

Making the Journey Possible

Annual Report **2017-2018**



Thank you!

I write today with profound gratitude for the way you invested in Southern Adventist University students, faculty, and staff this past academic year. God has a special plan for each of the more than 3,000 students who attended last year, and it is a privilege to be part of their process of discovery and preparation for a life of purpose.

Our students come from many different walks of life, and Southern is able to be a part of their lifelong journey because of your generosity. More than 85 percent of the student body received merit-based and need-based Southern scholarships this year.

More than 4,000 alumni, employees, students, parents, corporations, foundations, and friends of the university joined you in financially supporting Southern's mission and the work you are a part of every day on this campus.

In these pages, students and faculty share a small glimpse of their time at Southern and the difference you have made in their lives. Thank you for making their journeys possible!

Together, we can continue to prepare the next generation of servant leaders who will positively and uniquely impact our world. I look forward to our continued partnership.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Smith". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a stylized "S".

David Smith, PhD
President

Renew Your Support

Every year, thousands show their support of Southern and our students with contributions that impact all areas on campus. Their gifts, and yours, help make the journey possible.

southern.edu/give





Because of You

Vonasha Powell, '18

Time seemed to slow down as my name was called. The joyous cheers of friends, family, and Southern employees were drowned out by the sound of my heart beating. Walking across the graduation stage, I was overcome with gratitude. President Smith's smile reassured me; I had done it! Despite all odds, I had received my diploma.

I was not walking across the graduation stage only for myself that day. The cheers and applause were also for my sister, Whitney. Attending Southern with her was an amazing experience. We were able to worship and grow closer to God together in addition to having fun at campus events.

In 2016, Whitney was diagnosed with Lupus, an autoimmune disease—the same disease that had taken our mother. Despite the news, Whitney remained strong in her faith. She never doubted that God was watching over her. She leaned on Him when things got hard.

The fall semester began while Whitney was still in the hospital. My professors surrounded me in a blanket of support. Walking across campus, staff members would ask if they could pray with me. Their actions were a constant reminder of God's love for Whitney and me.

In October 2016, Whitney lost her battle against Lupus. I was devastated yet so overwhelmed by the love and support I received from my friends and Southern employees.

A few months after Whitney's death, I was diagnosed with the same disease. Once again my Southern family provided love and comfort during this difficult time. I'm unsure of what my future holds but remain faithful in God's promises.

Without scholarships and other financial aid, supported by gifts from alumni and friends like you, I would not have been able to graduate from Southern. Thank you for your generosity and sacrifice! Because of you, a caring and loving support network surrounded me through those dark days. I will always be grateful for the experiences that I was able to have at Southern.

Life-Changing Experiences

Zachary Hagen, senior music education major

I am often surprised at the grand scope of God's plans. He has always gone above and beyond my human expectations. The Evangelistic Resource Center mission trip to the Philippines that my brother and I went on was no exception.

A 20-hour journey brought us to Bulacan, where we were surrounded by foreign languages and unfamiliar scents. Exhausted, we began preparing for our evangelistic series and praying that God would work through each person on the trip.

And He did. Betzany Ortiz, sophomore nursing major, prayed for the opportunity to become a personal witness. Not long after that, God placed a woman in her path who was yearning for encouragement. Betzany prayed with her and asked God to draw close during a difficult time in her life.

Hannah Houghtaling, '18, was passionate about connecting with visitors, but the elders of the church where she was placed told her they seldom had non-Christians come into their church. However, after her first sermon, a group of visiting teens approached her and expressed a deep desire to be baptized.

In my assigned churches, I could see God working throughout the week as four individuals came forward and gave their hearts to Christ. Witnessing those yearning hearts because of God working through me was a life-changing experience.

My prayer now is that God will fill me with His love and wisdom so that I may share it with others.

It's through the support of alumni and friends like you that my team members and I were able to have these experiences. Your support can be directly linked to life-changing decisions. I know this because it changed me, my team members, and the more than three hundred people who came forward during our collective altar calls. Thank you for the opportunity to serve!







Career and Calling

Rick Norskov, '76, MD, biology professor

Rick Norskov has distinguished himself as both a physician and a university professor. While Norskov was a student at Southern, K.R. Davis saw his potential as a future physician. With Davis' guidance, Norskov pursued a medical degree at Loma Linda University School of Medicine.

Norskov found fulfillment working as an emergency room physician and was well respected in the medical community. Over the next 20 years, he had a successful and rewarding medical career.

