

# PANORAMA

parent newsletter

May 2016



## Southern's Campus Community Fosters Love of the Outdoors

There is a place at Southern where it's easy to forget the rest of the world exists. It's a wild space where I can lose myself among the trees while my legs eat up the miles of dirt below. Most people call this place the Biology Trails. To me it's a haven; a paradise gifted from Southern to ensure I'm never too far from the outdoors.

I was raised in the mountains of western North Carolina. Childhood was filled with hiking and camping, due to the encouragement of my parents as well as the abundance of opportunities right outside my door. I never had trouble getting outside—be it to run, hike, or otherwise. Then I left North Carolina and headed to college.

I didn't enroll at Southern based on the possibility of outdoor adventures (think friends and proximity to home), but I soon learned that being here increased my recreational opportunities. A lot. The campus itself is a living billboard for the outdoors, and even moments as simple as hammock-

ing in the Student Park have provided the escape to nature I desire.

The people I met along the way were a large part of my continued exploration of the outdoors. It was with a group from Southern that I first learned to climb. Friends from school were the ones to accompany me on a cross-country trip to hike the Grand Canyon. On weekends, there was never a shortage of people willing to hike, swim, or just get out for a while.

### Always More to Learn

My second year at Southern, I took a backpacking class. I joined on the assumption of an easy A, banking on my years of camping to lend the knowledge I would need. Very quickly, I found there was so much more to learn. From what to bring to how to pack to what you should do in a storm, my skill set increased, and my fascination with living from a backpack grew.

Our class trip was a weekend hike on

the Appalachian Trail. October brought us ice and wind and one of the coldest nights of my life, but with it I found a new love. I left the class itching to get back out, and soon I was purchasing gear and embarking on trips of my own.

Perhaps the biggest role Southern has played in my outdoor experience is providing me with a close escape. I have enjoyed the Student Park and found adventure at Goliath Wall, but it's the Biology Trails that win the title of favorite.

The Biology Trails have become my sanctuary. There I leave the stress behind and focus on my feet on the packed dirt and the next hill I need to climb. Even on days with little free time, it's easy to fit in a run as I don't have to go far to get out. There is a whole new world right in my backyard!

Southern has grown my love for the outdoors more than I ever imagined. I have gained new skills, picked up new hobbies, and explored new trails. I have learned to fit the outdoors into my daily routine and discovered new passions to fuel my career.

As my December graduation nears, more time is centered on papers, projects, and tests, so it's hard to get out. But even at the end of my busiest days, I feel the familiar urge to lace up my running shoes and head to the woods. I'm grateful to Southern for keeping the outdoors close and giving me a place I can go.

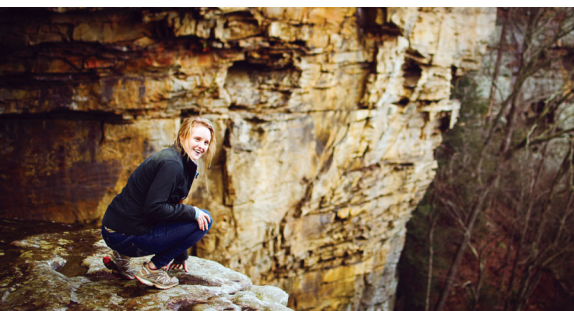
~Julia Bonney



Senior journalism major Julia Bonney enjoys a hike in her home state of North Carolina.

# GET OUT AND PLAY!

*Southern's campus offers plenty of places for students to grab some fresh air and let off a little steam after a busy day at work or week in the books. For those seeking adventure beyond the campus' hills, Chattanooga provides an impressive slate of outdoor activities. In fact, it recently won top prize in Outside Magazine's "Best Place to Live" contest for a second time. Exploring these spots that earn national accolades is a right of passage for Southern students. To help you connect with your student, we've compiled just a few of the places you're likely to hear him or her mention. Maybe you can join them for an action-packed afternoon next time you're in town! ~Julia Bonney*



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## HIKING

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### Lula Lake

Blue pools and thundering waterfalls help make Lula Lake one of the most stunning destinations in the Southeast. A half-mile gravel road leads straight to the falls, but additional trails add options for those looking to go farther. Be sure to plan ahead as Lula Lake is only open the first and last Saturday of each month.

