



PANORAMA

parent newsletter | Fall 2024



Student Composition Featured by CSO

Southern Adventist University student Matthew Kimbley, senior double major in music theory/literature and piano performance, had his original composition *Atlantic Overture* performed by the Chattanooga Symphony & Opera on their opening night, September 26.

“I am extremely honored to have my composition premiered by the Chattanooga Symphony & Opera,” Kimbley shares. “Last year, while sitting in one of their concerts, I set a goal of having one of my works performed by a professional orchestra within ten years. Little did I know that they would perform the piece just one year later. It is an incredibly rare experience for a student my age to have a composition debuted by a professional orchestra, and I am very blessed to have this opportunity.”

Kimbley began writing music when he was 6 years old, composing simple pieces in his piano workbook. He’s come a long way since then, growing to love music and composition, choosing to major in music theory and literature at Southern Adventist University, and composing original pieces for Southern’s Symphony Orchestra and Wind Symphony to perform in the 2023-2024 school year.

He drew inspiration from nature for *Atlantic Overture*. He explains that many



Matthew Kimbley smiles for the audience after conducting his composition *Atlantic Overture* for Southern’s Symphony Orchestra last year.

of the melodies are inspired by the rocky Maine coast and Florida beaches.

“I’m proud of Matthew and trust that this will be the beginning of an illustrious musical career—one focused and centered on serving God through music,” says Peter Cooper, DMA, dean of the School of Music at Southern Adventist University.

Kimbley plans to pursue music composition in graduate school and

intends to keep God at the center of his life and his art.

“God is my biggest inspiration,” Kimbley says. Through his compositions, he wants “to be an effective witness to those around me so that they’ll be uplifted to God.”

Read this full story and find more news at southern.edu/news.

- by Chehalis Eno, junior English major

Exam Schedule Fall 2024

Time	Monday December 16	Tuesday, December 17	Wednesday December 18	Thursday December 19
8 to 9:50 a.m.	English Comp Basic Writing	8 a.m. T Th 8:30 a.m. T Th	12 p.m. T Th 12:30 T Th	8 a.m. M W F 8:30 a.m. M T W Th F
10 to 11:50 a.m.	9 a.m. M W F 9 a.m. T Th	1 p.m. T Th 1 p.m. M T Th F	10 a.m. M W F	9:30 a.m. T Th 10 a.m. T Th
12 to 1:50 p.m.	11 a.m. MWF	5 p.m. M W 4 p.m. T Th 5 p.m. T Th	11 a.m. T Th	12 p.m. M W F
2 to 3:50 p.m.	2 p.m. M W F 2 p.m. M W	2 p.m. T Th 3:30 T Th	1 p.m. M W F	
4-5:50 pm	Speech	3 p.m. M W F 3:30 p.m. M W 4 p.m. M	3 p.m. T Th 3:30 p.m. T Th	

Connect with Southern Adventist University:

-  facebook.com/SouthernAdventistUniversity
-  instagram.com/SouthernAdventistUniversity
-  x.com/SouthernNews

NOV

21 Thanksgiving Break Begins

December

- 2 Classes Resume
- 3 Christmas Tree Lighting
- 6 Kirsten Wolcott 5K
- 7 School of Music Christmas Concert: Wind Symphony, Jazz Ensemble, Steel Band, Southern Ringtones
- 9 Horn Ensemble Concert
- 14 School of Music Christmas Concert: Choral Ensembles, Symphony Orchestra
- 16-19 Semester Exams
- 19 Commencement
- 22 Christmas Break Begins

January

- 13 Winter Semester Begins

“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:37-39

Favorite Bible verse of Star Stevens, resource secretary for the School of Religion



Mission Report

Dedication in Discomfort

What does it mean to serve like Jesus? I found out during one of Southern's Vision Trips last year. Along with 20 other students, two staff members, and several medical volunteers, I traveled to Pucallpa, Peru, where we held medical clinics for the local population.

As the photographer for the mission trip, I expected to capture the experience through photos, but I found myself witnessing much more.

Though the trip was uncomfortable with bumpy roads, no air conditioning, difficult transportation, and sleeping in mosquito nets, I can pinpoint the moment when my complaints faded.

On our last day, we set up in a village that was the home of a man named Carlos, whom we had met on our first day. He had stayed around the clinic, helping out as he could. Before leaving, Carlos wanted to show us his home. We had seen several impoverished houses throughout the trip, however, when I saw Carlo's small, 4-walled, dirt-floored hut, I completely crumbled.

He shared that he hopes to host church in his backyard one day. I realized that all my luxuries back at home, which I so desperately missed, could never compare to the joy and faith this man had in Christ.

During this trip, I learned to look past everyday comforts and focus on our mission of serving like Jesus. Our group aimed to pray with everyone we assisted, and I believe that even amidst doubt, fear, and discomfort, God used us for His glory.

