but I would be growing,” Doh said. “People can change, so I try to make my classes part of their spiritual journey. If my students really focus and think like that, they will have a double blessing—fulfilling the minimum requirement plus making a spiritual journey. That’s my wish.”

Andrew Sharley, senior theology major, appreciated this approach and the fact that Doh pushes his students to think for themselves.

“He wants us to have an openness to learn what the Bible actually has to say and not to just take others’ word for things,” Sharley said. “He wants students to learn how to have stronger personal connections to God. Many students are in my class because they are required to be; they have to take four religion classes to graduate,” Doh said. “So I try to make my classes part of their spiritual journey. If my students really focus and think like that, they will have a double blessing—fulfilling the minimum requirement plus making a spiritual journey. That’s my wish.”

Out of His Comfort Zone
Born and raised in South Korea, Doh attended Adventist schools and received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Sahmyook University in Seoul. He later attended seminary at Andrews University. There, Doh took an aptitude test meant to give students insight into what careers and vocations they were suited for. Despite his intentions to enter into the field of religion, the test results pointed him to a life of lab work in a science discipline.

“At least I’m around people,” Doh said. “When I go to the science lab, I feel very comfortable, but I would be growing.”

“Out of His Comfort Zone”
He later attended seminary at Andrews University. There, Doh took an aptitude test meant to give students insight into what careers and vocations they were suited for. Despite his intentions to enter into the field of religion, the test results pointed him to a life of lab work in a science discipline. However, his open-mindedness and willingness to be uncomfortable kept him in the religion program, following God’s calling.

“I chose something besides science, because when I got to Andrews University, I felt very comfortable, but I would be like that my entire life,” Doh said. “If I stuck with religion, I would feel uncomfortable, but I would be growing.”

Since then, Doh has served in many roles in both Korea and the United States, including editor, translator, pastor, evangelist, and researcher. From holding evangelistic series in Nigeria to giving seminars in Mongolia and teaching in Russia, his mission has taken him all over the world. Before coming to Southern in January 2018, Doh taught New Testament studies for seven years at his alma mater in Korea.
When Matt Brass, ’97, visited an orphanage during his freshman year at Southern, he didn’t realize it would change the course of his entire life. Matt hadn’t even planned to go, but a friend convinced him to spend his afternoon playing with the children. Though he doesn’t remember much about that day, Matt does remember one boy. The boy was about 7 or 8, and they connected. After a long afternoon of fun, Matt told the boy he was leaving but that he’d come back soon.

“You won’t,” the boy replied. “No, you won’t come back. They never come back.”

As Matt talks about that day, he looks down before admitting, “And I didn’t go back. He was right.”

While he didn’t go back to play with that boy, it was at that point Matt recognized a need he hadn’t seen before. The need to give a home to children without one.

That was the day Matt decided he would build his family through adoption.

Starting a Family in Faith

Larisa (Myers) Brass, ’96, and Matt met when Larisa transferred to Southern from Andrews University for her second year of college. The couple shared a passion for adoption and knew when they married in 1997 that adoption would play a big role in their lives.

“That was just always the way we were going to have kids,” Larisa said. “It wasn’t like we had a plan or anything. We just kind of knew that was how we were going to have our family.”

The couple moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, where Matt worked in advertising and Larisa built a career in writing. Then, in 2000, the Brasses heard about the children who would become their first son and daughter.

Larisa’s sister, Mindy (Myers) Burgin, ’98, spent four months in Jinja, Uganda, serving as a nurse at a local orphanage. When Matt and Larisa heard that she would be working with orphans, the idea of adopting from Uganda took root. Near the beginning of Mindy’s stay, two new babies arrived at the orphanage, and she felt an instant connection. She called Larisa and Matt, telling them she knew that the baby boy and girl were meant to be theirs.

“The minute we saw their pictures, we just fell in love with them,” Larisa said.

The Brasses faced a dilemma. Uganda had specific adoption regulations, requiring prospective parents to live in the country and foster children for three years before granting an adoption. However, the country was also facing a crisis of too many children without families. Because orphanages were at capacity, caregivers were doing everything possible to find families for their charges, even arranging overseas adoptions.

