



every Southern story

# INCLUDES YOU

Annual Report 2016-2017



125  
years

SOUTHERN  
ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

This year marks a special milestone in Southern Adventist University's history—125 years of training individuals for a life of service. Many things have changed in that time, but our core values of placing God first, nurturing students, and serving others have never wavered. The dedication, sacrifice, and vision that marked Southern's beginnings have also remained constant.

As I reflect on my first year serving as president of this institution, I realize how blessed I am to be a part of the Southern story. More than 58,000 individuals have attended Southern since 1892, each adding value to the Southern story and making a unique impact in the world.

I am overwhelmed with gratitude for Southern's family of alumni, parents, students, employees, corporations, foundations, and friends who made financial gifts this past academic year and impacted nearly 3,000 students' lives. Your support helped make the Southern Experience a reality for many students who would not have received that opportunity otherwise.

In these pages, you will see students share just a small glimpse of their Southern story and what has been accomplished in the last academic year. You made a difference—every Southern story includes you!

While Southern is celebrating 125 years of history, we cannot—must not—rest comfortably. The future world-changers we are privileged to serve deserve a cutting-edge vision to equip them for a life of truth, wholeness, and service. I look forward to our continued partnership, working to prepare the next generation of servant leaders who will positively and uniquely impact our world.

David Smith

David Smith, PhD  
President



## Bonus Material

▶ Visit [southern.edu/annualreport](https://southern.edu/annualreport) to view additional content and videos.

As Southern celebrates its 125th anniversary this year, we invite you to join us in honoring our tradition of serving others. The goal is to collect 125,000 hours of service by the end of 2017.

Visit [southern.edu/125](https://southern.edu/125) throughout the year to enter your community service hours and check progress. Everyone is invited to participate!



## **Moving Forward. Giving Back.**

Graduates, who made a gift to impact an area or program on campus of \$20.17 or more in honor of their graduation year, received a gold zipper-pull medallion to recognize their generosity.



Rebecca Myshrahl

# Southern Stories

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Want more stories? Follow **Humans of Southern** on Facebook and Instagram.

## Michael Steinke

senior marketing major



Michael Steinke

“When asked why I chose Southern, I used to answer that it was the scholarships, friends, and the environment. But now I have a new answer: it was God’s purpose for me. I grew up in a non-Christ-centered environment, which affected me. When I started at Southern, I appreciated the academic challenge as I worked on my degree in marketing, and I made a lot of friends, but something was still missing. Then I took a class called Life and Teachings of Jesus from Professor Andy Nash, and I finally started finding answers. I saw a new viewpoint of Jesus, a bigger picture, one that presented a life full of brightness. I started taking Bible studies, ultimately leading out with a small group of friends. Now God has an active role in my life. I am so grateful that God put people in my life at the right time and place.”

# Stephanie Caran

nursing graduate, May 2017

"I've experienced so much growth in my four years here. I think during this time I've built an aspect of faith that wasn't there before. God has blessed me so much, to the point that even though I know I'm going into the working world, I'm not even really scared because He's proven to me that everything is going to work out. While at Southern, no matter what was ahead of me, He let me pass; He let me keep going. When friends left, He brought new ones. So I don't have a fearful aspect on life anymore. I've found faith, and every day I remind myself to live by faith, not fear."

# Rebecca Myshrall

senior psychology major

"I enjoy having all types of friends from many different backgrounds, religious beliefs, political beliefs, and ethnicities. I think that helps me stay aware of different aspects of life. That's something I really like about myself; I don't care where you come from or who you are as long as you treat people with respect. That's what matters. Southern helps in creating a community where everyone can find a place to fit in. There's a place for everyone here, and I love having the opportunity to meet all sorts of people."

