



BECAUSE OF YOU

Annual Report 2015-2016



To serve as Southern's 26th president is an honor, and being able to work with mission-focused young people is a true privilege. Southern has a rich tradition of excellence, made possible by God's guidance and those who believe in the university and our students. Any achievements could not be possible without the involvement of our loyal alumni, friends and constituents who give in so many ways.

In these pages, you will see transformational stories of our students and what has been accomplished in the last academic year because of you.

Over the coming 2016-2017 school year, our campus will focus on noting what God is doing for us and our students while giving Him glory for His leading, exploring ways to help students take ownership of their spiritual lives and to take more leadership roles on our campus, creating a strong customer service culture, and clarifying our mission and strengthening our commitment to it. Our philanthropic partners are key to accomplishing these goals.

Southern will continue to be a place of vision—a model for Christian higher education. We are in the business of training leaders and we must provide leadership opportunities to our students so they can face the challenges of tomorrow.

I believe in providing experiences for our students to develop a more authentic spiritual life. It is my prayer that all who spend significant time on our campus will leave Southern with an absolute love for God and with a deep, meaningful connection to their church.

As I begin this new journey, I will continue to surrender my life to God, entrusting Him to work out His will for Southern.

I want to personally say how much I appreciate those like you who have invested in our mission and our students. I look forward to partnering with you and working to prepare the next generation of leaders who will impact our world.

David Smith

David Smith
President

Bonus Videos: See students' experiences come to life by using the layar app.

THIS BOOK FEATURES **layar** INTERACTIVE PRINT



Download the free
Layar App



southern.edu/layar



Scan pages where
you see this icon



The Southern Experience: Humans of Southern

Life changing connections happen on our campus and around the world every day—we call it the Southern Experience. It's students in the Dining Hall discussing passions and dreams with professors. It's the student missionary in Zambia sharing God's love with a classroom full of children. It takes place on the intramural field, in the residence halls, on the streets of Chattanooga, in a prayer room. These experiences are possible because of you and your support.

Humans of Southern began as a way to highlight the unique and wonderful people of Southern on social media. Enjoy these bite-sized, thought-provoking stories that give just a glimpse of the Southern Experience and your impact on their lives.

Want more stories? Like Humans of Southern on Facebook and follow us on Instagram.

Steven Collins

Business administration
and public relations major

"Southern has given me the opportunity to be used by God a lot, and I love that. I play guitar and drums for Engage ministries, part of the recruitment office. We go out and people ask "what's your favorite thing about Southern?" and I say it's the opportunities that we have! It's just so cliché because they hear that all the time, but it's true."

Taylor Schepers

Mass communications major

"Coming to Southern, I was trying to start fresh. I came here and met some people, and they make me feel like I really belong to this group now. It's really comforting to know that I have friends that have my back, and we hang out a lot. It's the first time I have ever had a group of people that I feel like I belong to. I have finally found my people at Southern."

Indira Strachan

Nursing major

"God has done a lot for me and my family this year. My freshman year, I thought that with my scores and GPA it wasn't possible to get into the nursing program. My mom stressed that I should keep searching and talking to God. Even though I may not hear Him now, He'll show up. And He showed up, of course, right on time!"





Samantha Gozo

Allied health major

"My journey to Christ has been impacted in a positive way by Southern's Campus Ministries program. I had the amazing privilege of being dorm chaplain last year. Being there for others and creating a support system helped my spiritual life improve by teaching me that I am here to be filled with Christ first so that I can share this love with others. I am majoring in health science because I plan on pursuing a degree in physical therapy. I want to combine my passion of helping people and minister to them. I know I would enjoy helping them on their journey to recovery."


Joshua Supit

Nursing major

"I'm planning on becoming a medical missionary in the long run, that's why I'm doing nursing pre-med. I feel like nursing gives you the practical aspect and medicine gives you the knowledge. Southern has prepared me for that by accepting me into their nursing program, by God's grace, Level 2 now. I am learning more and more, and I'll be able to use that overseas or wherever God wants me to be to help heal people physically so that we can heal them spiritually."

Gina Campos

Liberal arts education major

 "I really believed God was calling me to Southern so I packed my things and got in the car. I didn't have housing or anything, but I knew I wanted to be a teacher. Prayer has been the biggest part of why I'm here."

Samantha Gozo

Joshua Supit

Your support impacts every student's life. These students and many others wanted to be sure and say

Thank You!

Syleah Harlequin

Nursing major

"Thank you so much for the generous sacrifice that you make in order to help students like me continue my education. If it weren't for people as kind as you, I probably wouldn't be able to attend here. God bless you and thank you for your support!"