“We were working with the orphanage director, emailing back and forth,” Larisa said. “We had no agency, so it was just like this DIY adoption.”

Matt and Larisa had the support of the orphanage, but they couldn’t know if the local government would approve their adoption until they arrived in Uganda. With no precedents in place, they took each step forward through faith and prayer.

After eight months, even though everything was set on the American side, Larisa and Matt didn’t know if they would be able to bring the children home. In an act of faith, Larisa and her mom jumped on a plane and flew to Uganda. In August 2001, Larisa met Hannah and Judah for the first time. They were only 14 months old and oblivious to the red tape their new parents were battling to bring them into the family. From an absent magistrate to an unexpected flight to Kenya, the obstacles seemed endless. While at the United States embassy in Kenya, Larisa discovered that all of their
paperwork had been lost somewhere in the bureaucracy. While she tried to reassemble the documents in Africa, Matt was on the phone with his congressmen trying to get new U.S. visas expedited. At one point, he dialed every extension in the building in an effort to find someone who would help!

Thankfully, the visas were reissued with just enough time for Larisa to pick them up on the way to the airport. If they had missed that flight, Larisa and the kids would have had to stay overseas for two more weeks.

“It was just miraculous getting them,” Larisa remembers. “Everything was absolutely down to the wire.” Matt joyfully welcomed his new family home! Little did he and Larisa know that Hannah and Judah were just the first members of their growing family.

Doubled in Size and Love

Six years later, the Brasses met four more of their sons at Welcome Home, a Christian orphanage located in Jinja, Uganda. Ranging in age from 18 months to 15 years old, John, Levi, Andrew, and Timothy were a rapid expansion to the Brass family, but Matt and Larisa found that even if their house became a little snug, their hearts had plenty of room. This was a good thing, because they found themselves facing new challenges. Besides adjusting to doubling their family and becoming parents to a teenager overnight, one of the boys, Levi, had serious health problems. While the couple had always been passionate about adoption, previously they had decided that they couldn’t take care of special needs children.

However, when they met 3-year-old Levi, that changed. The toddler was born with a congenital heart condition called double-outlet right ventricle, which causes oxygen-deficiency in the blood. Heart complications had already caused the death of Levi’s twin brother, and the situation was making it impossible to find a permanent home for Levi. Despite not knowing if they were equipped to deal with Levi’s heart condition, Matt and Larisa knew he was meant to be their son.

“God made it very clear to us with each of the boys that they were supposed to be our kids,” Larisa said.

Back home in Knoxville, they were able to get Levi the medical care he needed, but not without complications. His first surgery caused a heart block, and the doctors didn’t think he would survive. Within the same week, the toddler was rushed in for another surgery.

Matt and Larisa clung to their faith like never before. Larisa prayed through Matthew 15:21-28 before her son’s surgeries, claiming the promises of healing Jesus made to the Canaanite woman. Levi stayed in the hospital for a month and then later had a third open-heart surgery to repair the defect. Over the years, he would have multiple surgeries to replace the pacemakers that keep him alive.

Through the complications with Levi’s health, Matt and Larisa knew he was part of God’s plan for them. In fact, the growth they experienced helped prepare them to adopt their youngest son, Liam, who was born to a close relative. Liam’s early brain scans showed damage that would cause...
A s a sophomore at Southern, Mindy (Myers) Burgin, ’98, served as a student missionary to Thailand. “It was one of the most formative experiences of my life,” Burgin said. “The fact that Southern walked me through that whole process and basically taught me how to survive internationally changed my life.”

After graduating as a nurse, Burgin decided to return to missions, using everything she had learned at Southern to plan a mission trip to Uganda on her own. Kirabo Foundation, a nonprofit organization, was born out of a need Burgin saw during her four months of serving there as a nurse. Stephen Kudhongania, a local pastor, planted the seed when he introduced her to a group of widows and their children. The children spent their days at home, because the mothers had no money to send them to school. Kudhongania asked Burgin if there was anything just a few people could handle.