However, Norskov still felt there was something else even more meaningful for him to do in life. During a rare, quiet night in the emergency room, Norskov stumbled upon a job opening for an anatomy and physiology professor at Southern.

In 2006, Norskov and his wife moved to Collegedale. He traded the ER for a classroom and patients for students. Southern was where his calling had begun and now he had returned to answer yet another ministry-related call.

Why would someone leave a successful medical career? Norskov is passionate about helping students connect their career choice with God's calling for their life.

Over the past year, Norskov has partnered with Cynthia Gettys, PhD, director of Southern's Center for Teaching Excellence and Biblical Foundations of Faith and Learning, to create opportunities that encourage Southern employees and students to have open conversations about career and calling.

Out of this partnership, a new program for sophomores is expected to launch this fall, encouraging students to pursue a career that will highlight their natural, God-given talents and passions. Students will meet once a month to hear outside speakers present on different career paths. Each student will also be paired with a faculty or staff member, providing a space for the students to ask questions related to career and calling.

This new program is designed to provide sophomores with tools that will boost confidence in their natural talents and provide necessary resources to reduce the number of times a student changes their major.

Just as K.R. Davis encouraged Norskov to follow his natural, God-given talents, Norskov hopes to instill this same purpose in students today.

Open Doors, Open Opportunity

Hope Behnke, senior liberal arts education major

With baited breath, I anxiously opened the letter. I couldn't contain my excitement. I had been accepted to Southern Adventist University! The idea of starting college—a new life chapter—was thrilling. I thought about all the people that I would meet and the classes I would take. My mind floated to the future. I envisioned myself as a teacher in a classroom. My acceptance was a dream come true.

A few moments later, reality set in. How would I afford my tuition?

The thought was daunting. I was disappointed because it seemed impossible for me to achieve the dreams I had imagined just a few moments before, but I was determined to attend Southern.

To pay for my first year of tuition, I sold my car. However, as the second year approached I was unsure of how I would be able to continue to pay my school bill. I was working three different jobs on and off campus, but the stress of finances hung constantly in the back of my mind.

During my sophomore year, I was selected as a recipient of the Work Initiative Scholarship Endowment (WISE). WISE provides students with a dollar-for-dollar match when they apply job earnings toward tuition. This scholarship helps reduce or eliminate student debt and is fully supported through gifts from alumni and friends.

When I heard the news that I had been selected as a recipient, I could not believe it! The difference this scholarship has made in my life is so powerful. WISE has provided me with the opportunity to work my way through university.

Without the scholarship, I would not have been able to continue my journey here at Southern and pursue my dreams of becoming a teacher. Thank you to those who have helped make it possible for me to experience a Seventh-day Adventist education!



Fact Sheet

Based on Fall 2017 enrollment

Total Enrollment: 3,035

Undergraduate: 2,600 students

- 58% female
- 42% male

Graduate: 435 students

- 77% female
- 23% male

Undergraduate Student Ethnicity

- White (non-Hispanic)47%
- Hispanic23%
- Black (non-Hispanic).....11%
- Asian13%
- Other minority groups6%

US News and World Report ranks Southern as tied for the most diverse university in the South.

Enrollment represents students from 48 states and 40 countries

Top Ten States:

1. Tennessee980
2. Georgia.....299
3. California286
4. Florida267
5. North Carolina135
6. Texas.....100
7. Michigan.....78
8. Maryland75
9. Massachusetts59
10. Virginia57

Top Three International Countries:

1. Canada23
2. Bermuda.....18
3. Republic of Korea14

Of the approximately 100 degrees offered, these areas had the highest number of students in 2017-2018:

Top 10 Undergraduate Schools and Departments by Enrollment

1. School of Nursing890
2. School of Business308
3. Biology Department300
4. School of Education and Psychology212
5. School of Visual Art and Design171
6. School of Religion.....157
7. School of P.E., Health, and Wellness.....138
8. Allied Health Department118
9. School of Computing99
10. School of Journalism and Communication.....90

Academic Offerings:

- 11 graduate degrees
- 86 baccalaureate degrees
- 15 associate degrees

Degrees Awarded 2017-2018

- Undergraduate Degrees589
- Graduate Degrees148

In Fall 2017, 567 new full-time freshman students enrolled.

- Average High School GPA 3.5
- Average ACT Score 23
- Average SAT Score 1104

ACT and SAT average scores are above nationwide averages

Every year Southern sends hundreds of students on short-term and long-term mission trips.

