

the magazine of Southern Adventist University

spring 2013

# columns

## Ministry of Memories

Graduates start nonprofit to capture  
cherished moments for cancer  
patients and families

page 16

## Dear Southern

I am struck first by their pristine appearance. Members of the Social Education Committee sit on the front stoop of Daniells Hall in 1956. All appear in happy company—hair well-coiffed, smiles content. Their chief duties included informing all 486 Southern students of the upcoming social functions on campus. This was a considerable task. No Facebook, Twitter, or emails to broadcast these messages. Word-of-mouth and the painted sign were the social media tools of their mid-century campaigns. The work was difficult but important.

An alumni bulletin from that same year celebrates the forthcoming construction of a dining hall that would house 400 people and “meet a prevailing campus need by providing a

social gathering place for youth.” In 2013, plans are bubbling again for a new student center. Some 60 years have passed since the Social Education Committee posed on those steps. But the “prevailing campus need” to gather and fellowship in a common space is more relevant than ever.

Decades from now, when Southern students and alums pore over pictures from 2013, I hope they recognize this same determined spirit. May the work of our hearts and the smiles on our faces today bear testimony to future generations that fellowship is a blessing. That this friendship among believers is but a foretaste of heaven.

—Kendra Stanton-Lee, assistant professor



# contents



## features

### 11 | **Eat Your Homework**

New vegetarian culinary arts program encourages students to play with their food! But the message these health evangelists will take to the world is quite serious.

### 12 | **Transform Tomorrow**

Graduation isn't the end, it's just the beginning for 436 new alumni who are ready to change the world.

### 16 | **Ministry of Memories**

Southern graduates' new nonprofit provides cancer patients and their families with free photography sessions. These intimate portraits provide a lasting light that transcends the darkness of the moment.

### 20 | **No Work Beneath Us**

Administrators model commitment to servant leadership through a special dedication service, volunteer activities, and the ability to find fulfillment beyond a paycheck.

## departments

4 | New Media

6 | Headlines

10 | Spotlight

23 | Mission Minute

24 | Professor Inspiration

26 | Beyond the Columns

31 | The Word

On the cover: Magic Hour Foundation volunteered its time and talents to photograph Southern alum Paco Rodriguez (attended) and his daughter, Kayla, as she battled ovarian cancer in 2010. Paco and his wife, Irma (Perez), '03, are happy to report that almost three years after surgery, Kayla remains healthy.

Cover Photo: Alan Darmody

# columns

Volume 65 Number 1  
Alumni Edition

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## instagram



Tyler Rand, a junior music theory and literature major, leads out his captivating arrangements of praise and worship music with a full orchestra of 67 musicians and four singers. »[jcorrphotography](#)

## vimeo



Find the video links at [southern.edu/columns](http://southern.edu/columns).



Sophomore film student Dillan Forsey won the "Best Dramatic Short" and "Best in Fest" award at the SONscreen Film Festival for his film *In the Grey*. This marks the fifth consecutive year a student from Southern has taken the top spot!



During Spring Break, a group of School of Nursing students set out for the jungles of the Amazon River to assist with health clinics and construction.

## youtube



Find the video links at [southern.edu/columns](http://southern.edu/columns).



This video highlights how students have grown in their appreciation of God's special day. More than 1,300 churches were sent a copy to show during "Southern Sabbath" on March 16.



Southern alumni Matt Hartman, '11, and Elisabeth Ruhling, '12, experienced an interesting wedding proposal as "the question" was interrupted by a wave. They had no idea their video would get more than one million views on YouTube and they would be contacted by *The Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, and *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*.



The 2013 Strawberry Festival film captures the ways students connect to each other and overcome challenges.

### Connect with Southern Adventist University:



website: [southern.edu](http://southern.edu) (check out the new design!)

flickr: [flickr.com/photos/southernu](http://flickr.com/photos/southernu)

youtube: [youtube.com/user/SouthernAdventistU](http://youtube.com/user/SouthernAdventistU)

facebook: [facebook.com/pages/Southern-Adventist-University-Official](http://facebook.com/pages/Southern-Adventist-University-Official)

twitter: [twitter.com/SouthernNews](http://twitter.com/SouthernNews)



# facebook worth a click!

As I am ready to fall asleep for the last time at Southern Adventist University, I think back on having surgery, going through nursing school, making lifelong friends, graduating and getting engaged! This college experience has been amazing.

»Missy Ritter, '13 (see picture of marriage proposal at graduation on Page 15)

Listening to "Georgia on My Mind" and eating Mexican fried ice cream while in Amsterdam!

»Andrew Durby, junior general studies major (while on European Study Tour with School of Social Work)

Change in plans this morning took me to Sunnyside Seventh-day Adventist Church in Portland. The Wind Symphony from Southern was there. Seemed like it was all meant to be. Love it when that happens (or when I pay enough attention to notice the blessings God gives me).

»Julie Cowin

If you want to restore your faith in humanity just go to Southern's missionary send off where almost 100 men and women leave to serve in the mission fields. It was awesome to see so many people on fire to share Jesus with others.

»Tracie Fristoe

Moonwalked out of that final!

»Morgan Preston, junior graphic design major

## southern.edu



The university's website has recently undergone an extensive redesign that greatly improves search functions, incorporates more multimedia into news articles, and utilizes large images on each page to help convey the Southern experience. Those web surfing on mobile devices—the site had 321,000 such visits last year alone—will notice the biggest difference, as the redesign provides a faster and more flexible interface than before. The new site was a large undertaking and included work on thousands of pages. Southern.edu receives more than 2.5 million visits per year from countries all around the world.



## twitter



Cute guy in class gave me a pencil. We are practically engaged.

»Laura Cole, senior long-term care administration major



Our beloved @LittleDebbie has an updated logo. Can still recall the smell from when I walked to class!

»Javier Diaz, '02

## on the go

InPrayer is a mobile application designed to facilitate a global prayer chain calling for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It is part of a revival movement, called 777, that encourages Seventh-day Adventists to pray seven days a week at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. The app was developed by TAGnet under the direction of Danny Houghton, '98, a Board of Trustees member at Southern. It is currently managed by John Beckett, Jr., '98.



[leadership]

## President and Faculty Members Study Theology of Ordination

President Gordon Bietz and several professors from the School of Religion are serving on national and international Adventist committees tasked with studying the theology of ordination and its implications for church practices. They will be reviewing the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy while considering how the history of Adventist ordination and cultural considerations weigh into this complicated issue.

Professors Greg King, Stephen Bauer, and Michael Hasel join Bietz as representatives in a General Conference group that will meet four times before sharing its findings at the 2014 Annual Council. Following that report, the committee may recommend an action to the 2015 General Conference Session. Until then, world church leaders have asked unions to refrain from ordaining any pastoral candidates, regardless of gender.

“Ordination enables people for service to the worldwide ministry of the Adventist family,” said Greg King, dean of the School of Religion. “That’s why it should be con-



(From left) Michael Hasel, Edwin Reynolds, Gordon Bietz, Greg King, and Stephen Bauer represent Southern Adventist University on two different committees studying the theology of ordination. Said Bauer of the process: “One of the impacts I hope the committees have is to show we can dialogue about difficult topics in a gracious and Christ-like manner.”

sidered globally rather than regionally.”

Bietz also serves as the chairman of a North American Division (NAD) committee analyzing the same topic—one of 12 such division-level studies taking place worldwide—and is joined there by Professor Edwin Reynolds. That team will report to the NAD by November 2013. Committee members hope divine guidance will have

the greatest impact on their conclusions, far beyond the knowledge and experience individuals bring to the table.

“Many great minds and excellent scholars are a part of the process,” Reynolds said, “but apart from the working of the Spirit of God, we have little to offer and little hope of unity.”

—Ingrid Hernandez

## Trustee Dies, Had Passion for Building “Thinking Christians”

Izak Frederick Wessels, a member of Southern Adventist University’s Board of Trustees, died on February 27, 2013.

“His insightful advice was matched by an indefatigable work ethic and wonderful spirit of philanthropy,” said Chris Carey, vice president for Advancement. “His leadership and humility will be missed.”

Wessels earned his medical degree in South Africa in 1973 and moved to Chattanooga to start Allied Eye Associates in 1995. It won multiple awards, including “Best Small Business” from the Chamber of Commerce, and was a regular underwriter of programming on WSMC Classical 90.5 FM. He enjoyed traveling and did so often while working with Project ORBIS, a nonprofit that battles blindness

worldwide by sending eye care specialists to developing countries.

Wessels’ vision for the university’s students will have eternal consequences.

