


## Applying to Graduate School



Joel Kurtz, '10, was thinking about graduate school long before he applied. Joel prepared himself while he was still finishing his bachelor's degree at Southern. Throughout the process, his parents were there to provide wisdom, guidance, and most of all, support.

"They've always encouraged me to pursue whatever vocation I felt the Lord leading me toward," says Joel.

Joel went on to complete the pre-law track, participate in extra curricular activities, and serve as a student missionary overseas, setting himself apart as a good candidate for graduate school early on.

There are many ways that students can, like Joel, set themselves apart to get into the graduate school of their choice. Here are some tips.

### Prepare Early.

Joel completed Southern's honors track, taking several rigorous math, physics, and upper division writing classes. He was also involved in many extracurricular activities.

Like Joel, undergraduate students can prepare for a master's degree in several ways. These include earning top grades, getting to know professors who can later send recommendation letters, and becoming involved with honor societies.

### Know which test to take.

When studying for the LSAT, Joel used the Powerscore Logic Games Bible to help

prepare for the analytical reasoning portion of the test. He also used older LSATs to practice on. Encourage your student to use the study guides.

### Apply early.

Advise your student to apply early and set up an interview so there is ample time for the process. Unlike in undergraduate school, where the admissions office accepts the students, in graduate school, professors are the ones who select the students. Establishing a relationship with a professor or professors at the school he or she would like to attend makes the application process less stressful.

### Choose several schools.

Competition is fierce, so it is wise to apply to at least six schools. If your student is accepted to more than one, they can select which one they'd prefer. Joel applied to four different graduate schools.

### Pray and Trust.

As students apply to graduate school, it can be a time of uncertainty and added stress. Some of the best ways to help them get through are to pray with them, offer a listening ear, and reassure them that they can and will succeed.

*~by Suzanne Ocsai*



# Q&A

With President  
Gordon Bietz

## ASK THE PRESIDENT

**My student is thinking about getting a master's degree after graduation. What programs does Southern offer?**

Southern's growing graduate program offers master's degrees in six basic areas: business, education, counseling, nursing, religion and social work.

### Business

Your son or daughter can come home and work on an M.B.A. in healthcare administration or management completely online, or stay on campus and work toward any of the dozen plus programs available.

### Education

Through on-campus intensives during the summer and winter, online classes, and hybrid classes (which combine online and on-campus elements), your student can earn a Master of Science in Education, emphasizing in inclusive education, instructional leadership, literacy education, or outdoor education.

### Counseling

In as few as six semesters, your student could earn a Master of Science in clinical mental health counseling or school counseling.

### Nursing

The School of Nursing has many options for nurses to continue their education. From an accelerated R.N. to M.S.N. program to a post-master's certificate program, your student can prepare for advancement in the field of nursing.

### Religion

Whether your student wants to continue learning while serving as a minister or while preparing for future academic study, Southern has programs that will help your student serve a diverse church and society.

### Social Work

Southern's newest graduate program, which just received official candidacy status from the Council on Social Work Education, is very popular. Your student can select from five different emphases while earning a Master of Social Work.

If your student is thinking about getting a master's degree in one of these areas, we hope they will consider pursuing it at Southern.

To learn more, visit [southern.edu/graduatestudies](http://southern.edu/graduatestudies).

## Did You Know?

### Summer Classes Offered at Southern

Each summer, Southern Adventist University offers a wide variety of classes for students, from College Composition I to Fly Fishing. Whether a student is trying to graduate early or catch up on required courses, Southern provides four-week courses to help.

There are three summer class sessions. The first summer session caters to returning students, and offers upper division classes. The second session offers classes that focus on teaching. The third session provides freshmen and transfer students the opportunity to take a three-hour class for free; in addition, many general education classes are offered at this time. Several graduate classes are also offered throughout the summer.

In addition to summer classes, there are two study tours available to students who want to study abroad for about four weeks. In May, the School of Social Work will take students to Europe, where students will learn about sociology and cultural anthropology. At the same time, the School of Business and Management will take students to China. These trips allow students to immerse themselves in different cultures and expand their worldview.

"Touring Europe was the best school-related trip I have ever taken," says John Shoemaker, a senior public relations and business administration major. "It is a trip that I would recommend all students to take."

~by Carrie Francisco

## Calendar of Events

|       |    |   |    |  |
|-------|----|---|----|--|
| April | 10 | SA Spring Open House,<br>Wind Symphony Spring Concert | 23 | Church Services,<br>SonRise Resurrection Pageant,<br>Jazz Ensemble Concert |
|       | 14 | Symphony Orchestra Concert                            | 29 | Senior Breakfast   |
|       | 17 | Strawberry Festival                                   | 30 | Convention Center Baccalaureate  |
|       | 19 | Southern Choirs Spring Concert                        |    |  |
|       |    |   |    |  |
| May   | 1  | Commencement  |    |  |
|       | 2  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Summer Session Begins                 |    |  |
|       | 31 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Summer Session Begins                 |    |  |

### Favorite Bible Verse

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"  
(Philippians 4:13).