With a small group of family and friends, Burgin raised the funds to get seven children back into school. But it quickly became obvious that this was a big need, beyond what just a few people could handle. Burgin and her small board of directors officially launched Kirabo as a nonprofit in 2004. Since then, the foundation has provided support for many Ugandan orphans seeking a quality education. In addition to covering school fees, Kirabo also provides students with food, clothing, and personal hygiene supplies. By taking care of these needs, Burgin and the Kirabo Foundation help students focus on thriving in their pursuit of education.

Kirabo currently has 40 students in the program, with another 40 who have finished and are now serving as nurses, teachers, doctors, artists, and entrepreneurs. To learn more about the Kirabo Foundation, visit KiraboKids.org.

Burgin said of the establishment, “I chose to study public health as a way of giving my life in service for others,” Burgin said. “Seeing so much need in Uganda touched my heart and showed me how blessed I am to have a loving family here in the States, but it’s also showing me how much more we can do for those in need overseas.”

A Family of Christ

Many adoptees struggle to find a sense of belonging and identity. Through the years, Matt and Larisa have nurtured a strong family bond while helping to keep their children’s heritage alive. They freely talk about Uganda and intentionally look for ways their family can connect with local black communities. The Brass family is particularly grateful for their supportive Adventist community in Knoxville.

“It has been a very protected place for our kids,” Larisa said. “And really, a lot of the other kids in the local Adventist school are adopted, too.”

The family has been a member of the Lenoir City Seventh-day Adventist Church for more than 20 years. With multiple nationalities and languages represented, Lenoir City has offered a safe and welcoming space for the Brass family to thrive as the unique, multiracial community they are. And the Brasises believe it goes even deeper than that.

“My biggest identity is my faith community,” Matt shared. “And I think that helps a little bit. In the secular world, a higher value is put on your ethnicity, because that’s seen as who you are. But in the faith community, it’s only a part of who you are; it’s not all of who you are.”

“Having our faith as a guide when making decisions has helped us navigate so many things with the kids.”

The promised blessings of Psalm 128 are often cited: “All that the father of a household gathers, his children shall possess.” For the Brass family, their possession is much more.

KiraboKids.org

“The Kirabo Foundation

THE KIRABO FOUNDATION

Spring 2019

17
Music transcends language, age, occupation, income, and gender. It breaks down barriers and stirs souls. The School of Music at Southern empowers music majors and minors to achieve excellence, while bringing together students from all areas of campus in its performance groups. Through these opportunities, thousands of Southern alumni have embarked on their careers better equipped for life.

### TOURING CONNECTIONS
Southern’s touring groups touch many lives. I Cantori, directed by Gennevieve Brown-Kibble; the Symphony Orchestra, directed by Laurie Redmer Minner; and Wind Symphony, directed by Ken Parsons, travel extensively around the country and internationally. Brown-Kibble shared a memorable experience from a recent tour in Italy:

> “After a delightful meal at a family restaurant in Rome, as we prepared to settle the bill, our group wanted to share a more heartfelt expression of our thanks. In the United States, we often sing ‘We Thank You Our Friends’ to the tune of ‘Happy Birthday to You,’ but what to sing in Italy? Then an idea came: During our last rehearsal before leaving Southern, we had hastily sung through an Italian folk song that could be used as an encore for our performances. The song contained no words of gratitude, but at least the language was Italian! So, while the family and servers were cleaning up, we began to sing. One by one the staff came out, faces beaming, and they remained until the song was finished before breaking into sustained applause. We were thrilled to learn that the song, ‘Santa Lucia,’ was a nostalgic portrayal of our waiter’s hometown!”

### CROSS-DISCIPLINE BENEFIT
While pursuing a degree in film production at Southern, Mark Comberiate, ’15, also enjoyed singing in the university’s choral ensembles. What he learned there has stayed with him, impacting his career as a film producer and director.