“He pushed hard to enhance the spiritual experience at Southern,” said Daniel Maxwell, McKee Library director. “One of his primary concerns was that we create thinking Christians here.”

—Myron Madden

## » by the numbers

157

Trees saved by Southern’s recycling efforts in 2012-2013.

\$20.13

Minimum gift required of seniors to earn philanthropy cord for graduation (170 donated for a total of \$5,541).

89

Total square feet of home built by students in Technology Department. “Tiny Houses” promote simple living and creative design.

[around campus]



## New Student Center and Residence Hall in the Works as Master Plan Unfolds

In laying groundwork for the university's master plan, Southern's Board of Trustees recently discussed the conceptual designs and placement of a new student center and residence hall. These two critical buildings will nurture small-group interactions in a variety of ways.

The new student center would be located between Fleming Plaza and the Hulsey Wellness Center. The architects spent a weekend at Southern to better understand the Sabbath culture and incorporate it into the project's design. Their findings have helped guide what the university feels should be added to

the building, especially numerous multi-purpose rooms ideal for Sabbath School classes, Bible studies, and other activities.

The new residence hall would be located between Talge Hall and Wood Hall. Designs call for pod-style arrangements (clusters of rooms surrounding a central living area and kitchen). The building would help meet the demands of a growing enrollment and support student success initiatives, as research shows that outcomes in a variety of academic areas are higher for those who live on campus. No start date for construction has been set.

—Charles Cammack



Large open areas for study and recreation are the hallmark of the new student center (top and above). Open-air verandas, fireplaces, and eclectic eating areas create an inviting atmosphere. Student success will be a primary focus of the building as career services, tutoring, advising, service learning, student government, and the chaplain's office would move to this centralized location.

189

Bouquets of flowers sold at the Chattanooga Convention Center in the minutes preceding Commencement.

5,000

Combination of pounds of food and dollars collected by business students for "Let's Can Hunger" project.

135

Collective years of service represented by six faculty and staff retiring this spring.

## [around campus]

**VeggieTales Creator Speaks for Convocations, Small-Groups**

If you like to talk to tomatoes and a squash can make you smile, Phil Vischer had a show for you!

The *VeggieTales* creator, and voice of numerous characters in the series, made a special visit to campus in January for several talks and meetings with students. During the morning convocation, Vischer spoke of how he worked tirelessly to create *VeggieTales* before losing everything in a bankruptcy court. His company was sold in a public auction, leaving Vischer to wonder why God would take away something he used for good. But once he stepped away from the situation for awhile, the answer became clear.

“Dreams, even good dreams, can

become idols if they become bigger than God,” Vischer told students. “The work I was doing for God was not as important to Him as the relationship I had with God.”

Later on in the day, Vischer stopped by the School of Visual Art and Design for a question-and-answer session that kept returning to a common theme: how to understand God’s will.

“The more you walk with God, the more the creative ideas coming out of your head will be in line with what God wants,” Vischer said. “Don’t focus on outcomes; focus on obedience.”

Vischer’s topic for the evening convocation was burdens. After bankruptcy forced him to take a sabbatical from the

entertainment industry, Vischer found that he was able to continue doing spiritual work without the enormous strain and burnout previously endured. His new series, *What’s in the Bible*, is the product of that newfound energy.

After his last presentation, Vischer spent a gracious amount of time talking with the audience, doing the voices of Bob the Tomato and other characters for the “children” in attendance, and emphasizing one of *VeggieTales*’ biggest messages: “Remember kids, God made you special and He loves you very much.”

To listen to Vischer’s convocations, visit [southern.edu/columns](http://southern.edu/columns).

—Raquel Levy

## [news briefs]

**Southern Recognized for Community Service Efforts**

Southern has been named to the 2013 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. This designation is the highest honor a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning, and civic engagement. The Honor Roll requires that 7 percent of Federal Work-Study students participate in community service, a number that Southern has more than doubled. Most of the university’s work-study students who spend time helping off campus are engaged as tutors and teacher’s assistants at community schools.

**Professors Contribute to Science Textbook**

The North American Division’s new elementary school science textbook, *By Design*, includes chapter introductions by eight Southern faculty members. Professors from the Biology Department, Physics and Engineering Department, and School of P.E., Health and Wellness each contributed to the teacher’s editions of the books, connecting topics with principles of biblical creation.

**University Sponsors Symphony Series at Volkswagen**

Southern partnered with the Chattanooga Symphony and Opera (CSO) to present the Volkswagen Sunday Symphony Series. These five concerts, spread out over the last two semesters, took place in the auditorium of the new automotive facility less than six miles from campus. Southern received 100 free tickets to each performance, most of which were used by students.

President Gordon Bietz sits on the CSO board of trustees, and WSMC broadcasts their performances. This sponsorship was an extension of that valuable community relationship.

**McKee Library Builds Digital Hub for High-Quality Work**

After months of planning, Southern has become the first Seventh-day Adventist university in the United States to have an institutional repository. These online archives showcase the intellectual and creative output of faculty, staff, and students. Southern’s site, called Knowledge Exchange, includes journal articles, research, creative writings, artwork, media projects, theses, and dissertations. Representatives from individual schools and departments choose what to upload. Because the site is new, content is currently light. Visit <http://knowledge.e.southern.edu> to view what has initially been uploaded.

**Students Increase Spiritual, Physical Health with Fast**

For 28 days, nearly 100 Southern students participated in a program designed to deepen their spiritual walks by creating a clearer mind for worship and teaching a reliance on the Holy Spirit to resist cravings and temptations. The Daniel Fast project, initiated by student leaders in Campus Ministries and the School of P.E., Health and Wellness, promoted whole foods while eliminating sweeteners, animal products, dairy, and bread. Testing done both before and after the fast showed that students’ bodies were more efficient at burning calories when following this diet.



## New Master's Degree Offered in Global Community Development

Beginning in August Southern will offer its first interdisciplinary studies graduate program, a Master's of Science in Global Community Development. The curriculum emphasizes research, entrepreneurship, empowerment, and Christian witnessing as key components in creating sustainable change.

The degree helps students focus in on their specific calling for mission service. Courses in fundraising and research methods prepare them for fieldwork in projects such as microfinance, agriculture, literacy, health education, the environment, artisan crafts, and others.

Sharon Pittman, director of the global community development program, has seen firsthand the need for increased education among mission workers. While managing a \$24 million project in Madagascar, her team was comprised of doctors, agriculture experts, and engineers. None of them had taken a single course in community practice, and it showed. They created 640 community groups, but only 15 remained active once government funds to build them were exhausted after five years.



Long-term relationships between indigenous and non-indigenous groups are critical for developing mutual trust and the sharing of information and resources. The global community development degree teaches students how to build and nurture that connection.

“We need to do a better job of engaging and mobilizing communities so they can take ownership of our development assistance,” Pittman said. “This program will help do that, creating new and more successful mission opportunities.”

And some of those opportunities will come from non-Adventist sources. A

memorandum of understanding signed with World Vision International last year outlines that organization's intent to create internships and jobs for Southern students and graduates.

For more information on the degree, visit [southern.edu/graduatestudies](http://southern.edu/graduatestudies).

—Raquel Levy

## Social Work Graduate Program Celebrates Early Accreditation

Southern is pleased to announce full accreditation, an entire year ahead of schedule, for its Master of Social Work program. Faculty, staff, and community members recognized the occasion March 14 during a reception in Wright Hall followed by a presentation in Thatcher Chapel from journalist and human rights advocate Benjamin Skinner.

The Master of Social Work (MSW) degree was first offered in 2010, and more than 50 students have already graduated from the program. According to René Drumm, dean of the School of Social Work, accreditation has been in the works since the degree's inception.

“Because the process started when

we began, any student who has already graduated can say they went through an accredited program,” Drumm said. “This is important, because it is extremely difficult for those who do not attend an accredited program to get certain licensing or teaching jobs.”

The path to accreditation is traditionally a four-year process, but Southern was able to complete it in three. The Council on Social Work Education adjusted the time requirements after successful site visits and a thorough review of the program's self-study documents. Throughout the accreditation, MSW students remained confident in the quality of their instruction and had little doubt about the outcome.

“I am learning so much more than I did as an undergraduate,” said Zaire Burgess-Robinson, a master's student. “This is a solid program. I'm definitely getting my money's worth.”

Southern's MSW is taught in a hybrid environment. Students come to campus every other week and spend the rest of their class time participating online or working in the community, a distinction that sets the university apart.

“We have a high level of hands-on learning,” Drumm said. “Many programs will require only that students read a book and pass the test. Our students go out in the field and prove they can do it!”

