

Distinguished Service

Douglas Jacobs, '73

Douglas Jacobs joined Southern's School of Religion faculty in 2002. While he retired from full-time teaching in June 2018, he continues to serve as a research professor. Doug has taught homiletics, church ministry, health evangelism, public evangelism, Christian beliefs, Christian spirituality, interpersonal ministry, acts of the apostles, and Southern Connections classes. The son of missionary parents, he grew up in Pakistan and India, where he completed his high school education in 1969 at Vincent Hill School in the foothills of the Himalayan Mountains. In 1973, he graduated from Southern with a degree in theology.



Doug served as a pastor in Seventh-day Adventist churches in Florida for 26 years. He began in 1974, working in the Lake City, Perry, and Madison churches. After completing his Master of Divinity degree in 1977 at Andrews University in Michigan, he returned to Florida and served the Tampa First, Sanford and Deland, Fort Myers Shores, Riverview and Brandon, and New Port Richey churches. From 1995 to 2002, he served as senior pastor of the Avon Park church and was a member of the board of Florida Hospital Heartland Division.

In 1993, he completed his Doctor of Ministry degree from Andrews University. His doctoral studies focused on the relationship between health and spirituality, with special emphasis on the role of the doctrine of health in the message and mission of the Adventist Church and on the theological foundations of the doctrine of health.

From his studies in health and spirituality, Doug developed the "Discover Jesus" evangelistic series combining health and spiritual subjects. The series debuted in New Port Richey in 1993. Since then he has conducted evangelistic series in the Philippines, Pakistan, Honduras, Colombia, and Pembroke Pines, Florida. He coordinated School of Religion field schools of evangelism in Spartanburg, South Carolina; Port Charlotte and Port St. Lucie, Florida; Chattanooga, Tennessee; Macon, Georgia; and Pensacola, Florida. In 2011 he led a team of 14 Southern student evangelists on a trip to Bucaramanga, Colombia.

In 2014, Doug completed a second Doctor of Ministry degree in homiletics from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in North Carolina. At the suggestion of his major professor, well-known homiletician Haddon Robinson, PhD, he wrote his thesis project on preaching to older adults, an area not covered by previous research. He developed a theology of aging and proposed a model for preaching God-centered, Good News expository sermons. From the preaching model, Doug has developed a seminar titled “Hidden in Plain Sight: Finding God in Scripture.”

Doug currently is the principal investigator for two research projects, the Adventist Connection Study and the Spiritual History Project. The Adventist Connection Study was commissioned by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in preparation for the 2015 General Conference Session strategic plan. It researched the various ways that recent graduates of Southern Adventist University, Oakwood University, and Pacific Union College connect or disconnect with the Adventist Church. The Spiritual History Project is analyzing 2,000 spiritual histories collected from students in Doug’s Christian beliefs classes from 2002 to the present.

Recently, Doug accepted the volunteer position of health ministry coordinator for Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists. The church’s goal is to help Chattanooga become the healthiest city in America. He also serves as vice president of the Chattanooga Association for Clinical Pastoral Care, which provides training for chaplains and others involved in ministry.

In May 2019, Doug also accepted a call to be the interim pastor of Chattanooga First Seventh-day Adventist Church. His philosophy of ministry is summed up by Peter’s counsel in 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV): “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

Doug’s wife, Lanell, is a registered nurse who is director of Oncology Services at AdventHealth Gordon in Calhoun, Georgia. Their older daughter, Janell Lowe, is a nurse practitioner. Janell’s husband, Shawn, recently completed his doctorate in speech pathology. The Jacobs’ younger daughter, Katie, is a certified nurse midwife. Doug’s hobbies include bicycling, kayaking, hiking, swimming, golf, wooden boat building, travel, reading, and creative writing.

Southern Adventist University alumni, faculty, and staff honor Doug Jacobs for his life of service dedicated to the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a pastor, educator, and researcher.

Distinguished Service Award

Lanell Jacobs, '77

Lanell Caroline Jacobs was born October 11, 1956, in Tempe, Arizona. Her Canadian parents, Fred and Katie Crump, were living at Thunderbird Academy, where Fred was the Bible teacher. The family moved back to their home in Nova Scotia until Lanell was 6 years old.