> “I had the opportunity to be a part of many powerful moments, largely due to the effort and time the director, Gennevieve Brown-Kibble, took to instill in us the core mindset behind each song,” Comberiate said. “Whether in film or music, I believe successful directors first take time to make sure their team embodies the message they’re working to communicate. Many people dismiss the arts as a hobby or elective to help fill out a resume, but I have seen how they are vital tools for communication.”

Music and the Human Brain

Music can have an incredible impact on the human brain. Matthew Tilbot, ’01 and ’05, associate professor of psychology at Southern, explained some of the many positive effects that learning and listening to music can have on people of all ages:

- Many people experience an emotional response to music; it stimulates the part of the brain that releases dopamine, which is a hormone associated with joy and pleasure. Studies have shown that babies who are exposed to music smile more and communicate better.
- Music is one of the few activities that utilizes a large number of areas in the brain. Playing an instrument is considered a whole-brain activity.
- Research shows that learning an instrument improves motor and reasoning skills, and children who learn a musical instrument before age 7 have increased cognitive function.
- Learning an instrument can also increase gray matter on the surface of the brain. Gray matter is responsible for making us who we are; therefore, music can even contribute to an individual’s personality.
- Music therapy can be used to treat individuals who suffer from trauma or mental illness.

### TRAILBLAZER
Unfazed by arbitrary barriers, Gale (Jones) Murphy, ’76, is comfortable forging her own path. For example, as a music major at Southern, she found herself in the all-male choral ensemble, Die Meistersinger, as a pianist and lone female soloist. More significantly, in 1974 Murphy made an impact on the entire student body after she was elected as the first female and first African-American Student Association president. Now living in Florida, she continues to use her talents to benefit others as a teacher, singer, pianist, and conductor.
One of the most robust sources of financial assistance for university students is endowed scholarships. These are set up when individuals gift a sum of money to the university, and the earnings from the invested funds are used to award scholarships.

As of 2019, Southern's endowment includes approximately 200 individual funds and is worth about $43.3 million, according to Kenny Turpen, ’09, associate director of Advancement. The individual endowments vary in size and scope, but what doesn’t vary is the selfless generosity of those who established these funds. Every named scholarship has a story, and the reasons why the donors gave or continue to give are inspiring.

Giving From the Beginning

David Cotton, ’79, ’80, and his bride, Carol, were newlyweds in Kentucky when they first made the decision to give back to Southern.

“Our first gift was a mere $7 during a phone-a-thon. After that we increased our gifts over the years as we were able, but that small commitment is where we started,” David said. “We felt a desire to help provide opportunities for Southern students.”

Another aspect that influenced their decision to give was when they learned that corporations and foundations ask what percentage of alumni give back to the institution. The donors want to see a high percentage of alumni supporters who continue to be involved with their alma mater.

Through the years, the Cottons continued to consistently give annual donations to Southern. One year during Alumni Homecoming Weekend, they attended a brunch and learned about the opportunity to increase the scope and method of their giving. The result was the establishment of the David and Carol Cotton Endowed Scholarship Fund.

“One of the main reasons we set up an endowed scholarship is because it will continue helping students until Jesus comes back,” David said.

The fund is specifically for the benefit of students who are from the public schools.
school systems in Kentucky and Tennessee. “We both attended public schools,” David said. “We feel it is important for the young people who are not in an Adventist academy or school to know that someone cares about them, produced for CBS by John Klein—who became a close friend of the family. When Bogovich received orders to be transferred to Naha, Japan, for a three-year tour, just months before he could have retired. After retiring, Bogovich enrolled at Southern Missionary College on the G.I. Bill to pursue a degree in physics. He became close friends with Ray Heffelin, PhD, who taught physics at Southern for nearly 60 years. After Bogovich passed away in 1991, his daughters established the Colonel George J. Bogovich Physics Endowed Scholarship Fund in honor of his life and as a memorial to his friend, Professor Heffelin. “This scholarship has enabled many students to finish their physics degrees here,” said Chris Hansen, ’89, chair of Southern’s Physics and Engineering Department. “Recipients have gone on to earn advanced degrees in medical, engineering, and education and to attain positions in various universities and laboratories across the country.” Colonel Bogovich’s ashes were interred at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. “This scholarship has a lasting legacy,” Baumgartner said. “People do not think too much about organ and tissue donation, but once we moved to New Mexico, my parents made the decision to be baptized as well.”
New and Improved