—Luke Evans

# Training Citizens for the Global Village

By Raquel Levy, '13

Marshall McLuhan, a communication theory philosopher, once said: "Everywhere is now our own neighborhood. Not only is the world getting smaller, it's becoming more available and more familiar to our minds and our emotions. The world is now a global village."

But McLuhan, who coined the phrase "global village," said this in 1960 before technology and travel had advanced as much as it has today. If the world seemed accessible then, it's entirely within our reach now. For that reason, it has become increasingly important to think and speak globally.

That's exactly what the Modern Languages Department teaches students. Yes, it offers courses in Spanish, Italian, French, German, and American Sign Language, but more importantly, professors focus on instilling a global mindset.

"We want students to navigate and think critically in another language," said Carlos Parra, dean of the Modern Languages Department. "As they learn a new language, they will learn to think with a different perspective."

## Studying Abroad

Parra believes the best way for students to gain a broader perspective on the world is through Adventist Colleges Abroad (ACA), a program in which students study at an Adventist school overseas. Summer options include Thailand, France, Brazil, Spain, Italy, Israel, Japan, Austria, Russia, and Argentina. For yearlong programs, students pick between France, Brazil, Spain, Italy, Lebanon, United Kingdom, Austria, Argentina, or Germany.

Sarah Ruf, '13, chose to be an international studies major specifically because it required students to spend a year abroad. She knew that a greater understanding of Spanish, gained by spending a year at the Adventist university in Argentina, would enhance her future journalism career.



Adrienne Royo, associate professor in the Modern Languages Department, prays with students before class in Miller Hall.

"It was the best year of my life," Ruf said. "More learning happened outside the classroom than inside. That total immersion experience, combined with the hospitality I was shown, made it an amazing trip."

While based in Argentina, Ruf took trips to Buenos Aires, Machu Picchu in Peru, and Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. Students in ACA can use federal money (Pell grants or loans) to help pay for their year abroad, including traveling expenses.

"The experience of traveling is life changing," Ruf said. "It takes you outside of yourself, and you learn 'hey, it's not all about me, there's a world out here,' and that is so thrilling."

## Opportunities and Responsibilities

Both Ruf and Parra recommend pairing the modern languages major with another academic field such as business, journalism, social work, public relations, or healthcare. Not only so students will learn a new language, which will be beneficial in their future career, but also because it will enhance the way they view the world. Roughly 90 percent of modern language majors are double majors.

Graduates from the Modern Languages Department have a variety of career opportunities and are great candidates for international work. The training can even pay dividends while the student is still in school. Clemente Perez, '12, used his German classes and linguistic skills learned from two years abroad in Austria to win a \$2,500 scholarship from Volkswagen in 2011 for interpreting at their annual global leadership event in Chattanooga.

But it's not just about what students can take away from the program; it's also about what they give back. The Modern Languages Department advises students to invest time in the local community as well, especially through service. Many classes in the department have a community volunteer component that students fulfill outside the classroom.

Since returning from Argentina in 2011, Ruf has used her Spanish skills as an intern for La Paz Chattanooga, a nonprofit organization that connects the Latino community with available resources. Students also donate their time and multilingual talents with Bridge Refugee Services and other local organizations.

"Service is the link to understanding each other," Parra said. "Not just how a person feels from his or her perspective, but learning to be more mindful of others who think differently." ■

# EAT YOUR HOMEWORK

By Ingrid Hernandez, '13

**New vegetarian culinary arts program encourages students to play with their food! But the message these health evangelists will take to the world is quite serious.**

**B**eginning with the Fall 2013 semester, students in Southern's new vegetarian culinary arts program will enjoy the fruits of their labors, literally, while learning how to share an important part of the Seventh-day Adventist health message in the tastiest, most visually appealing manner possible.

Southern is the only Adventist school in North America offering culinary arts, and it is one of only a few colleges or universities in the country providing training focused on the preparation of vegetarian and vegan foods. The program begins as a one-year certificate track through the School of P.E., Health and Wellness, but the university plans to include associate's and bachelor's degree options by 2014.

The program's core courses include Vegetarian Main Dishes and Entrees I and II, Baking and Pastry I and II, Desserts I and II, and more. Some of the other courses that will be taught include Food Safety and Sanitation; Introduction to Food Purchasing, Preparation, and Presentation; International Ethnic Cuisines; and Introduction to Marketing for Culinary Professionals. Students will also select electives in areas where they desire special training.

Crystal Whitten, a new, full-time faculty member, has been hired as the director and lead professor. There will also be several adjunct professors, as well as guest speakers for class demonstrations. Some of Southern's nursing and religion faculty will be involved in the program as well, providing a more complete picture of the Adventist health message.

Whitten, who has a Ph.D. in nutrition, is currently an adjunct professor in the Biology Department. She has taught classes in food preparation as part of other degree programs

for 14 years at various schools, in addition to working in catering services.

"Nutrition has been my whole life," Whitten said. "I hope to make this exciting for the students and show that preparing food in a healthful manner is an honorable endeavor."

One of Whitten's strengths is the understanding of dietary habits and the impacts they have on long-term health. She will teach students special diets and modifications for people with diabetes, cancer, and certain food allergies.

Those involved with the new program are also working to put together a corporate advisory board that will facilitate culinary connections for students, helping them advance in their careers.

"Florida Hospital and local retirement facilities have already expressed interest in having interns from the program, and those connections could potentially turn into jobs," said Leslie Evenson, director for the Wellness Institute at Southern.

Warren Lindsey starts his culinary training at Southern this fall—step one in his dream to own a restaurant—and plans to pursue a degree in business administration from the university as well. He believes this background will provide the education and hands-on experience necessary to succeed.

"It's smart for me to learn how to prepare food with a vegetarian emphasis," Warren said. "This program will teach me those skills."

To view a complete list of requirements for the vegetarian culinary arts program, visit [southern.edu/culinary](http://southern.edu/culinary). ■



Leslie Evenson, Wellness Institute director at Southern, believes adding a culinary arts component to the university's toolkit will help teach students to lead a balanced life.

# Transform Tomorrow



SPRING GRADUATION HIGHLIGHTED THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 373 UNDERGRADUATE AND 63 GRADUATE STUDENTS WHO ARE FINISHING AN IMPORTANT CHAPTER OF THEIR LIVES. BUT DON'T BE FOOLED; THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING. THESE NEW SOUTHERN ALUMNI HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH KNOWLEDGE AND AMBITION TO CHANGE THE WORLD.



1



2



3



4



6



5

**FACING PAGE:** Daniela Ale-Salvo, '13 (chemistry), walks down the aisle at Commencement on Sunday, May 5. The blue philanthropy cord was given to those who donated to the senior class gift, the green cord designates graduating Cum Laude (3.5-3.74 GPA), and the medal represents completion of the Southern Scholars program (interdisciplinary honors curriculum).

**1 & 3:** Raymon Lia, '13 (financial management), is baptized by Brennon Kirstein, Southern Adventist University chaplain, at the Friday night Consecration service. His mother and father flew in from China for the weekend.

**2:** President Gordon Bietz waits in the lobby for the Baccalaureate service to begin at the Chattanooga Convention Center.

**4:** Chris McKee, '88, speaks on the strengths of this generation at the Consecration service in the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists.

**5:** Faculty and 2013 graduates from the Modern Languages Department pose in their caps and gowns before enjoying a supper of international food and celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Adventist Colleges Abroad program.

**6:** Joanna Billing, junior global policies and service studies major, performs worship signing at the School of Social Work's pinning ceremony in Mable Wood Hall. There were 15 baccalaureate degrees and three graduate degrees awarded through this School during the May graduation.



7



8



9



10



11



12

**7:** Class President Josianne Baily, '13 (biology and music), picks the banjo as part of a group that played during the offertory at the Baccalaureate service Saturday morning.

**8:** Family and friends of graduates bow their heads for prayer during the Baccalaureate service at the Chattanooga Convention Center. All of the activities at the convention center were streamed live online,

allowing those not able to travel the ability to be a part of this special event.

**9:** Christy Garcia, '13 (nursing), waits to be pinned for her associate's degree at the nursing dedication service Saturday night in the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists.

**10:** Robert Bengé, professor in the School of P.E., Health and Wellness, carries the Southern mace as grand marshal during Commencement. The mace was crafted in 1986 and represents the university's heritage and commitment to students.

**11:** The Golden Anniversary Alumni class poses for a group photo before walking down the aisle at Commencement.

**12:** Members of the School of Education and Psychology gather for prayer at the close of their dedication service. There were 26 undergraduate degrees and 20 graduate degrees awarded through this School during the May graduation.