Jeffery Brownlow

Financial management major

"I cannot express how grateful I am for your contribution. I am loving the atmosphere and my education. Thank you for helping!"

Jonathan Tangunan

Biology major

"My time at Southern has been a rich blessing and growing experience; I greatly appreciate any help to keep me here. May God continue to bless you in all you do!"

Kaylie Ackerman

Liberal arts education major

"Thank you so much for making it possible for students like me to get an Adventist education at Southern. Because of your donation, I learned about the opportunity to be a student missionary in Bolivia and will actually be serving next year."

Gina Campos





CLASS OF 2016

Jose Briones

Theology graduate

"It was the middle of my junior year. I was struggling with one of my classes, and my professor took me aside. That day changed my life because I saw someone cared for me and someone really had the best interest for my education, for my future and for my religious life. Coming here challenged my faith. It allowed me to see I need to be in charge of my own faith."

Veronica Garcia

Business administration
and public relations graduate

"I had recently become a Christian, so coming on Southern's campus was a huge culture shock; I didn't really want to be here and was close minded to everything. Southern grew on me, and I started to love it. I loved the people, my professors, the classes—I just loved the whole experience. I am going to miss this school so much and couldn't imagine going anywhere else."



Emmanuel Cabrera

Psychology graduate

"The reason I wanted to attend an Adventist college after going to a public university was to experience a Christian perspective. This is a place where we can be about business, and we can be about education and academia, but at the same time we can also talk about God and talk about Heaven."

Jordan Powell

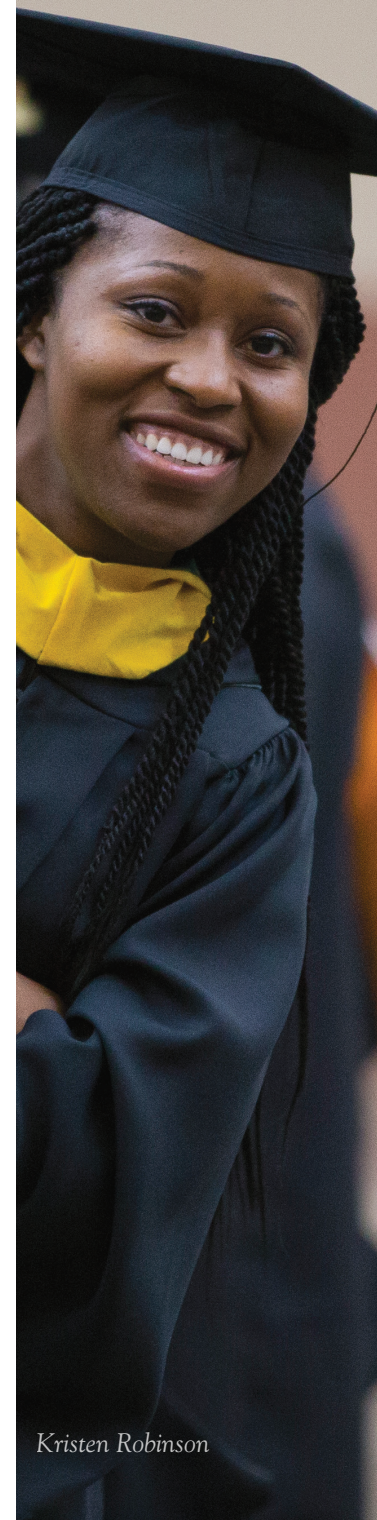
International studies graduate

"It was always my plan to be a part of the study-abroad program, and it has opened a world of possibilities. I've gotten to go as a student missionary to South America and studied abroad in Europe; it's all been one big blur. I definitely had my struggles, like anyone else, but you're growing spiritually and you're learning how to help others and take others with you as you climb to success and achieve your goals. There are so many different ways I have grown and am still growing because of my time here."

Alexy Gatica

Psychology graduate

"When I first came to Southern, I was a totally different person. I didn't really know Jesus. Throughout my years here, I've really come to know who God is, and because I've come to know Him I've also come to know who I am. No other school can compare to ours. It's the best decision I've ever made."



Kristen Robinson

we believe

On April 28, 2016, Southern Adventist University publicly announced the launch of our newest comprehensive initiative—The Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning. The \$50 million effort is focused on three main areas: endowments, annual giving, and capital projects. Southern has received more than \$32 million in cash and pledges toward the overall goal.

Endowments

We believe in opening doors to a private, Christian education.

Endowments create perpetual funding for faculty research, programs, and scholarships. Endowed scholarships—and the hope that they bring—have made it possible for thousands of students to graduate from Southern. There remains a pressing demand; students need financial assistance now more than ever to enroll and continue their education.