From 1963 to 1970, Lanell and her family lived at Spicer Memorial College near Pune, India. Her father served as both the church pastor and a religion professor. Lanell remembers her time at Spicer as an idyllic childhood. She didn't start school until she was 9 years old. She spent her days playing with other children, climbing in the mango trees, and soaking up the atmosphere of a busy college campus.

In 1971, a few weeks after Lanell and her older sister Leona enrolled in high school at Kingsway College in Ontario, tragedy struck when her parents and younger sister Nancy were killed in a fiery auto accident. Miraculously, her father's Bible was thrown clear of the wreckage and remains today as one of Lanell's prized possessions.

When Lanell graduated from high school at Kingsway College, she didn't know what to do with her life, so she followed three friends to Southern to take nursing. She found the program difficult until she took mental health clinicals. It was while working at Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute in Chattanooga that Lanell found her mission in nursing and in life. Throughout the rest of her career, Lanell has focused on serving people. When asked about her hobbies, she says: "People are my hobby. I love listening to and spending time with family, friends, co-workers, and patients."

During her senior year of nursing at Florida Hospital, Lanell met Douglas Jacobs, who was a pastor in a nearby district. Their friendship developed over the next 15 months, and they were married in Doug's Sanford church on December 20, 1979.

Lanell worked on Florida Hospital's locked psychiatric unit until she and Doug moved in 1981 to the Fort Myers Shores Seventh-day Adventist Church. Their first daughter, Janell, was born there in 1982, and the family moved to Brandon in 1985. Their second daughter, Katie, arrived in 1987. Lanell joined the staff of the locked psychiatric unit at Memorial Hospital



in South Tampa and worked there for a decade.

During a brief interlude from working at a psychiatric hospital, Lanell started a non residential day-options mental health program for senior citizens in Tarpon Springs while Doug was pastor of the New Port Richey church. Soon she was asked to return to Memorial to be the director of psychiatric services, and there she developed another program that provided daytime mental health care for older adults.

When Doug was asked in 1995 to serve as senior pastor of the Walker Memorial Church in Avon Park, Lanell became a nurse educator at Walker Memorial Hospital. In just a few months, she was promoted to vice president and chief nursing officer for Walker as well as the AdventHealth hospitals in Lake Placid and Wauchula. Doug and Lanell found themselves in a unique situation, because many of the 800 employees under Lanell's leadership were also part of Doug's 1,100-member congregation. While in Avon Park, Lanell helped supervise the move from the old Walker Memorial Hospital to a new facility seven miles south in Sebring.

Doug's parents, Jamile and Lois Jacobs, had lived near Lanell and Doug since 1986, but by the time Doug received a call in 2002 to teach in the School of Religion at Southern, his parents could no longer live on their own due to health issues. So Lanell created the Jacobs family home hospital. For more than three years, she was the cook, nurse, chauffer, cleaning staff, counselor, and care coordinator for her in-laws. During this time, Lanell personally survived surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy treatments for the breast cancer she discovered one week after her move to Chattanooga. Lanell also completed an online master's degree from Florida Gulf Coast University in healthcare administration. Times were so tight financially that the family's tax preparer finally asked, "What are you living on, the grace of God?" Lanell answered, "That's exactly what we are living on."

When Lois transitioned to living at Life Care in Collegedale in 2005, Lanell was able to complete an administrative internship for her master's degree with the same program at the local Memorial Hospital, where she had received her cancer treatment. When the director of cancer services resigned, Lanell joined Memorial's leadership team as vice president for cancer services and supervised the construction of the Mary Ellen Locher Breast Center. As a breast cancer survivor herself, she could ensure that breast cancer patients received the level of care needed.

In 2008, Lanell transitioned to working for Sunshine Radiology in Florida, where she supervised the building of breast centers at AdventHealth Sebring and AdventHealth Zephyr Hills. Lanell was asked in 2012 to help build a radiation center for AdventHealth Gordon in Calhoun, Georgia, and was delighted to help design, build, and decorate

the facility, hire the staff, and direct operations. In the past seven years, the cancer program at Gordon has grown to include an active infusion center and a new breast center.

