

# PANORAMA

parent newsletter

May 2014



## Helping Students Find Success in the Right Career

Choosing a major can be difficult. Maurice Fider, senior public relations major, knows this well. Though he seems to have everything in place, this wasn't always the case. Only a couple of years ago he was sitting in the Student Success Center with a lot of questions on his mind.

When Maurice arrived at Southern as a freshman, he chose psychology for his major because he saw a need for school counselors.

However, as he delved into psychology classes, his grades didn't look good, and he struggled to stay awake.

"I wasn't falling asleep because I was tired or the teachers were bad," Maurice said, "I just wasn't engaged or fulfilled."

By his sophomore year, Maurice knew something needed to change, so he visited Jeremy Moore at Career Services in Southern's Student Success Center. The vocational test he took showed he needed a profession based on interaction with people. So, Maurice looked closer at the public relations minor he had recently added. Although he didn't know a lot about public relations, he knew it involved communication.

"Jeremy Moore gave me good advice,

telling me to visit a public relations class and to see if I liked the people in it, because those are the people I'd be working with," Maurice said.

With Moore's advice in mind, Maurice visited Greg Rumsey, dean for the School of Journalism and Communication. Rumsey invited Maurice to visit an upper-division public relations class. The day he went, the class had a guest speaker. As he listened to the speaker and to the students asking questions, Maurice felt a strong connection to the the public relations field and to the students.

Maurice was sold and soon switched majors. Since then, he's loved his classes and fellow students and knows he's found the right career for him.

Many students are still unsure about which major to pick. Maurice suggests these tips to help them:

### Look at Childhood

As a kid, Maurice helped his church with banners and posters. Now as a public rela-

tions major, he's doing many similar things.

### Talk to Friends and Family

Maurice had his five closest friends and family members write down their top careers for him and compared them with his choices.

### Visit Career Services

This department is armed with the tools and knowledge to help students with choosing a major.

### Pray

Asking God for guidance when choosing a major is always the best idea. Maurice also had friends and family pray for him while he was making his life-changing decision.

Though choosing a major is difficult, Maurice knows that with help from God, friends and family, and the resources available at Southern, it doesn't take long before students are on the path to the right career.

~by Shana Michalek

"I just wasn't engaged or fulfilled."

-MAURICE FIDER,  
SENIOR PUBLIC RELATIONS MAJOR



Maurice Fider, center, meets with associate professor Lorraine Ball, left, and a fellow student during a Public Relations Student Society of America meeting.

# Favorite Bible Verse

Alexandria Center,  
sophomore public relations major

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

## Did You Know? LEAP Program

A new program called LEAP (Leadership Education through Alumni Partnerships) is in the works that will connect graduating students with successful alumni.

Evonne Crook, director of Alumni Relations, and her team are collaborating with Career Services and others to create partnerships between students and alumni to offer guidance in career decisions, life skills, and their spiritual development as well. The program will be tested with three departments (Biology, School of Business and Management, and the School of Visual Art and Design) before going campus wide.

“Our vision includes hundreds of alumni mentors and students partnering for

successful life transitions after college,” Crook said. “Participation will ensure that their investment in a Christian education is that much more valuable to their future success.”

Beginning Fall 2014, juniors and seniors will be eligible to join the program. If you are interested in becoming an alumni mentor, email [alumni@southern.edu](mailto:alumni@southern.edu) or call 423.236.2830.

Also in the works is a Young Alumni Scholarship, geared for students with a passion for service. Eligible students must be a junior or senior with a minimum 3.0 GPA and deemed financially worthy.

To date, Advancement has received \$5,520 in gifts and \$9,000 in pledges



from recent graduates. Efforts are still being made to raise the \$50,000 needed to establish the endowment before initiating the scholarship.

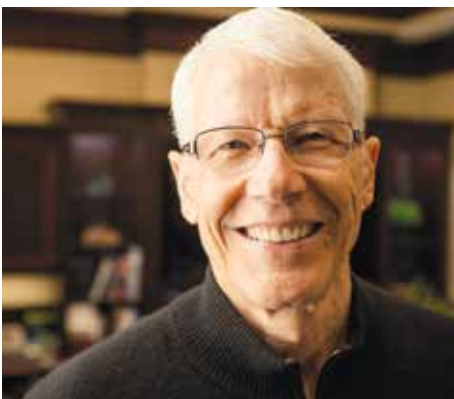
Those interested in adding to the endowment may send gifts to Southern’s Advancement department with “Young Alumni Scholarship for Service” in the memo of the check.

~by Charles Cammack



## Ask the President

With Gordon Bietz



*Question: What resources are available to help my student find the best career fit?*

At Southern, we provide students with the necessary tools to guide them in discovering a career best suited to their goals.

