


## Staying Connected



When Peuse and Elsy Vailikodath, who are from India, brought their daughter Princy, junior animation major, to Southern Adventist University, it meant not being able to see her except during summer vacations.

To keep their relationship strong, the Vailikodaths started communicating in new and creative ways. Each semester, Princy sends her parents a copy of her schedule.

"My mom puts it on the fridge back home," Princy says with a smile. "That way they know when they can call me."

The Vailikodaths also text each other often, and every Sabbath the family schedules a conference call via Skype, a software that allows video calls to be made over the Internet.

Here are some ideas to help you stay connected with your student.

**Text your student.** You may not have all the text lingo down, but a friendly greeting from home can brighten a student's day.

"If I'm not able to answer my phone, texting allows us to still stay in touch," says Aimee Burchard, junior mass communication and graphic design major.

**Send an email.** Emails are quick and easy and let your student know you are thinking of them. "Emails from my parents make me feel warm and that I'm loved," says Ashley Goulet, junior long-term care administration major.

**Send newspaper clippings.** "Reading stories from my small hometown make me feel like I'm still part of my community," says Emily Fisher, junior nursing major.

**Send flowers/care packages.** You can contact a local nursery and have flowers or a customized gift basket delivered to your student's residence hall, or send a care bundle from home.

"Packages from home let me know my mom thought about the little things that I like," says Temple Braag, senior liberal arts education major.

**Write snail mail.** Few things compare with reading a handwritten note.

"Letters from my parents feel a lot more personal than an email because they took the time to sit down and write it," says Mia Lindsey, sophomore public relations major. "It makes my day."

**Plan a weekend visit.** Plan on spending a weekend with your student, visiting their favorite new stomping grounds.

"After my parents' visit, they had a better idea of what went on in my life," says Steven Arauz, junior liberal arts education major. "When I talked about going somewhere with friends, they understood what I was talking about."

No matter how you choose to stay connected, remember that the college years will bring changes, and communication with your student will continue to develop.

*~By Suzanne Ocsai, editor*



# Q&A

with President Gordon Bietz

## ASK THE PRESIDENT

### Who can I contact with questions?

First, let me give you my numbers, which you're welcome to use any time: 423.236.2800 (office), 423.504.4005 (cell), and 423.396.2303 (home).

### Residence Hall Questions

The best way to reach a dean on duty is through the residence hall front desk:

Thatcher Hall: 423.236.2904

Thatcher South: 423.236.2910

Talge Hall: 423.236.2994

### Financial Questions

Student finance counselors are assigned based on the first letter of a student's last name:

**A to C:** Brenda Seifert (423.236.2836, bseifert@southern.edu)

**D to H:** Paula Walters (423.236.2873, pkwalters@southern.edu)

**I to M:** Lillian Loza (423.236.2670, lillyl@southern.edu)

**N to R:** Kristin Welch-Murphy (423.236.2877, kjwelch@southern.edu)

**S to Z:** Tina Nelson (423.236.2837, trnelson@southern.edu)

The finance counselors are committed to giving positive responses in a timely manner. If your email isn't responded to within 24 hours (during business days), you're paid \$24. If you wait in line more than 15 minutes to see a student finance counselor, you get a free lunch. And if you're ever told "can't" by a student finance counselor, you're awarded \$1.

### Academic Questions

General academic questions can be directed to Records and Advisement at 423.236.2899. Keep in mind that national law prevents Southern from giving out academic information to parents unless the student has given permission during the registration process or the parents have provided evidence that the student is a dependent. If your student is a dependent, Records and Advisement can help you through the process of gaining access.

If you would like to speak to your student's professors or adviser, you can find contact information by going to [www.southern.edu](http://www.southern.edu) and putting that individual's name in the search box.

### Other Questions

When you're not quite sure who to contact, try calling 1.800.SOUTHERN or send an email to [southernparents@southern.edu](mailto:southernparents@southern.edu).

## Did You Know?

### Resident Hall Handbook Now Online

Parents expressed that they wanted easier access to the *Residence Hall Handbook*, and Southern responded. Starting this year, the handbook is available online at [www.southern.edu/parent](http://www.southern.edu/parent) under Quick Links.