The library has undergone noticeable changes to accommodate shifting needs. For example, the student population has grown over the years, the library team is looking for ways to maximize space. One way they addressed this need was by moving several thousand lesser-used books to remote storage (which are still available upon request). They also transitioned to offering more digital periodicals, decreasing the number of physical shelves needed. The result was an increase in the space designated for student collaboration on the first floor—where students can work on group projects and studies together without the strict confines of sectioned rooms. Of course, being a library means providing a quiet, distraction-free environment as well. The second floor meets this need, offering a silent study room and large “quiet” areas; however, the library’s spacious, open construction allowed noise to travel throughout the building. Additionally, the team launched a new McKee Library website, McKeeLibrarian.org, to provide students and faculty with resources and excellent staff who are always willing to help people take their research, reading, and writing to a new level. And I love the therapy dogs! They always brighten my day.”

Engaging Students

Throughout the year, library staff members intentionally seek ways to engage with students, offering creative events and campaigns. Every November, visitors write what they are thankful for on paper leaves to hang on the library’s “thankful tree.” In February, patrons have the opportunity to express appreciation in a different way: the library provides a valentine craft station where sweethearts and friends alike make custom cards to show that they care. One of the most popular recurring events, though, involves four-legged friends; several times a month, trained dogs from Therapy Dogs International visit the library. These interactions help relieve students’ stress and fill their social media feeds with joyous, puppy-loving moments.

Last year McKee Library partnered with then-Student Association president Phillip Wasfield, senior history major, to encourage readers in celebrating diverse cultures. They created digital booklists commemorating cultural months, including Black History Month and Hispanic Heritage Month. Due to the popularity of the lists, the library created other reading lists to include Women’s History Month and Seventh-day Adventist Perspectives.

Above all, the library has a strong commitment to academics and research. Library research coaches and writing tutors are readily available to guide and mentor students, better equipping them both for their work now and in the future. Students can also attend instructional sessions on useful topics such as resume building and exam preparation. To facilitate sharing student and faculty scholarly research, the library manages Southern’s online institutional repository, KnowledgeExchange@Southern, where more than 1,600 entries are published.

“The library is a central hub on campus,” said Anecia Ascalon, senior English major. “It’s awesome that we have a place to study that’s stocked with resources and excellent staff who are always willing to help students take their research, reading, and writing to a new level. And I love the therapy dogs! They always brighten my day.”

The Future

While physical books are still prominently featured in McKee Library, the use of digital resources continues to increase. The staff is dedicated to providing current tools that students and employees need, continuing to look for ways to fund and grow the library’s digital offerings. “As long as we continue to offer superior resources in up-to-date formats, comfortable spaces for study and leisure, and knowledgeable professionals who are happy to share their wisdom,” said Deyse Bravo, library director, “I believe the library will stay relevant and important.”
Alumni Notes

70S Danny and Ida (Lopes) Hinck, ’71, are both retired from nursing and live in Northeast Alabama. They have seven grandchildren and spend two days a week homeschooling three of them, in addition to helping out in their church’s food pantry a few times a month and working with the Pathfinder club.

David Denton (attended) published a book of poetry, Elba’s Ga’l Tiimi’And, which is available digitally through Amazon and Kindle. The book is a poetic journey through the Gospel of John, exploring the stories, themes, and lessons through a poet’s eye.

Ron, ’85, and Lori (Johnston) Appler, ’88, live in Beloit, Wisconsin, where they both work for the Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Ron serves as president, and Lori serves as the associate superintendent of Education and as a Special Education director. They have two daughters, both married and living in Southern California.

