

the magazine of Southern Adventist University

fall 2013

# columns

## Song Service

Southern functions as a talent agency, connecting students, faculty, and alumni with opportunities to share their gifts on Sundays as paid musicians for several local congregations. page 12





## Dear Southern

Nothing good comes easy. Generations of students who have walked up the 21 surprisingly steep steps from the promenade to Lynn Wood Hall over the years can attest to that. But being out of breath—and feeling out of shape—is a small price to pay for partaking in some of the divine work that happens inside Southern’s oldest major building. Whether it’s counseling and testing in the Student Success Center or fundraising in the Advancement office, hearts and minds are forever changed by the efforts of employees who climb these steps every day. And to them we owe a debt of gratitude (along with, perhaps, a comfortable chair and an ice pack for their knees). Nothing good comes easy. True. But both the beautiful campus view from the top of the steps and the big-picture view at the end of a long day’s work keep things in perspective. It’s all worth it.

—Editors

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On the cover: Judy Glass, professor in the School of Music, instructs a student practicing on the Anton Heiller Memorial Organ in the sanctuary of the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists.

Cover Photo: Matthew Lester



# columns

Volume 65 Number 2  
Alumni Edition

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## vimeo



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



The Gym-Masters performed the finale at Acrofest 2013 on the campus of Southwestern Adventist University (coverage of their routine starts at 2:30:52).



Senior film production major Daniel Wahlen is directing *The Hideout*, a project which aims to raise awareness of child sexual abuse and to encourage victims by letting them know they are not alone.

## flickr



A resident of the duck pond shot by Jefferson Clark, senior public relations major. [flickr.com/photos/tigresauvage/9658722515](https://www.flickr.com/photos/tigresauvage/9658722515)

## twitter



Let's scrap the duck pond and upgrade to swans in the fountain.

»Mark Comberiate, junior film production major

Haluska [English chair] chokes up in every class; always in reference to God.

»Rachael Hankins, senior English major

Man I wish I could extend all the deadlines I set all the time. Seems convenient.

»Jason Lang, '10 [lead designer at CoTap, a mobile messaging company]

Whatever you do, do it with a willing heart. It's all about Him, not us.  
-Jack Blanco #sauconvo

»Keolani Dingilius, senior allied health major

Today I'm thankful for Landscape Services student workers! It's super cold and windy, yet these ladies are faithfully working hard.

»Sarah Graham, sophomore history major



## Connect with Southern Adventist University:



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

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# facebook worth a click!

I remembered my editor from Southern: Mrs. Burdick! Man, she was a killer with that red pen. Looked like she had cut herself every time I submitted the newsletter to her. But I learned. I learned.

»Angie Coffey Lippard, '93

The library is quiet? Is this a sign of the end?

»Bobby Jepson, sophomore psychology major



Exploring the Mayan pyramids! — at Altun Ha Ruinas Mayas De Belize.

»Ricky Oliveras, '11 [video producer for Adventist Mission]

[leadsu.org/2013/11/11/why-i-am-hopeful-about-adventist-millennials](http://leadsu.org/2013/11/11/why-i-am-hopeful-about-adventist-millennials)

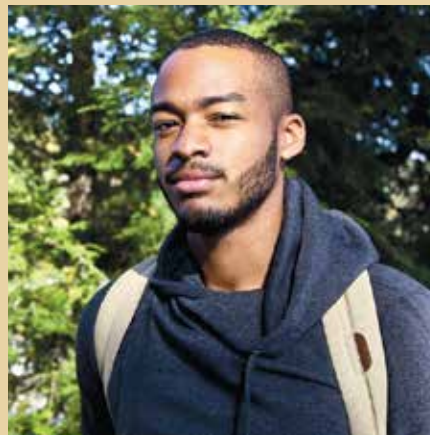


Roger Hernandez, ministerial director for the Southern Union, was the guest speaker at Southern's 25th Annual Pierson Weekend of Evangelism and Missions on November 8-9. While his message no doubt blessed the students in attendance, Hernandez appears to have taken away quite a blessing himself. In this short article, he writes about how Southern and its students are a bright spot amid worries about the Millennial Generation and the future of Seventh-day Adventism.

He ends with this thought: "Thanks, Southern. Thanks, Jesus. Today, I am hopeful."



# instagram



Meet Chris Royster, sophomore allied health major. Suzanne: "Is there a reason you decided to grow a beard?" Chris: "It makes me look older."

»beardswithstories  
Suzanne Ocsai, senior art major



The most beautiful time of the year.

»mariahpolen  
Mariah Polen, sophomore education major

Beards with Stories is a photo essay Suzanne started earlier this year which documents the reasons behind why these men grow their beards. During the month of November, she's photographing four students every day as they grow beards for No Shave November.

*Are you an Instagram user and a current or previous student? Use the hashtag #SAUgram, and we may feature your photo in an upcoming issue of COLUMNS.*



# youtube

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



Wendy (Guptill) Harris, '00, is a missionary in the Philippines, where she and her husband run a helicopter medical ministry. They are helping with relief work after Typhoon Haiyan.

[leadership]

## Donors Model Giving Spirit for Students During Service and Philanthropy Day

Alumni Homecoming Weekend was the perfect occasion to educate students about the generosity of those who came before them and the responsibility they have to carry on that tradition. The Service and Philanthropy Day convocation on October 24 accomplished just that.

Students entering Iles P.E. Center were greeted by an array of nonprofit organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Samaritan Center, and the Chattanooga Zoo. The message was clear; even the most financially challenged students can serve by giving of their time and talents.