Through the Student Success Center, students have access to many free services, including career counseling, where they can obtain guidance for career options in a confidential and caring environment. In addition, students have access to the Counseling and Testing library, which contains information on occupations, job opportunities, graduate schools, and career development.

Career Services also has listed on its website a variety of useful links ranging from a map of predicted job openings, to CareerLINK, to a job search engine. Each link provides a source of help for students, whether they are attempting to pick a major or searching for a job after graduation.

For business and nursing majors, Southern offers a course, Meet the Firms,

that focuses on helping students with the job hunt. The course teaches students how to navigate a job interview, network, and successfully market themselves. Also, every semester the Meet the Firms career fair is held, providing opportunities for students to find companies who are seeking interns as well as offering employment opportunities.

Additionally, during the winter semester, the Health Career Fair brings in various health organizations, offering students an opportunity to find potential job openings. The Health Career Fair also brings representatives from various graduate schools to recruit students interested in further pursuing a medical career.

It is important that students are given every opportunity to succeed, and here at Southern we seek to make sure they are provided with the services necessary to realize their goals.

## Staff Profile:

### Jim Wampler, Student Success Center director

For Jim Wampler, helping students identify where their passions lie and seeing them succeed in those areas is the most rewarding part of his job. After 21 years working in Southern's Student Success Center, the joy never grows old.

A 1993 Southern alum himself, Wampler went on to graduate school for school counseling, psychology, and clinical psychology. He spent 10 years working for Ozark Adventist Academy in Arkansas before taking the position of principal at Sunnydale Adventist Academy in Missouri, where he stayed for four years. Both positions served as a springboard on his journey back to Southern, growing his love for helping students succeed.

Wampler was eventually invited to return to his alma mater and serve as

director of Counseling and Testing under the Student Success Center. Over time, additional service areas were placed under Wampler's directorship. When the department moved to Lynn Wood Hall in 2005, Southern asked him to serve as director of the Student Success Center.

Wampler oversees six service areas that are readily available to students: Career Services, Counseling Services, Disability Support Services, First Year Experience, Learning Support Services, and Testing Services. Wampler also coordinates and administers the testing service program.

Though important, Wampler believes the central goal of the Student Success Center goes beyond simply student success.

"Central to our mission is the provision of a supportive environment that encourages and assists students in developing and achieving their personal and educa-



*Jim Wampler, left, helps a student begin her career test.*

tional goals," Wampler said. "The staff here strives to establish relationships with students in order to identify needs and to design strategies and services to satisfy those needs."

The Student Success Center is an invaluable resource that is able to meet many students' needs, and Wampler strongly encourages students to take advantage of all that this department offers.

"For us, it's very satisfying to see students who have faced academic or personal challenges achieve success," Wampler said.

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## Student Life: Major-driven Student Organizations

There are many tools students can use to help them attain success after graduation. From student organizations to research projects and the Student Success Center, students are surrounded with many tools to help them toward a bright future.

Southern has a wide variety of student-led organizations that offer enriching opportunities, including PRSSA (Public Relations Student Society of America). Maurice Fider, senior public relations major and president of Southern's PRSSA chapter, said PRSSA gives students an understanding of the field and provides many networking opportunities.

PRSSA activities include meetings with guest speakers, attending PRSSA conferences, taking field trips to relevant businesses and publications, and more. These activities give students opportunities to connect with internships and job openings. Annalyse Hasty, '13, met Jim Sabourin,

vice president of communications at Unum of Chattanooga, when he came to speak. After the meeting, Hasty contacted him and soon landed an internship.

Other organizations, such as Enactus and the Business Society in the School of Business and Management, provide opportunities for students to create connections and gain insights from professionals. Additionally, Enactus allows students to develop and execute community outreach projects.

The Society of Political Sciences (SOPS) targets students interested in law and government. Members have the chance to visit law schools and attend statehouse general assemblies where they are able to interact with professionals. SOPS also participates

in the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature. All of these events provide opportunities for students to gain experiences in their field of study.

Joanna Billingsy, senior global policy and service studies major, said SOPS went to the Campus Capitol Connection provided by the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature, where they met Tre Hargett, secretary of state for Tennessee.

"This encounter led a student to pursue an internship with him," Billingsy said.

There are other organizations on campus that provide priceless opportunities to help students in their field. Students are encouraged to get involved and gain as much experience as possible.