Lanell's work at AdventHealth Gordon was recognized in 2014 when she was selected as Manager of the Year for AdventHealth. That same year, Lanell was chosen as a finalist for the Gallup organization's International Manager of the Year award. In 2019, AdventHealth Gordon's infusion center was recognized by the Press Ganey organization as one of the top cancer programs in the United States. Lanell will be receiving that award next month in Orlando.

Although Lanell derives great satisfaction from her work in helping cancer patients, her greatest satisfaction comes from seeing her daughters, Janell Lowe and Katie Jacobs, serve others in their careers as an oncology nurse practitioner and midwife, respectively.

This December, Lanell and Doug will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary. Throughout their church ministry, Lanell has shown her love for people by standing in the church lobby each week to greet everyone who attended. During Doug's teaching career at Southern, Lanell was active in the "Mates in Ministry" program for School of Religion student spouses, and she hosted the Student Ministerial Association's Christmas parties each year. She has also served for many years as a Sabbath School superintendent for the Acceptance Sabbath School class at Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists.

Lanell's philosophy of leadership and service has always been to ease the journey of others toward health, healing, and wholeness.

Southern Adventist University alumni, faculty, and staff honor Lanell Jacobs for her professional contributions and life of dedicated service to her patients and their families.

Alumna of the Year

Danae Netteburg, '02

Danae Bland Netteburg was born in 1979 in Oklahoma to parents who were missionaries in Nigeria prior to her birth. Being raised on the cattle farm her physician father ran as a hobby, she attended Ketchum Adventist Academy and then Ozark Adventist Academy in Arkansas. Danae graduated from Southern in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in biology and a chemistry minor. She was active for two years on Gym-Masters, which she still misses today. Danae took a one-year hiatus to serve as a student missionary in Zambia, which solidified her desire to become a missionary physician and serve abroad, as her parents did.



While at Loma Linda University in California, Danae kept active in missions, traveling as a medical student to Adventist hospitals in Ethiopia and Malawi. During her time in medical school, she met the man of her dreams—her husband, Olen. She was named “Miss Loma Linda” in 2006 for her embodiment of the spirit of the university and also earned her medical school diploma that year.

Matching her first choice for residency, Danae began her specialty training at Baystate Medical Center in Massachusetts in obstetrics and gynecology, and she and Olen were married soon afterward. During residency, she won awards for teaching excellence and for surgical excellence in the field of laparoscopy and was published for her research on respiratory distress in pregnant women during an avian flu outbreak. She completed her residency in 2010.

Danae has been on call for more than eight years, delivering thousands of babies and performing hundreds of Cesarean sections, hysterectomies, and fistula repairs for women in Chad, Africa. Feeling God's calling to a country with the infamous distinction as the Worst Country in the World to Be a Woman, as well as the most dire maternal and neonatal mortality rates, Danae provides a variety of medical and surgical interventions for females. She also is training the next generation of healthcare providers, empowering women whenever and wherever possible.

Since Danae's arrival at Chad's Bere Adventist Hospital, patient visits and surgical volume have doubled or tripled on all services, square footage of the hospital has expanded threefold, income has as much as quadrupled, and patients have visited from all six bordering countries. In 2016, the hospital was named the Best Hospital in Chad by the International Healthcare Commission, and Danae received an honorary doctorate in Humane Letters from Andrews University in 2017.

In her brief moments away from the hospital, Danae delivered her own four babies, including one who was born 48 hours before Danae took (and passed) her obstetrics and gynecology written boards. She also passed her oral boards and is now a board-certified Fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She loves to be with her children—ages 10, 8, 6, and 3—and to visit families in Chad. She frequently accompanies patients back to their distant villages or teaches Bible stories and gymnastics to children in remote settings. And she's often seen racing back to the hospital to save the lives of laboring women and their unborn babies.

In Chad, Danae and her children manage a garden and run a minor menagerie that has included a camel, a donkey, hedgehogs, monkeys, rabbits, dogs, a tortoise, and a revolving door of fowl, sheep, goats, a genet, and many cats.

