



**SOUTHERN  
ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY**

Power for Mind & Soul

# Panorama

Southern Adventist University's Parent Newsletter | April 2010



## The Job Hunt: *Do's and Don'ts for Parents*

Luther Whiting, junior business administration major, was contemplating what he would do after returning home for the summer. As a certified emergency medical technician, Luther was interested in finding a job as an EMT near his home in Maine, yet being so far from the area made it difficult for Luther to do his own job searches.

Luther's mom, Linda, knew of her son's desires, and while Luther was still at school, she let him know what was available back at home.

"My mom is a powerhouse when it comes to doing things that help her kids," says Luther. "While I was overwhelmed with the rigors of second semester and had little time to plan for the summer, my mom was actively researching EMT programs. It was purely an act of love."

While Linda helped her son know what was available, she did not make the final decision for him. It's important to guide students with the knowledge and experience that you as parents have; yet it's also important to let them knock on the doors themselves.

Here are some tips on how—and how not—to help your student find a job.

**Do network.** Parents have connections in the workforce that students have not yet made; helping your student tap into these webs is a great way to assist them in beginning their careers. Senior public relations major Brittany Russell's mom did just this when she checked with her hospital's human relations department to see if there were summer internships that Brittany could apply for.

**Don't make the phone call for them.** You may feel as if you're only helping, but making the phone call yourself will not help your student learn the skills it takes to pursue a job alone.

**Do help them prepare.** Your student may be nervous about the interview. You can help by doing a mock interview and discussing areas for improvement. Talking about appropriate attire and proofing your student's resume are other great ways help.

**Don't go to the interview.** Wanting to give moral support or to immediately find out how an interview went is understandable, but going with your student doesn't send a positive picture to the prospective employer. "If a parent came to their student's interview," says Lori Fitcher, editorial manager in Marketing and University Relations at Southern, who employs student workers, "I wouldn't be as confident that the student could do the job on his or her own."

**Do let them choose.** Your student may have many options to choose from, and you are undoubtedly going to have your own opinions. However, it's important for your student's growth that he or she makes the final decision. It's good to talk things out and help your student make an educated decision, but in the end, it should be his or her choice.

*~by Suzanne Ocsai, editor*

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# Q&A

with President  
Gordon Bietz

## ASK THE PRESIDENT

I've been hearing a lot of debate about creation and evolution. Where does Southern stand on that issue?

A belief in creation is clearly one of the fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church—and a belief that Southern supports. One hundred percent of our religion and biology professors teach that “in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth.”

Several years ago, our religion professors drafted a statement on creation that we still stand by today. Though there isn't enough space to put the entire document here, I invite you to check it out by going to [www.southern.edu/religion](http://www.southern.edu/religion) and clicking on “Faculty Statement on Creation.” Among other things, the faculty used this document to publicly affirm the following:

- the primacy of Scripture
- Genesis 1-11 is a historical, literal, and reliable account
- by His word, God created all things out of nothing
- supernatural creation of a perfect and good world in six consecutive, contiguous, literal 24-hour days
- the six-day creation of life on Earth took place a few thousand years ago
- there was no death before sin
- a subsequent catastrophic, global flood was sent by God
- the gift of the Spirit of Prophecy as manifested in the ministry of Ellen G. White to this remnant movement and her specific reaffirmation of the biblical doctrine of creation
- when properly understood, Scripture and nature are harmonious in their witness to the creation and flood
- the interlocking nature of the doctrine of creation with other Adventist doctrines

The Biology Department is in the process of turning its hallways into a creation center, which will be a visible sign of Southern's stance. I invite you to check out the beginning stages of this project the next time you're on campus.

## Did You Know?

### Southern Students Help at the GC Session

Southern students will be lending a helping hand at the 59<sup>th</sup> General Conference (G.C.) Session to be held June 23-July 3 in Atlanta, Georgia. Twenty students from Southern have been selected from an application process to rotate shifts throughout the day at the information kiosks.