Sandra (Skogerboe), ’90, and David Ringer, ’91, recently moved from Bismarck University in Alberta, Canada, to Pacific Union College in Angwin, California, where David is the men’s basketball head coach.

Heidi Olson last year.

10S Merle and Terisa (Moore) Thomas, ’70, were recently featured in The Southern. Thomas–Thomas for completing their journey of climbing the highest peak in each of the 50 states. The couple lives in Spokane, Washington. To read more, visit southern.edu/columns.

Going for the Gold

Preserving Traditions:
Celebrating meaningful milestones in the lives of alumni families

The Alumni Relations team is proud of the bond that ties together past, present, and future generations of alumni. As many as five generations of students have studied on this campus, and your alma mater is committed to recruiting the next generation of Southern alumni.

Through the Future Southern Alumni program, we hope to excite the children of alumni about their possible future at this university with a series of age-appropriate birthday gifts.

Visit southern.edu/future-alumni to enroll your child in this complimentary program. For further information, email alumni@southern.edu or call 423.236.2829.

Lasting Impact

Life is still full for Ruth (Jennings) Zoerb, ’65, who recently celebrated her 98th birthday at home in Walla Walla, Washington. Ruth taught art and home economics at Southern in the early 60s and 70s. She continues to paint in oils and watercolors, plays the organ and piano, has a significant rock and mineral collection as well as a shell collection, leads out in vespers services at the retirement center where she lives, and sews her own dresses.

Recently Shandelle Henson, ’87, professor of mathematics at Andrews University, visited Ruth in Walla Walla. While growing up in Collegedale, Shandelle had taken private lessons from Ruth in art and oil painting.

“We’re all so happy, dear.”

said. When Shandelle expressed her amazement at Ruth’s painting, Shandelle said. When Shandelle expressed her amazement at Ruth’s

many accomplishments and hobbies, Ruth responded emphatically in her New Jersey accent, “That is the way to be happy, dear.”
Family Additions

Elizabeth (Pengra) Blackwood, ’99 and W. and her husband, Josh, welcomed daughter Shellie to their family on December 3, 2019. Big brother Clayton (5) and Callie (4) adore their new sister.

Daniel Olson, ’02 and ’10, and his wife, Heidi, welcomed identical twin daughters, Piper and Quinn, on October 7, 2019. Daniel is the Case Services Coordinator at Southern, and Heidi is the office manager for the Chastity Department before choosing to stay home with the girls.

Heidi (Martins) Braungart, ’03, and her husband, Jonathan, welcomed Noah on January 14, 2019. The family lives in Auburn, Washington, where Heidi serves as a communication director for Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists for Seventh-day Adventists.

Kaytie Terpen, ’99, and her husband, Lauren, along with their 3-year-old, Molly, welcomed Noah to their family on August 15, 2018. Kaytie is a registered nurse at Adventist Health Shasta Medical Center in Anderson, California, and Lauren is a real estate agent. They are from Kelso, Washington, and are now living in Smoke Tree, California.

Alyssa (Volpe) Brown, ’03 and ’14, and her husband, Jimmy, welcomed their first child, Beckton James, on September 18, 2018. Alyssa is a social worker at Children’s Hospital at Erlanger’s neonatal ICU follow-up clinic in Chattanooga and is also a portrait and wedding photographer.

Alejandro, ’13, and Cheryl (Fuller) Terpe, ’95, welcomed their first child, Riza, on February 12, 2018. They live in Lone Tree, Colorado.

Additions

Three Churches

Harry Bennett, Jr., ’76, passed away on October 12, 2018, in Sacramento, Florida. At the age of 86, he was the oldest known Southern alumni at the time of his death. Harry graduated from Hindale Sanitarium Academy in 1933, attended Madison College, and then Southern Junior College. While in Collegedale, he and Erols (Broyles), ’36, met and were married in August 1945. Harry preceded to graduate from the Washington Sanitarium School of Nursing in Takoma Park, Maryland, in 1941. The following year, he gradu- ate from Washington Hospital School of Nursing in Takoma Park, Maryland, in 1941. The following year, he gradu- ate from Washington Hospital School of Nursing in Takoma Park, Maryland, in 1941. The following year, he gradu- ate from Washington Hospital School of Nursing in Takoma Park, Maryland, in 1941. The following year, he gradu- }

Weddings

Michael Sherrill, ’75, and his wife, Laura, were married on May 13, 2016, in Leesville, South Carolina. The couple lives in Newberry and is planting an Adventist church in the Belton-Leesville area.

