

# Southern Factor

November 2015

CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER

## Curious Minds Wanted for Southern Scholars Program

Every member of the faculty and staff knows that one student. The one who has a desire to obtain information beyond books. The one who enjoys tackling challenges outside his own field of study. The one who thirsts for knowledge and strives for a greater understanding of the world in which she lives. These students are perfect candidates for the university's Southern Scholars program, and with a little encouragement from the right individual, they can meet other students with the same desire for learning.

Many who first hear about Southern Scholars assume they are students with the best GPAs. While the program requires high school students to have a 3.7 GPA and ACT of 23 or cumulative SAT of 1070, grades are not the program's primary focus.

"I'm not looking for straight-A students," said Mark Peach, PhD, South-



*A McKee Library conference room was recently converted into multimedia study space reserved exclusively for students in the Southern Scholars program.*

ern Scholars program director and professor in the History and Political Studies Department. "I'm looking for academic risk-takers, people who are

willing to threaten their GPAs to gain a richer sense of learning even if it means a lower grade because they took a challenging class outside their major."

Though there are financial incentives for students interested in the program—participants earn up to \$7,500 in scholarships spread out over four years—Peach said the most common reason cited by students for joining his group is how it prepares them for graduate or professional school.

Faculty and staff are encouraged to point curious minds toward the Southern Scholars program and invite those uninterested to the program-specific convocations, vespers, and classes open to all students. These interactions with scholars have the potential to inspire and motivate all students.

To refer a student, call 423.236.2743 or email [scholars@southern.edu](mailto:scholars@southern.edu).

-Suzanne Ocsai

## Students and Faculty Run and SOAR for Better Fitness

I didn't care too much for running while I was growing up. I took it up for a while in college with four miles being my normal span, but soon life took over and it was "too difficult to find time." Once children became part of my life, I began running again to indulge in a "mine alone" moment with no child clamoring for attention. Slowly "my time" became moments of meditations, moments of supplications, moments of prayers, and moments impossible not to make time for.

As Southern's Disability Support Services coordinator, I conscientiously strive to make a positive change in each student's life. As many of my students will tell you, the first thing I always encourage them to do is get out and exercise. But I have also tried to be a good example.

Back in March, I strained my lumbar and was advised to stop running. Not taking too kindly to being told what cannot be done, I took up running again at the end of the summer. But this time, I began inviting students to run alongside me every morning and afternoon on the tracks behind Hulsey Wellness Center. I kept the invitation open during the fall semester, and encouraged the students to run the 7 Bridges Marathon with me. I'm excited that this year we had several Southern students, faculty and staff participate in the marathon, but more importantly, I had quite a few students running on behalf of Support of Alternative Readiness (SOAR).

Running is one of those things you don't realize just how much you've missed until you've started doing it again. I wish I would have kept up with



*Carrie Jones, Mariella Pechero-Hoffman, Alysia Wright, and Arnie Salillas show off their 7 Bridges Marathon medallions.*

my running after college, but I pray that my students guard the gift of running closely.

While still in the works, SOAR is planning its first 5K in April 2016 for Autism awareness. Come SOAR alongside with us and reach for your destiny.

-Mariella Pechero-Hoffman

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

Currently, students enrolled in the Global Community Development Masters program are spending time in Arusha, Tanzania, participating in six weeks of intensive classes. This includes courses on community training and assessment and community-owned project management. Following their class sessions, students will spend eight weeks in a field location applying the lessons they learned. Students observe first-hand the wide breadth of development career options, live with host families, visit local courts, go on a Safari, and immerse themselves in local life and culture all in service for Jesus. Please keep our students in your prayers as they prepare to head out for their field locations shortly!



The Impact Your Health Chattanooga event was held at the Chattanooga Convention Center on October 4-5. Over 1,700 people were served at the free medical care clinic. **Susan Allen, Holly Gadd, and Ronda Christman** served in the Medical Services area. **Shirley Spears** was the coordinator for the nursing triage area. Several students and alumni (Christie Cobos, Ronda Huisman, Laura Mudrick, Claudia Ramirez, Michael Sikora, Laura Tobing, and Dori Trivette) also served Chattanoogaans at the nursing and medical areas at the Impact Chattanooga event.

The Evangelistic Resource Center (ERC) in Hackman Hall is buzzing with students eager to participate in the 2016 evangelism trips. Over 240 Southern students have expressed an interest in filling one of the 100 spots going to Cancun, Mexico, for a nine-day campaign during spring break and for a three-week campaign in May, as well as for a three-week campaign in Medellin, Colombia. The students are currently in the fundraising stage to reach their goal of \$800 or \$900. If one of them approaches you or gives you a fundraising letter, please consider helping in whatever way you can. Your contribution will be recorded in the Advancement Office, making you a donor to Southern Adventist University. Please pray for the ERC, the evangelism participants, and the church sites where they are going, that God will be glorified and His kingdom advanced so we can go home soon.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Everyone is invited to join the Global Community Development Program's weekly T4 Time at our offices in Fleming Plaza on Thursdays at 4 p.m. Share some tea, talents, treasures, and time with us while we expand our shared service capacity for Jesus! See you there!