Students will be assisting the guests and answering questions about different aspects of the session—such as the local area, the convention center, and locations of meetings and exhibits.

As in the past, the Adventist university that is closest to the host city assists with manning the information kiosks during the GC Session. This year, both Oakwood University and Southern will have the opportunity to participate.

“It's exciting for the students to see that they are a part of a really big global church,” says Kari Shultz, director of student life and activities. “I think that it will give the students an inside view of the church, its leaders, and the business that the church conducts during these sessions.”

~by Manuela Asaftei



The Georgia World Congress Center, located in downtown Atlanta, Georgia is the site of the 2010 General Conference Session.

## Calendar of Events

April	18 Strawberry Festival	25 Semester Exams Begin (25-28)
	20 Symphony Orchestra Concert	26 Book Buy Back (26-29)
	23 Religion Senior Consecration	26 Registration for 1st Summer Session
	23 Star Watch	30 Graduation Weekend (30 to May 2)
	24 Jazz Ensemble Concert	
May	2 Commencement	24 Registration for 2nd Summer Session
	3 1st Summer Session Begins	26 Georgia-Cumberland Conference Camp Meeting (26-29)
	16 Flea Market	

### Favorite Bible Verse

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud”  
1 Corinthians 13:4 (NIV).

~Submitted by Jessica Tandy, junior social work major

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# Philip Samaan: Dynamic Interaction



*Philip Samaan is teaching four classes this semester, including Christian Witnessing. His personal witness is an inspiration to his students.*

With a contagious smile and sparkle in his eye, Religion Professor Philip Samaan greets his students as they enter one of the four undergraduate classes he teaches. “Dr.

Samaan has a dynamic personality,” comments Heather Haynes, senior nursing major.

Samaan’s dynamic personality has taken him to many exciting and challenging destinations, yet his most rewarding work is achieved with the students he interacts with daily. Whether it’s volunteering to serve students during lunch, presenting inspiring classroom instructions, having meaningful lunchtime conversations or deep heart-to-heart discussions, Samaan assures students there is someone who cares for their needs beyond the educational realm of college.

“Dr. Samaan is the teacher that becomes a friend outside the classroom,” says Rhina Urdaneta, sophomore nursing major. “He was there for me during the biggest decisions of my life. Every time I look at his interaction with students, I see the example of Christ that he writes about in his books.”

When asked what he loves most about

teaching, a thoughtful smile plays on Samaan’s lips: “The interaction with students, helping them discover God’s plan for their lives,” says Samaan, “and to have the privilege of impacting their lives in a profound way.”

Samaan attended Walla Walla College, graduating with degrees in theology and history. After his undergraduate years, Samaan earned three more degrees; two masters—one in religion and the other in public health—and his doctorate of divinity.

Samaan and his wife, Sharilyn, School of Music adjunct, have dedicated their lives to positively impacting the lives of students at Southern.

“Dr. Samaan cares very deeply for his students,” says Laurel Guthrie, senior music and nursing major.

Mary Cordes, junior social work major agrees: “He is very friendly and genuine.”

*~by Suzanne Ocsai*

## SEYC: Focusing on Evangelism

A loud voice rings out from Southern’s cafeteria at lunchtime. Students stop mid-bite to hear the compelling speaker as he delivers God’s message from a makeshift stage at the front. This is Pentecost<sup>2</sup>, a yearly spring event put on by SEYC (South East Youth Conference) that focuses on reaching students at Southern who are not Adventist or haven’t yet given their lives to Christ. This is only one of the many ways that SEYC is active in evangelism on and off campus.

SEYC is a student club at Southern that exists to train and inspire young people to do evangelism, but this club has a broader focus. The goal is not only to inspire Southern students to get into evangelism, but to also inspire young Adventists in the South as well.