We are committed to assisting students who seek an excellent academic education rooted in Christ.

Because we desire to be financially accessible, we are committed to growing the university's endowment by at least \$7 million over a five-year period. We take this opportunity to say thank you to all those who impact the endowment through their annual and planned gifts.

Annual Giving

We believe annual gifts to Southern keep tuition lower than the university's actual per-student expenses.

Tuition covers approximately 80 percent of education-related costs. This kind of financial grace, 20 percent, means students are able to attend each year who would otherwise miss out on a Christian education and the Southern Experience.

Your contributions help those who are training to serve others! By making it easier for students to fulfill their lifelong mission as well as the university's, your annual gifts to Southern transform tomorrow.

Capital

The Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning will help fund a number of capital projects on Southern's campus that enhance the student experience. In 2015-2016 we received \$7,536,853 in new gifts and pledges to be used for these capital projects.

• Bietz Center for Student Life

We believe in creating spaces for transformational student experiences.

In April, university leadership broke ground on the Bietz Center for Student Life, named in honor of retiring president Gordon Bietz and his family for their leadership and impact on our campus.

A new space is vital to ensure students have the best opportunity to find their life calling. This building is being designed with a focus to ensure a strong family feeling on our campus. It will become a student hub where networking and lifelong relationships are nurtured as part of Southern's living and learning environment. Large open areas for study and recreation will be the hallmark of this building, while flexible spaces for spiritual activities are also a priority.

There are still a number of naming opportunities for this new building, which is scheduled to open in the fall of 2018.



• Residence Hall Enhancements

We believe by learning and living together students are immersed in opportunities that encourage transformation.

Together, our students and employees form a small community. Maintaining that family dynamic is essential to the Southern experience.

Southern began renovating 26 Thatcher Hall rooms in summer 2016. These rooms in the women's residence hall will accommodate students with allergy issues, prominent throughout Chattanooga. The new rooms feature luxury vinyl flooring, new cabinetry, new vanity and sink, along with a fresh coat of paint.

There is still an opportunity to be among those helping to ensure this and other future renovations in the residence halls.

• Academic Excellence

We believe in discovery.

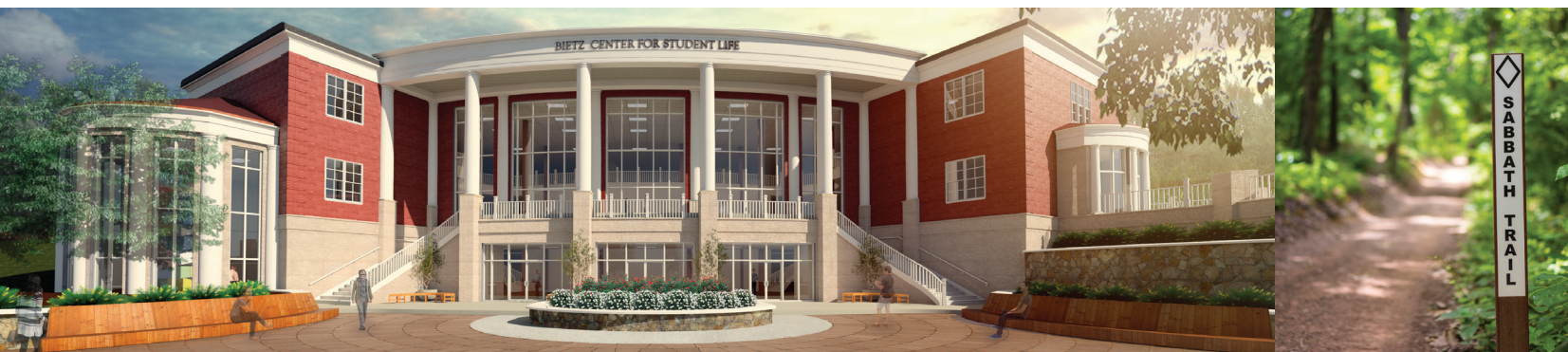
Increasing academic spaces will consolidate disconnected classrooms, work spaces, and faculty offices to create more areas for brainstorming, learning, and creating. In 2015-2016, areas of McKee Library were renovated to enhance existing study rooms and create future spaces for student and faculty.

• Green Spaces

We believe the beauty of nature displayed on campus is exceptional and seek to maximize its use.