*Distance from Southern: 29.1 miles*

### Edwards Point

For those who are looking to log miles, Edwards Point offers a six-mile round trip (RT) or 12-mile RT hike, depending the direction you come from. With waterfalls, elevation gains, and spectacular views of the Tennessee River Gorge, the hike is perfect for experiencing the full splendor of East Tennessee.

*Distance from Southern: 29.5 miles*

### Falling Water Falls

It's just a short walk to the top of the lesser-known Falling Water Falls, but keep hiking and the trail leads down the mountain to the river and a shorter waterfall. A trek up the river leads to what is perhaps the most impressive of the falls and allows a chance for the Chacos to be put to use.

*Distance from Southern: 31.7 miles*

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## SWIMMING

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### Blue Hole at Soddy Daisy

Come summertime, few things feel better than a dip in a mountain river. With its many deep hollows, the Blue Hole is a perfect setting for cliff jumping and rope swinging. Calm pools ensure there's something for everyone. This place is a Southern hot spot and crowds are guaranteed, but don't let that deter you—there's water enough to go around!

*Distance from Southern: 28.7 miles*

### Harrison Bay

Catch some air while cliff jumping out near Harrison Bay State Park. Located on Chickamauga Lake, Harrison Bay provides easy lake access for those looking to swim. If you want to push the limits, head to the cliffs where a 30-foot drop makes for a quick and thrilling water entry.

*Distance from Southern: 13.4 miles*

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## MOUNTAIN BIKING

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### Enterprise South Nature Park

Located less than 15 minutes from Southern, the Enterprise South Nature Park (commonly known as the

VW trails) provides miles of trails for biking and running. Formerly the site of the Volunteer Army Ammunition Plant, this property still houses concrete magazines scattered throughout, and a few are open to explore. Be sure to check closing time before heading out as park hours change with the seasons.

*Distance from Southern: 10.8 miles*

### Raccoon Mountain

Start your ride with views of the Tennessee River Gorge and head downhill over miles of technical and rolling trails. Bring two cars so you can park one at the bottom and save yourself from peddling back up to the top.

*Distance from Southern: 26 miles*

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## CLIMBING

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### The Tennessee Wall

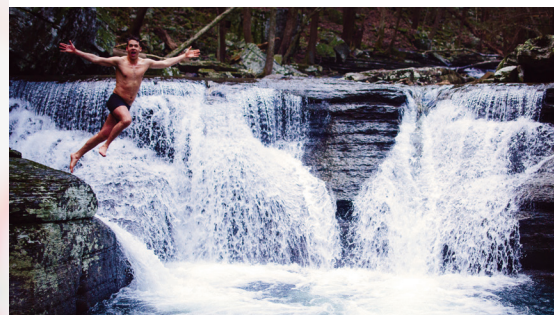
Known locally as T-Wall, this section in Prentice Cooper State Forest offers a range of climbing options. Check openings before heading out as the area is closed some days for hunting.

*Distance from Southern: 29.8 miles*

### Stone Fort Bouldering

With a plethora of boulders scattered throughout, this location (known in recreation circles as Little Rock City) is a climber's dream. With grades ranking from V.1 to V.9, beginners and experts alike will find challenges. Crash pads and friends recommended.

