

# Southern Factor

August 2014

CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER

## Colloquium to Include Focus on Christian Sexuality

The upcoming school year brings with it an opportunity for renewed focus, and the 2014-2015 University Colloquium will have a specific theme, "Compassion and Clarity," aimed at sharpening Southern's response to an often-polarizing topic: Christian sexuality.

Colloquium runs August 4-15, but the newest and most deliberately different parts this year take place during the Sabbath hours of August 8-9. Employees will have four opportunities to hear various components of this sexuality discussion in the framework of vespers, Sabbath school, worship service, and a workshop. All events take place in Lynn Wood Chapel.

"It is important for us to have clarity about the biblical perspective on sex so that we might provide appropriate direction for our students," said President Gordon Bietz. "Without a firm foundation, grace can look like an endorsement."

Religion Professor John Nixon is presenting both the vespers and worship service while Bietz will teach Sabbath school. Nixon's presentations that weekend will mirror much of what he shared at the "In God's Image" conference held in Cape Town, South Africa, this past March. Nixon hopes the enthusiasm

he felt there will be shared by faculty and staff at colloquium.

"Those meetings were among the best I've attended during my 30 plus years in the ministry," Nixon said. "I felt enlightened, encouraged, and hopeful as I left."

The workshop and panel discussion on Sabbath afternoon is headed by Tom Osborn, author of *Daring to Tell My Story*, a book that recounts his survival from sexual addiction and offers personal insight regarding struggles with homosexuality.

"Without a firm foundation, grace can look like an endorsement."

—PRESIDENT GORDON BIETZ

All employees and their families are encouraged to attend these events on Saturday (with a free lunch to bridge the morning and afternoon activities). While parents may disagree about the extent to which their children should be exposed to those particular aspects of sexuality, Nixon offers his own guiding principle for making that very personal decision, saying "When our children are ignorant on sexual issues, it makes

them more vulnerable to deception."

Monday's employee in-service, available as either a morning or afternoon session, will cover a broad spectrum of business-related updates and also connect with the "Compassion and Clarity" theme by including an update from Southern's CERSSA committee (Campus Education Regarding Student Sexual Activity).

This group has been meeting for more than two years, performing work such as reviewing and rewording the campus sexuality policy found in the student handbook. They also sent out a survey to faculty and staff concerning issues of Christian sexuality—with an end goal of determining if there was a desire for further education in this area—and will be sharing those results at the in-service. CERSSA has additional projects in the coming year, including strengthening policies against discrimination, bullying, and abuse. Alan Parker, committee chair and religion professor, is intent on keeping students' eternal needs front and center as the group continues to meet.

"We would love students to say that they found help at Southern no matter what their orientation is, and that this was a safe place to grow closer to Jesus," Parker said.

### VOLUNTEERS AVAILABLE

Do you need help with a project? Why not consider using a Lights Volunteer to assist with organizing, data entry, research projects, inventory, or other supportive roles. Our volunteer pool includes a wide variety of various educational backgrounds, interests and skills. If you would like to meet with **Leslie Ann Schwarzer** or **Sharon Robberson** to discuss details about how a Lights Volunteer could enhance your department this upcoming school year, please call x2555 to set up an appointment.

### DEPARTMENT NEWS

A group of students and staff from the **School of Visual Art and Design** raised sufficient funds, with assistance from Advancement, to participate in a cross-cultural art project in Tunisia, June 16-30. The main goals of the trip were to create interfaith relationships, learn Tunisian culture, and empower youth from both countries through mural painting that celebrated the North African nation's newly ratified constitution. Look for a feature story about this in the Fall 2014 issue of Columns.

## DEPARTMENT NEWS (CONT.)



Sharon Pittman (red scarf) stands with GCDP students participating in the World Vision Area Development Program in Rawanda.