Every fall, SEYC hosts an annual conference where young adults and students come from all over the Southern Union to hear well-renowned Adventist preachers, as well as participate in workshops geared toward evangelism, outreach, foreign missions, and finding God’s will. The purpose of this conference is to inspire and train young people in evangelism.

“Seeing young people inspired to be a part of that army to prepare the world for the return of Christ is powerful,” says Michelle Doucoumes, SEYC vice president for fundraising and a graduate student at Southern. “We exist to fill a niche to train and help young people get into whatever ministry God has called them to.”

To further train young people in evangelism, SEYC will host a new program, Summer of Evangelism. This five-week program will give young people practical skills and experience in Bible work and public evangelism. During the day, students will attend classes that will cover topics such as: how to write and give Bible studies, Bible doctrines, and personal spirituality. In addition to classes, participants will assist with entire evangelistic meetings, visit contacts, and conduct Bible studies.

This program was inspired by the many students at Southern who wanted to attend one of the Bible worker training schools. Since those programs conflicted with the academic year, SEYC felt the need for the program and put it into action.

“Every student will be able to graduate



*SEYC focuses on the power of God’s word as a crucial tool for ministry and evangelism.*

with confidence, knowledge, and a little experience in soul-winning,” says Joe Reeves, junior theology major and SEYC president. “Students can return to their communities with effective skills for witnessing and a passion to inspire others.”

*~by Brittany Russel*



## 2010 Mother/Daughter Banquet

The Eiffel Tower rose in the center of a flowering garden as a procession of beautiful ladies, both young and old, passed beneath an arbor of ivy and roses. It was spring-time in Paris, or so it seemed at this year's Mother/Daughter Banquet.



Vicki Taylor and her daughter, Andrea, sophomore mass communications major, smile peacefully as the "city" lights twinkle around them.



Lori Gulley and her daughter, Ruthie, senior biology major, embrace at the end of Adrienne Townsend's appeal to mothers and daughters to never let anything come between them.



Barbara Hobbs and her daughter Caitlin Hobbs, sophomore history major, share a special moment.



Sarah Paris, junior liberal arts education major, and her mother, Cindy, enjoy a moment together before proceeding to the breakfast buffet.

## Springtime in Paris:



“Live life on purpose” was the advice that Adrienne Townsend, US Navy chaplain, shared with mothers and daughters. “Every day cherish every moment that you have to be in each other’s lives, and refuse to allow life to ruin your relationship with each other. Most importantly, never stop praying and asking God to show you day by day how to love each other.”



Campus mom Kari Shultz, formally known as the director of student life and activities, is always there to help student programs run smoothly, but most importantly she loves students unconditionally. Here she poses with the *Panorama* student editor, Suzanne Ocsai.



Shama Eller, senior nursing major, listens intently to her mother Yvonne after their meal Sunday morning.



Thatcher and Thatcher South resident assistants celebrate the success of another beautiful mother/daughter weekend.

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## Students Say

We asked students to share what springtime activity they would like to share with their parents:

"I would like to go on a three-day camping trip with my parents."

~Stacy Blanz, freshmen elementary education major

"I would want to take my parents on a Smoky Mountain hike to see the flowers."

~Ryan Rogers, junior theology major

"My mom is coming to visit, and I am taking her caving and rock climbing."

~Cristy Kay, sophomore outdoor leadership and social work major

"My family and I go to the botanical gardens every year in Fort Worth, Texas, just as spring begins."

~Daphanne Wiley, freshman general studies major

"I would like to go on a picnic and spend quality time with my parents."

~Michelle Hickman, sophomore nursing major

"My mom and I like to lie in bed and watch Lifetime. My dad and I go out to my grandparent's home and mow the lawn on a riding lawn mower for them."

~Reese Middleton, junior nursing major

"I really enjoy opening up the windows and doing spring cleaning with my family."

~Austin Cole, junior theology major

"I would like to do anything that is warm."

~Sam Shin, junior biochemistry major