13



14



15




16

**13:** Bruce Coston, '83, delivers the Commencement Address to the Class of 2013. Coston is a veterinarian and author from Virginia whose sons, Jace, '13 (international business), and Tucker, '13 (biology), graduated in May. To listen to Coston's presentation, visit [southern.edu/columns](http://southern.edu/columns).

**14:** Jace Coston, '13 (international business), collects his thoughts backstage before introducing his father, Bruce, '83, the guest speaker for Commencement.

**15:** Carlos Romero (attended) proposes to his longtime girlfriend, Melissa Ritter, '13 (nursing), just minutes after she graduated. She said yes! The two have known each other since they were classmates in the fourth grade.

**16:** Chad Tanag, '13 (nursing), celebrates after receiving his degree. The School of Nursing graduated 142 students in May, the most of any program at Southern: 55 associate degrees, 54 baccalaureate degrees, and 33 master's degrees.



*Ministry of  
Memories*





Photos by (l-r): Aubrea Shupp Photography, Brittni Schroeder Photography, Archetype Studio, Munchkin Moments, Sarah Sunstrom Photography

Southern graduates' new nonprofit provides cancer patients and their families free photography sessions, offering a lasting light that transcends the darkness of the moment. *By Angela Baerg, '06*

Alan Darmody was working as a freelance photographer in 2008 when he got a desperate call from a church member's daughter. Her father had been sick for a year, and they hadn't known why. Suddenly they found out that he had Stage IV cancer and only a short time left to live. She offered to sell her car to make payments if Alan would come do a photography session for the family.

"We told her to keep her car, and we came by the next day for a free session," Alan recalled.

## Seed is Sown

When Alan, '05, and his wife Alysa (Shepherd), '01, pulled up to the home for the photo shoot, they weren't sure what to expect. The short, sweet session surprised them with its poignancy and peace. It was intimate and relaxed, featuring Ted Smith\*, his wife, his children, and his dog.

"It was the same as any other session we had done, yet vastly different," Alysa said. "We left talking about the difference between capturing beautiful moments in people's lives and capturing an actual beautiful life, forever."

Ten days later, Smith passed away. His faithful dog followed him in less than a month. When Alan and Alysa attended Smith's funeral, they were stunned to see that of all the photos the family could have chosen to commemorate his life, they had chosen the ones from that photo session.

They were struck with the significance of what had taken place and knew that it was going to change their lives—they just didn't know how.

## The Seed Sprouts

In January of 2012, cancer's specter loomed once again over someone special. This time it was Alysa's close friend, Daphne Knecht, who was more like a little sister. Knecht attended Southern from 2006-2010 and during that time had fought a brain tumor that was believed to be benign. Alan and Alysa were shocked when they heard it was a glioblastoma and that Knecht would not be returning home from the hospital. Ever.

Alan and Alysa started a Facebook page for Knecht and a fund to assist with medical and transportation expenses. Although they had no trouble finding donors, they did struggle with finding pictures for her page. They were frustrated to discover how few photos had been taken since her illness began. Alan and Alysa were distraught that they could not afford to fly out West and offer her a free photo session like they had done for Smith.

"Why can't we make it available to cancer warriors and survivors everywhere, regardless of their financial situation?" they wondered.

\*Ted's last name has been changed for medical privacy reasons.



Alan and Alysa Darmody

## Scholarship Celebrates Student's Spirit During Battle with Cancer



Daphne Knecht, one of the original inspirations behind Magic Hour Foundation, knew she wanted to be a gymnast from the moment she watched the 1996 Olympics in second grade. She eagerly dove into the sport, and by the time she arrived at Southern in the fall of 2006, she easily made the Gym-Masters team.

Knecht was always willing to help teammates learn new skills and constantly encouraged others with her positive attitude and sunny smile. She had been at Southern for two years before being diagnosed with a brain tumor. During her first round of chemotherapy, Knecht was too ill to perform with the Gym-Masters, yet she still found creative ways to be involved: directing choreography, accompanying routines with the tympanies, and even making a quilt of all of the Gym-Masters shirts from the previous 10 years.

Though the growth went into remission, it eventually became malignant.

"We will never forget Daphne's determination and joy. She inspired all of us," said Rick Schwarz, Gym-Masters coach. "After she passed away, family and friends established a scholarship to memorialize her impact on gymnastics at Southern. It not only helps students financially, but also keeps Daphne's memory and spirit before us."

Learn more about the endowment by searching "Daphne Alyse Knecht Scholarship" on Facebook. To contribute, visit [southern.edu/give](http://southern.edu/give) or call 423.236.2829.

## Magic Hour Blossoms

The Darmodys' experience with Knecht only solidified the stirrings they had felt after their encounter with Smith. One day Alan came home and said, "If I could find a way to donate photo sessions to people who are fighting cancer and just pay my bills so my family didn't have to worry, I would donate my time for the rest of my life."

Some might have let their vision stop at a longing, but Alan and Alysa felt called to step out in faith. In October of 2012, Alan stopped working as a traditional photographer and instead began to focus on a new mission for his life, Magic Hour Foundation. The couple started this nonprofit to serve those fighting cancer by providing them with the ability to celebrate the truly important things in life through images.

The term "magic hour" is a common photography term referring to the half hour at the beginning and ending of each day, when the sun casts a beautiful golden glow that makes for amazing pictures.

"Our recipients are in the magic hours of their lives—some are transitioning out of life on this earth, while others have overcome and are transitioning into a life with more clarity and purpose," Alysa says. "We want all cancer warriors to have the opportunity to remember how beautiful they are and how poignant this time is in their life and the lives of their families."

Alan became a full-time volunteer for the new endeavor, and Alysa donated her marketing skills in the evenings after she got home from her job as alumni development director at Atlanta Adventist Academy. Alan was surprised at how heading up a nonprofit pulled from every resource he had acquired while getting his business and marketing degree at Southern, from economics and communication to basic and managerial accounting.

"I'm using 100 percent of what I learned at Southern," he said. "Even though I didn't specifically study nonprofit management, I feel like I was very well-prepared. Somehow the professors managed to get me ready for something I never thought I'd be doing."

## Spreading Roots

Alan and Alysa hated that they had been unable to assist Knecht simply because of their geographic location. They had a hunch other photographers across the country would give back to their communities using their photography skills. That's when they decided to send out a call to unite mission-oriented photographers all over the United States to form a network that would be available to minister to cancer patients across the nation. One of the first photographers they contacted was David Fournier, '01, a friend from Southern.





Photo by Alan Darmody Photography



Photo by Alan Darmody Photography

They contacted him because they needed someone to do a shoot in the Northeast, and they hoped he might be willing to travel a bit. They were amazed when they found out he lived in the exact area as the woman who needed the photo shoot.

“I was so excited to get involved,” Fournier remembered. “It was wonderful to be able to use my gifts in a way that really meant something to someone.”

Fournier met with his photography subject at a local park, where they walked and talked, shooting photos as they went to capture the various emotions she expressed while sharing her story. After an organ donor helped to save her life from cancer, she decided to become proactive, making healthier eating and exercise choices. She and Fournier used that photography session to document her journey, both what she had been through and how far she had come.

“I loved hearing her story and how her sickness reframed her life,” Fournier said. “It was quite moving. I may have given her pictures, but I felt like she gave me something even more meaningful.”

It turns out Fournier is not the only photographer hoping to give back. In the six months after Magic Hour Foundation was founded, the nonprofit grew to include more than 200 professional photographers covering 40 states. Crystal (Cabansag) Colon, '07, recently signed on as Magic Hour's only photographer in Hawaii, and she is currently waiting to be assigned her first session. They continue to receive volunteer applications every week.

With a solid foundation of volunteer photographers in place, Magic Hour Foundation's next big task is raising awareness within the cancer community so that even more cancer patients can benefit from this service. So far the organization has done 25 sessions, with another 25 scheduled in coming months.

“Family and memories are two of the most valuable treasures in life. They should be celebrated in the present and captured for the future,” Alysa said. “Our goal for these sessions is that they be a celebration of our recipients' fighting spirit against cancer. No matter the outcome, the battle changes you. I know it has changed us just getting to be a part of their lives.” ■

## 5 Ways You Can Help Magic Hour Foundation

1. Nominate yourself, a friend, or a family member who is a cancer patient or cancer survivor for a photography session. People of all ages who are presently struggling with cancer, or have been cancer-free for less than two years, are eligible.
2. Help make businesses in the healthcare industry aware of Magic Hour Foundation so that they can distribute materials and raise awareness for people who could benefit from the ministry.
3. Make a financial gift. Every session participant receives an heirloom gift box and prints of their images, which cost Magic Hour Foundation \$10 (a greatly discounted price resulting from generous corporate sponsors). All donations are tax deductible.
4. Donate in-kind needs such as frequent flier miles, lodging points, gas cards, inspirational giveaways, or advertisement space in publications.
5. Spread the word about Magic Hour Foundation in your personal network of friends, whether that means telling a neighbor, writing about it on your blog or Twitter, or posting on Facebook.