# Caleb McKinney

senior finance major (pre-med)

"Two things have stood out to me during my time at Southern. First, I realize how blessed I am to be here. It's truly hard to explain the uniqueness of Southern, but it is a beautiful mix of Christlike students, church with friends, community service days, wise professors, and people who genuinely care about my journey. I am loved here, and I will never forget that. Second, Southern professors are missionaries and life-changers. The one thing that hurts me at Southern is the lack of praise professors receive from students, including me. Many of them have spent their lives putting the intricate puzzle of God and academia together and are choosing to share it with students without much financial reward. It is enlightening to be surrounded by these dedicated educators. Looking back, I had no idea the impact Southern would have on me. I picked this school mostly out of convenience, but I now know God put me here for a purpose."



Stephanie Caran



Caleb McKinney



*Janelle Glass*

# Scholarships Change Lives

*Janelle Glass*

music education graduate, May 2017

**F**rom a young age, I've always loved music and knew I wanted to become a teacher one day. My parents both graduated from Southern, so when it came time for me to choose a university, I felt impressed that God was also leading me to Southern.

My time here has been such a blessing. I've made so many friends who inspired me and encouraged me to seek God every day. My professors really cared about me and helped me grow in my field. Their commitment to my education has equipped me to be fully prepared for wherever God chooses to lead.

During my junior year, I followed God's calling to serve as a student missionary in Puerto Rico. It was a fantastic year of growth. I served as the pianist for the choir at Antillean Adventist University and the assistant to the music director. That experience made it clear that God's plan was for me to become a music teacher.

After my year in Puerto Rico, I wasn't sure how I would be able to finish my education because finances always seemed to be a struggle. I knew God had made it possible for me to attend Southern so far, and I had to trust that He would carry me through.

When I learned that I was receiving the Jean S. Murphy Endowed Scholarship, it was an answer to prayer, and my faith was strengthened! All my worry suddenly fell away, and I was able to focus on my studies without the stress of impending payments.

Now I've graduated, and I'm proud to officially be a Southern alum! I look forward to a career teaching children and showing them how music can foster communication and build relationships. I am eternally grateful for alumni and friends like you who made it possible for me to graduate and have so many once-in-a-lifetime opportunities.

# Natalia Perez

## junior writing and editing major

“Throughout my three years at Southern, God has led me in a series of growth and expansion opportunities. Sometimes the process is delightful and inspiring, other times it’s painful and jarring. I am emotionally wired and feel many things very deeply, but Southern has always provided an outlet. Whether it’s people to pour love into, a class or a job that demands my creative functions, or a supportive community that loves me even though I have nothing to offer but my company, Southern has provided me with the environment to grow into myself. I’m so grateful to be here and for the pieces of myself I’ve cultivated during my college years.”



Natalia Perez



Cinthya Molina

# Cinthya Molina

## junior photography major

“I want to be a photojournalist for *National Geographic* someday. Growing up, I played with film cameras and my parents’ videotapes and eventually fell in love with telling stories and learning how to share them through visual arts. I feel like you can discover a lot about people through photos and film that you otherwise wouldn’t know from simply interacting with them. You see another side of people when they’re in front of the camera, as you look through that lens.”

# Nathan Kim

junior chemistry major

“Right now I’m studying chemistry with the goal of becoming a doctor, but that’s only possible because I received a full-tuition scholarship. Last December, the Sunday before finals week of my first semester, my father had a mountain biking accident and suffered a severe stroke. It left him permanently unable to talk, walk, and work in his profession as a practicing dentist, effectively cutting off all income for our family. If it were not for the financial generosity of alumni and friends who support scholarships, I would be unable to afford a university-level education, let alone an Adventist education. Southern has given me opportunities that I believe few other institutions are capable of providing. I am deeply thankful for God’s guidance in leading me here; He is good all of the time!”



Nathan Kim

# Amanda Reed

junior psychology major

“When ‘life gives you lemons you make lemonade,’ is kind of my mantra. I feel like life does that to you every day in both small ways and big ways. Even having to overcome a lot of small things wears you down, and by the end of the day you’re so tired. What I love about Southern is that we have Friday vespers to just unwind and be thankful for getting through another week. At other schools, Friday is time to party, and you never give yourself that time to reflect and relax, which I think is necessary.”