By having this resource at your fingertips, you can find answers to questions about curfew and minor and major restrictions (the level of reprimand students receive based on tardiness) and how your student can avoid them. Answers to other questions such as how many worship services your students are required to attend and the fines associated with neglecting these guidelines can be found there as well.

If you happen to have a question that is not answered within the handbook, the deans' phone numbers are listed as well.

"We view parents as partners," said Vinita Sauder, vice president of Marketing and Enrollment Services. "The more a parent knows, the better the relationship with the university goes."

The parent website also hosts other helpful sources including links that connect you with florists in the area if you wish to send flowers or a gift basket to your student as well as a link that allows you to read *Panorama* online or sign up for the *Panorama* e-newsletter.

~By Brittany Russell

## Calendar of Events

October

- 22 Midterm Break (22-25)
- 25 Flea Market
- 29 Alumni Weekend (29-November 1)

November

- 1 Antique/Classic Car Show
- 1 SA Fall Festival
- 2 Student Missions Week (2-7)
- 7 Student Missions Expo
- 9 SA Senate Spirit Week (9-13)

November

- 9 Last day to order December graduation regalia
- 10 Online winter registration begins for returning seniors
- 12 Online winter registration begins for returning juniors
- 15 Symphony Orchestra Concert
- 16 Online winter registration begins for returning sophomores
- 16 Student Wellness Week (16-21)
- 20 Star Watch
- 25 Thanksgiving Break (25-29)

### Favorite Bible Verse

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5).

~Submitted by Sarah Bonet, freshman liberal arts education major

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# Brennon Kirstein: Providing Spiritual Leadership



Brennon Kirstein has big plans to additionally fortify Southern's spiritual atmosphere. After serving as chaplain for 2½ year, Kirstein has seen progress and growth in the Chaplain's Office and is now looking for ways to develop it even further.

Part of his goal for the department involves a spiritual master plan that will

help guide the decisions the university makes and its spiritual direction. Kirstein is currently working on his Doctorate of Ministry in Youth Ministry and has been able to tie some of his research into the plan he has envisioned for Southern. His studies are focused on why many college students choose to leave the church after they graduate. Through surveying students and finding out their feelings about commitment to the church and perceptions of Southern, he hopes to be able to discover what students are benefitting the most from and what programs or opportunities are lacking that they may need.

It is no surprise that so much of what Kirstein hopes to accomplish revolves around the students, because his favorite part of his job is working with students.

"He always tries to reach out personally to students and know them," says Eliud Sicard, junior pastoral care major

and outreach director. "To see a leader so passionate about his ministry has a domino effect across campus."

The chance to be at Southern and be a part of students' lives is a dream come true for Kirstein. His wife, Brandy, remembers that within the first week of meeting him, she learned that his dream job was to someday be Southern's chaplain.

"I asked him where he saw himself in five years, and he said 'as chaplain at Southern Adventist University,'" Brandy recalls. "All his gifts are best utilized here."

One of Kirstein's gifts is encouraging and supporting students who have a vision for ministry.

"The purpose of this office," says Kirstein, "is to resource, equip, empower, and draw out the ideas and passions of students who want to be in ministry."

~By Jennifer Meyer

## A Look at Campus Ministries

For any student who walks through the door of the Campus Ministries office, it's easy to see that an enthusiastic group of student leaders and staff work there.

Led by Chaplain Brennon Kirstein, the Campus Ministries team is made up of 10 student leaders who each run individual programs designed to meet students' spiritual needs in different ways and give them multiple opportunities to serve through outreach, community service, and ministry.

"We try to offer a place where students can grow and find a deeper relationship with Christ," says Andrew Dormus, senior theology major who serves as assistant chaplain. "We want them to get to know Christ for themselves."

Students can develop their relationship with God through being involved in planning spiritual events and programs such as Renewal, the student-led service held at the Collegedale Church. Destiny Drama Company, a performing arts group, provides students the opportunity to be part of creating inspirational dramatic performances. The wellness

program helps students gain physical health as well as spiritual health. And many students choose to lead out by hosting a small-group Bible study.