To learn more, visit [magichourfoundation.org](http://magichourfoundation.org).



No  
Work  
Beneath  
Us

By Ingrid Hernandez, '13



## UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATORS MODEL COMMITMENT TO SERVANT LEADERSHIP THROUGH A SPECIAL DEDICATION SERVICE, VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES, AND THE ABILITY TO FIND FULFILLMENT BEYOND A PAYCHECK.

**G**ordon Bietz knows more than most about leading. As a former pastor, he shepherded many different flocks. As the Georgia-Cumberland Conference president, his challenges were varied and constituents many. And in his 16th year as president of Southern Adventist University, the extensive growth he has overseen on campus is unparalleled.

Perhaps the most consistent leadership trait in all of Bietz's positions is an ability to empower others by working alongside them, not above them. That spirit was on full display January 11 during a special event involving administrators, students, and community members. After months of renovation, the President's Office reopened with a Christian leadership dedication service featuring special music, prayer, the ordination of humility, and the unveiling of inspirational artwork.

The event's theme was centered on Matthew 20:26, "Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your

servant." The verse is mounted on the walls at the entrance of the suite, alongside a commissioned piece of art that shows Jesus washing Peter's feet. And while many view that verse and reflect on its theoretical merits, Bietz has no trouble understanding how the verse looks in practice.

"The way a leader serves people is to care about them," Bietz said. "Love them for who they are, not what they can do for the bottom line."

The leadership dedication service was a blessing for students, as well as employees. Bietz and his cabinet served six student leaders during a special foot washing ceremony designed to symbolize their heart for servant leadership. Adding to the solemn nature of that moment was the Emmanuel Quartet's live, a cappella performance of "Can Jesus Be Seen in Me?"

"It was incredibly humbling being a part of something that is so special to the administrators," said Student Association President Garrison Hayes.

"It shows that they're committed to including students in all aspects of this university."

The President's Office was physically transformed to remind administrators to daily rededicate their lives in Christ's service to students, fellow employees, and the community. They have committed to this promise of servant leadership and have demonstrated it in several tangible ways.

### VOLUNTEERING

Administrators use the beginning of each fall semester to get their hands dirty and spend some valuable face time with the young people they seek to serve. Students are welcomed to their home away from home by the friendly smiles of volunteers, like Bietz, who make up the "We-Haul" teams. These employees, alumni, and community members have helped students move into the residence halls of Southern for the last 14 years.



Bob Young, senior vice president for Academic Administration, helps students move into the residence halls as part of the We-Haul program.

“This is a great way to serve because it makes clear that there is no work beneath any of us,” Bietz said. “We are all in this together to make for a good student experience.”

Alongside Bietz, administrators such as Chris Carey, vice president of Advancement, and Tom Verrill, senior vice president of Financial Administration, also volunteer for the program.

“It’s more than just about the labor; it’s about the personal connections,” said Evonne Crook, Alumni Relations director and We-Haul volunteer coordinator. “The administrators want to build relationships with the new students.”

Carey said he believes We-Haul is a great way to meet students and parents, and to let them know that administrators care. He regularly volunteers with his two daughters, ages 15 and 11.

“Volunteering is just the right thing to do,” Carey said. “It helps me stay centered.”

These generous gifts of time extend beyond current administrators, as well. Retired employees find ways to utilize their professional skills even after “leaving” Southern. Ken Norton, Sr., former director of development for the university, volunteers in the Planned Giving office. His story is not unique among those who retire and stay in the Collegedale area.

In addition to former employees,

Southern also utilizes an army of helpers know as Lights Volunteers. This remarkable group—composed of a diverse group of community members, including non-Adventists—follows the servant leadership example set by current faculty, staff, and administrators. In academic year 2012-13, they contributed 4,650 hours of labor worth an estimated \$99,435. Both sets of numbers represent an increase over the previous year. If you are interested in becoming a Lights Volunteer, call 423.236.2491 or email [robberson@southern.edu](mailto:robberson@southern.edu).

## BEYOND THE PAYCHECK

Servant leadership can be seen not only in special ceremonies or volunteer opportunities, but also in whether or not employees view their work as a mis-

sion and relish the opportunity to work for something beyond the paycheck. Higher education has a history of attracting employees who prioritize occupa-

tional satisfaction over wealth. The denominational pay scale that guides salary structure at Adventist colleges and universities makes that statement all the more true.

According to the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources, compensation for senior leadership at Southern is well below the 20th percentile for private religiously af-

filiated colleges with similar enrollment and budget figures. Even more striking is presidential compensation, where Southern is in the fourth percentile.

Clearly, it’s not about the money. At Southern, occupational satisfaction includes a deeply spiritual component. Gary Sewell, associate vice president for Information Systems, joined the university in 2012 after spending more than two decades successfully working his way up the corporate ladder. Though content with his employer and in his work, Sewell felt compelled to move his family halfway across the country for a job here that brought with it a significant pay cut. Though the decision was confusing to secular friends and former coworkers, Sewell knew it was the right thing to do.

“I spent my entire career chasing after the new promotion. I finally came to a point where I felt God calling me to a higher purpose—a place where faith in him would be the next level,” Sewell said. “God is working with me and through me in my new position at Southern. I have a much higher purpose for my life now than before.”

## DIVINE COMMISSION

Southern is fortunate to have such strong leadership. There’s power in humility—an openness to God’s blessings that is unavailable for those clinging tightly to the illusion of control.

By following Christ’s example, faculty, staff, and administrators at Southern have the opportunity to be part of a divinely commissioned work. Bob Young, senior vice president for Academic Administration, recognizes this and the role education plays in eternity.

“I’m passionate about Adventist education because it makes a difference in the lives of young people. By maintaining a heart of servant-leadership, our teachers and administrators participate in restorative ministry.” ■

### WEB EXTRA!

Visit [southern.edu/columns](http://southern.edu/columns) for a song and slideshow from the President’s Office dedication.





Southern missionary Jessica Webster holds Jessica Rae, born with her help while serving in Zambia.

# My Name, His Purpose

By Jessica Webster, '13

Calling my recent experiences an emotional roller coaster is, perhaps, the understatement of the year.

I was preparing to be a student missionary in Africa when my boyfriend asked me to marry him—I said “YES!” Shortly thereafter, I was diagnosed with diabetes. Talk about a pendulum swing. The emotional and medical complications were a giant roadblock, redirecting plans for my dream trip.

I was told over and over again by faculty, staff, and former student missionaries that God was going to change my life during the time spent overseas. He must have needed a head start with me, because all of these new happenings—both positive and negative—had my heart and mind working overtime to understand the intersection of my goals and His will. The struggle to recognize divine direction in these moments was life-changing in and of itself, regardless of whether or not I ended up in Africa.

I was planning to go to the country of Zambia as a nurse for Riverside Farm Institute. But after my unexpected diagnosis, the doctor told me: “No way. There are too many risks.”

I was crushed. When I asked her if there was any way of working around the health problem so that I could still make the six-month trip, I was presented with a gigantic list of things to accomplish before even considering the possibility of leaving the country.

After an enormous amount of prayer, tears, and hard work getting healthier, I received the doctor’s reluctant clearance to go overseas (and my fiancée’s tender assurances that absence makes the heart grow fonder).

## Delivering on Promises

I arrived in Zambia in early September and started work at the rustic clinic. I prayed earnestly for God to show me what He wanted me to learn while I was there. I needed to be challenged, and I wanted my spiritual walk to blossom. This prayer was answered at midnight as a co-worker pounded on the door to my little house.

“Jessie, the baby is coming. We need you at the clinic right away!”

I threw on some scrubs, fumbled for my glasses, and rushed to the clinic. The mother was on the delivery bed, and supplies were laid out. Thankfully I wasn’t alone; two Zambian women were also there, and each of them had six children. Veterans! As we waited for the contrac-

tions to speed up, I sat down with the soon-to-be father and struck up a conversation to help calm the nerves (both his and mine). He told me he wasn’t sure what to name his baby and asked me how I got my name.