The family's time in Chad hasn't been without trials. In addition to the typical political, cultural, and language challenges, each of Danae's children has been sick several times with malaria, requiring intravenous quinine for treatment. One child experienced malaria-related seizures. In addition, Danae has returned to America twice for medical evacuation (for herself and then later for her son) and once for political evacuation as recommended by the state department. Still, she courageously returns and stays, continuing to serve the African people.

While on furlough, Danae enjoys spending her time outdoors, planning the next projects for women and evangelism upon her return to Chad, filling up her husband's hard drive with photography, and traveling with her family. Most recently, Danae signed up herself and all of the children for four weeks of gymnastics classes.

Southern Adventist University alumni, faculty, and staff honor Danae Netteburg for her outstanding professional accomplishments and humanitarian service in the field of medical missions.

Young Alumnus of the Year

Luther Whiting, '12

Luther Whiting is a proud alumnus of Southern's School of Business, where he received his bachelor's degree in business administration in May 2012. He also holds a master's in international relations from American University in Washington, D.C., with a concentration in conflict resolution and international negotiation. Luther lives in Arlington, Virginia, with his wife, Lillian, and their dog, Hank.

For Luther, the supportive, mission-minded community at Southern was the perfect environment for coupling big dreams with the hard skills needed to realize them. When Luther first arrived on campus as a freshman, it was hard not to feel intimidated. His high school in northwestern Montana had only 10 students, which stood in sharp contrast to the sea of new faces and large brick buildings lining the Promenade. Luther's professors in Brock Hall and across campus quickly put his nerves at ease through their personalized teaching styles and open-door policy. He knew he wanted to give his college experience his best, and now he had the mentorship he needed to make an impact.

Shortly after arriving on campus, Luther spotted posters inviting candidates to apply for Student Association elections. Being naïve enough to apply while only having been at Southern two weeks, Luther submitted an application for executive vice president in hopes the position would provide the challenge he needed. Campaigning as a little-known freshman was an uphill battle—yet a few days later, Luther had posters of his own across campus, which included his campaign slogan: “See the need. Do your part. Be an example.” Attempting to raise support quickly, Luther personally knocked on all of the doors in Talge Hall and Southern Village and sent a delegation of girls to do the same in Thatcher Hall. When the election results rolled in, Luther had won by a slim margin of 36 votes, becoming one of the first freshmen in the university's history to fill an executive role in student government.



Luther chaired the 33-member Student Senate and contributed toward several campus initiatives, including repairing the soccer field, setting up a merit-based scholarship program, and allocating funds to create the Southern Outdoor Adventure Program.

The summer following his first semester, Luther traveled to Afghanistan to volunteer for a rural public health project being implemented by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency. Traveling through Afghanistan's remote villages exposed him to some of the unique challenges facing the communities. In addition to the danger and instability of a conflict zone, community members also had to grapple with treacherous terrain and limited access to commerce centers, making it difficult for them to earn a living or set up businesses. Luther saw this as an opportunity to practically apply the business skills he was learning at Southern in order to help these villages strengthen their local economies.

During the 2008-2009 school year, Luther consulted with his mentors at Southern, recruited a board of directors, and founded an organization called Noshaq. Named after Afghanistan's highest mountain, the organization's goal was to empower the country's rural economies through the development of agriculture, infrastructure, and sustainable small businesses. Luther led the organization over the following three and a half years as it improved the standard of living and increased access to services for more than 6,000 villagers in Afghanistan's mountainous northeast. Combining these field experiences with his academic work at Southern gave Luther an unforgettable and practical education. Upon graduation, Luther received the Bachelor's in Business Administration Senior of the Year Award, the Excellence in Nonprofit Leadership Award, and a Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE – now called ENACTUS) Medallion.

Following his education at Southern, Luther moved to the D.C. area, where he was hired by U.S. Senator Susan Collins to staff her on a broad legislative portfolio ranging from immigration reform, labor law, U.S. Postal Service policy, and firearms trafficking legislation. He also served on the staff of the Special Committee on Aging, where he supported investigations into an international fraud scheme targeting senior citizens and prepared a hearing exploring chronic traumatic encephalopathy in football players. Luther later leveraged his experience in international investigations to start a project called Citizen Catalyst. Working to improve crime reporting rates in regions with high levels of gang and cartel activity, Luther recruited a 12-member team ranging from senior federal law enforcement to policy advisors and data scientists. The team created a web- and phone-based app to help community members safely and securely report crime with minimal risk of retribution.

FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Hailing back to the tragic impact of war he had witnessed in Afghanistan years prior, Luther transitioned into conflict resolution work by accepting a role at Search for Common Ground, the largest dedicated international peacebuilding organization. On field assignment in Beirut, Lebanon, Luther managed four project teams in Lebanon and Syria focused on community dialogue, women's inclusion, and good governance. Later, at Search's headquarters back in Washington, Luther worked as a program development officer for the Global Affairs and Partnerships team, where he coordinated cross-regional and global fundraising bids and strategic relationships with government donors.

Today, he serves as a development manager at Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC), also in Washington. CIVIC works to protect civilians living in conflict zones by engaging governments, militaries, and the affected communities themselves to prevent, mitigate, and amend harm inflicted on innocent civilians. In his current role, Luther supports the expansion of CIVIC's six international programs and leads the organization's institutional fundraising efforts with governments and foundations.

Southern Adventist University alumni, faculty, and staff honor Luther Whiting for his professional and humanitarian contributions in the field of nonprofit, global community development and international peacekeeping efforts.

Graduate Studies Alumna of the Year

Tereshkova "Terri" Bonnick, '08

Terri Bonnick is a Tennessee state-certified and licensed professional school counselor. She is currently employed by the Hamilton County Department of Education and has been serving for the past 11 years as a high school counselor at Brainerd High School and The Howard School in Chattanooga. She earned a bachelor's degree in marketing and administration from Georgia State University in 2001 and a master's degree in professional school counseling from Southern Adventist University in 2008. She is the proud parent of a beautiful daughter, Tobi-Ann Vanessa.



Being a product of an inner-city environment influenced her to become a voice for her students who, for the most part, have been underserved and marginalized. Additionally, Terri's mother played an instrumental role in her life as a God-fearing, hardworking and caring woman. Her kindness and generosity towards those less fortunate had a strong influence on Terri and propelled her towards this same calling.

In 1985, after attending an evangelistic effort, Terri accepted the Lord Jesus and was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist family. Shortly afterward, she was inducted into the East Jamaica Conference Master Guide Leadership program. This further strengthened and prepared her for youth leadership ministry.

Not long after migrating to the United States Terri become actively involved with the Pathfinder ministries in Boston and Atlanta. In Atlanta, she became the leader for the Lithonia Church Pathfinder ministry. God allowed her to lead young people into many volunteer services within the Atlanta metropolitan area and missionary work overseas. They were obedient to the call of Christ in feeding the homeless, visiting nursing homes and volunteering with the Atlanta Food Bank. Because of their time spent together, they developed a close bond and Terri's home became a nurturing, Christ-like and safe environment for them. Each child was

able to freely express their self by being guided in a loving and nurturing manner.

In 1997 Terri decided to venture further into one of her passions by continuing her education, which resulted in her earning a bachelor degree in marketing and administration from Georgia State University. This allowed her to work for some of the largest Fortune 500 companies including Coca-Cola, UPS and the 1996 Atlanta Centennial Olympics. She worked for several years in the business industry but never stopped working with children during the evenings and on weekends. These experiences made her a sought-after caregiver and taught her how to work with families from diverse backgrounds. She continued this ministry, but the Lord again had other plans.

In May 2006, Terri interviewed for the master's teaching program at Southern. The registrar reviewed her records and suggested that she consider becoming a school counselor instead of a teacher. She was unsure of the role of school counselors but, looking back now she knows that God was instrumental in directing her career. She returned to Atlanta, researched what it would take to become a school counselor and immediately started working on making a move to Collegedale. Terri graduated in 2008 and was offered a job in the Hamilton County school system.

Terri says that Southern truly prepared her for this noble career. She can now see the parallels in her life with Jesus' parable of the talents found in Matthew 25:14-30.

"When you discover the talents that God has given you and you use them to glorify Him, you will experience a fulfilled life," testifies Terri.

