

FACTOR*Connecting with each other***BIETZ BYLINE**

We have terrific news on the fundraising front. We had an opportunity to become an all Steinway piano school. To be an all Steinway school we had to have 95 percent Steinway & Sons pianos, and given the fact that our present inventory of pianos is worn out, we would need to purchase nearly 30 Steinway pianos, which would normally cost more than \$850,565.

With some discounts from Steinway and selling our old pianos, that number came to \$592,624, still a lot of money. The School of Music had been planning a fundraising campaign for this project, but a window of opportunity developed and Ad Council voted that if we could raise 40 percent of the goal in pledges by December 15, the university would advance the money so the deal could be completed before the end of the year.

The School of Music worked with Advancement and Joy McKee to raise nearly 50 percent in pledges of the \$592,624 goal in two weeks. Some of the new pianos will arrive in January when we plan to go public with this campaign. This is another example of the broad support for Southern Adventist University and our continued growth as a school of excellence.

At the recent SACS meeting, I heard from Roger Goodman, vice president of higher education and not-for-profit ratings for Moody's Investors Service. He believes that higher education is an industry that will survive the economic downturn, but we need to be very careful as we look to the future. He suggested that we monitor requests for financial aid and measure how and where they are increasing. He also said we need to develop contingency plans in case we have a drop in enrollment. I will be working with campus leadership to do just that over the next few months.

~Gordon Bietz

WSMC HOSTS HOLIDAY READ WITH ME

WSMC, Southern Adventist University's classical radio station, hosted a special holiday version of its "Read With Me" program for long-term patients and "Miracle Children" from T.C. Thompson Children's Hospital on Monday, December 15. Miracle Children are those who have overcome tremendous odds and are chosen by T.C. Thompson to represent the hospital for a year.

A Southern tour bus, escorted by police, brought the children and their families to WSMC, where they were given a tour of the station and treated to a lunch catered by the Acropolis Grill.

The "Read With Me" program, which was aired live on WSMC and via webstreaming, included a reading of "My Penguin Osbert" by Erlanger Hospital CEO Jim Brexler and a performance of Cozoo and the Goblin by the Marzians from Marzipan Studios Reader's Theatre.

Southern's School of Journalism and Communication provided the television studio, production crew, and live streaming equipment to enable this event to be seen by more than 100 viewers over the Internet.

Hamilton County Mayor Claude Ramsey and City of Chattanooga Mayor Ron Littlefield were present for the festivities. In celebration of the event, Ramsey made an official proclamation declaring December 14, 2008 "Read With Me Day" in Chattanooga and Hamilton County.

Before the bus ride back to the hospital, the children were surprised by a visit from Santa Claus (Bert Coolidge) who spent some one-on-one time with each of the children.

"I'm so amazed at how many moving parts came together," says David Brooks, station manager for WSMC. "The whole thing worked out just great."

EMPLOYEES AWARDED FOR SERVICE

During Southern Adventist University's annual employee Christmas brunch, President Gordon Bietz recognized two employees for their service to the university and to the community.

Asti Conibear, office manager for the School of Education and Psychology, received the President's Award for Customer Service Excellence after having received multiple nominations for the award from both students and employees.

Conibear's colleagues noticed her dedication to helping others. "She shows wonderful empathy and support for everyone," said one employee when nominating Asti. "At the same time she is able to faithfully adhere to university policies."

The President's Award for Community Service Excellence was given to Pierre Nzokizwanimana, Modern Languages professor.

Nzokizwanimana is involved with Bridge Refugee Services in Chattanooga. Over the last year-and-a-half, 30 Burundian refugee families have fled their homeland under violent circumstances and settled in Chattanooga. Nzokizwanimana has been a key volunteer, helping these families make the transition to the United States from a society where they lived in mud houses, collected firewood for cooking, and raised ducks and other animals. He helps the refugees with acquiring basic English skills, brings the refugees into his home and church, and encourages his students to also become involved with Bridge Refugee Services.

Conibear and Nzokizwanimana each received \$500 in recognition of their dedicated service.

SOUTHERN PRAXIS SCORES EXCEED NATIONALS

Southern students are scoring higher than the national averages on the Praxis exams. During the 2007-08 school year not one student scored lower than the national or state average. Some areas of the test where students did particularly well included teaching writing (where students scored 13 percentage points higher than average) and elementary social studies content (where the students scored 11 percentage points higher than average).