Amanda Reed

# FACTS

# 14:1

STUDENT - FACULTY RATIO

1,100+

participated in Martin Luther King  
Community Service Day

49

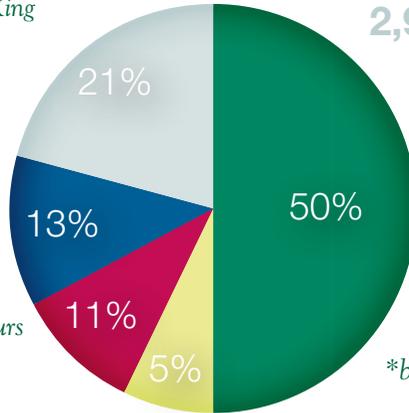
student clubs  
and organizations

1,524

students worked 550,697 hours  
earning **\$4,783,351**

## STUDENT BODY

2,959 undergrad & grad\*



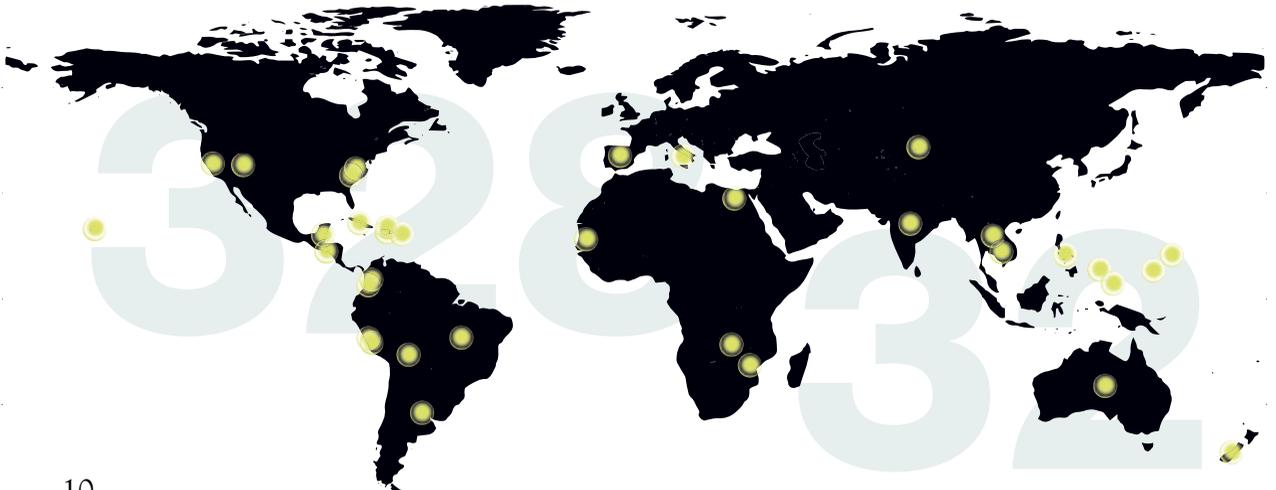
- White
- Hispanic
- Black
- Asian
- Other minority groups

\*based on Fall 2016 enrollment

# MISSIONS

short term and long term

328 students and employees served in 32 countries



ENROLLMENT REPRESENTS STUDENTS  
FROM **49** STATES AND **38** COUNTRIES

### Academic Offerings



Ranked by National Collegiate  
Fitness Index:

**TOP private  
university campus**



**1,146** students participated  
in **LifeGroups** (student-led small  
group **Bible studies**)



### Top Five Areas of Study



- 1) Nursing
- 2) Business
- 3) Biology
- 4) Education
- 5) Religion

**81%** of classes have  
fewer than **30** students

**749**  
students  
graduated  
this **year**,  
a **record**  
number!



# Avonlea Bodi

## senior psychology major

"I thought this would be the worst place ever for me, especially coming from public school. Before I arrived on campus, I knew no one. But once I was here and met my roommate, we became best friends. My life would've turned out differently without her."