~Submitted by Grady Todd, junior marketing major

#### Editor:

Managing Editor:

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Ingrid Hernandez

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Marc Grundy  
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#### Writers:

Carrie Francisco

Suzanne Ocsai

Jarod Keith

John Shoemaker

#### Photographers:

Leo Macias

Justin Peter

# Changing the World One Project at a Time

With its 60 members, Southern Adventist University's Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) club is using foundational business principles to address relevant social, economic, and environmental factors in order to further sustain communities, organizations, and the global society.



*Student officers discuss current and future plans for SIFE projects.*

SIFE is a global non-profit organization located on more than 1,600 university campuses in more than 40 countries. Students of all majors are able to join and participate in any of the service opportunities it offers.

"Whether a nursing, business, or English major, SIFE allows students at Southern to use what they have learned in the classroom and apply it to real world situations," says Carrie Harlin, director of SIFE.

SIFE is making a direct and positive impact on the university by doing things such as providing financial seminars and informational tax meetings (which assist students in completing their tax forms), and installing several campus-card-friendly vending machines.

Two of the many projects giving

Southern SIFE students an opportunity to impact their community and their world are the Traveling T-shirt project, which teaches students at local elementary schools the economic implications of retail manufacturing, and the Uruguayan Bakery project, which assists in the tuition and eventual employment needs of Uruguayan Adventist students.

"I strive to live a life full of service," says Christina Whary, student assistant director of SIFE. "SIFE allows me to accomplish this goal by offering valuable resources, fresh ideas and constant support."

This year the SIFE team will compete in the 2011 SIFE Regional Competition held in Atlanta on April 4. The club hopes to repeat last year's success by advancing to the national competition held May 10-12 in Minneapolis.

*~by John Shoemaker*

## Carl Swafford: Connecting Graduate Students and Resources

It's typical for Carl Swafford, Southern's dean of graduate studies, to break the ice with his visitors by asking them a series of questions. The more he gets to know you, the easier it is for him to get you what you need. Word to the wise: have an idea of what your future goals are when stopping by.

"I want to know what you're doing," he says. "If you don't know what you're doing, there could be a problem."

When students visit Swafford, they present all the obstacles in the way of their graduate education. At the top of their list are being out of school for too long, feeling unprepared for entrance exams, and having concerns about finances. Swafford makes it his duty to offer solutions for every one of these obstacles. His office is a place for students to get connected to the resources they need.

"Even with the small things he takes the time to help," says Mariesa Swisher, graduate social work student. "That's how you know he cares."

Swafford has been in the foreground in the development of Southern's graduate

program since 1997. An education and psychology professor at the time, Swafford helped start several of the first programs.

Today, there are master's programs in business, counseling, education, nursing, religion, and social work.

One of Swafford's favorite things about the graduate program is what it offers the community. Eighty percent of the students enrolled in graduate programs at Southern live in the local community, and stay to work in the area after graduating.

"It's exciting that we are serving the community," he says. "We're not taking, we're giving."

Aside from seeing Southern's graduate program as a professional move for students,



*Nick Evenson and Mariesa Swisher discuss graduate options with Carl Swafford.*

Swafford points out that our ethical base is what sets our program apart from other graduate schools. Programs that are usually secular, such as Social Work, are taught with a Christian foundation at Southern.

*~by Ingrid Hernandez*

PO Box 370  
Collegedale  
Tennessee 37315  
1.800.SOUTHERN  
southern.edu

## Students Say

**We asked students how their parents have encouraged them through this year's tough times. Here are their answers:**

"I talk to my mom about four times a day. She's really my support system. I can tell her anything, and she encourages me spiritually."

-Ashlee Dollar, senior music education major

"My parents send me little text messages of encouragement."

-Joshua Ortiz, sophomore business administration major

"My parents remind me they can't make decisions for me anymore. They encourage me to make my own."

-Jacob Rawls, freshman nursing major

"My mom came to visit and helped me get situated. My dad helped me when my car broke down here, even though he was two states away."

-Meredith Banks, freshman management major

"My mother in particular has been helpful by giving me advice. She's always encouraging."

-Kevin DeBenedictis, senior music performance major

"They're available to talk on the phone at anytime."

-Jaron Senecal, junior engineering studies major

"My mom visited me and made sure I was OK. She also sends me care packages, and we talk a lot on the phone."

-Cheri Egly, sophomore allied health major

"My mom sends me inspirational Bible verses."

-Jennifer Nordell, sophomore nursing major

"My mom always reminds me that all this hard work will pay off and that the tough times will prepare me for the future."

-Steven Dull, sophomore film production major