- Long-term missionaries 60
- Short-term missionaries..... 266
- Total countries served in 28



Honors and National Rankings

- Listed as Top Tier by U.S. News and World Report's 2017-2018 "Best Colleges" guide for the 16th consecutive year
- Ranked as one of Princeton Review's "Best Regional Colleges" multiple times
- Recognized as a "Top Ten" school in Tennessee for return on investments

Southern Grants and Scholarships awarded in 2017-2018

- 85 percent of students receive a portion of more than \$15 million in Southern aid awarded annually
- More than 200 students received approximately \$1.7 million in financial support from funds generated through named endowments

Cost for 2017-2018

- Tuition\$20,700
- Residence Hall \$4,250/year
- Tuition and fees at Southern cost 38 percent less than the national average for private colleges and universities and 13 percent less than public out-of-state colleges and universities.

Campus Life

- 14:1 student-faculty ratio
- 1,300 acres (800 forested) with 30 miles of hiking and biking trails
- 942 participated in Southern's 25th Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Day
- 1,049 students participated in LifeGroups (student-led small group Bible studies)
- 1,572 students worked 548,052 hours on campus, earning \$4,857,753

we believe

Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning

The Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning saw tremendous growth in 2017-2018 as donors gave in support of the campaign and its designated impact areas: Endowment, Bietz Center for Student Life, Annual Giving, Academic Growth, and Campus Life. The \$50 million campaign, Southern's largest ever, is nearly 90 percent funded and nearing completion thanks to your generous gifts. This section of the Annual Report highlights the two largest components of Southern's campaign: Endowments and the Bietz Center for Student Life.

ENDOWMENTS

An endowment is an investment of donated money or property designed to keep the principal amount intact while using the investment income for campus initiatives. It's a common misconception that endowments at Southern are just for student scholarships, but in fact other areas of campus also benefit.

Lecture Series. The E.A. Anderson Lecture Series, one of Southern's endowed lecture series, is hosted by the School of Business and celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2018. Held most Monday evenings during the Winter Semester, the lectures feature guest speakers who share topics relevant to the business world, providing a broader understanding to students, faculty, staff, and community members.



Academic Research. Southern's Biology Department recently received a \$50,000 gift to support student and faculty research opportunities, as well as to send students to educational conferences. Funds required to start this endowment were given anonymously in honor of David Steen, '68, PhD, former biology professor and department chair at Southern in the 1970s and '80s.

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

Scholarships. Newly initiated scholarship endowments for 2017-2018, include:

Alberto and Joan Dos Santos Endowed Scholarship

Buddy Fisher Class of 1966 Endowed Scholarship

Dr. Rahn and Natalia Shaw Endowed Scholarship

Lawrence and Eleanor Hanson Work Initiative Scholarship Endowment

Leslie D. Pendleton Endowed Scholarship

McGhinnis Family Endowed Scholarship

Patrice and Keith Hieb Endowed Scholarship

Southern Board of Trustees Work Initiative Scholarship Endowment



BIETZ CENTER FOR STUDENT LIFE

The highly-anticipated building (coming summer 2020) is fully funded, and the unglamorous work of sewer system improvements officially kicked off construction this spring. As interior plans are finalized, several spaces within the new building are being named in honor of people and organizations important to Southern donors.

A committed group of alumni combined their funds to secure naming rights for the Jack Blanco Chapel, a 400-square foot space on the third floor of the forthcoming building. This space is in honor of the retired professor and former dean of Southern's School of Religion.

Additional spaces already named include the Farrow Family Lodge and Southern Union Lobby. For more information regarding naming opportunities, call 423.236.2829.



Year in Review

Students Take Action Following Hurricanes

by Tierra Hayes, junior mass communication major

In the aftermath of multiple destructive storms last fall, Southern's students, employees, and community members came together to make a difference. One group of students hosted a community fundraiser to support hurricane clean-up efforts, raising more than \$3,500 to help the devastated regions. Students from the School of Journalism and Communication sponsored an on-campus bake sale that brought in approximately \$600 to help repair an Adventist church in Houston, Texas, which had been damaged by the storms. The Chemistry Department held a sunscreen drive that resulted in dozens of bottles of sunscreen being sent to the affected areas.



Additionally, Southern extended the offer of free lodging to 15 families displaced by Hurricane Irma. The evacuees included alumni, as well as families of students, staff, and community members.

