

PANORAMA

parent newsletter

february 2013



Fostering Positive Long-term Relationships

Once a year, Adam Brown, associate director of recruitment for Enrollment Services, takes a trip to a different town in Tennessee or Georgia to meet up with seven of his closest friends, each of which he met when they were Southern students.

This group of eight men pictured below, all in their 30s, takes an annual weekend to reconnect through sports games, group outings, worships, and even service projects. When the weekends come to an end, Brown said “we all travel home and start counting down the days until next year.”

But their friendship, which started in the men’s residence hall at Southern, does not take a break once the weekend is over. Throughout the year they hold each other accountable and lift each other in prayer, encouraging one another to continue growing in Christ. Brown credits their time at Southern for their spiritual connection and lasting relationship.

“We never would have met or had these positive experiences if it hadn’t been for Southern,” he said. “We know that God played a huge part in getting us there, and

used Southern to build our friendships.”

During their college years, this group would read Scripture together and hang out in each other’s room. They joined the same intramural teams, attended events as a group, and spent summers together at camp. Most of them even chose to serve as student missionaries around the same time. In the same way, Brown encourages current students to develop friendships by spending time together, catching up with one another, and praying.

“I am so grateful to have these men as friends in my life,” Brown said. “I know that each one of them cares about me on a spiritual and emotional level. And I have Southern to thank for that.”

Here are some other ways your student can develop positive long-term relationships:

Community Outreach. A great way for students to connect is to serve the community together, just like Brown and his friends do on their reunions. Students can

get involved by volunteering for a project through a campus club, talking to the director of the Christian Service Program, signing up with an organization through the Showcase of Service, or joining others on Sabbath afternoon outreach activities.

Dating Resources. For students who are currently in dating, or are still searching for someone, there are several resources on campus, including the “Boundaries in Dating” Sabbath School class and the Mates-In-

Ministry group. Learn more about these opportunities by reading the “Mentors Help Students Navigate Romantic Relationships” article at southern.edu/news.

Prayer. This works in two ways. First, prayer opens up the doors for these relationships to happen by leading students to the right people while they’re in college. Second, once these friendships are established, prayer is a great way for them to support each other.

~by Ingrid Hernandez

“I know that each one of them cares about me on a spiritual and emotional level. And I have Southern to thank for that.”

-ADAM BROWN, ENROLLMENT SERVICES

Brown (second from the right) and his friends complete a community service project at an elderly woman’s farm in Shelbyville, Tennessee.



Favorite Bible Verse

Natasha Mirilov,
sophomore broadcast journalism major

Always be clothed in white, and always anoint your head with oil.

Ecclesiastes 9:8

Did You Know? FAFSA Deadline

The time is fast approaching to begin preparing for another year at Southern. This means updating and resubmitting your student's FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), which determines the financial aid they are eligible to receive.

Updating the FAFSA takes about an hour, and shows your student's eligibility for financial aid such as:

- Federal grants and loans
- State grants
- Scholarships
- Southern's endowment grants



Southern highly recommends completing the FAFSA by March 1, and requires it to be submitted no later than March 31. Filing late may mean missing out on money, taking out more loans, and even waiting another year to file.

“Institutional money, such as Southern's endowment funds, runs out quicker than anything else,” said Paula Walters, associate director of Student Finance. “File on time to ensure students don't miss out.”

~by Shana Michalek

Q&A Ask The President

With Gordon Bietz



Question: In what ways does Southern facilitate new relationships?

Southern is intentional about giving students the opportunity to cultivate new relationships. Here they meet students from all over the United States and the world. Our alumni often say they created meaningful relationships with people they met at Southern and those relationships have lasted throughout their lives.

There are many activities right here on campus in which your son or daughter can meet fellow students and have bonding opportunities. Events hosted by the Student Association—such as the annual Welcome Back Party, Joker Release Party, Fall Festival, Valentine's Day Banquet and Talent Show—are well attended by students and often include interactive games and ice breaker activities.

Whatever your student's interests, background, or academic program, he or she will find a student organization on campus that's a good fit. With more than 50 clubs, students can get involved and

organize events like culture nights, produce issues of the student newspaper or work together with Student Services as part of the Student Association or Senate.

Southern's intramural program offers an environment that fosters an active, healthy, and social lifestyle. More than 1,200 different students participate in team sports such as softball, basketball, soccer, floor hockey, football, futsal and volleyball. Most participate in more than one sport throughout the year. Many students say they experienced their most memorable moments and built their strongest relationships out on the field or inside the Iles P.E. Center.

Students can also build lasting relationships by worshiping together, whether by leading or participating. This year, the Campus Ministries LifeGroup program put together 72 LifeGroups, small student-led Bible study groups, that meet once a week to study and pray together.

Students and parents can view upcoming activities, clubs lists, intramurals schedule, and LifeGroup information on Southern's website.