Avonlea Bodi



Karly Peckham

# Karly Peckham

## senior computer science major

"I grew up in an Adventist home with devout parents who are wonderful, Christ-centered, and loving. But I realized that I don't *have* to live like my parents. I'm in college, and I can do what I want now. It's like I don't have to go to church anymore; there's nobody making me. If I wanted to, I could go out on a Friday night. But as I see more of the world and step out of my conservative bubble, I realize that my relationship with God should be a priority, and I *want it* to be. I know people that don't see it that way, but to me it's important and something I want."

# Phillip Warfield

## junior history major

"Life on Southern's campus is rich with opportunities, and it has really inspired me to grow. In just a short time, I've been able to join different organizations such as the Student Association Senate and performance groups like Studio 4109. Besides all of the different fun things to do on campus, these organizations provides great ways to meet and connect at social events and join in a sense of unity on campus. I'm thoroughly enjoying my time here!"



Phillip Warfield

*Your financial support helps make the Southern Experience possible. These students and faculty members want to say*

# Thank you!



## **Sheann Brandon**

junior journalism major

“Thank you so much for supporting Southern students through your gifts and prayers! Thank you for directly impacting my life. God bless you!”

## **Bonnie (Hover) Sholock**

junior English major

“I want to thank you so much for supporting my education and making it possible for me to attend Southern. I’m a 31-year-old student who just returned from the mission field, where I served in Southeast Asia. You are an answer to my prayers. Thank you very much!”

## **Joe Ellis**

pastoral care graduate, May 2017

“I just want to express my gratitude and appreciation for your gift. I have been fully blessed by your support. Because of your generosity, I will give back and make it possible for other students to attend Southern. May God continue to bless you!”

## **Rick Norskov, MD, '76**

biology professor

“You will most likely never meet the students who benefit from your generosity. But they are grateful, especially those who don’t have the means to attend a private Adventist university like Southern. Remembering them is recognizing your ‘why’ and part of what God has put all of us on Earth to do—to make a difference. Thank you for your generosity.”

## **Sylvia Mayer, '75**

associate professor and director of nursing admissions and progressions

“I am immensely grateful for your confidence and encouragement shown through contributions that support students by reducing their financial burden of school expenses. I see the positive impact of your kind and generous gifts daily. Thank you for being a part of God’s work and mission here at Southern Adventist University.”



# Trusting in God's Plan

*Austin Menzmer*

biology graduate, May 2017

After an exhausting 30-hour drive, 16 Southern students, faculty, and staff—myself included—finally arrived at our destination in northern New Mexico. La Vida Mission, a supporting ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, is a school for Navajo youth and was our mission field during the 2017 spring break.

For more than six years, Southern has sent a group of students to La Vida Mission, and I was excited to be a part of this opportunity. Our tasks were to host a Week of Prayer and assist with construction of an addition to the gymnasium. This new space will serve many purposes including a place for healthy cooking classes, Pathfinder gatherings, camp meeting, and other community events.

Because I have a disability—partial paralysis on one side of my body—and only have full use of one hand, I was nervous to go on a mission trip that included some construction. I wasn't sure how helpful I would be, but I had comfort that God would still be able to use me in some capacity to glorify Him.

The construction supervisor took me under his wing and gave me different tasks that I could do one-handed. It was an amazing experience being able to help build a space that will be used to further God's work.

Because of my disability, some of the Navajo students were unsure of how to approach me. I wondered if they had ever seen someone with partial paralysis before.

While playing tic-tac-toe with one of the older boys, he asked about my hand. I shared with him my personal story, and we talked about God's plan for my life. We sat there for what seemed like hours, and I was able to encourage him to follow God's leading in his own life. That was an incredible witnessing moment!