Sharon Pittman has been busy visiting current **Global Community Development Program** students in their area development projects. This has taken her to villages in Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi. In these villages, she has observed the students train local communities on business proposals, monitoring and evaluations, and grant writing. These trainings empower local communities with skills to continue development work themselves. She asks that you please continue to pray for our students. Follow the **GCDP Facebook page** for project updates.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Keith Snyder** spent the month of June digging dinosaur bones in Wyoming. This is the sixth summer he's done this, and he now leads exploratory digs for the Hanson Research Station. Students can earn 4 credits of science taking a lower division class, and families can join for a day or a month. This dig is in one of the richest bone beds in the U.S., and costs the least to join. Gordon Bietz has spent time there, as have several other faculty members. Join them next summer during the month of June for an absolutely unique experience.

**Keith Snyder** has just finished a two-day seminar on how to increase student success in General Biology. Impressive stats on retention in the degree, grade increase, and increased four-year graduation rate were shared. He encourages incorporating this five-day "boot camp" into plans for next year.

**Michael Cafferky** presented three papers at the Ninth Biennial Seventh-day Adventist Business Teachers' Conference in Berrien Springs, Michigan, July 10-11. His plenary address was titled "Being Adventist in Business: Is There a Distinct Difference?" In breakout sessions he presented "The Ethical Foundation for Prosperity: Contemporary Views Versus the Biblical View" and "Biblical Worldview as Strategy." He also gave a speech to the Berrien Springs Optimist Club.

**Jessica Spears** and **Deyse Bravo Rivera** presented at the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Librarians Conference in Silver Spring, Maryland, on July 10. Spears'

presentation was "Utilizing an Embedded Librarian Service to Build Information Literacy" and Rivera spoke about "Using an Institutional Repository as a Platform for Digital Archives and Research."

In June, **Dusty Miller** was asked to demonstrate his blacksmithing skills at the local Chattanooga blacksmith club, The Choo Choo Forge, which meets at the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum each month. Miller has recently been making handcrafted garden tools out of old railroad spikes, and is the sponsor of the student Blacksmith club, "Southern Smiths." The Choo Choo Forge and its members have been supportive of our student club and have loaned and given several anvils and other tools to the group.

**Rick Norskov** and his wife, Jeanne, taught a weeklong series of nature classes at the Michigan Conference's Cedar Lake Camp Meeting, June 16-20.

**Carlos Parra** published "A Glance at Identity (Trans/Con) Formation Among Latino /Hispanic Communities in North America" in the book *New Perspectives in Diasporic Experience* (2014, pp. 3-8. Ed. C. Rapoo, M.L. Coelho, and Z. Sarwar. Oxfordshire: Inter-Disciplinary Press).

## HATS OFF!

The **Quick Print** team has handled an overwhelming number of large and rushed print jobs this summer with their usual grace and professionalism—not to mention fantastic attention to detail. Their support is vital to the success of Southern's marketing and communications efforts. My sincere appreciation goes to **Russ, Steven, Dorothy**, and the entire crew!

-Tina Smith

The **Advancement** team participated at the Philanthropic Services and Industries conference in Baltimore, Maryland. So proud of **Chris Carey** and **Evonne Crook** who were facilitators for workshops at the conference.

-Geovanny Ragsdale

We welcome **Linda Potter Crumley** as the new dean of the School of Journalism and Communication, starting August 1. Greg Rumsey will return to duties as a full-time classroom professor.

-School of Journalism and Communication

I emailed **Plant Services** about the possibility of pressure washing the benches at the outdoor classroom before the third summer session. It was done a week later! I really appreciated their promptness in completing a request that was probably not on their summer to-do list.

-Tron Wilder

## PERSONAL NEWS

**Randy Craven** and **Cheryl Martin** joined their lives together in a family ceremony at the Goliath Wall on the morning of June 22.

**Don** and **JP Mathis'** daughter, Renee, married Eric Paddock (both are Southern graduates) on July 6. They honeymooned in Hawaii and live in Berrien Springs, Michigan, where they will be working for Andrews University.

Hayden Mitchell Evenson is keeping Nick and **Leslie Evenson** on their toes! He was born June 28 at 7 lbs. 5 oz and 20.5 in. Already happiest when outside, he can't wait for his first boat ride or hiking/biking adventures on Southern's beautiful Biology Trail!