God's abundant natural resources, including Southern's 800 forested mountain acres, are to be cherished, protected, and nurtured. Thanks to the generosity of land and funds gifted to Southern, the university is expanding its trail systems on Bauxite Ridge. This expansion includes a new two-mile Sabbath Trail for reflection that includes inspirational plaques with biblical and historical information. The official dedication is scheduled for September 10, 2016.

Visit southern.edu/webelieve for more information about the Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning.



FACTS

14:1

STUDENT - FACULTY RATIO

ENROLLMENT REPRESENTS STUDENTS
FROM ALL **50** STATES AND **43** COUNTRIES

14TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

**BEST
COLLEGES**
Ranked by
U.S. News
2016



1,410 **IN 2,604
INTRAMURAL GAMES**



1,200 in LifeGroups,
student-led small group
Bible studies

57 in
Southern Scholars,
the interdisciplinary honors program

OVER **17,000**
LIVING ALUMNI

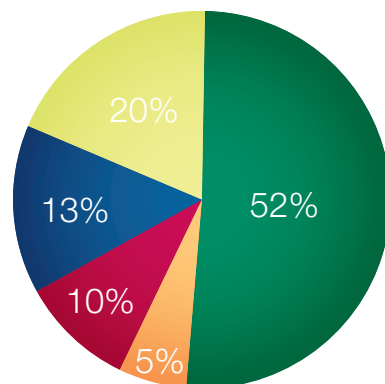
739
students
graduated
this **year**,
a **record**
number



98,877
Hours of community service and
service learning initiatives with
50
organizations

47%
of students
are from the
Southern Union

STUDENT BODY



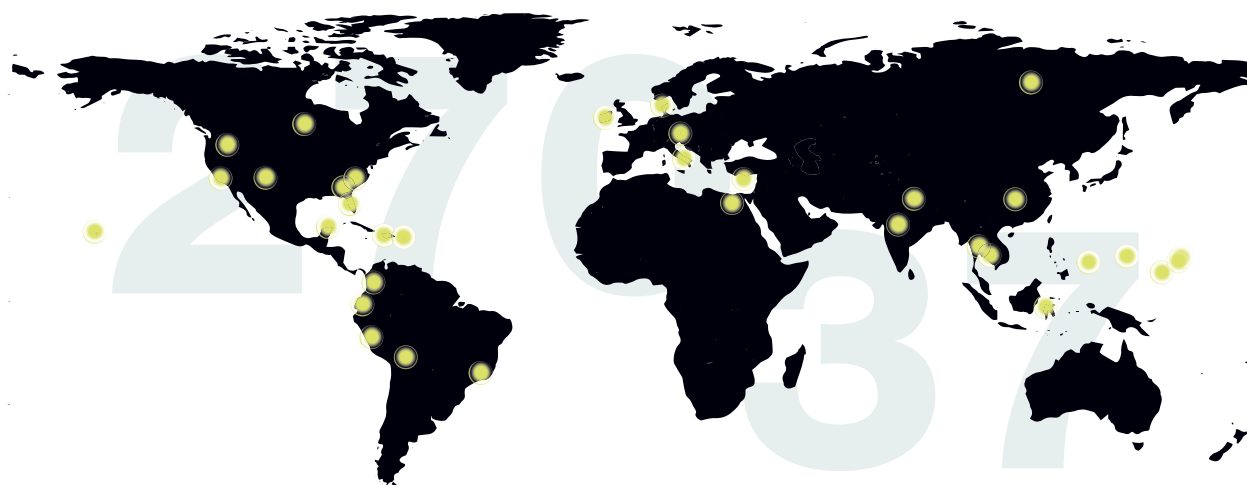
- White Non-Hispanic
- Hispanic
- Black or African American
- Asian
- Other minority groups

MISSIONS

short- and long-term

= Participants

270 in **37** countries



YOUR IMPACT

79.8%

of undergraduate students received grant or scholarship aid.

694 students received funds from endowed scholarships.

14.10%
alumni giving

\$1,400

is the average amount awarded annually to each endowed scholarship recipient.

1,373

people gave to the Southern Fund, the lifeblood of Southern which helps keep tuition 20 percent lower for students. This was a **record-breaking year**, with the **highest number of donors** ever to this fund.

466

have chosen to support to 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.

78% of employees gave back to Southern (twice the national average).

\$251,172

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

4,539

alumni, friends, students, corporations and foundations gave **\$12,263,691** through Southern to impact our students, our community, and our world. This was a record-breaking year, with the **largest amount of total gifts ever to Southern**.