I'm thankful that I was able to be a part of this mission trip and minister to the Navajo people. I realize now that all you need is a willing heart, and God will use you in ways you couldn't imagine. I'm grateful to those who support missions at Southern and make it possible for so many students to have the opportunity to serve on mission trips around the world.

# we believe

## Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning Update

*2016-2017 has been an exciting year with many advancements in the Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning. More than \$6 million in cash and pledges were given during the last 12 months alone to support the campaign and its designated impact areas: Endowment, Bietz Center for Student Life, Annual Giving, Academic Growth, and Campus Life. This update highlights just a few of the ways student opportunities and campus facilities have improved as a result.*

### Endowment

Southern is aggressively attempting to reduce the amount of educational loan debt accrued by our students. Several academic adjustments and steps to reduce expenses have helped, but more is needed. Endowed scholarships play a critical role; the goal to grow the endowment by \$14 million makes this our single largest component in the Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning.

October's Inauguration Gala for President David Smith, PhD, raised almost \$350,000 for the endowment and general scholarships. Legislative officials, area businesses, alumni, employees, and friends of the university were among the more than 225 guests whose ticket purchases, silent auction bids, and other significant contributions made the evening a success. During the event, several new scholarships were announced and celebrated. Another President's Gala is scheduled for October 5, 2017, to honor servant leaders in Chattanooga; proceeds will again benefit scholarships and the endowment.



Visit [southern.edu/webelieve](http://southern.edu/webelieve) for powerful stories about the Southern Experience.

#### **The complete list of new endowed scholarships for the past fiscal year includes:**

- Bill and Myrtle Hulsey Endowed Scholarship for Work Initiative
- Germán and Alicia Clouzet Endowed Evangelistic Scholarship
- Harold and Harriet Johnson Endowed Education Scholarship Fund
- Harold and Harriet Johnson Endowed Nursing Scholarship Fund
- Morning Pointe Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Phil Gano Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Rita Vital Endowed Scholarship for Faith and Service Learning
- Robert and Anne Denslow Murphy Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Smyrna Towers Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Student Mission Operations Endowment Fund
- Work Initiative Scholarship Endowment (WISE)

One endowed scholarship in particular, WISE, has the potential to incentivize students' personal financial stewardship and reduce loan debt. Students who meet financial aid requirements and commit 50 percent of their own earnings from part-time jobs toward tuition are rewarded with matching funds from WISE. Up to \$3,000 in WISE matching funds may be earned each year, potentially saving a hard-working student \$12,000 over a four-year period. Combined with their own matched funds put toward tuition, as much as \$24,000 can be used to reduce student loan debt. WISE is currently funded at \$1.3 million using gifts from multiple donors. Southern continues to look for opportunities to reach the goal of \$5 million for work-initiative endowments like WISE and the Bill and Myrtle Hulsey Endowment.

## Campus Life

Nearly 100 dorm rooms in Talge and Thatcher halls will receive a makeover as part of the campaign. During Southern's "Fixer Upper" fundraising push in April, 264 donors contributed more than \$42,000 toward these renovations.