Staff Profile:

Kevin Pride

Associate Dean of Men

Humans are attracted to the stories that come full circle: the former college basketball star who returns to coach at his alma mater; the celebrity who grew up in an impoverished town and returns to build a school or donate money. Even the pastor who returns to man the pulpit of the church he grew up in is a compelling story. We enjoy the return, and Kevin Pride is one of those stories.

Kevin Pride, associate dean of men, graduated from Southern in 1990 with a degree in religion. By then he already realized what he wanted to do with his life.

“The year between my junior and senior year I had the opportunity to be a task force dean at Indiana Academy,” Pride recalled. “I absolutely loved it and deter-

mined then that I would one day do this for a living.”

As it is with most projects in life, the path to accomplishing this dream wasn’t nearly as simple as setting the goal. Upon graduating from Southern, Pride worked as a mental health technician. After going through several twists and turns, he ended up at Forest Lake Academy as a task force dean. He remained there for the next 16 years.

But when Pride learned that Southern was looking to add a dean, he submitted an application. He got the job and returned to Southern as an associate dean of men in the summer of 2007.

“Every student needs a mentor, but in college, as opposed to academy, that responsibility is more on the student to seek it out,”



Pride said. “I really enjoy the time I get to just chill and talk with students.”

Besides being a mentor, Pride is specifically responsible for worship attendance, worship scheduling, desk workers, and the Talge Hall recreation room. In his spare time he coaches the Collegedale Adventist Youth in Action men’s basketball team and is a staff sponsor for the Black Christian Union.

~by Charles Cammack

Student Life: Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature

Southern students have never had the opportunity to participate in the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature (TISL), a mock state government begun in the 1960s, because part of it has always been held during the Sabbath. But, thanks to Southern alumni Alexander Brown, Secretary of State for TISL, seven students from a variety of different majors got the chance to experience TISL without having to compromise their faith.

“In the hopes that Southern students would get the chance to experience the benefits of TISL, I proposed an idea to the Executive Council,” Brown said. “I requested that Southern delegates be allowed to participate in all parts of TISL except for Saturday’s events, and not be penalized for it in anyway.”

The Executive Council approved of the idea, and last spring Brown and several other TISL members approached Southern

about assembling their own delegation. After receiving enthusiastic approval from President Gordon Bietz, Brown asked Southern’s History and Political Studies Department to seek out individuals who would like to be a part of this year’s TISL meetings.

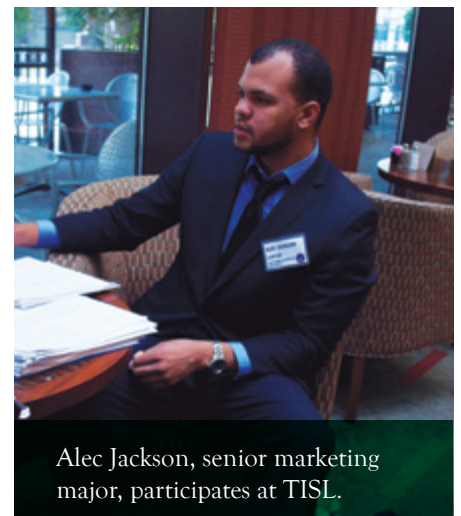
“Participating in TISL was a great learning experience for me,” said Kenia Ledezma, junior social work major. “It not only gave me the opportunity to network with other students and government officials, but it also helped me decide to pursue a degree in law.”

Student work with TISL has lasting significance. Some legislation passed by the group has gone on to the real Tennessee Legislature, including child safety seat and seatbelt laws.

“Every year the student governor of TISL meets with the executive branches of the state of Tennessee and presents the poten-

tial laws we pass for actual official recognition,” Kenia said. “Its amazing!” For more information, visit tislonline.org.

~by Luke Evans



Alec Jackson, senior marketing major, participates at TISL.

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What advice did your parents give you about making friends in college?

“Choose your friends wisely because they will rub off on you.”

- Jessica Gutierrez,
junior nursing major

“Pick friends that will encourage you.”

- Nikayla Phillip,
sophomore biology major

“Look at the positive side of people.”

- Alisha Ottati,
senior nursing major

“Pick friends that portray the characteristics you want to have.”

- Warren Chesnut,
freshman engineering studies major

“Expand your horizons when choosing friends.”

- Jenna Dedeker,
junior biology major

“Pick friends who have high goals.”

- Jessica Zavala,
junior liberal arts education major

FEBRUARY

21 Meet the Firms

Career fair held twice a year that brings recruiters and students together for networking.

23 BCU Night

Students celebrate American, African, West Indian, and South American cultures through music, food, and dance.

MARCH

1 Spring Break Begins

16 Student Association Talent Show

17 Symphony Orchestra Concert

23 Asian Night

Students celebrate Asian cultures through music, food, and dance.

30 SonRise Resurrection Pageant

The annual interactive Easter pageant.

APRIL

6 I Cantori Spring Concert

Gym-Masters Home Show

Southern's acrobatic team presents its annual home show in the Iles P.E. Center.

7 Gym-Masters Home Show Matinee

Senior Recognition Banquet

Wind Symphony Concert

14 Symphony Orchestra Concert