- by Raquel Lazcano, junior psychology major



Meet Renita Moore

First Year Experience Coordinator

As the First Year Experience coordinator for Student Support Services at Southern, Renita Moore connects with almost every student on campus and often their parents. She helps new and transfer students navigate their first year at Southern.

“College is not a ‘one size fits all’ experience. Each student is different and has different needs,” she says.

Moore graduated from Southern in 1994 with a degree in social work and has worked at the university for 21 years. Her original role was as the allied health advisor, and later she was asked to start the First Year Experience program.

She strongly advocates for students and parents to make full use of the resources available, pointing out, “All these people are here to work for you,” referring to the dedicated faculty at Southern who are eager to assist students. She notes that not utilizing these resources is the same as leaving money on the table.

She also recommends that parents check in on their kids, not only to make sure they are doing well academically but also to check on their well-being.

Her favorite part of the job is when students ask for her help. “I will fight tooth and nail for these students, helping them get what they need,” she says.

- by Alexis Dewey, senior mass communication major



Did You Know?

Healthy, Convenient, and Delicious: Campus Eateries Have It All

Southern's campus offers a wide variety of eateries, allowing students to choose what best fits their preferences and dietary needs.

The main dining hub on campus is the Dining Hall, which provides an array of choices for each meal, including grab-n-go, haystacks, and a salad bar in addition to the featured hot meals. It offers three vegetarian buffet meals each day with some vegan and gluten free options. It is located in Wright Hall at the center of campus.

The Garden, also in Wright Hall, specializes in plant-based, vegan, and gluten-free meals, cooking grains and fresh vegetables using versatile flavors of fresh herbs, spices, and seasonings.

Located in the Bietz Center for Student Life, CK2 offers a sampling of menu items from the original Campus Kitchen (CK) and KR's Place. It is one of the most popular eateries on campus, serving sandwiches, wraps, and quesadillas as well as grab-n-go options. Each week, this eatery has a panini special and a slushie special, allowing students to try new flavors and recipes.

The Kayak in Hulsey Wellness Center is the perfect spot for a post-workout snack or meal. The all-fruit smoothies are what make it a unique eatery on campus.

Alli Davis, junior pre-physical therapy major, said the Kayak is her favorite eatery because “it's a quick, light, healthy option.” She enjoys ordering the Hulk smoothie or customizing her own.

Another classic on campus is the Village Market Deli, serving a hot breakfast and lunch every Monday through Friday, along with a salad bar.

Lesieli Saveilo, senior public relations major, says the Village Market is her go-to spot on campus. “The Village Market is honestly my favorite. It holds a special place in my heart,” Saveilo says. “Also, if I don't like what's on the menu for the day, I can just grab a sandwich or [vegetarian] sushi.” Her favorite item from the Village Market Deli is its vegan chicken sprout sandwich.

- by Alexis Dewey, senior mass communication major



Student Life:

Welcome, Forrest!

Southern Adventist University has adopted a bear named Forrest as the university's first official mascot. While students have previously incorporated unofficial mascots into campus life, including a dinosaur named Dobber in the early 1990s and a duck named Kevin more recently, Forrest the bear is the first mascot to be voted into campus life as an enduring presence.

“Our mascot is a university-wide symbol that serves to unite our campus family,” says Ingrid Skantz, vice president for Marketing and University Relations. “Unlike mascots that represent intercollegiate athletic programs, it reminds us of the common experiences we share academically, socially, and spiritually here at Southern.”

The initiative began when the Student Association asked for administrative support to develop a mascot concept in 2023. Several concepts were suggested, and the Student Senate voted to recommend a bear to officially represent Southern. The bear was chosen as a symbol of strength, courage, confidence, and leadership; all qualities that Southern students aspire to embody. The mascot became official when the University Senate and the Board of Trustees voted it later that year.

In August 2024, students and employees voted to name the mascot Forrest, accompanied by the description: “A friendly bear named Forrest became the campus mascot due to his appreciation for Southern's natural beauty. With his energetic spirit and love for the outdoors, Forrest represents harmony between people and God's surrounding nature. He loves celebrating student achievement and encouraging campus to work hard, rest well, and have fun with friends.”

Dennis Negrón, PhD, vice president for Student Development, shares, “His name and description resonated with a significant part of our campus community.”

- by Anaya Miller, senior English major

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Encouraging students to deepen their personal relationship with Christ is at the core of Southern's mission. To start out the school year, students who chose to lead LifeGroups for their peers met to establish a solid foundation for their small group ministry. Leaders and students then participated in GroupLink, where they could browse booths, learning what each of the different LifeGroups on campus have to offer.





A TASTE OF SOUTHERN

Nearly 300 local professionals attended Southern's annual A Taste of Southern gala held October 3 at The Signal in downtown Chattanooga. The event raised approximately \$222,000 with proceeds adding to Southern's endowed scholarship for first-generation college students. It also provided the opportunity for potential employers to meet intern candidates, hear a performance by Southern's Jazz Ensemble, and see a cooking demonstration from the Vegetarian Culinary Arts program. Read more at southern.edu/news.