TALGE HALL PERSONAL CARE DRIVE

Students and resident assistants of Talge Hall collected 3,212 personal care items and raised \$306 for the Samaritan Center. The center received a matching donation bringing the total to \$612. This is the ninth year Talge has done the personal care drive.

MONEY RAISED FOR AFRICAN COLLEGE

Malamulo College of Health Sciences is a small Adventist college and hospital in Malawi, Africa. The school is overcrowded and too small. The government of Malawi has threatened to close the college if the facilities are not updated—an undertaking that will cost \$300,000. The threat is made worse by the fact that Malamulo Hospital is famous for its efforts to fight AIDS in a country that has one of the highest AIDS rates in the world.

In response to this, Southern Adventist University has joined the 12 Adventist Intercollegiate Association (AIA) colleges behind a common goal—saving Malamulo.

Each of the AIA colleges and universities agreed to raise \$8,500 during the 2008-2009 academic year to make a total of \$100,000—an amount that, if raised, will be matched in full by a grant from Hope for Humanity.

Southern has exceeded the \$8,500 goal by raising more than \$11,000 during the fall semester. In addition to offerings and a collection box, one of the creative fundraising events the student association held was a "Muffins for Malamulo" bake sale.

Kari Shultz, director of student life and activities, asked the faculty and staff to bake muffins to give to donors. Employees provided about 700 homemade muffins for the "Muffins for Malamulo" project.

Another creative effort was the signing of a banner for Malamulo by Southern students. The Committee of 100 has pledged \$1 for every student who signs the banner.

With the success it has seen so far, Southern has increased its fundraising goal to \$15,000 for the end of the academic year.

MORE STUDENTS USING LIBRARY

The library has calculated the gate count for fall '08 (138,076) and it is up 31 percent in comparison with fall '07 (105,419). The library staff is pleased with the developments and continues with plans to keep library usage high during the winter semester.

COMING EVENTS

Employee Brown Bag

Wednesday, January 21, 12 p.m.

PreviewSouthern

Thursday, January 22—Friday, January 23

Symphony Concerto Concert

Sunday, January 25, 7:30 p.m.

University Assembly

Monday, January 26, 4 p.m.

SOUTHERN IN THE MEDIA

Here is a sampling of recent media coverage that mentions a Southern event or person:

Local Marine returns home safe

Ooltewah-Collegedale Weekly Community News, Dec. 10

Robert Garren Gallery brings Russian art to masses

Ooltewah-Collegedale Weekly Community News, Dec. 10

The 12 Days of Christmas: Day 10 Lords A-Leaping

Chattanooga Times Free Press, Dec. 10

WSMC Hosts Read With Me

WRCB News Channel 3, Dec. 14

CHANGING FACES

Southern welcomes the following employee:

Ruth MacLafferty to the Village Market

VOICE AND PEN

Barry Becker attended the United Motor Coach Association Expo in San Francisco, California, this past spring. While there, he entered a drawing with SARDO Bus and Coach Upholstery and won a re-upholstery job for one of Southern's buses. The job was completed in November with an estimated value of \$10,000.

Ray Carson attended the national convention of the Association for Career and Technical Education in Charlotte, North Carolina, on December 4 and 5. There were hourly seminars on topics ranging from model technology programs to career guidance.

Linda Potter Crumley presented two research papers at the National Communication Association's convention in San Diego, California in November. One paper, "Be girly, then dump him: Advice from *Seventeen* magazine," was co-authored with Southern alum Erin Weber Kloosterhuis, and with Megan Moe-Lunger, a professor at Lee University. The other paper, "Help that hurts" was co-authored by **Tricia Foster** and **Rene Drumm**. The latter paper is part of a series of papers derived from research by an interdisciplinary research team at Southern.

Alan Parker spoke at the Southern Union Evangelism Council in Daytona Beach in early December and at the Generation of Youth for Christ in San Jose, California, in mid-December.

John Wesley Taylor V recently completed a website for the *Journal of Adventist Education* (jae.adventist.org), an academic journal published bimonthly in four languages. The multi-lingual website provides the ability to search more than 20 years worth of articles published in the journal. John was also the speaker at the Conference of Professionals and University Students in Cancun, Mexico.

Pat Coverdale completed 40 hours of General Civil Mediation for the Tennessee Supreme Court Listing training on December 5.

Donn Leatherman was elected vice-president of the Adventist Society for Religious Studies at their recent annual meeting in Boston. He will serve as vice-president for one year, then becoming president-elect and president in the two subsequent years.