*Distance from Southern: 29.4 miles*



PHOTOS THIS PAGE BY LOGAN FOLL, '14

# SABBATH TRAIL

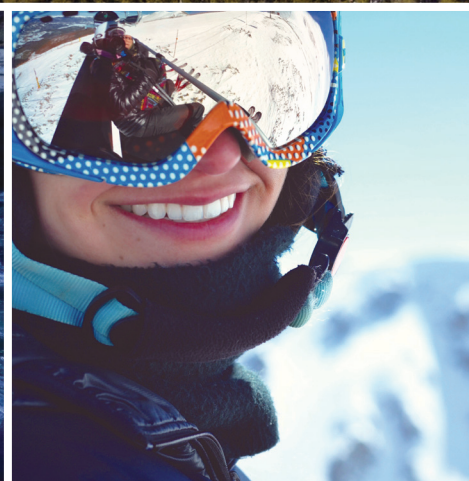
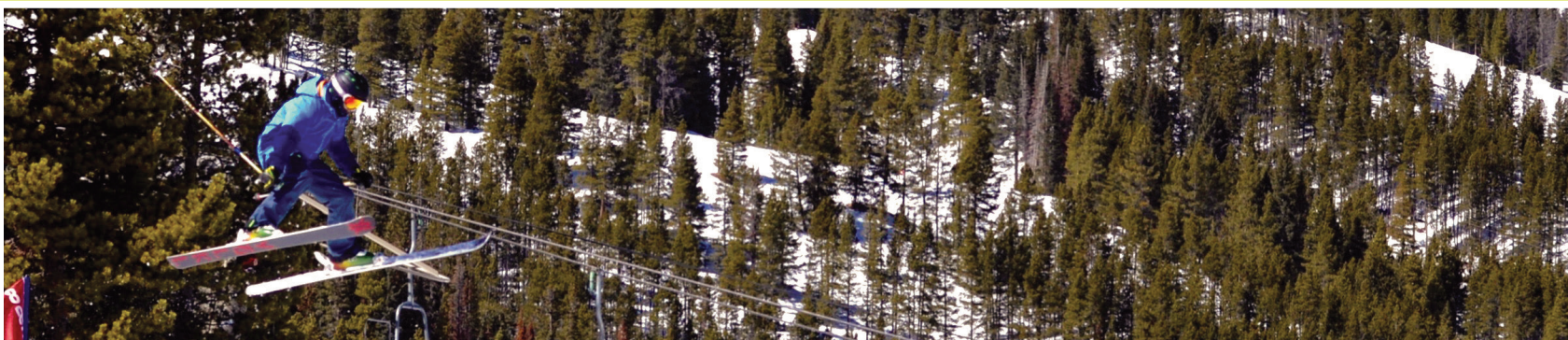
*Southern has 800 forested acres on campus and several park-like settings for students to enjoy. The university's commitment to providing unique, natural spaces for reflection is further evidence by ongoing projects. Southern was recently gifted 250 acres adjoining campus on Bauxite Ridge, opposite of White Oak Mountain. More than 12 miles of new paths are being worked on and will be available for both students and community use by the time classes begin in August. One of the most exciting ones is the Sabbath Trail (shown here), a two-mile loop that contains dozens of plaques set in stone which share the history of Sabbath from creation to the New Earth.*



# ADVENTURE PROGRAMMING

*Southern Outdoor Adventure Program (SOAP) provides students with recreation activities representing a variety of difficulty levels. In many regards, SOAP is similar to intramurals for an outdoors enthusiast, helping students meet new friends, learn new skills, and have fun in a safe environment. SOAP offers an abundance of outings each year, ranging from canoeing with the manatees in Florida to skiing in Colorado. Many activities are closer to campus and can be experienced at little-to-no cost. There are even eight trips scheduled for this summer!*

*Call 423.236.2459 or email [soap@southern.edu](mailto:soap@southern.edu) to learn more.*



# Timeless Teachings

In His hand are the depths of the Earth, and the mountain peaks belong to Him. The sea is His, for He made it. His hands formed the dry land.

Psalms 95:4-5

## Students Keep Campus' Green Spaces Beautiful

*Dozens of students work for Southern's Landscape Services department, enjoying both physical activity and spiritual growth.*

At Southern, opportunities abound for finding God in nature. Students can worship in unique outdoor spaces on campus, go for walks on the Biology Trails, or even get their hands a little dirty working for Landscape Services.

When Mark Antone, director of Landscape Services, came to Southern in 1984, the department had worship each morning in a dusty upstairs corner of their old building.

"It was an important part of our day then, and when I took leadership of the department in 1994, I knew it had to continue," Antone said. "Having worship with the student workers sets a positive spiritual tone, helps start the day with a missionary mindset, opens our minds to spiritual lessons that we can learn as we work in



Senior Kyle Humphrey has worked in landscaping since his freshman year.

nature, and also builds community."

Students and staff also pray together each afternoon.

Landscape Services currently employs 43 university students and has hired as many as 60 in the past. The department's mission is to design, construct, and maintain comfortable outdoor spaces where the university community can associate together as they enjoy the works of the Creator's hand.

"At Landscape Services, not only do students get to work in our Heavenly Father's second book, but they also get physical exercise that helps clear the mind and body and relieves stress," Antone said.