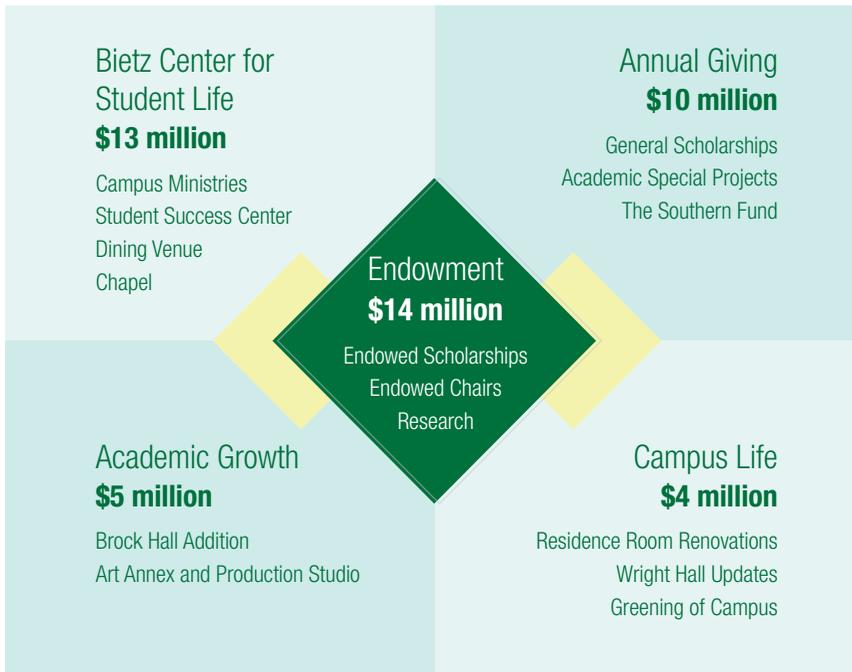
Another impact area of the campaign's "Campus Life" category involves enhancing Southern's natural environment. An alumni family recently gifted the university 250 acres adjoining campus on Bauxite Ridge. More than 12 miles of new paths have been created and are now open for both student and community use. One of the most exciting new aspects of this project is the Sabbath Trail, a two-mile loop in the larger trail system that contains dozens of plaques set in stone, which share the history of Sabbath from Creation to the New Earth.

On the other side of the valley, bathrooms and picnic tables have been added at the primary White Oak Mountain trailhead just off University Drive. The university's commitment to providing unique, natural spaces for reflection is further evidenced by this and other ongoing projects.



## Academic Growth

Southern's School of Visual Art and Design grew by 6,500 square feet this year. The Art Annex on Industrial Drive underwent major renovations during Phase 1 of a multi-year project funded by gifts to the campaign. A new print studio, new painting studio, new roof, and updated pottery studio have improved instructional space and increased student capacity. Phase 2 will involve the creation of a video production studio to be shared jointly by film students and those in the School of Journalism and Communication.



Plus \$4 million in gifts for contingencies, architectural fees, and campaign costs.

Visit [southern.edu/webelieve](https://southern.edu/webelieve) for more information about the Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning.

# YOUR IMPACT



**\$260,771**

was contributed by people through gifts of **\$100** or less



**13.2%**

alumni giving percentage

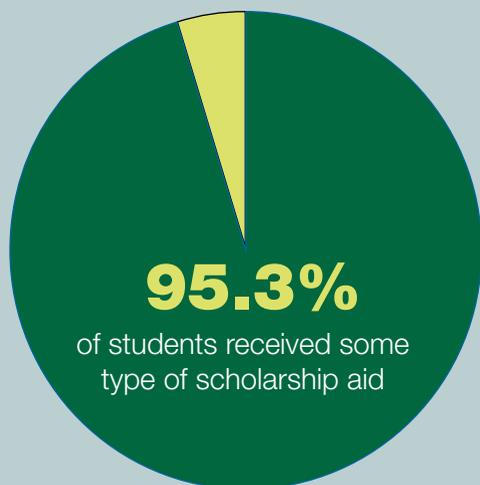
**2,030**

alumni and friends are recognized as Loyalty Circle members for making an annual gift for three or more consecutive years



**474**

have chosen to support Southern through their estate plans or a planned gift and are recognized as Legacy Society members. To learn more about joining the Legacy Society, visit [southern.edu/plannedgiving](https://southern.edu/plannedgiving)



**95.3%**

of students received some type of scholarship aid

**376**

donors raised **\$105,696** (cash and pledges) during Southern's largest 24-hour Giving Day campaign

**4,258**

alumni, friends, students, corporations and foundations collectively gave **\$7,773,324** to impact our students, our community, and our world

**785**

students received financial support from funds generated through named endowments