Another main goal of the Campus Ministries team is to empower and support students who want to be involved in ministry, whether it be on or off campus. Through the inreach and outreach programs, students can minister to others on campus as well as in the community. Through the Student Missions program, they can even experience a year serving in another country.

"We want students to know that the price of tuition includes learning life-long service for Christ," says Kevin Kibble, associate chaplain.

Students appreciate the enthusiasm of those they come in contact with through Campus Ministries.

"Everyone in Campus Ministries is genuinely excited about their ministry and the God they serve," says Anna Grissom, a freshman nursing major. "They offer a great example that makes you want to get involved."

~By Jennifer Meyer



Students and staff who work in Southern's Campus Ministries Office

# Students Say

We asked students what they miss most about home. Here are their answers.

"I miss my parents and food. I like eating my own country's food."

~Kenny Lee, freshman film production major

"I miss the food that my mom cooks and just everything about home. The whole environment and the way that my mom treats me is so awesome."

~Paul Villavicencio, senior international business major

"I miss seeing my family every day, hanging out with them every afternoon, and eating supper together in the evenings."

~Jason Dedeker, sophomore history major

"I miss the convenience of my comfortable bed and my car in the garage. I also miss my parents and my 22-month-old sister. She started saying my name about a week before I came back to school."

~Cassie James, junior nursing major

"I miss home-cooked meals and free laundry service."

~Faith Anderson, sophomore nursing major

"I miss the mangu or just any Latino food that you can think of. I also miss the drum corps, which I have been in for three years."

~Milvio Martinez, freshman mechanical engineer major

"I miss the atmosphere of Boston fans and the passion they have for their favorite Boston team. I miss the snowy season, Dunkin Donuts, and my family and home church."

~Rebeca Valentin, junior English major

"I miss the California weather. I also miss the beach."

~Chuck Bajet, freshmen nursing major

"I miss knowing that my parents are around to support me."

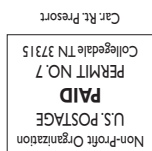
~Robert Meneses, senior theology major

**Contact Us:** We want to know what you think! If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions, please call Suzanne Ocsai at 423.236.2582 or send an email to [southernparents@southern.edu](mailto:southernparents@southern.edu).

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# Panorama





# The Start of a New Year

Each August, Southern Adventist University becomes a second home to more than 500 freshman and transfer students. To help the new residents feel at ease within their unfamiliar surroundings and welcome returning students back, Southern offers fun activities and social events as well as a community-staffed moving-in service to help the students adjust to college life. Here's a visual peek at what students encountered their first week on campus.



## Organizational Showcase:

Clubs and campus resources are introduced to students.



Reference Librarian Katie McGrath gave out gum, candy, and other treats to students who spun McKee Library's wheel of prizes.



Kenny Lee, freshman film production major, is ready to test his skills at the game of chess.



Joelle Marlin, junior social work major who works in the Teaching Materials Center, spent her evening educating students about where they can find the tools they need to make posters, bulletin boards, and other creative teaching tools.





At Southern, the faculty and staff are committed to serving the students in whatever way they can. Here Bob Young, senior vice president of academic administration, and Phil Garver, dean of the School of Physical Education, Health, and Wellness, volunteer with WeHaul to help move new students into the residence halls.



"Service is why we are here," says Keith Snyder, chair of the Biology Department, pictured with Chemistry Professor Bruce Schilling. "Usually we serve in the classroom, but it is good to get some exercise also while serving others."



More than 600 women moved into Thatcher and Thatcher South during the first week of school.



Southern President Gordon Bietz (left) got to know the new students and parents better while helping them move their belongings into their rooms.

## Amazing Race: The Amazing Race helps students get acquainted with the location of each academic school and department while bonding with their classmates.



To start off Southern's version of the Amazing Race, students were given slips of paper with numbers written on them. They then had to find others with the same number and assemble into teams.



"It was cool to see the teams working together even though they didn't know each other," says Shama Eller, senior nursing major and Student Association parliamentarian (center). "Some would take leadership, and they each had different rolls."



There is one evening each year when students don't have to whisper in McKee Library. Known as Scream in the Library, this event during the Amazing Race, allows students to get as loud as their lungs will permit.