New Film Project Gives Southern Students Valuable Experience

by Gelissa Leveille, '17



Southern film students are gaining hands-on experience working on the School of Visual Art and Design's latest feature film. Filmed in Chattanooga, *Belly of the Whale* is currently in the final stages of production. The project was written and directed by Associate Professor Nicholas Livanos, '07, MFA, and produced by Film Program Coordinator David George, '98, MFA.

Belly of the Whale is a light-hearted tale involving a high school play about Jonah and a reluctant math teacher, Theodore Pitts, tasked with directing the play. The story explores the underlying spiritual struggle that Jonah and Pitts have in common.

Film production students are involved in every aspect of the project, from working on set to post-production editing, color correcting, music and audio refining, and more.

Southern Adopts New Support System on Campus

by Gelissa Leveille, '17

Last fall Southern introduced a new Transition and Support program to help students with autism spectrum disorder and other learning disabilities integrate comfortably into college life. Through mentoring, customized counseling, and raising awareness, this program provides tools to overcome hurdles that otherwise tend to reduce the graduation rate for these students.

"It's wonderful that such a great program is right in our backyard," said Gina*, a parent with students in the program. "I'm thankful that my sons can be a part of this groundbreaking opportunity."

**Last name withheld for privacy*



Southern Teams Up to Feed Starving Children

by Tierra Hayes, junior mass communication major



During the Homecoming Weekend last fall, students, employees, alumni, and community members came together to make a dent in global hunger. In partnership with the Christian nonprofit Feed My Starving Children, 457 volunteers came to campus and packed more than 101,000 nutritious, ready-to-cook meals that will feed 276 children around the world for a year.

Museum of the Bible Features Work of Southern Students and Professors

by Southern Staff

The findings of Southern archaeology students and professors are on display at the new Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C. The temporary exhibit, titled "In the Valley of David and Goliath," focuses on the ground-breaking contributions of the Khirbet Qeiyafa Archaeological Project, co-sponsored by the institutes of archaeology at Southern and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

During the course of the excavation in Israel from 2007-2013, Southern students helped make discoveries that gained international attention and are now featured in the Museum of the Bible. These include the oldest Hebrew inscription ever found, uncovered in 2008, as well as an inscription found in 2013 dating to the 10th century B.C., which mentions someone with the same name as one of Saul's sons.



Your Impact

- **\$255,014** was contributed by donors through gift amounts of **\$100 or less**
- **1,732** alumni showed their support (**11.5 percent** alumni giving)
- **72 percent** of full-time employees gave back to Southern through financial gifts
- **2,047** alumni and friends are recognized as **Loyalty Circle members** for making an annual gift for three or more consecutive years
- **489** 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.
- **649** donors gave **\$145,994** during Southern's 1892-minute Giving Day campaign

2017-2018 Total Giving: \$9,152,627.87

4,301 donors contributed

Named Endowed Scholarships and Chairs	\$3,520,173.03
PFE/Assist and Promise Programs	\$1,295,952.43
Capital Projects	\$1,295,580.72
Academic Areas	\$1,002,315.93
Non-Endowed Scholarships and Awards	\$814,896.71
Missions	\$486,449.10
WSMC	\$244,136.30
Gifts-in-Kind	\$196,597.92
The Southern Fund	\$180,000.57
Special Projects	\$76,981.09
Campus Support	\$20,246.64
Other	\$19,297.64
Grand Total	\$9,152,627.87

Thank you for helping make the journey possible this year! Our students and Southern employees say **THANK YOU!**

“The Southern educational experience goes beyond the classroom and campus. Students apply our academic instruction and faith-focused programs in many ways, including serving—both locally and internationally—and participating in research. We rely on alumni and friends to be the hands of God opening doors for students who cannot otherwise afford Adventist higher education. You also inspire students to become a transformational force for good in this world.”

- **Glenn Carter**, *associate vice president for Financial Administration*

“Our students have access to the best resources in their fields and a comfortable place for individual and collaborative study. None of these things would be possible without the support of our dedicated financial supporters.”

- **Jessica Spears**, *research services librarian at McKee Library*

“Thank you to the donors who make my dream school and my education possible. I am eternally grateful for the time I have had at a university that has helped me grow spiritually.”

- **Delaney Harris**, *Studio 4109: LIVE director, junior psychology major*

“Thanks to you, young people like me are able to receive an education that prepares us to edify the body of Christ. Your donations make our university a place of innovation, empowerment, and love. As you continue to give, I pray that God will bless you richly.”

- **Rhidge Garcia**, *Student Association president 2018-2019, junior theology major*



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Financial Administration Tom Verrill

Advancement Carolyn Hamilton

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