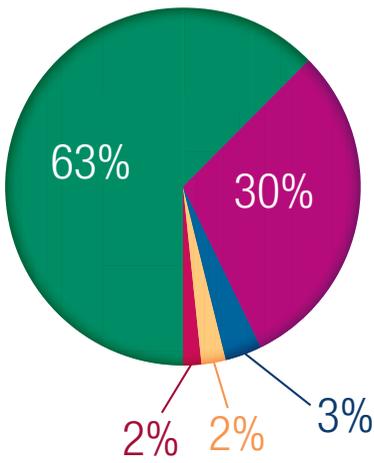


**73%**

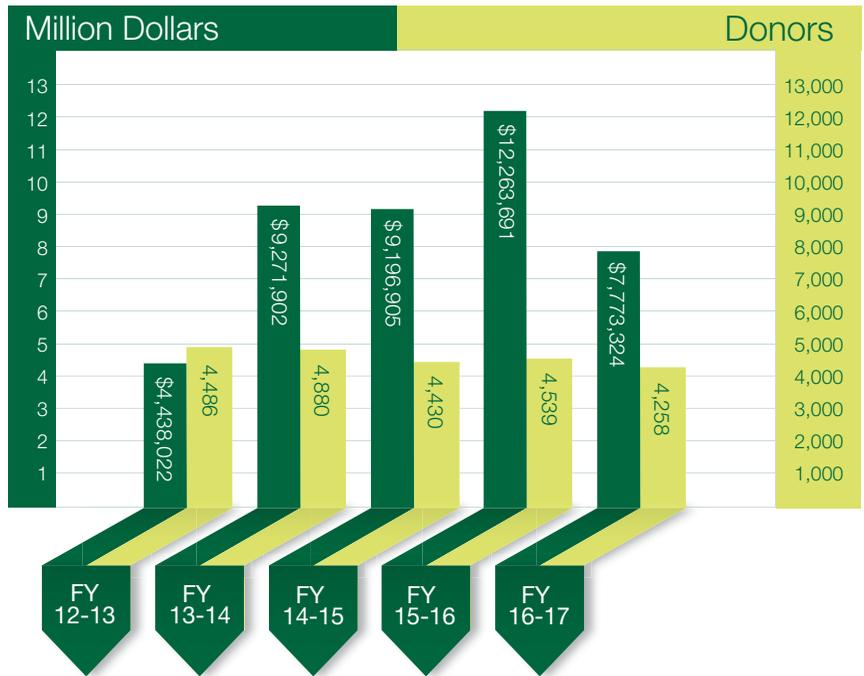
of employees gave back to Southern through financial gifts



# Financial Aid Breakdown



- Federal Scholarships and Loans: \$25,775,163
- Southern Scholarships: \$12,403,642
- State Scholarships: \$1,347,746
- Endowed Scholarships: \$966,091
- Temporary Restricted Scholarships: \$608,525



## 2016-2017 Total Giving: \$7,773,324



Visit [southern.edu/community](http://southern.edu/community) and create an account to view the donor honor roll.

Celebrating Adventist Education Since 1892



# HOMECOMING WEEKEND

IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE:

NOVEMBER 2-5, 2017

## HIGHLIGHTS

**HONOR CLASSES** 1937, '47, '57, '67, '72, '77, '87, '92, '97, '07

### EARLY HIGHLIGHTS

#### >> 125th anniversary of Southern's 1892 founding in Graysville

- Time-capsule opening ceremony
- Recognition of the flagpole's original site

#### >> Missions Emphasis Weekend

- Reunion for former student missionaries and alumni who have served as missionaries around the world
- International food fair
- Vespers – Parade of Nations pageant featuring international costumes and flags
- Missions Expo – opportunities to mentor students considering mission service
- Southern Serves – Join alumni and students on Sunday morning for a hands-on service project to help relieve local and global hunger

#### >> Golden Anniversary Class of 1967 Reunion



 Visit us online

to view updated Homecoming Weekend information, or contact the Alumni Relations office directly.

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