My parents weren’t able to have children for the first 10 years of their marriage, and a few months after a heartbreaking stillborn delivery, my mother had an interesting dream. She was sitting in the back of a church when she saw a man start to walk toward her while carrying a pink blanket. As he got closer, she recognized it was Jesus. He handed her His pink bundle and said, “This is your daughter. Her name is Jessica Rae.” Four months later she found out she was pregnant with me.

I finished telling the father this story just before his wife’s water broke and I got back to “work.” After about two hours of pushing, I could see a head. The child arrived at 2:45 a.m., and her first cries brought elephant-sized tears to my eyes. She was perfect. After her mother held her, I took her to the father and placed her in his arms.

“Hello, Jessica Rae,” he said to her as his arms swayed slowly back and forth. Those tears that were pooling now began to flood down my face. The realization that I had just been a part of bringing a life into the world was astonishing. That the story of my mother’s dream inspired the naming of another Jessie Rae made the moment even more emotional.

God was using me that night. Using me to care for a mother and newborn. Using me to calm a nervous father and share a story of promises fulfilled.

## Speed Bumps

The whole student missionary experience taught me that today’s inconveniences are just eternal speed bumps. They slow down our busy lives long enough for us to recognize that God will use us in any circumstance—not just the ones we plan for and that look good on paper. I had plenty of reasons to say “no” to serving in Africa. But when we fully recognize that He is in control, we are free to move forward. ■

# Prayer, Patience, and the Art of Education

By Karyn Davis, junior graphic design major

It's natural in college—yes, even at Southern—to love a handful of courses while struggling with others. Some students appreciate a captivating subject, while others find a light workload to be the holy grail of college classes. What separates those two distinctions for me is when a professor really goes out of his or her way to make my time with them both meaningful and enjoyable. And when I discover a course like that, it's a pretty rewarding experience. I get excited about going to class and apply myself with a dedication that doesn't always come naturally to college students.

One of the things that impresses me the most is when I can tell a teacher genuinely cares about me as a person and wants me to succeed in the class. I'm fortunate to have had classes with someone who has gone above and beyond when it comes to ensuring my success in his classroom.

Joe La Com, '05, is an instructor in the School of Visual Art and Design and has been working at Southern for two years. He began teaching here my freshman year, and we both approached this new experience at Southern with a mixture of enthusiasm and trepidation. I remember walking into Brock Hall for the first time, greeted by a young instructor who looked a little wary of a lab filled with 18-year-olds. The class, Intro to Computer Graphics, was a crash course in a handful of software programs we would become very familiar with over the next few years. It's a lot to soak in as a student. I imagine it was a lot of work for a first-time teacher as well.

La Com always makes it a point to have prayer before class, no matter how busy we are. He asks if anyone has any requests, and you can tell he cares about each and every one. Prayer is more than just a routine in his classes.

During my freshman, year a friend from high



This fall, Joe La Com begins his third year of graphic design instruction at Southern.

school suddenly passed away in an accident. La Com asked if anyone had prayer requests, and I explained what had happened. We bowed our heads and prayed, lifting everyone's requests to God. In that moment, I felt like I was a part of a family, not just a part of a class. He told me he would continue to keep me in his thoughts and prayers over the weekend as I went to the funeral, and I did not forget that. It was comforting to know that even while away from campus, there were people at Southern praying for me and for those affected by the tragedy.

## Making Us His Priority

Not only is La Com genuine, but he is also one of the most patient people I've studied under. Most of the freshmen students had little idea what we were doing and would get frustrated with all the new concepts, but he never lost his cool. Despite going over certain techniques time and time again before everyone understood, La Com never gave up on us or showed even a hint of frustration. Instead, he went from person to person, checking our progress and answering any questions we might have; and as is always the case with freshmen, there were some ridiculous questions!

More often than not, there wouldn't be enough time in class to talk individually with each student about the details of specific projects. Instead of leaving us to trial by fire, La Com would insist we email or call him—whatever it took to help us learn the software and accomplish our goals. Sometimes he would set up specific times above and beyond his office hours when he would simply sit in the labs in case any of us showed up looking for help. This strikes me as extraordinary because he is not only a busy teacher, but also a husband and father with young children. There are a lot of other places he needed to be and things he needed to attend to, but in those moments he chose to make us a priority.

La Com always has a smile on his face and reflects what a quality instructor should look like. He provides the knowledge and positive classroom atmosphere that truly leads to academic success. Not only does he give me the tools I need to become successful, he challenges me to reach my full potential, encourages me to not give up when faced with obstacles, and reminds me to fully rely on God in every situation. ■

*Karyn Davis is taking a year off to spend time in Pohnpei (Micronesia) as a student missionary. She looks forward to two more years of studying under La Com when she returns.*





### Higher Education

Jeremy Pastor, '13, stepped away from the stress of studying for finals to enjoy a ride on the 300-foot zip line between Lynn Wood Hall and Talge Hall. This popular activity was part of the university's annual Student Appreciation Day that takes place each spring. In addition to the zip line, students were treated to grilled peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, chauffeured to class in university golf carts, and pampered with free massages.

# Beyond the Columns



**30s** **Clyde Franz**, '32, a retired Seventh-day Adventist Church executive who oversaw membership statistics and missionary recruitment for international outposts, turned 100 on March 1, 2013. He celebrated his centennial with his two children, relatives, and friends visiting from several states. Through the years, Clyde has faithfully attended alumni meetings hosted during the Carolina Conference Camp Meetings in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina.

**40s** **Marguerite (Sanderson) Jansen**, '48, is a retired registered nurse living in Redlands, California.

**50s** **Clarence**, '53, and **Norma Huckaby** (attended) are both retired and live in Loma Linda, California, where Norma was a physical therapist for 16 years at the Jerry L. Pettis V.A. Hospital. Clarence has been volunteering at the Jerry L. Pettis V.A. Hospital for the past 32 years, and he worked in construction before that.

**60s** **Richard Martin-Burnett**, '63, lives in College Place, Washington, with his wife, Joani, whom he married on February 14, 2009. Richard retired from the Seventh-day Adventist education system in 2005. He has six children, nine grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

**Felicia (LeVere) Phillips**, '65, was selected by the Alumni Board at Monterey Bay Academy as their 2013 Alumna of the Year. The academy is proud to acknowledge her global missionary spirit and dedication to teaching ministry. From 1966-2010 (44 years) she served as a teacher/pastor/ hospital chaplain/missionary in the countries of Panama, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Philippines, Haiti, Honduras, and Albania. She and her husband, **Lamar**, '63, returned from the mission field in 2010 and retired in Collegedale, where she is an adjunct teacher for the School of Religion at Southern.

**Verne Miller**, '65, lives in Loma Linda, California, and is a retired executive with Transworld Systems, Inc. He is an ambassador for the Loma Linda Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Chamber Board.

**Charles Witter**, '68, lives in Sequatchie, Tennessee, and has been teaching Old and New Testament Bible History for the past eight years at Soddy Daisy High School.

**70s** **Harvey**, '73, and **Bonnie (Campbell) Oetman**, '72, recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. Bonnie retired in December of 2011 as a nurse practitioner and Harvey retired from owning his own business, although they maintain leadership positions at their local church in Lansing, Michigan. They have one daughter and two grandchildren.

**Robert DuBose Jr.**, '75, lives in Riverside, California, with his wife Denise. He has worked in schools and libraries since 1973 in the Florida and Gulf States Conferences, and at Madison and Loma Linda Academies. He is currently supervisor of library media services for the Alvord Unified School District.

**Ann (Sharley) Hubbard**, '76, lives with her husband, Rich, in Spokane, Washington, and works as an archaeologist and architectural historian with SWCA Environmental Consultants in Seattle. Ann recently served as the SWCA architectural historian on a team recording the Native Village of Afognak, Alaska, as a cultural landscape.

**Beverly (Benchina) Brett**, '78, along with her husband, Andrew, lives in Highland, California, and has worked for over a decade as an upper-grades teacher at Warm Springs Elementary School in San Bernardino. When not working, she and Andrew enjoy traveling, poetry, photography, and floral design. She also loves spending time with her grandsons.

**Dale Somers** (attended) received recognition from the city of San Diego, California, and Mayor Jerry Sanders as his business was honored with an official "Bio-Tox Laboratories 25th Anniversary Day" on October 5, 2012. Dale created Bio-Tox Laboratories in 1987, and the company now serves the San Diego Police and Sheriff's departments, among others, with quality forensic drug analysis using state-of-the-art equipment.

**80s** **Tim Jennings**, '83, was appointed president-elect of the Tennessee Psychiatric Association, chair of the Board of Regents for the Southern Psychiatric Association, and fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. In 2012 he was selected as "One of America's Top Psychiatrists" for the fourth time by the Consumer Research Institute



of America. He has a new book, *The God Shaped Brain*, published in the Spring of 2013 and is president and founder of Come and Reason Ministries. He is in private practice in Chattanooga. Jennings' materials can be found at [comeandreason.com](http://comeandreason.com).