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

**Rick Norskov** attended the annual Tennessee Physiological Society Meeting October 9 at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga.

**Sonja Fordham** attended the International Writing Centers Association Conference October 8-10 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

**Laura Racovita-Szilagyi** completed a Grief Following Trauma training session with certification from the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation at the Michigan Crisis Response Association's Annual Meeting September 20-22 in Tustin, Michigan.

**Lorri Merchant, Laura Racovita-Szilagyi, and Tricia Foster** attended the Counsel on Social Work Education's Annual Program Meeting October 15-18 in Denver, Colorado.

**Ronda Christman** attended the 20th Annual Sigma Theta Tau International Odyssey Conference October 15-16 in Ontario, California.

**Ronda Christman and Stephanie Bowers-Griffin** presented a paper titled "Do Family Meals Relate to a Decrease in Risky Behaviors?" on October 15 at the Sigma Theta Tau International Odyssey Conference on Population Health and Nursing's Role in Ethics, Leadership, and Global Action.



## HATS OFF!

I recently had an advisee in my office who had contemplated several Adventist institutions for nursing. She chose Southern because of her interactions with **Sylvia Mayer**. Thank you, Sylvia, for helping her see Southern in such a positive light!  
-Jaclynn Huse

The School of Social Work is proud to announce that there's a new doctor on campus! Please join us in congratulating **Laura Racovita-Szilagyi**. She has successfully completed her PhD in human services with a specialization in management of nonprofit agencies. Laura has been, and will continue to be, an integral part of the School of Social Work. We are proud to have her on our team.

## CHANGING FACES

COMING TO SOUTHERN:

**David Armstrong**, sewer repair technician, Plant Services

**Kevin Coon**, energy management technician, Plant Services  
**Carolyn Hamilton**, vice president, Advancement  
**Annie Smolinski**, office manager, School of Music

LEAVING SOUTHERN:

**John Wagner**, interim vice president, Advancement  
**Gary Horinouchi**, AV manager, Information Systems  
**Mario Del Rio Osorio**, international bar, Food Services

CHANGING POSITIONS:

**Teri Reutebuch**, from Chaplain's Office to Student Services  
**Anthony Nix**, from cashier clerk to office assistant position  
**Faith Anderson**, from Food Services  
to Enrollment Management  
**Anjanette Brailsford**, from Village Market  
to Human Resources Department  
**Oliviya Pleshka**, from salad supervisor position  
to head cashier position  
**Paulette Sandefur**, from part time cashier clerk position  
to full time cashier clerk position  
**Ashley Fox**, from hourly annual giving officer position  
to salary position  
**Sharon Robberson**, from Advancement  
to Student Services  
**Leslie Schwarzer**, from Advancement  
to Enrollment Management

### '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](mailto: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."

### 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.

### BIRTHDAYS

November 1 **Laurie Minner**, Music  
November 2 **Donald Keefe**, Visual Art and Design  
**Shannon Martin**, History  
November 4 **Steven Crosby**, Purchasing Services  
**Greg Merchant**, Online Campus  
November 5 **Robert Bovell**, Advancement  
**Liane de Souza**, Student Success Center  
**David George**, Visual Art and Design  
November 6 **Astrid Conibear**, Edu. and Psychology  
**Tamara Mallory**, Accounting Services  
November 7 **Scott Kornblum**, WSMC  
November 8 **Lisa Patterson**, Talge Hall  
November 9 **Adam Brown**, Enrollment Services  
**Minodora Perchik**, Food Services  
November 10 **Alan Parker**, Religion  
**Carl Patterson**, Talge Hall  
November 11 **Jim Parks**, Plant Services  
**Autumn Wurstle**, English  
November 12 **Jeffrey Michel**, Nursing  
November 13 **Marty Hamilton**, Financial Administration  
**Marla Seasley**, Biology  
November 15 **Charlotte Athey**, Enrollment Services  
**Doug Jacobs**, Religion  
November 16 **Tim Cwodzinski**, Visual Art and Design  
**Adrienne Royo**, Modern Languages  
November 17 **Lorri Merchant**, Social Work  
November 18 **Galina Chikivchuk**, Food Services  
**Jim Wampler**, Student Success Center  
November 20 **Barbara James**, Nursing  
November 21 **Russ Orrison**, Purchasing Services  
**Sharon Pittman**, Global Community Dev.  
**Len Raney**, Plant Services  
**Bob Young**, Academic Administration  
November 22 **Lauren Turpen**, Enrollment Services  
November 23 **Stevenson Pangkey**, Campus Safety  
November 24 **Jason Smith**, Campus Safety  
November 25 **Don Hart**, Plant Services  
**Philip Samaan**, Religion  
November 26 **Shana Michalek**, Enrollment Services  
**Sarah Shelburne**, Human Resources  
November 27 **Kimberly Miller**, ASSIST  
November 28 **Joyce Azevedo**, Biology  
**Frances Johnson**, Nursing  
**Robert Montague**, Business  
November 30 **Taresa Vanderoeff**, Village Market  
**Crystal Whitten**, P.E., Health, and Wellness

## Marketing and University Relations

student editor | **Myron Madden**

We welcome your comments and news.

Please contact us:  
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