


Creating Outdoor Memories



The rain and wind whipped through the makeshift kitchen lean-to that Allison Westermeyer, senior nursing major, and her father, Rick Westermeyer, were cooking breakfast under. Rick and his wife had flown out from the West Coast to take their girls and some friends camping in the Smoky Mountains during fall break. As the small frame, made with two hiking poles and a tarp, collapsed repeatedly, Allison and her father found themselves not only in the throes of nature's fury but also in the midst of a rather humorous and memorable father/daughter bonding experience.

"We were laughing and frustrated at the same time," says Allison with a smile. "We still talk about it today. The experience also showed me some of my dad's qualities. He's very flexible and capable of adjusting to many different situations."

If you are looking for an excursion into the wild that will build your bond with your student as you create lasting memories, Chattanooga has many options to offer. Here are some local attractions to get your student and you started in your outdoor adventure.

Fall Creek Falls

Nestled in the Cumberland Plateau, Fall Creek Falls boasts a majestic waterfall that drops 256 feet into a placid pool of water as well as several smaller falls throughout the park. About a two-hour drive from Southern, Fall Creek Falls offers about 35 miles of hiking trails, including several overnight trails. There are also bike trails, a nature center, golf, and many more outdoor activities.

Cloudland Canyon

This state park in northern Georgia invites visitors to participate in hiking, camping, fishing, disc golf, and more. The park is near Trenton, Georgia on the western edge of Lookout Mountain.

Raccoon Mountain Caverns

Listed as Tennessee's highest-rated cave and containing more than 5½ miles of underground pathways, Raccoon Mountain provides two different kinds of cave tours. The first is a relaxed 45 minute walk, while the second is a more traditional caving adventure. Raccoon Mountain also offers gem panning, camping, and go-karts.

Lula Lake

Open the first and last Sabbaths of each month, Lula Lake Land Trust offers visitors the opportunity to hike, bike, and picnic amid American Chestnuts and experience the trust's scenic trails and curving waterway.

Rock City/Ruby Falls/Incline Railway

Here are three outdoor options on Lookout Mountain that are less rugged.

Rock City described as a "citadel of rocks" is known for its natural pathways formed by the rocks themselves.

Ruby Falls is an underground waterfall situated 1,120 feet within the mountain.

The *Incline Railway* opened in 1895 with an incline of 72.7 percent. Today, you can still ride the railway to the top of Lookout Mountain.

Ticket packages are available for all three attractions at ridetheincline.com/visiting.

~by Suzanne Ocsai, Editor

Save the Date: Parents Weekend
February 18-20

To register, visit southern.edu/parents.



Q&A

With President
Gordon Bietz

ASK THE PRESIDENT

Where can I stay when I come to visit my son or daughter?

It was our dream to have a room or two set aside for campus visitors this year, but alas, with our increase in enrollment (we have more than 3,000 students this year), we needed those rooms to house students.

I'm sure you'll agree that it's a blessing to be able to provide a Christian education to so many students, but that still doesn't answer your question about where you can stay.

Fortunately, there are several hotels in the area that offer discounts when you mention you're visiting Southern. Here's some hotels we recommend:

Hampton Inn (two locations)

6145 Weir Way
Ooltewah, Tennessee 37363
423.305.6800

7013 Shallowford Road
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
423.855.0095

Holiday Inn Express

6274 Artesian Circle
Ooltewah, Tennessee 37363
423.591.8500

Fairfield Inn

2350 Shallowford Village Drive
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
423.499.3800

Residence Inn

2340 Center Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
423.468.7700

I do hope that you'll make the trip to visit your student sometime this year. Experiencing what college life is like for your son or daughter is a great opportunity for family bonding that will leave you with cherished memories and fuel for future conversations.

Did You Know?

School of Religion Adds New General Education Class

The School of Religion is offering a new Biblical Studies general education course for the winter 2011 semester. The three-credit course; Themes from Exodus, Egyptian Warfare, and Archaeology; will be taught by Michael G. Hasel, Ph.D., on Mondays from 2 to 4:50 p.m.

Students taking the class will be interpreting Egyptian documents and studying texts on Egyptian and Near Eastern history. The books of Exodus, Joshua, and Judges will also be used.

The focus will be on comparing the cultural, political, and historical events in Egypt and Canaan from an archaeological perspective. There will be a special emphasis on the warfare tactics of the ancient world.

"This course allows us to delve into a specific topic that is extremely valuable in the Bible," says Hasel. "We'll look at it from a theological and biblical perspective and then explore the archaeology as well."

A major research paper is required and students are expected to use the primary resource materials in the William G. Dever Research Library in Hackman Hall.

With the addition of a new professor next semester, the School of Religion is planning to offer several other specialized classes in the next couple of years. Like this new course, the classes will be religion general education courses and will also fulfill requirements for the archaeology program.

~by Ingrid Hernandez

Calendar of Events

December	12-15	Semester Exams	15	Winter Commencement
	13-16	Book Buy-Back	16	Christmas Break Begins
	14	Last day to make up winter and summer incompletes	20-27	Residence Halls Closed
	14	Rho Iota Induction	16	Christmas Break Begins
	14	School of Nursing Dedication	23	Offices Closed
			24	Christmas Eve Service
January	4	Classes Begin	24-28	Summer Camp Recruiting
	8	Mid-Winter Party	24-28	Student Week of Prayer
	15	5th Annual Cardboard Boat Event	28	Warren Miller Ski Movie
	18	Summer Camp Recruiting	30	Symphony Concer
	20-21	PreviewSouthern		

Favorite Bible Verse

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me"
(Psalm 51:10).