**Judy (Arnold) Bartlett**, '86, and her husband, Charles, live in Robersonville, North Carolina, where she homeschools her young son. Her daughters, Anna and Emily, attend Southern.

**90s** **Janesta (Bryant) Walker**, '91, has returned to Southern to work toward her instructional leadership master's degree with an emphasis in educational administration.

**Rachel (Bates) Jameson**, '92, and her husband, George, have three boys, George (15), Michael (13), and Silas (12), and live in Hope, Michigan, where Rachel teaches grades 1-8 at Edenville Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School.

**David Graham**, '93, graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary in 2010 with a Doctorate in Ministry. He currently serves as the associate pastor



for the Sharon Seventh-day Adventist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, and his oldest daughter, Sarah, is a history major at Southern. He and his wife, Balinda, have three children.

**Joel Henderson**, '94, was recognized as a member of the 2012-2013 Leadership Chattanooga Class, a diverse group of local professionals. He works with North American Credit Services, Inc.

**Thomas Knoll Jr.**, '95, his wife, Deanna, and their son, Judson (age 4), welcomed Jakob to the family on June 4, 2012. The Knolls live in Olympia, Washington, where Thomas is an assistant attorney general for the state and Deanna works part time as a pediatric physical therapist. The family thoroughly enjoys the Pacific Northwest and takes advantage of as many outdoor activities as possible—including camping, biking, hiking, and canoeing.

**Mark Jacobs**, '95, completed his Master of Science in Management in 2008 and has been CEO/administrator of a Maine nursing and residential care facility for 14 years—a company his grandfather founded in 1970. Currently, he and his wife, Valerie, are caring for two young foster children along with their own two children, who are in elementary school. They also have two older children living in Japan and Virginia. Mark is president of the Maine Chapter of the American College of Health Care Administrators.



**James Appel**, '96, is currently practicing as a family physician at the Moundou Adventist Surgery Center in the Republic of Chad, where he is the medical director. James, Sarah, and their daughter, Miriam, welcomed baby Noah on January 27, 2013.



**Traci (McFarland) Josephsen**, '94 and '99, was selected as 2011 Nurse of the Year at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga. She lives in McDonald, Tennessee, with her husband, Jon, and son, Josh.



**00s Crischelle Shank**, '00, is the medical director at Malamulo Adventist Hospital in Malawi, Africa. She attended Loma Linda University Medical School and completed her residency in family medicine at Lancaster General Hospital in Pennsylvania. Immediately after residency in November of 2007, she headed to South Africa, where she became the medical director within a year. She currently oversees clinical instruction to nurses, lab techs, and clinical officers at Malamulo College of Health Sciences.



**Adam**, '01, and **Laurella (Fillman) Case**, '00, have lived since 2000 in Wisconsin, where Adam currently pastors the Wisconsin Academy Seventh-day Adventist Church in Columbus. Their son, Joshua, will be starting second grade in the fall of 2013.



**Kameron**, '00 and '11, and **Emilie (Wilson) DeVasher**, '01, welcomed their second child, Edward Evans DeVasher, to their family on October 2, 2012. They currently live in Muskegon, Michigan.

# » beyond the columns

**Tres Wood**, '02, has accepted a position with Smithers Pira in Sunnyvale, California. While assuming this role, he also achieved professional-level certification with the International Safe Transit Association. He and his wife, Sunny (attended), are proud of their daughter, Heather Shields (attended), who graduated from Southern Polytechnic State University.

**Nathan**, '00, and **Margie (Jones) Tidwell**, '03, are currently stationed in New Delhi, India, where he is serving as the consul in the U.S. Embassy. With their two children, Andrew and Alina, they are making new friends, and the family enjoys exploring India together. Prior to this, they lived for four years in South America, where Nathan served in various positions for the U.S. State Department.

**Sean Amlaner**, '05, is a visual art instructor and senior VFX artist working as a senior compositor/supervisor at Disney Feature Animation. He lives in Glendale, California.

**Matthew Schiller**, '05, began working at Walt Disney Animation Studios in September 2011 as a character technical director and contributed to the movie *Wreck It Ralph*.



**Jeni Hasselbrack**, '00 and '06, was promoted from human resources director to associate vice president at Gordon Hospital in Calhoun, Georgia. She has been employed by the hospital for seven years. Prior to moving to Calhoun, Jeni was the director of Student Finance at Southern.



**Sean**, '06, and **Linda (Gotshall) Reed**, '07, live in Russellville, Tennessee, where Sean is pastoring two churches and Linda is a full-time mom of their two-year-old son, Gavin.

**Laura (McDow) Coggin**, '07, lives in Los Angeles, California, and works in social work as a residential counselor for St. Anne's, a maternity home for at-risk, pregnant, or parenting young women and their children in the greater Los Angeles County.



**Ryan**, '08, and **Jaelyn (Ford) Knight**, '08, welcomed their first child, Jackson Kenneth, in July of 2012. They live at Maplewood Academy in Hutchinson, Minnesota, where Ryan is the dean of men and Jaelyn is the school nurse.



**Dequina Nicholas**, '09, is a Ph.D. candidate attending Loma Linda University and holds the title of reigning Miss Loma Linda. She advocates for healthy living and personal physical fitness through exercise and proper nutrition, coupled with advocating for funds to support diabetes research.

**Tod Cain**, '09, was recognized as a member of the 2012-2013 Leadership Chattanooga Class, a diverse group of local professionals. He works at Siskin Hospital for Physical Rehabilitation.

**10s Bethany Norton**, '11, recently accepted a job at Greater Boston Academy in Stoneham, Massachusetts, as the pre-kindergarten teacher.

**Erin Martin**, '12, recently joined The Walter E. Boehm Birth Defects Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She is a nurse practitioner and clinical care coordinator. Prior to her current job, she worked as a nurse with a focus on neuroscience at Siskin Hospital for Physical Rehabilitation and at Vanderbilt University.

We'd love to hear from you (and so would your classmates). Send updates about further educational accomplishments, marriage, additions to your family, or recognitions received in your profession to:

**alumni@southern.edu** or  
**Alumni Relations,**  
**PO Box 370,**  
**Collegedale, TN 37315-0370.**

# Remembrance

**Walter Maurice Abbott, Jr.**, '52, former church ministries director for the Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, died on March 7, 2013. His ministry began as a singing evangelist, and he served as a pastor and as departmental director in the Alabama-Mississippi (now Gulf States) and Kentucky-Tennessee Conferences. He joined the Southern Union team in 1979 as director of personal ministries, ASI, and later the Sabbath School Department. He is survived by his wife, **Dorothy (Dortch)** (attended); daughter, Sheree Hutchinson; son, **Jeffery Abbott**, '81; three grandsons; three step-grandchildren; and three great-grandsons.

\* **Donald S. Booth** (attended), age 63, of Orlando, Florida, passed away on April 11, 2013. He was a retired elementary school teacher and most recently worked at Funspot. He is survived by a sister, Edita Avera; nephew, Scott Avera; and niece, Suzanne Avera-Fulton.

**Claudine Willowford (Hopkins) Boyle**, '44, passed away on August 15, 2012. She taught piano and organ for many years at Knoxville Adventist School in Knoxville, Tennessee. A trust fund has been set up in her name to fund piano lessons for those whose budgets couldn't cover the expense. She is survived by her husband of 68 years, John W. Boyle, daughter, **Beverly (Boyle) Duckett**, '68, son, **J. William Boyle**, '71, and daughter, **Rebecca (Boyle) Mitchell** (attended).

**Florence (Fleenor) DeShazo** (attended), of Hot Springs Village, Arkansas, passed away on December 18, 2012. After graduating with a business degree, she moved to Dallas, Texas, to be near her family and began working as an administrative assistant at Eastman Kodak Company. Her passions were playing the piano and singing. She is survived by one sister, **Jane Fleenor Turnidge** (attended), and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her husband, Howard DeShazo; two brothers, **Herbert** (attended) and Daniel Fleenor; and one sister, **Naomi Fleenor Haynes** (attended).