*~by Elizabeth Camps*

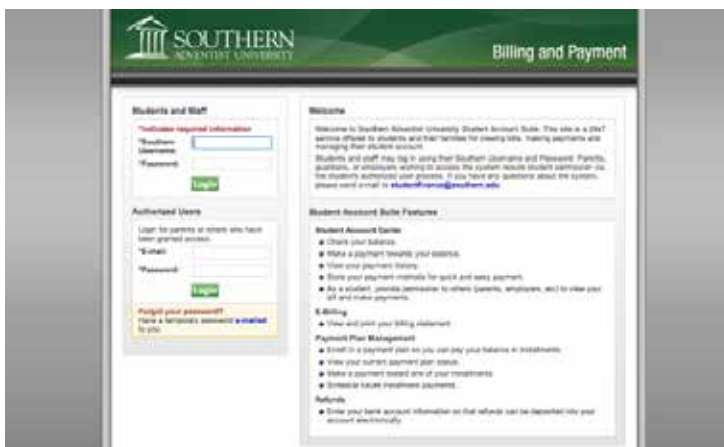


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## New Touchnet Payment Portal

Southern is excited to announce an upgrade to its online student accounts and payment section of the portal.

The new section can be accessed directly at [southern.edu/payment](http://southern.edu/payment) or through the parent portal at [southern.edu/parent](http://southern.edu/parent). Beginning this summer, parents will be able to access to their student's monthly statements, set up a payment installment plan, make payments, receive a refund, or otherwise manage the account. Southern will send out a letter in May sharing further specifics about the new system. If you have any questions, email [studentfinance@southern.edu](mailto:studentfinance@southern.edu).



MAY

**21 Georgia-Cumberland Campmeeting begins (21-24)**  
**30 First Summer Session ends**

JUNE

**2 Second Summer Session begins**  
**27 Second Summer Session ends**

JULY

**28 Third Summer Session begins**

AUGUST

**22 Third Summer Session ends**  
**28 Fall 2014 Semester begins**

As a result of Southern's participation in the Adventist Educational Alliance with Union College and Southwestern Adventist University, the academic calendar has been revised. Included here are some of the most important upcoming dates to note.

- |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| • August 20-24        | New Student Orientation |
| • August 25           | Fall classes begin      |
| • October 17-19       | Mid-semester break      |
| • November 24-30      | Thanksgiving break      |
| • December 17         | Fall graduation         |
| • December 18-Jan. 11 | Christmas break         |

# Meet the Firms

Each semester, Southern hosts Meet the Firms, a networking event for students seeking internship and employment opportunities. While many of the businesses represented are local, there are others, such as Adventist Health, from as far away as California. During the event, students have the opportunity to swap business cards and resumé with business representatives. Students from the School of Nursing, School of Business and Management, and School of Journalism and Communication make up the majority of those in attendance.

PHOTOS BY MATT HADLEY



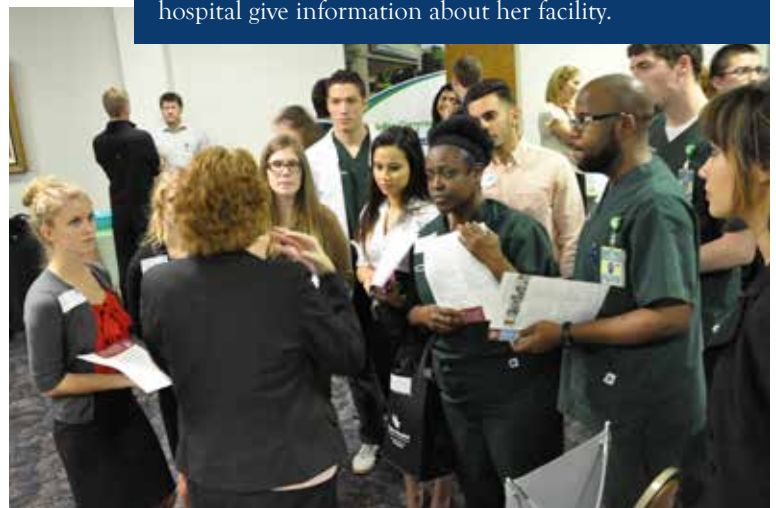
The event is held inside the Collegedale Church's fellowship hall. Students visit each booth to garner information and speak with representatives.



Melissa Guth, senior mass communication major, presents her resumé to a reporter from WDEF News 12.



Taking advantage of the networking opportunities, Guevara Samson, senior public relations and business administration major (right), introduces himself to one of the representatives.



A group of nursing students listen to a recruiter from a hospital give information about her facility.



Macy Westbrook, senior business administration major, speaks with an employee from Kettering Health Network about their internship program.



Senior nursing majors McKenzie Smartt, Hannah Tyman, and Anna Ferris discuss potential employment opportunities with one of the recruiters from Gordon Hospital in Georgia.



Additional booths were located outside of the fellowship hall in the church's atrium.



Martha Freire, sophomore business administration major, gets acquainted with one of the representatives from Brown, Brown and Associates.



Adventist Health System recruiters pass out packets of information to students interested in internships and job openings.