

# Southern Factor

October 2015

CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER

## Town Hall Focused On Enrollment and Budget Connection

September's Town Hall meeting addressed the current status of Southern's enrollment. The overarching message was that while the university is still in a strong financial position, enrollment for 2015-2016 did not meet expectations, making it necessary to tighten the budget.

This year, Southern saw one of its largest groups of incoming students: 539 freshmen and 190 transfers. Despite this solid figure, simple math shows that the number of incoming students did not make up for the number of outgoing ones. Marc Grundy, vice president for Enrollment Services, noted that four of the top five years for enrollment were 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012, meaning that large classes are needed to replace those who are now graduating.

"There are many market factors stacked against us right now," Grundy said. "It's unfortunately becoming harder and harder to convince students and families that Adventist education is not only worth it, but that they can actually afford it."

During the Town Hall meeting, budget managers within all of campus' schools and departments were asked to trim 2.5 percent off their planned

spending, but that isn't the only way to help balance out the numbers from an enrollment shortfall. Faculty and staff can also become more actively involved with getting, and keeping, students on campus.

An example of this approach is the new Enrollment Priorities and Improvements Committee (EPIC). One of its goals is to enhance the customer service experience for students and parents. Though it was not formed specifically to increase enrollment,

### **EVERY EMPLOYEE** can affect change and bring improvement to our enrollment numbers by...

- Doing work with excellence
- Resolving student issues proactively and with great care
- Connecting with students and parents in ways that show they are extremely valued and important
- Stepping in to help meet a student need even when it might not be related to your own work area

— Excerpt from a September employee email by Godon Bietz

Ingrid Skantz, vice president for Marketing and University Relations, said keeping students enrolled could be one of many positive outcomes.

Another example of employees taking ownership of enrollment comes from the School of Journalism and Communication's Christian Media Camp. The three-day intensive invites high school students to interact with the school's faculty and staff while sharpening their media skills through photography, videography, and writing learning laboratories.

Assistant Professor Kendra Lee called the camp a "creative approach to recruitment," noting that 100 percent of the high school seniors who attended the camp enrolled at Southern.

"It's a full immersion into our programs with our faculty, so students get to see what our facilities are like," Lee said. "We feel this experience gives us a much deeper connection with them."

Despite the current enrollment dip, Grundy is confident in Adventist education and its mission to the church.

"We feel the Lord has sent us the exact students who need to be here and that we need to have here at Southern," Grundy said.

## Southern Receives \$1.6 Million Gift, Largest Ever from Local Business

Southern recently received \$1.6 million from a Chattanooga-area business that wishes to remain anonymous. The funds will make a significant difference for students as \$1 million of the contribution is for bolstering Southern's scholarships. According to Tom Verrill, senior vice president for Financial Administration, this portion of the gift alone will

generate \$45,000 of interest annually for use as student scholarships. The remaining \$600,000 was given to help improve the university's library and campus green spaces.

"I often hear from businesses how much they appreciate our students," said Gordon Bietz, president. "This gift certainly illustrates that."

[\(read full article online\)](#)



## DEPARTMENT NEWS

With heavy hearts, we share the news that **Jan Haluska** passed away Friday, September 25. Haluska taught in the English Department for more than 32 years, serving as chair from 2008 until his retirement in May 2014. He is especially well remembered for his passionate presentations of literature, faith, and humanity. Services for Haluska for will be held on Sabbath, October 3 at Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists. Visitation begins at 3 p.m. and a memorial service follows at 4 p.m. The memorial service will **streamed live** on Southern's website.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Homecoming Weekend** is fast approaching! Come see your former classmates October 29 to November 1. All graduates, attendees, and friends of Southern are invited to reconnect with friends, family, students, faculty, and staff.

Alumni Relations is hosting a trip to Europe! They will be visiting Belgium, France, Germany, and Switzerland, from May 29 to June 10, 2016. The cost is \$4,600 per person and includes airfare, lodging, ground transportation, sightseeing activities, and breakfast and suppers. The first \$700 non-refundable deposit deadline is December 1, 2015. If you are interested, email Evonne Crook at alumni@southern.edu.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Deyse Bravo-Rivera** and **Jessica Spears** published "One for the Books: How Reading Improves Your Well-being" in the September/October 2015 issue of *Vibrant Life*.