Southern Adventist University alumni, faculty, and staff honor Terri Bonnick for her outstanding professional accomplishments in the fields of school counseling, guidance and youth leadership development.

Honorary Alumni

Bill and Beverly Wilson

Bill and Beverly Wilson both grew up in Seventh-day Adventist self-supporting educational settings. From Madison College in Tennessee to Pine Forest Academy in Mississippi, then on to Fletcher Academy and Mountain Sanitarium and Hospital in North Carolina and eventually Florida Hospital, this couple has invested their lives in helping young people.



Bill and Beverly attended grade school through academy at Madison College, where both sets of their parents were faculty members. Bill continued his education there through his first year of college before being drafted into the Army in 1945.

Beverly finished academy three years later, about the same time Bill was discharged and returned home to Madison, where he says he “rediscovered Beverly.” In the fall of 1947, they both attended Union College for their first year. Bill continued his education there, while Beverly returned home to study at Madison College. In August 1949, they married and returned to Union, where Bill graduated with a bachelor’s in theology in 1950. They recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary.

From Nebraska, the couple moved to Pine Forest Academy in Chunky, Mississippi, where their home for the next two years was the boys’ dormitory. The 10 boys living there became their adopted family. Bill taught Bible, math, and history and was the school principal his second year along with working on the farm. Beverly taught typing and shorthand and helped in the kitchen, laundry, and nursing home. Earning \$10 a month each in those early days honed their survival skills. The second year, they received a raise to \$20 per month. Occasionally they drove students to their home off-campus and invited them to Madison for Christmas. Bill credits his Mississippi experience as “better than getting a master’s degree in education!”

Leaving there, the couple returned home to Madison, where Bill became the principal and taught Bible, history, and math from 1952 to 1958. Bill completed his master's degree in education at George Peabody College in Nashville in 1956. During this time, three children joined the family: daughter, Candace, and sons Kevin and Kenton.

Next, the family moved to Fletcher in 1958, where Bill served as president of the institution. Students became the Wilsons' babysitters and did ironing and other chores to help with their tuition expenses, all the while becoming like family to the couple. Even to this day, they receive Mother's Day and Father's Day cards from a student who credits the Wilsons with sustaining him through academy days.

In 1963, the family moved to Hinsdale, Illinois, where Bill served in hospital administration for the next 13 years. Beverly worked as a hospital receptionist and admitting office clerk.

Bill became a vice president at Florida Hospital (now AdventHealth) in Orlando in 1980. Beverly worked as the main receptionist and volunteered in different areas of the hospital.

Giving of their time and resources has been a consistent pattern for the Wilsons. Bill has served on school and church boards in many places, and he chaired the United Way campaign in Orlando. Over their 26 years in Florida, the Wilsons served their church in many capacities and also supported young people in church school. They played a part in establishing Shepherd's Hope, a medical clinic for an underserved population, and also volunteered with an interdenominational project through the Florida Hospital Church, providing meals and lodging for the homeless population.

Bill retired in 2006, and the Wilsons then moved to Collegedale to join their son, Kevin, and his wife, Scarlett, and their two children in the area. Shortly after arriving, Bill was seeking ways to be involved so paid a visit to Gordon Bietz, university president at the time. Gordon referred him to Joy McKee, who was preparing to start a formal volunteer program. Bill and Joy began visiting area churches to recruit volunteers as Southern Lights.

Within a few months, the Lights program had about 80 volunteers, and Bill became the director of volunteers. His duties included student transportation to and from airport and medical appointments, and he joined Beverly in Food Service while serving meals to students (before the current self-serve process) and hosting during Sabbath lunches, helping with salad preparation, setting up for banquets, and preparing the gymnasium for Homecoming Weekend events. Beverly continues to volunteer for these activities. She also volunteered in the School

of Nursing by sorting old records and in the School of Social Work by setting up for luncheons.

In addition to activities in the Lights volunteer program, Bill also served at Volunteers in Medicine in Chattanooga. He and Beverly both currently volunteer for The Samaritan Center and It Is Written.