\* **Donald Dick** (attended), former communications professor at Southern, passed away on September 16, 2012. Don and his wife, Joyce, moved to Collegedale in 1968 with their three children. At Southern, Don directed productions of *Fiddler on the Roof*, *My Fair Lady*, *Annie*, and *Sound of Music*. He coordinated satellite radio broadcasts of international Seventh-day Adventist conferences. An active member and past president of the Ooltewah-Collegedale Kiwanis Club for 30 years, Don had the honor of being the first club member elected as Lt. Governor of Division 3. He is survived by his wife, Joyce Dick; daughters, **Linda Gustad**, '81, and **Valerie Hunt**, '85; son,

**David Dick** (attended); seven granddaughters and one grandson; brother, Art Dick; sister, Lorle Stacey; and many in-laws, nieces and nephews.

**Grover A. Edgmon** (attended), a retired custodial service supervisor and campus safety officer at Southern, passed away in Florida on December 30, 2012 at the age of 91. He is survived by his children, **Linda Ramsey** (attended), Richard Edgmon, Patricia Kerekes; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and three siblings, **Deward Edgmon** (attended), **Dot Fuller** (attended), and **Thelma Skeggs** (attended).

\* **Cyril F. Futcher** passed away in Hendersonville, North Carolina, on October 22, 2012. He was the former director of admissions and records, as well as the academic dean at Southern until 1984. Surviving are a daughter, Carol, of Hendersonville, North Carolina; son, Anthony G. Futcher of Hyattsville, Maryland; son, Terence J. Futcher, of Harlingen, Texas; four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, as well as numerous nephews and nieces.

\* **Andrew Orville Oey Kuntaraf**, '01 and '08, died on April 6, 2013, from injuries sustained during a motorcycle accident near Charles Town, West Virginia. He was the director of Adventist Church Membership Software at the Seventh-day Adventist World Church's office, where he oversaw the development of standardized membership accounting software for church use worldwide. In addition to his interest in technology, Andrew was also a skilled musician, often embellishing hymns on the piano during song service at the Capital Chinese Seventh-day Adventist Church in Silver Spring, Maryland, where his parents are members. He is survived by his wife, **Alysia (Booth) Kuntaraf**, '01; his parents, Jonathan and Kathleen, both employees at the church headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland; and his sister, **Andrea Kuntaraf**, '02.

**Harold Miller, Jr.**, (attended), passed away on February 20, 2013. He was a practicing dentist in Orlando, Florida, for 40 years. Miller Hall on Southern's campus was named in honor of his father, Harold A. Miller, who was a professor of music at Southern for several years. Harold, Jr. spent many childhood years on campus. He enjoyed sharing his memories of those years in poetry and prose. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Aline; daughter, Susan Evans; granddaughters, Alana Armstrong and Diana Leigh.

**Wilfred Reyna**, '60, passed away on January 24, 2013, after a long battle with prostate cancer. He studied theology at Southern and served as an elementary teacher, principal, and pastor in Texas, Florida, and California. He had a burden to serve as a missionary in a Latin American country so he went to Bucaramanga, Columbia, but this was cut short due to the death of his first wife, **Carolyn Stanley**,

(attended). He later served eight years in Bolivia doing educational and pastoral work. He spent the last 25 years of his service as chaplain at Paradise Valley Hospital in National City, California. He is survived by his wife, Gloria; son, Wilfred, III; daughters, Alycia Sauder and Cristina Coneff; and five grandchildren.

**Don West**, '42 and '49, passed away in Ooltewah, Tennessee, on December 20, 2012. He is survived by his daughters, **Arlene (West) McFarland**, '70, and **Shirley (West) Wodzinski**, '74, as well as his son, **Donald West**, '68. He was a longstanding member and supporter of Southern's Committee of 100 and Presidents Circle 100.

**Tami Sanders**, '78, passed away on December 4, 2011, in London, Ohio. She was formerly a critical care nurse at the Erlanger Medical Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She is survived by her daughter, Sabrina Walker; brothers, **Thomas Sanders**, '80, and **Troy Sanders**; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews.

**Kenneth Spears**, '66, passed away on February 13, 2013, in Lufkin, Texas, leaving behind his wife, Mildred; son, **Steve Spears**, '75; daughters, **Susan Loor**, '71, and **Karen Lippert**, '77; brothers, **Gary Spears** and **Don Spears**, '77; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Kenneth served as an administrator in admissions and finance at Southern from 1961 to 1991. He helped lead the development of the City of Collegedale, serving eight years as city councilman and vice mayor, as well as on numerous boards in the community.

**Izak Wessels** passed away on February 27, 2013. Wessels served on Southern's Board of Trustees from 2006 until his death. He is survived by his wife, Elaine; children, Gunter, **Delia**, '98, and Rhoda; and five grandchildren (see article on Page 6).

\* **Edwina (Smith) Meister Miller West**, '55, died on March 30, 2013. She was a registered nurse for 25 years. Her sweet spirit will be missed by her family and friends. Graveside services were held in Memorial Park Cemetery in St. Petersburg, Florida.

**John Woolcock**, '78, passed away on January 29, 2013, following an extensive battle with cancer. He was an active faculty member of the chemistry department at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) for 29 years, serving as department chair from 2005 to 2011. He had been recognized throughout his professional career through publications and presentations in national meetings, as well as for his constant commitment to the IUP chemistry department and his students. He is survived by his wife, **Ruth (Jackson)**, '78.

\* Photo can be found at [southern.edu/alumni/news](http://southern.edu/alumni/news).

## Warm Reception

Lizette Williams-Marlow visits the John C. Williams Art Gallery, named after her late husband, and examines ceramic pieces during the February 27 opening of “Form, Function, & Fire,” a monthlong exhibit. The space is home to five events a year, presenting both student and professional works. This was the first ceramics show the gallery ever hosted, and it featured creations from John Cline, Erik Vetne, Ryan Pierce, Loren Howard, '03, and Marc Boyson—all of whom are faculty or staff at Southern. Many of the pieces were available for purchase and sold quickly during the reception.





By Gordon Bietz, *president*

# forgetting

I don't have the greatest memory. I am not good with names like some people are. Occasionally, I get occupied and find myself driving somewhere and following an old habit instead of going where I need to go. In my house, it is a well-documented fact that I forget to take out the garbage on trash pickup days.

Yet, there exists an importance in forgetting. Imagine what it might be like if you remembered everything—literally, every experience you have ever had. It would be overload. Instead, our minds operate with a selecting process, screening out stimuli that are not important.

Having a good memory is certainly important, but it is equally important that we forget some things.

Paul knew the importance of forgetting. He had a lot of things he was happy to forget. He wrote in Philippians 3:13-14, "... But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenly in Christ Jesus." Not only does Paul forget what is behind, but Jesus forgets as well. "You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea." (Micah 7:19).

The problem of sin is not so much the sin itself, but the effects of that sin on our ability to forgive ourselves. Maybe we should focus on "forgive" rather than "forget." It is God's responsibility, not ours, to revive the memory of past scenes of error.

## You Are Your Memory

A soldier, captured at Wake Island and later confined for years in China, was left partially paralyzed when an enemy soldier struck him with a rifle butt. I met him 13 years after World War II when he was living in San Francisco. When I visited him, he told one story after another of how barbarically he had been treated. With intense emotion,

he spoke of the tortures he endured and of his utter hatred for the Japanese.

He had been horribly wronged, no question. His misery and pain could not be measured. But another factor made this soldier's existence even more lamentable: he was a bitter man.

He had been released from prison camp. He had a lovely home and adequate income.

But he was still bound in the prison camp of his heart and mind, fighting a battle that should have ended years ago. There is no torment like inner torment. There is no life as miserable as one that is miserable from the inside. You really are your memory.

## Look Toward His Grace

Grace is the antidote to bitterness. It is how we heal the memories of those wounding experiences. Focusing on past errors, either others' or our own, paralyzes us for present action. There is a work to do and a life to live. There are people to serve and a God to worship. Look to the new life of tomorrow rather than focusing on the old life of the past.

Nothing can compare with the prize we seek—the prize Paul talks about in Philippians 3. Our problems of the past will pale into insignificance as we look at the Lord. And when we do look at Him, our injuries seem like nothing compared with what He incurred.

As you go through this life, remember there are some things you should forget so that you can experience life with joy. Forget those grudges you hold toward people who have offended you. Forget those mistakes you made. Leave it all with the Lord today for a new start. ■

*Focusing on past errors paralyzes us for present action. There are people to serve and a God to worship.*

# Thank you for being part of our success this year!



## Every gift counts for every student every day.

- Value of total gifts received to date this fiscal year: \$3,838,600
- Number of gifts made to date this fiscal year: 8,203
- Number of living alumni: 31,436\*
- Number of new graduates: 700\*\*
- Percentage of graduates who made gifts: 25.57%
- Number of new donors who have included Southern in their estate plans: 30

\* Includes both graduates and attendees

\*\* December 2012 and May 2013