**Sharon Rogers** attended the National Academic Advising Association Conference October 4-7 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

**Adrienne Royo** appeared on **News Channel 9** in a presentation to Dale Peters for his selfless service to the homeless and underprivileged in this area. This presentation of \$500 is through the "Pay it Forward" program, funded by Channel 9 and the McMahan Law Firm. Royo also gave a vespers presentation titled "A House for Sale" for worshippers at a church held in Peters' home.

**Adrienne Royo** gave a presentation titled "Languages: A Pathway to Global and Celestial Citizenship" at the Reynolds Symposium. This presentation highlighted the fact that regardless of profession, there are means through which anyone can share his or her faith.

**Jaclynn Huse**, along with her 15-year-old daughter Shelby, presented "The Impact of Social Media on Spiritual and Mental Health," "Team Building," and "No More Bullying" to teenagers at the Illinois Seventh-day Adventist Women's Ministry Conference September 25-27 in Chicago, Illinois.

**Edwin Reynolds** recently submitted the manuscript for an Adult Sabbath School Teacher's Edition of the Bible Study Guide for the second quarter of 2017. It is on 1-2 Peter. He also recently submitted the manuscript for a commentary volume on the Johannine Epistles (1-3 John) for the new *Seventh Day Adventist International Bible Commentary*. It is also scheduled to be released in 2017.

## HATS OFF!

I want to say a sincere thank you to **Plant Services** for the great work in replacing faulty water pipes leading to Daniells Hall. We are grateful to have running water again instead of having to run for water—and bathrooms! I also want to thank those of you who teach in Daniells for your patience while the water was turned off. -Cheryl Craven

I would like to thank **Yolande Burrus** for 26 years of tireless and selfless service to the students and faculty in the School of Music. All of us in Mabel Wood Hall wish her many happy and healthy years of well-deserved retirement. Yolande, Vous nous manquez beaucoup! -Scott Ball

Thank you to **Becky Djernes, Marty Hamilton**, and those who worked to make Brock Hall 1007 look like new. We appreciate it! -School of Journalism and Communication

I would like to thank our **Student Finance Team** for their hard work during registration. I feel blessed to work with Xenia Figueroa, Rebekah Spears, Ginger Cheney, Michael Rumsey, Brittany Underwood, Jeffrey Michel, Kathy Pires, Lauren Turpen, and Matt Barclay. -Lillian Loza

## PERSONAL NEWS

**Gary and Sue Kaufman** were recently blessed with two new grandsons: Spencer Andrew Harris, born August 3 to parents Ernie and Michelle Harris of Dayton, Tennessee, and Tobiah Shalom Mohlke, born August 10 to parents Christopher and Anna Mohlke of Kansas City, Missouri. We thank God for these precious bundles of joy!



**Kristie and Tron Wilder** welcomed their second son, Anderson Jude, on August 9 at 12:55 a.m. Big brother Ace, Kristie, and Tron are celebrating the joy that little Jude brings.

**Annette and Adam Heck** celebrated the arrival of Daniel Adam on September 11 at 4:47 p.m. Big brother Sammy is enjoying "his baby." Annette and Adam are thanking God for their little miracle.



## CHANGING FACES

COMING TO SOUTHERN:

**Marlise Kramer**, dessert/bakery supervisor, Food Services  
**Janet Fournier**, cafeteria floater, Food Services  
**Angela Pinzaru**, sandwich supervisor, Food Services

**Ben Chase**, admissions representative, Admissions  
**Pamela Jansen**, evening supervisor, McKee Library

LEAVING SOUTHERN:

**Cheryl Torres**, annual giving officer, Advancement  
**Karen Glassford**, short-term missions coordinator,  
Chaplain's Office

CHANGING POSITIONS:

**Ginger Cheney**, from undergraduate finance counselor  
to graduate finance counselor  
**Dan Brown**, from maintenance repairman to waste mgt.