Deborah (Knoll) Gandy (attended) married Matthew on September 9, 2018. Before they met on an Adventist dating website, he lived in Washington and she lived in North Carolina. They now share a home in North Carolina.

John T. Shooker IV, ’34, married Madlyn Waldrep in June 2016 and earned his executive master’s degree in global strategic communications from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., in 2018. He recently joined the Global Corporate Communications and served as a volunteer hospital charge nurse at Corona Hospital in California and did private duty nursing until she and Lamar built their home business. They began trapping hogs for Florida in the winter to South Dakota for the summer. She and Lamar worked only as the bushy and honey house until they retired to Florida. Veda’s real passion was flower farms, and she and Lamar kept a large flower garden, which included two greenhouses with more than 500 orchids (her favorite), and belonged to the Central Florida Orchid Society. Veda was preceded in death by her husband, Reba; parents, Clay and Lois Harris; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Horace Waldrep; parents, Emma and George Hargreaves; and sisters, Lajara and Mary Deckard; son-in-law, Juan Lajara; brothers Donald, Melvin, and Melvin; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul Clark, Jr., ’36, and several nieces and nephews.

Robert Merchand passed away on September 22, 2018, at the age of 97. He served as an accountant and treasurer at Southern from 1961-1998. He and Agnes, his wife of 73 years, were active members of the U.S. Army veteran and retired from Bishop Baptist Company in Cleveland, Tennessee, after 35 years of service. He was preceded in death by his wife, Bertha; parents, Clay and Laura Gladson; and sisters, Laura Gladson and Ruth Wilkinson; sister-in-law, Mary Collins; and three nieces and nephews.

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I am a Seventh-day Adventist because the hope we have in the Second Coming and Resurrection sustains us during our trials on Earth. When Jesus was on the cross, His enemies made the claim that “He saved others … but He can’t save Himself” (Matthew 27:42).

But they were wrong about Jesus. Yes, He died on a cross for our sins, but then He was resurrected, restored to full life and full power to save us. And that’s why we have hope. We serve a risen Savior who promises to return for us.

First Thessalonians paints an awe-inspiring picture: “For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words” (4:16-18).

The Empty Tomb

Our hope in Jesus’ return and His power both to save us and—for those who fall asleep in Him—to resurrect us depends entirely on the fact that Jesus rose from the tomb. Without His resurrection, we have no basis for hope.

This became vividly clear to me a few years ago. While visiting Jerusalem, my wife, Cherie, and I had the opportunity to stand outside the tomb people claim belonged to Joseph of Arimathea, where Jesus was buried. As expected, it was empty, and I was struck by the fact that everything we believe as Christians depends on Christ’s tomb—wherever its physical location was—being empty.

Praise God! Jesus rose from the grave. He won the victory over death and sin.
HOMECOMING WEEKEND | October 24-27, 2019

FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

HIGHLIGHTS


SAVE THE DATE! October 24-27, 2019

• Die Meistersinger Reunion
  Former members of the male chorus performing together under the direction of Marvin Robertson, PhD, faculty emeritus in the School of Music

• Evangelistic Resource Center (ERC) Missions and Soul-winning And Leadership Training (SALT) Reunions
  Inaugural reunions for alumni who participated in public evangelism trips abroad or soul-winning and leadership training on campus

• Golden Anniversary Reunion
  Class of 1969 celebrating five decades

• McKee Foods Employees Reunion
  Celebrating alumni who were or currently are employees of the bakery

Visit us online to view updated Homecoming Weekend information or contact Alumni Relations directly.

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Email: alumni@southern.edu
Phone: 423.236.2830