

Southern Factor

June 2014

CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER

Faculty Awards Presented at Commencement

Students weren't the only ones excited at graduation; several faculty were honored during Spring Commencement for various achievements. Recipients were selected based on nominations made by their peers.

Kevin Brown, chair and professor in the Mathematics Department, was presented with the President's Award for Teaching Excellence, a recognition which included a \$1,500 honorarium. Brown considers it a privilege to be teaching math and is seriously committed to the delivery of this task. He shows enthusiasm for the subject and keeps the classroom relaxed so students feel comfortable asking questions. A student was quoted in the Commencement program saying "he is so helpful and concerned for us. He is always open for questions and never talks down to students."

Douglas Jacobs, professor in the School of Religion, was presented with the President's Award for Excellence in Scholarship, a recognition which included a \$500 honorarium. During the past year, Jacobs has completed his second doctoral degree with a Doctor of Ministry project, specializing in preaching to the elderly. Much of the research was undertaken in local churches. On top of a full teaching load, Jacobs took on a major research project. In November 2013, Jacobs and his graduate assistant rendered a formal report to a plenary session of the General Conference's Research Summit on Nurture and Retention. He plans to bring the project to Adventist universities in Ghana and Nigeria during the coming year.

Rick Norskov, professor in the Biology Department, was presented with the President's Award of Excellence for Commitment to Student Success, a recognition which included a \$500



Jan Haluska, left, receives the Distinguished Service Medallion from President Bietz.

honorarium. A student of Norskov's quoted in the commencement program said, "Dr. Norskov made it seem like everyone could succeed. His teaching includes creative methods to engage students." To help students explore issues of science and faith, Norskov sponsors the Encounter Club to host guest speakers and reflect on articles

"Dr. Norskov made it seem like everyone could succeed." -SOUTHERN STUDENT

that provide a biblical perspective while illuminating complex debates, such as creation and evolution. Department chair Keith Snyder says Norskov has assisted students in landing research internships off campus at a time when these types of opportunities have been cut by many organizations.

Jan Haluska, retiring chair and professor in the English Department,

was presented with the Distinguished Service Medallion, a recognition which included a \$500 honorarium. He has served students at Southern for 33 years, striving to elevate the level of critical thinking and excellence in communication across campus. One of his former students stated that he would not be a Christian today if he had not taken classes from Haluska.

William Wohlers, retiring vice president for Student Services, was presented with a Distinguished Service Medallion, a recognition which included a \$500 honorarium. Wohlers began his career at Southern as a history professor in 1973. During more than 40 years working at the university, he has impacted many lives. In his current role, Wohlers uses times of crisis as teachable moments, seeking to turn discipline into opportunities to foster discipleship. He has taken students on European study tours and programmed convocations in an effort to extend education beyond the classroom.

-Elizabeth Camps

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Laurie Redmer Minner and the Southern Adventist University Symphony Orchestra toured Argentina May 5-19. The orchestra performed at six schools, the Seventh-day Adventist River Plate University, and four churches. A formal concert was given in collaboration with the Ministry of Arts and Culture in the Misiones Province.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Vinita Sauder and **Stephanie Sheehan** attained certification as facilitators for Development Dimensions International (DDI).

Stephanie Sheehan received her certification from the Center for Applied Cognitive Studies in WorkPlace Assessments, WorkPlace Team Building, WorkPlace 360° Performance, and WorkPlace Coaching.

Carlos Parra was invited to present a three-day seminar in Villa Aurora, Italy, at the Istituto Avventista School of Theology on May 5-7. The theme of the seminar was "Linguistic, Ethnic, and Religious Minorities Today: Current Global Challenges." He also provided the keynote address during Commencement activities on Sabbath, May 11.

Januwoina Nixon was acknowledged for her contribution to the textbook *On Course: Strategies for Creating Success in College and in Life* by Skip Downing.

HATS OFF!

McKee Library thanks **Becky Whetmore** for her service leading the university's Writing Center for six years.

CHANGING FACES

Southern welcomes the following employees:

Katie McGrath, Head of Public Services/Associate Director in McKee Library

Jessica Spears, Research Services in McKee Library

Shirley Menhennet, Deli Mgr. in Food Services

Jacqueline Price-Walters, Deli Mgr. in Food Services

Thaddeus Lozensky, Deli Asst. Mgr. in Food Services

Fond farewells to the following employees:

Jason Mitchell, Accounting Services

Becky Whetmore, Writing Center

Orlando Garcia, Village Market

Kevin Kibble, Chaplain's Office

Cheryl Des Jarlais, Education and Psychology

Neville "Tony" Trimm, Biology

Russell Hallman, Technology

Jillian Wills, Nursing

Ray Carson, Technology

Oneita Turner, Graduate Studies

Marty Miller, Education and Psychology

Michael Hills, Education and Psychology

BIRTHDAYS

June 1

Beasley Frazier, Plant Services

June 2

Shawn Engle, Information Systems

Kimberly Muaya, Accounting Services

Danita Payne, Campus Shop

June 4

Brennon Kirstein, Chaplain's Office

Lori Thompson, Advancement

June 7

Cristy Pratt, Education and Psychology

June 8

Courtney Herod, Campus Shop

Isaac James, Marketing

Carl Swafford, Graduate Studies

June 10

Cheri Durst, Student Success Center

Bryce Enevoldson, Information Processing

Adam Heck, Mathematics

Kari Shultz, Student Services

June 11

Linda Brooks, Visual Art and Design

June 12

Jillian Wills, Nursing

June 13

Mitch Menzmer, Chemistry

June 15

Cynthia Bietz, Financial Administration

June 16

Dennisse Rios-Blood, Chemistry

Greg Rumsey, Journalism and Comm.

June 17

Bruce Myers, Plant Services

June 19

Kelly Crawford, Health Services

Edwin Reynolds, Religion

June 21

Brian Laneville, Food Services

June 22

Rob Raney, Development Services

June 23

Sherry Heming, Plant Services

Valerie Mirande, Village Market

June 25

Stanley Stevenson, Social Work

Lynelle Ellis, Journalism and Comm.

June 27

Tom Verrill, Financial Administration

Darin Bisell, P.E., Health and Wellness

Linda Case, Food Service

June 28

Ed Guthero, Visual Art and Design

Mary King, Health Services

June 29

David Nelsen, Biology

Marc Boyson, Visual Art and Design

Marketing and University Relations

editor | **Elizabeth Camps**

We welcome your comments and news.

Please contact us:

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