## VOLUNTEERS AVAILABLE

Do you need help with a project? Lights Volunteers are available to assist with organizing, data entry, inventory, and other supportive roles. If you would like to meet with **Leslie Ann Schwarzer** or **Sharon Robberson** to discuss details about how a Lights Volunteer could enhance your school or department, please call x2555 and set up an appointment.

## 'SUCCESS STORY' LISTSERV

Southern has created an email listserv for employees to share success stories (of students, staff, alumni, donors, etc) in variety of areas (academic, spiritual, financial, social, etc). [Stories@lists.southern.edu](mailto:Stories@lists.southern.edu) is an important tool for collecting these testimonies. We need to remind others—and be reminded ourselves—about the numerous ways God has blessed Southern. Marketing and University Relations will take each story, categorize it, and includes it in a searchable and login-protected database that will, in the next few months, be found at [southern.edu/stories](http://southern.edu/stories). To be added to this listserv, email **Lucas Patterson**.

## COMPLAINT REPORT FORM

Regulations require that the university records complaints and makes sure they are responded to in a timely manner. Share the concern by visiting [southern.edu/marketing](http://southern.edu/marketing) and clicking on "Complaint Repository."

### Marketing and University Relations

student editor | **Myron Madden**

We welcome your comments and news.  
Please contact us:  
[news@southern.edu](mailto:news@southern.edu) or 236.2689

## BIRTHDAYS

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| October 1  | <b>Troy DeWind</b> , Landscape Services<br><b>Linda Lechler</b> , Nursing<br><b>Mary Anne Poulson</b> , Religion<br><b>Marcus Sheffield</b> , English   |
| October 2  | <b>Kim Armstrong</b> , Food Services<br><b>Barb Edens</b> , President's Office<br><b>Mariella Pechero</b> , Student Success Center<br><b>Paulette Sandefur</b> , Village Market<br><b>Jessica Spears</b> , McKee Library<br><b>Vivian Grabiner</b> , Village Market |
| October 3  | <b>David Huisman</b> , Accounting Services  |
| October 4  | <b>Christalee Crary</b> , Enrollment Services   |
| October 5  | <b>Bill Lyons</b> , Plant Services<br><b>Daniel Olson</b> , Student Success Center  |
| October 6  | <b>Cindy Johnson</b> , Nursing  |
| October 7  | <b>Miguel Rivas</b> , Information Systems<br><b>Joylynn Scott</b> , President's Office<br><b>Dennis Steele</b> , Business   |
| October 9  | <b>Faith Anderson</b> , Food Services<br><b>Matt Barclay</b> , Enrollment Services<br><b>Bill Rawson</b> , University Health Center<br><b>Linda Williams</b> , Thatcher Hall  |
| October 10 | <b>Scot Anderson</b> , Computing<br><b>Rodney Bussey</b> , P.E., Health, and Wellness   |
| October 11 | <b>Ronda Christman</b> , Nursing<br><b>Blake Laing</b> , Physics  |
| October 13 | <b>Judy Sloan</b> , P.E., Health, and Wellness  |
| October 14 | <b>Chris Hansen</b> , Physics   |
| October 15 | <b>Ric Griffin</b> , Student Success Center   |
| October 16 | <b>Castwell Fider</b> , Enrollment Services   |
| October 17 | <b>Dwight Magers</b> , Talge Hall<br><b>Melissa Maracle</b> , Records   |
| October 18 | <b>Braam Oberholster</b> , Business<br><b>David Olson</b> , Human Resources<br><b>Elaine Plemons</b> , Ctr. for Teaching Excellence<br><b>Keely Tary</b> , English<br><b>Cindi Young</b> , Financial Administration   |
| October 19 | <b>Stephen Bauer</b> , Religion   |
| October 20 | <b>Amelia Laneville</b> , Food Services   |
| October 21 | <b>Linda Crumley</b> , Journalism and Comm.<br><b>John Wagner</b> , Advancement   |
| October 23 | <b>Yola Noya</b> , Village Market<br><b>Carol Plank</b> , Talge Hall  |
| October 25 | <b>Seth Shaffer</b> , McKee Library   |
| October 27 | <b>Kevin Brown</b> , Mathematics  |
| October 29 | <b>Ron Johnson</b> , Mathematics  |
| October 31 | <b>Teri Klinger</b> , Thatcher Hall   |