While providing student transportation needs, Bill connected with Chinese students arriving at the airport from Palau Academy to attend Southern. His fatherly nature kicked in with these young people so far from home. Beverly and Bill became their American “parents” and immersed themselves in the lives of these young people.

Branching out from there, the Wilsons began helping worthy students at Lester Coon Adventist Elementary School in Apison and at Collegedale Academy in addition to those attending Southern. Bill often marvels at how God has blessed them and how happy they are to pass along these blessings to others. “The more I give to God, the more I receive.”

Southern Adventist University alumni, faculty, and staff honor Bill and Beverly Wilson for their generous gifts of time and hospitality dedicated to helping students achieve their goals of obtaining a Christian education and for being faithful examples of the joy to be found while serving others.

Honorary Alumnus

Philip G. Samaan

Philip Samaan served for 20 years as a professor in the School of Religion at Southern before retiring. Now as professor emeritus, he still teaches religion courses once or twice a year.

While teaching at Southern, Philip was a recipient of the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching, the President's Award for Commitment to Student Success, and the President's Award for Customer Service Excellence. He also held the Ellen G. White Memorial Chair in Religion for 18

years. On campus, he was quite active in reaching out to students, taking special interest in their lives and spiritual growth, which led many to make commitments to Jesus and to baptism. He also enjoyed visiting with faculty and staff members. For a decade, he served food in the university cafeteria on Pasta Day and ate meals with students a few times each week, resulting in many new friendships.

Prior to Southern, Philip served as the chief editor of the *Adult Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly* at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and as a professor at the Andrews University Department of Religion and the Theological Seminary in Michigan. There he was the recipient of the Zappara Award for Excellence in Teaching. He conducted weeks of prayer for the university and the seminary and also had an active outreach to the campus and community. Additionally, he directed the Center of Continuing Education for Ministry as well as the Master and Doctor of Ministry programs.

Earlier, he served as a missionary in Africa in the position of director of Personal Ministries and Sabbath School departments in what was then the Africa-Indian Ocean Division. He learned French while at Collonges-sous-Salève, France, in preparation to serve in that francophone part of Africa.



In the Northwest, Philip served as the director of Youth Outreach and Campus Ministries for the North Pacific Union Conference. This involved reaching out to students on the Walla Walla University campus in Washington, at the nine academies in the Union, and to Adventist students attending public universities. His ministry there was not only to provide spiritual nurture to the students but also to involve them in outreach activities to others around them.

Philip pioneered starting new churches in the Idaho Conference by training members to emulate Christ's example of reaching people, and he was ordained to the gospel ministry.

Philip graduated from Portland Adventist Academy in Oregon (where his caring teachers helped him finish two semesters in one). He also graduated from Walla Walla with bachelor's degrees in theology and history. He was active in student government, student outreach, and evangelistic campaigns during Christmas breaks. He also served as a student literature evangelism leader for several summers. He attended Loma Linda University in California and completed a master's degree in public health as well as his doctorate. While at Loma Linda as well as Andrews, he conducted weeks of prayers for both university and local academy students, and he ministered to students in small Bible study groups, evangelism training, and spiritual counseling.

Throughout his ministry, Philip has traveled extensively to conduct training seminars in his ministry called Christ's Way and to help others become like Jesus, whatever their walks in life.

Among his published works are the books *Christ's Way of Reaching People*, *Christ's Way to Pray*, *Christ's Way of Salvation*, *Christ's Way of Making Disciples*, *Christ's Way of Affirmation*, *Christ's Way to Spiritual Growth*, *Christ's Way to Restoration*, *Christ's Method Alone*, *Blood Brothers*, *Dare to Be a Daniel*, *Abraham's Other Son*, and *The Mideast Messiah*.

Philip is still active in his outreach on Southern's campus and continues to minister as an accomplished author and an engaging, inspiring public speaker. He has been married to his wife, Sherilyn, whom he met in college at Walla Walla, for more than 47 years. She served as a music professor for many years and is a registered nurse. They have a married daughter, Marla, a 2002 Southern graduate, who now has two small children.

Southern Adventist University alumni, faculty, and staff honor Philip Samaan for his many years of dedicated ministry and service to university students and colleagues.