Kyle Humphrey, a senior Sport Studies major, has worked for Landscape Services since his freshman year.

"God has provided Southern with a beautiful landscape, and I want to do my best to take care of it," Humphrey said. "I look out at our campus and see God daily."

~Sheann Brandon

## General Education Requirements Reduced

*Students have more freedom to take electives, switch majors, commit to mission work—or simply slow down and soak in the college experience.*

Southern's University Senate recently voted to reduce the number of required general education credit hours to 45. The new criteria takes effect beginning in the Fall 2016 semester.

Before the revamp, general education requirements were at 56 hours with most students taking around 59 hours. Within the new total of 45, 12 hours remain as religion courses. This satisfies both requirements of the Adventist Accreditation Association and Southern's own commitment to Christian education. The rest fall under

categories of intellectual and physical.

"If you go back through Adventist education philosophy, you'll find that's what it used to be—spiritual, mental, and physical," said Scot Anderson, chair of the General Education Committee.

In changing the program, no classes were actually cut from general education. Instead, flexibility was added.

"We started from scratch and said 'what do we want our students to have?'" Anderson said. "The new general education is not a broad-based program. It's core based with electives."

As a result, students will now have more wiggle room. For example, if a student enrolls as pre-med but wants to switch majors at the end of his or her freshman

year, the credits taken that were specific to pre-med will shift to a general elective category.

For students who don't change their major, the new system provides the opportunity to take electives they have special interest in. Students who want to participate in music for all eight semesters, for example, will be able to do so without adding more classes. If a student has an interest in taking language classes, they will now count toward the 124 total hours needed to graduate.

"There's some really cool stuff in this new policy," Anderson said. "It's all about the students!"

~Julia Bonney

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## CAMPUS NEWS

### Southern Announces \$50 Million Campaign

Southern publicly announced the Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning on April 28 at the end of President Gordon Bietz's legacy celebration event in Iles P.E. Center.

Components of the \$50 million goal—nearly triple the amount of any previous campus campaign—include construction of a new student center and other facility improvements, increased endowments for scholarships and research, the continued greening of campus, and annual giving. Nearly \$32 million in cash and pledges has already been raised during the campaign's leadership phase, which quietly began in 2013.

The Bietz Center for Student Life, projected to open in fall 2018, will be located between McKee Library and Hickman Science Center. Herin Hall's layout and age make the empty structure unsuitable for remodeling; its removal facilitates this new construction, estimated at more than 40,000 square feet and costing \$13 million. Interior plans include considerable amounts of flex space for student organizations and LifeGroups to meet.

If the Bietz Center for Student Life is Southern's brick-and-mortar centerpiece of this campaign, endowments are its less obvious but equally critical counterpart. In order to continue providing the Southern Experience, endowment funds for scholarships, faculty research, departmental lectureships, and mission endeavors must increase.

God has blessed this effort while touching hearts to give generously. To reach the remaining goal will require a deep and continuing commitment from alumni, employees, and friends. For more information, or to make a gift toward the Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning, visit [southern.edu/webelieve](http://southern.edu/webelieve) or call 423.236.2829.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JUNE

#### 5 Ocoee River Rafting Trip

The Southern Outdoor Adventure Program organizes several trips each year (see photo insert). This summer there are four trips to the nearby Ocoee River: June 5, June 26, July 10, and July 24. For more information, email [soap@southern.edu](mailto:soap@southern.edu)

#### 6 Summer Session 1 Begins

Numerous online courses are available for both undergraduate and graduate curriculums. Prospective students must apply and be accepted before registering. Sign up for classes no later than June 8 by visiting [southern.edu/register](http://southern.edu/register).

#### 22 Chamber Music Weekend

Chamber Music Weekend (June 22-25) is for professionals, amateurs, and college students. Information and registration is available at [chambermusicweekend.org](http://chambermusicweekend.org).

### July Camps Will Help High School Students Preview College, Careers

Southern is hosting six new academic camps July 25-27 that offer high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors an opportunity to explore or sharpen their career focus in chemistry, computing, English, filmmaking, modern languages, and math/physics. Each camp includes a spiritual component as well, modeling for students how Adventist education facilitates the marriage of career and calling. Registration is \$100 for commuter students (\$150 if housing is needed). For more information, visit [southern.edu/camps](http://southern.edu/camps).