Richard and **Beverly Rawson** are happy to announce the birth of their first grandchild, Dylan Richard Strahl, on July 1 at 5:17 pm. He weighed in at 7 lbs. 10 oz. and was 19 in. All four grandparents were there in time to welcome him to the world. Beverly was privileged to be one of Heather's coaches and watch his birth. She also enjoyed playing "Nana" for three weeks. If anyone would like to see pictures, Beverly has a "few" in her office in Thatcher Hall.

## CHANGING FACES

**Southern welcomes the following employees:**

**Donald Martin**, electronic services librarian, McKee Library  
**Irene Royo**, patrol office, Campus Safety  
**Elden Ford**, patrol office, Campus Safety  
**Michael Harris**, adventure program, P.E., Health and Wellness  
**Dennis Negron**, vice president, Student Services  
**Genefer Joseph**, food supervisor, Cafeteria  
**Amelia Laneville**, international food worker, Cafeteria

**Fond farewells to the following employees:**

**Bryan Stitzer**, Campus Safety  
**Laurie Cooper**, Social Work  
**Sheila Smith**, Counseling and Testing  
**Jay McCubbins**, Plant Services  
**Clarice Esquilla**, Risk Management  
**Courtney Herod**, Campus Shop  
**Daniel Boyd**, Food Services  
**William Wohlers**, Student Services

## COMPLAINT REPORT FORM

SACS and federal regulations require that the university records complaints received and works to make sure they are responded to in an appropriate and timely manner. If you receive a complaint, please share the information (and your response) by visiting [southern.edu/marketing](http://southern.edu/marketing) and clicking on "Complaint Repository." Your efforts here help us watch for trends where the university can improve services provided.

## BIRTHDAYS

August 2 **Valerie Lee**, Biology  
**Ken Lehmann**, Plant Services  
**Troy Walker**, P.E., Health and Wellness

August 3 **Donna Watson**, Food Services

August 5 **Mark Peach**, History and Political Studies

August 6 **Krystal Bishop**, Educational and Psychology  
**Evonne Crook**, Advancement

August 7 **Margarita Sanchez**, Village Market  
**Marge Seifert**, McKee Library  
**Sonia Wrate**, Nursing

August 8 **Daniel Brown**, Plant Services  
**Kenny Turpen**, Advancement

August 10 **Ileanna Freeman**, Education and Psychology  
**Renita Klisches**, Student Success Center  
**Geovanny Ragsdale**, Advancement  
**Irene Royo**, Plant Services  
**Christy Showalter**, School of Nursing

August 11 **Donald Lighthall**, Service Department

August 12 **Jeff Ball**, Plant Services  
**Joey Osborne**, Village Market

August 13 **Tron Wilder**, Education and Psychology

August 14 **Deyse Bravo**, McKee Library  
**Brent Hamstra**, Chemistry  
**Pamela Harris**, Journalism and Comm.

August 17 **Freddy Fuentes**, Education and Psychology  
**Pamela Gammenthaler**, Nursing  
**Nick Livanos**, Visual Art and Design

August 18 **Mike Boyd**, P.E., Health and Wellness  
**Ruben Covarrubias**, Enrollment Services  
**Jamie Thompson**, English  
**Tom Watson**, Village Market

August 19 **Robert Bengé**, P.E., Health and Wellness  
**Rhonda Scott**, Chemistry

August 20 **Ryan Herman**, Enrollment Services

August 21 **John Shoemaker IV**, Advancement

August 22 **Regina Bailey**, Student Success Center  
**Mark Hyder**, Business and Management

August 23 **Genefer Joseph**, Food Services  
**Cindy Rima**, Nursing

August 24 **Peggy Flynt**, Online Campus  
**Loyd Hight**, Biology

August 25 **Sherri Schoonard**, Food Services

August 26 **Andy Compton**, Accounting Services  
**Jaclynn Huse**, Nursing

August 27 **Andy Langshaw**, Landscape Services  
**Emiko Miyagi**, Technology  
**Jesse Rademacher**, Visual Art and Design

August 28 **Tina Smith**, Marketing and University Relations

August 29 **Giselle Hasel**, Visual Art and Design  
**Sylvia Mayer**, Nursing  
**John Sager**, Talge Hall

August 30 **Alina Heinanen**, Food Services  
**Oliviya Pleshka**, Food Services

August 31 **Lilly Tryon**, Nursing