Southern Lady of the Year

Jeanette "Jeanie" Meyer, '78 and '03

Jeanette (Penner) Meyer was born in Tacoma Park, Maryland, to missionary parents who worked at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. During her childhood years, she moved with her parents and brother, Ken, to Atlanta, Georgia, when her father transitioned to the Southern Union Conference. She attended Atlanta Junior Academy and Georgia-Cumberland Academy and was chosen as "Most Congenial" by her graduating class in 1976.

Jeanie completed her associate nursing degree at Southern in 1978 and then an MBA in 2003. She also received a bachelor's degree in organizational management from Covenant College in 1984.

Professionally, Jeanie has more than 41 years of experience in the healthcare industry, including 28 years of clinical research focus. Her passion for "developing the molecule" has included positions in senior leadership, performance consulting, project management, training/coaching, and administration of a research center. Additionally, she has worked in pharmaceutical sales, business development, and critical-care areas of a hospital.

Jeanie uses her clinical, sales, and business backgrounds to understand corporate and performance objectives and to collaborate with customers, peers, and project teams to improve performance in support of strategic business goals.

Jeanie is most passionate about current research using the immune system to fight cancer. This involves CAR-T engineering, checkpoint inhibitors, and a variety of targeted therapies involving monoclonal antibodies that provide treatment options to traditional chemotherapy. Her employment since 2017 has been with Syneos Health, based in North Carolina, where she has served as senior clinical monitoring project lead and currently is manager of clinical operations.



FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Through shared friends and family, Jeanie met her husband, Randall, and remembers her first impression of a handsome engineering student and his '67 Mustang! They dated for two years while she was in nursing school and he was in engineering school. A typical date consisted of going to Taco Bell in downtown Chattanooga and then studying in McKee Library. They married in 1978 and have lived in the Chattanooga area ever since. Last year they celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with the same car, same dress, and same silk bouquet from their nuptials. Randall manages his own engineering company, Ranco Engineering and Consulting.

Jeanie and Randall have two children, both of whom are graduates of Southern. Their daughter, Kristen, '03, married Joe Harmon in 2009. The couple met in Orlando, where she works in human resources acquisitions at AdventHealth, and Joe is a director for EA Sports; they have a daughter, Ellarose. The Meyers' son, Charles, '08, graduated from Loma Linda's School of Medicine in 2012. He completed an emergency medicine residency at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga and works in the emergency room at the Erlanger East location. Charles is married to Carolyn, a cardiac nurse at Chattanooga's Memorial Hospital, whom he met at Schloss Bogenhofen in Austria while studying German abroad.

The Meyers have attended the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists for 42 years. Jeanie served as lead decorator for 38 years and in a variety of roles from children's division leader to elder to head elder. She has been a member on a variety of committees, including the board of elders, church board, and school board. She has been involved at the conference and union levels and served for the past 10 years on the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Executive Committee and Personnel Committee.

Jeanie's hobbies include hosting events for family, friends, and church. Her true love is gardening and working with flowers. Hiking, biking, tent camping, and kayaking are also frequent activities. Jeanie plays hymns and classical piano as a form of relaxation and worship. She finds strength in simple scripture and gathers inspiration from studying how Daniel and Joseph handled work situations. The verse that she repeats every day is "In quietness and trust is your strength" (Isaiah 30:15, NIV). While understanding how difficult it can be to incorporate this principle in management within secular organizations, Jeanie firmly believes that stopping to claim this promise allows God to provide both the power and path forward.

Jeanie gives glory to God for guiding her education at Southern, blessing her nursing and leadership careers in science, and giving her family, friends, and a supportive church community. She is especially grateful for Southern nursing instructors Shirley Spears, Charlene Robertson, and Bonnie Hunt, who have been true mentors for life; Barbara Eller for mentoring, sharing decorating expertise, and generosity; Inelda Hefferlin for demonstrating the joy and abundance of life; and for the influence of servant leaders, such as Gordon Bietz, Ed Wright, and David and Cherie Smith.

Southern Adventist University alumni, faculty, and staff honor Jeanie Meyer for her outstanding professional contributions to clinical research and leadership and for many years of exemplary service to her community and church.