Suzy Gloudeman has been named to represent the Southern Union on the North American Division REACH (Reaching to Educate All Children for Heaven) Committee.

PERSONAL NEWS

Donnie Keele and Rachel Hopkins were engaged on December 2.

Chamra Otto was married to Alwin Anthony on Sunday, December 28. They were married in Antigua.

HATS OFF!

A huge thank you to the staff of McKee Library who continue to work hard to make sure we have the very latest and most pertinent information for our disciplines at our fingertips. Thank you for making research here at Southern fun and as easy as possible. —Lisa Clark Diller

Todd Wever went out of his way to help a little girl find her glasses, which were lost at the bottom of a dirty pond. It was very much appreciated. —Chris Hansen

Marge Seifert, you alone know the countless hours you spend investing in our senior history and archaeology majors. Thank you for embodying the joy that research brings and for passing that along. You always go beyond the call of duty for these students, and I am blessed by knowing that someone else is mentoring them through this process alongside me. —Lisa Clark Diller

HATS OFF! Cont.

In hard economics, thank you for keeping the Christmas brunch. I was also delighted with the Christmas bonus. I'm very glad to have a job here! —Lorella Howard

Ed and I want to say how much we appreciate the faculty and staff who have been praying for the safety of our daughter, Janet, while she was in Iraq. She is now safe at home with her husband and two daughters. We give God the glory for her safe return and keeping her in His care. —Ed and Katie Lamb

It was refreshing to hear the enchanting bells of the McDonald Road Melody Ringers in the McKee Library on Monday, December 15. Under the skillful leadership of Linda Brooks, this group of 15 enthusiasts presented a Christmas bell choir concert in the Knowledge Commons. It provided a relaxing distraction for more than 100 students during exam week. Thank you, and we look forward to more opportunities to enjoy your wonderful music! —Joe Mocnik

Thank you to everyone who has sent cards, made food, showed up at the Memorial Service on Sunday, and spoke words of encouragement to us. It has been very hard, but we have a hope that gives us peace that we will see our mother again in that glorious resurrection day. Thank you again for your caring spirit and love. —John & Kimberly Muaya

BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 1	Victoria Eaton, <i>Nursing</i> Daniel Maxwell, <i>Library</i> John Muaya, <i>Service Department</i>
Jan. 2	Mike Fisher, <i>Plant Services</i> Carlos Martin, <i>Religion</i> James Orrison, <i>Plant Services</i>
Jan. 3	Jennifer Huck, <i>Library</i>
Jan. 5	Leon Bowers, <i>Food Service</i> Rick Norskov, <i>Biology</i>
Jan. 6	Ted Palmer, <i>Office Equipment Services</i>
Jan. 7	Susan Brown, <i>Religion</i>
Jan. 8	Laurie Gauthier, <i>Graduate Enrollment</i> Judy Robertson, <i>Information Systems</i>
Jan. 10	Robert Gadd, <i>Business and Management</i> Dusty Miller, <i>Talge Hall</i>
Jan. 12	Conni Cash, <i>Nursing</i> Brooks Kirschmann, <i>Campus Safety</i> Fred McClanahan, <i>Enrollment Services</i>
Jan. 14	Dennis Negron, <i>English</i>
Jan. 15	Angi Howell, <i>Enrollment Services</i>
Jan. 16	Volker Henning, <i>Academic Administration</i> Sue Kaufman, <i>Planned Giving</i> Julie Penner, <i>Music</i>
Jan. 17	Justo Morales, <i>Religion</i> Bernetta Shockley, <i>Food Service</i>
Jan. 19	Dan Burks, <i>Education and Psychology</i> Ann Foster, <i>Biology</i>
Jan. 20	Katie McGrath, <i>McKee Library</i> Stephanie Sheehan, <i>Religion</i> John Thompson, <i>Transportation Services</i> Becky Whetmore, <i>Writing Center</i>
Jan. 21	Joan dos Santos, <i>English</i> Judie Port, <i>Social Work and Family Studies</i>
Jan. 23	Don Crumley, <i>Records and Advisement</i>
Jan. 25	Candace Wing, <i>Health Services</i>
Jan. 26	Yolande Burrus, <i>Music</i>
Jan. 27	Hollie Eirich, <i>Enrollment Services</i> Doug Tilstra, <i>Religion</i>
Jan. 31	Eli Courey, <i>Information Systems</i>

MARKETING & UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

editor | EMILY YOUNG

We welcome your comments and news.
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