~Submitted by Amy Beard, junior mathematics and physics major

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Marty Miller: Explorer In and Out of the Classroom

From the moment he could walk and explore, Marty Miller, associate professor in the outdoor leadership program, has been passionate about the outdoors. After a two-week backpack and survival trip to the Colorado Rocky Mountains at the age of 15, Miller realized his life calling for the outdoors. He had



Marty Miller consistently engages and mentors student students through their mutual discovery of the outdoors.

no idea, however, that 25 years later he would teach about it.

Miller graduated from Southern Adventist University in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and then again with his master's degree in outdoor education in 2001.

He taught biology in California and then at Collegedale Academy before being called to work at Southern.

"I loved what I was doing at Collegedale Academy," says Miller. "But I had no idea what the Lord had in store for me as the outdoor leadership professor at Southern."

Due to the absence of Michael Hills, a professor in the outdoor leadership program currently pursuing his doctorate, Miller began teaching outdoor leadership classes in 2008.

Students have been positively impacted by Miller's teaching style.

"I love that he's able to incorporate the Bible with nature," says Wynntre Robinson, senior outdoor leadership and psychology

major. "It's a wonderful way to connect God and His creation."

With 10 different areas of emphasis being offered in the field of outdoor leadership—such as outdoor emergency services and outdoor ministries—Miller stays busy by either teaching required undergraduate classes or managing projects such as the Southern Outdoor Adventure Program (see story below).

Miller also manages the work of eight graduate assistants who are currently overseeing other adventure programs. Other free time is spent finding new and innovative ways for the program to grow and evolve.

"Whether it be biology or outdoor leadership, I thoroughly enjoy working with young people," says Miller. "Watching the students academically grow over time constantly keeps my job new and fresh. I love it."

~by John Shoemaker

Experiencing Nature in a New Way

Rock climbing, whitewater rafting, horseback riding, and camping are just a few of the outdoor adventure trips that the Southern Outdoor Adventure Program (SOAP) offers during the academic year.

SOAP is an outdoor program that all students (regardless of major) can participate in.

"We have world-class outdoor activities

only three hours or less away," says James Reynaert, a graduate student in outdoor teacher education who is SOAP coordinator at Southern. "We are at the perfect location for outdoor activities. We give students the opportunity to have adventure they could not do on their own."

Some of the activities available in the area include hang gliding, caving, and rafting.

Brooke Firestone, a freshman nursing major, has been on many of the SOAP excursions. She has gone whitewater rafting down the Ocoee with the group, and most recently, she went on the surfing trip to South Carolina.

"I like the spiritual atmosphere and getting to know new people," says Brooke.

"These trips allow people to get out of their comfort zone and try new things."

Excursions are either free or have a minimal cost so that students on a budget can enjoy the opportunity to have an adventure out in nature and be able to commune with God in a new way.

"The purpose of SOAP is to give students opportunities to try activities that they do not have the gear, knowledge, or experience to do," says James. "My personal mission is to have students get a new experience with the Creator. It's a unique way to connect people with God."

SOAP has activities that students can be part of almost every weekend.

"SOAP is a great opportunity to learn basic leadership skills," says James. "Students also learn interpersonal skills that they can use their whole life, no matter what they are doing."

To learn more about the next outdoor adventure trip SOAP is planning, look for "SOAP Southern" on Facebook.

~by Carrie Francisco



Heather Schlund, sophomore nursing major, collected fresh blueberries and blackberries at nearby bushes on one of SOAP's camping trips to Whigg Meadow. While on the trip, students watched while experts conducted bird taggings.

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Students Say

We asked students what was the best gift their parents gave them during college. Here are their answers:

“My dad got me a white Nike hat for my birthday. All the hats I'd had before were free ones. But this one is Nike, so it's really well made and looks classy. My sister also got one too, so we match.”

~Kara Holland, junior nursing major

“The best gift I got was my dad coming up randomly to see me from 18 hours away and spending four days with me.”

~Sara Blount, sophomore social work major

“They bought me a laptop for Christmas.”

~Jorge Hernandez Pleitez, junior chemistry and accounting major

“I'm thankful for my parents letting me come to the United States to study. I think that's the best gift.”

~Caitie Schwarz, sophomore nursing major

“My parents helped me go to Austria for a music program.”

~Brian Gonzalez, senior music performance and graphic design major

“My parents paid for me to go on Southern's European history study tour. I can't stress how much I learned.”

~John Shoemaker, senior public relations and business administration major

“The gift of letting me take my car to college is definitely on the top of the list.”

~Leroy Abrams, junior biology major

“They gave me the opportunity to come here. They pretty much paid for my first year, and now I have to pay the rest. But if it wasn't for them, I wouldn't be here right now.”

~Patricia Isom, sophomore psychology major

“My parents bought me Adobe Photoshop. It helps me share my favorite memories better.”

~Brandan Roberts, junior mass communication major

“They offer their support and faith in me.”

~Ingrid Oberholster, junior intercultural communication major