1,878

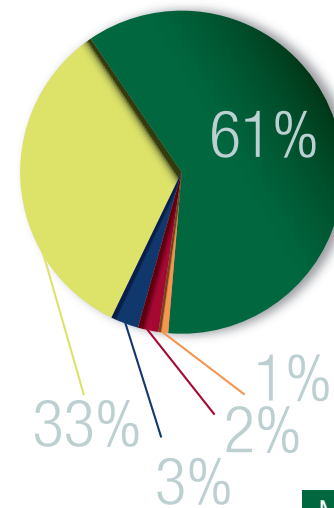
supporters are recognized as Loyalty Circle members for making an annual gift for three consecutive years or more.

Advancement Call Center students had

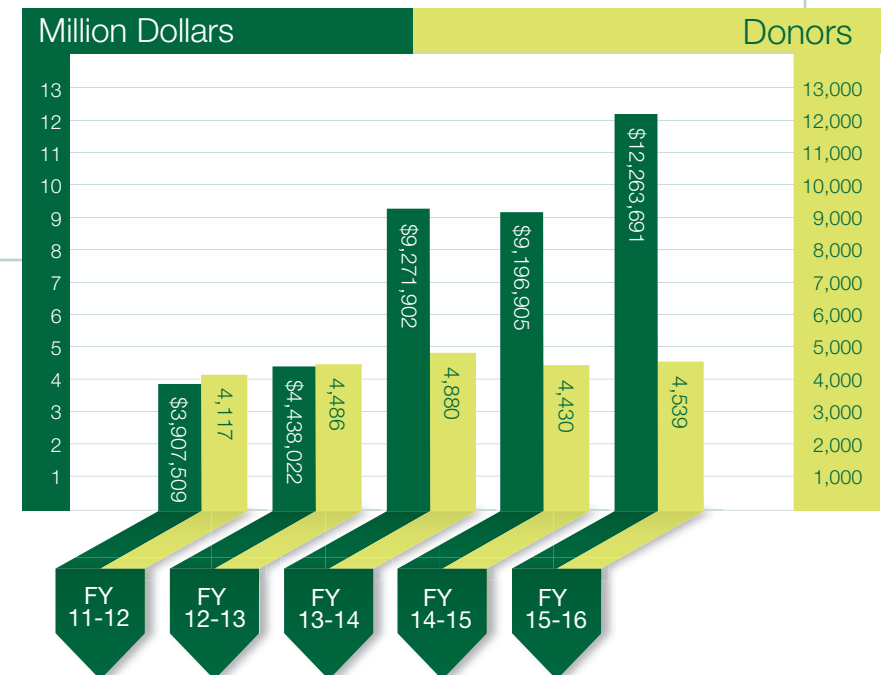
2,693

meaningful conversations with alumni and friends.

475 donors made a gift to Southern in honor of Gordon Bietz's retirement after **19** years as Southern's president.



- Federal Scholarships and Loans: \$25,235,000
- Southern Scholarships: \$13,559,000
- State Scholarships: \$1,313,322
- Endowment Scholarships: \$863,000
- Temporary Restricted Scholarships: \$504,000



2015-16 Total Giving: \$12,263,691

- Capital Projects: \$6,771,286
- Named Endowed Scholarships and Chairs: \$1,490,149
- ASSIST and Promise Programs: \$1,271,600
- Academic Areas: \$1,050,948
- Missions: \$556,305
- Other: \$400,272
- WSMC: \$230,702
- Southern Fund: \$213,026
- Student Scholarship Fund: \$159,004
- Non-Endowed Scholarships and Awards: \$120,395

Visit southern.edu/community and create an account to view the donor honor roll.

Serving as Southern Adventist University's 25th president was the opportunity of a lifetime.

During my 19 years at the helm, I had the privilege to pass out nearly half of all diplomas to our alumni, many of whom could not have received that opportunity without scholarship assistance. I especially enjoyed interacting with our alumni and friends who faithfully support Southern with their time, talent and treasure.

I was blessed to be a part of a transformational, record-breaking year because of your generosity.

As I reflect back upon my tenure, it is with overwhelming gratitude for Southern's family of donors that impact nearly 3,000 students' lives every day and shape the future of Southern, and our world.

Though my time as president has ended, I believe the best for Southern is yet to come. David Smith is a man of God, and I have complete confidence he will provide the necessary leadership, vision, and support to make sure Southern remains an exceptional place of spiritual and academic growth for our students. I believe Southern students will continue to impact the world, and I firmly believe God will continue to lead and inspire all on our campus to pursue truth, wholeness, and service.

Southern is a place that changes lives for the better – it certainly has changed mine.

As I now join you as a loyal giver, thank you for all you continue to do for Southern and all the ways in which you deepen and extend Southern's impact.



Gordon Bietz
Preceding President