Christopher Carey, vice president for Advancement, then led a panel discussion



Former School of Religion dean Jack Blanco, left, created *The Clear Word*, a devotional paraphrase of the Bible, in 1994. Since that time it has sold nearly a quarter of a million copies. All of its royalties—several hundred thousand dollars—have gone to scholarships for students at Southern and A.W. Spalding Elementary School. He and his deceased wife, Marion, also agreed to donate a portion of their estate to Southern.

with donors Linda Marlowe, Jack Blanco, and Franklin Farrow. Marlowe worked in the School of Nursing for over 30 years and had her own worthy student fund.

“I kept \$500 in my office for those who needed help paying for boards,” Marlowe said. “I told students it was a loan until they graduated, so that they could give to others what had been given to them.”

As convocation closed, an announcement was made that a million-dollar contribution had been received by the university from the Farrow Family Foundation.

“You can’t outgive God,” said business executive and Board of Trustees member Franklin Farrow. “Remember that you’re not giving your money, but His money.”

—Charles Cammack

## Vote Helps Move Adventist Educational Alliance Forward

During its October 28 meeting, Southern’s University Senate voted in favor of syncing the academic calendar more closely with that of sister schools Union College and Southwestern Adventist University. The senate’s recommendation will now go before the university’s Board of Trustees in February for another vote.

This is the latest action taken to support the Adventist Educational Alliance, a new collaborative group designed to promote efficiency among Adventist higher

education institutions through shared academic resources and support services. Last June, registrars from Southwestern and Union visited campus to explore the possibility of using Southern’s Datatel software—a robust, integrated program that encompasses areas ranging from academics to housing to financial aid—for their schools as well.

Another way this alliance could keep costs down and limit tuition increases would be through academic collaboration. There are certain small, specialty classes offered at all three schools that

have only six to eight students. As older professors retire, only one professor would be required for one online class offered to each of the three universities.

Marc Grundy, vice president for Enrollment Services, has been involved in the discussions of this alliance and believes that along with the benefits to each institution, collaboration is the right thing to do from a spiritual perspective as well.

“We should work together because God has called us to help each other,” Grundy said.

—Lucas Patterson

## » by the numbers

1703

McKee Library’s oldest book, *Sermons* (Atterbury), was published 310 years ago.

399

Sigma Beta Delta business honor society recently welcomed Southern as its 399th charter institution.

185

The Institute of Archaeology’s new aerial robotics device took 185 pictures while flying over the dig site in Tel-Lachish, Israel.



## Southern to Offer Four-Year Renewable Freshmen Scholarships Beginning in Fall

Southern recently announced a major change in the way financial aid is awarded to students. Beginning in the fall of 2014, freshmen scholarships will be renewable at 100 percent for up to four years. The new policy helps future students and their parents better budget for the financial aspects of college.

There is a strong parallel between the fact that more and more Adventist youth are not attending the church's colleges and universities, and that an increasing number of these same youth are leaving the denomination. Southern is taking a significant step toward remedying that.

"These scholarships allow families to embrace Adventist education instead of feeling like their only option is the cheaper community college, even though they know there could be long-term downsides to that choice," said Marc Grundy, vice president for Enrollment Services. "The most transformative time for students is their freshmen and sophomore years in college. That is when they absolutely need to be in a Christ-centered environment surrounded by like-minded believers."

The news about renewable scholarships is already having an impact on parent and student interest.

"I learned about this important step during Southern's financial seminar and open house on our campus," said Rick Anderson, principal at Mount Pisgah Academy in North Carolina. "I was excited, and the parents were, too. You could literally hear the buzz in the room!"

The monies required to finance this new scholarship model are coming from institutional funds, help from donors, and expected revenue from the additional influx of students choosing Southern specifically because of this policy change. But future students won't be the only ones benefitting from the university's careful and prayerful financial work.

"We are planning to increase the level of need-based funds that we award to non-freshmen students starting next year, since they committed to Southern before this policy was in place," Grundy said.

In the midst of the current national dialogue about historically high student debt, Southern administrators have a desire to make Adventist education available to everyone. Although the university already budgets more than \$10 million annually for financial aid and \$5 million annually for student jobs on campus, something more was needed. So along with the renewable scholarships, Southern also recently voted that the tuition increase for 2014-2015 would be held to 2.4 percent, a figure below that of expected inflation and the smallest increase in more than 25 years.

"We're doing everything within our power to keep Southern affordable while maintaining the high-quality experience our constituents have come to expect," said Tom Verrill, senior vice president for Financial Administration.

For more details, visit [southern.edu/scholarships](http://southern.edu/scholarships).

—Lucas Patterson

### SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

Freshmen who maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA will be able to keep their scholarships for up to three additional years. Renewable scholarships include:

#### ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

\$2,000 – full tuition (based on GPA and ACT score)

#### LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

\$2,500 (for students who held a leadership role during their senior year of high school)

#### STATE SCHOLARSHIP REPLACEMENT

\$3,000 (for students from most Southern Union states)

#### LIGHTBEARER SCHOLARSHIP

\$2,000 (for students who graduated from a non-Adventist high school or homeschool after attending two years)

#### NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITIONS

Finalists in the following programs receive a full-tuition scholarship:

- National Merit Scholarship
- National Achievement Scholarship for African-Americans
- National Hispanic Recognition Scholarship



Carlos Lopez, a finance counselor at Southern, gives advice to a student about maximizing scholarships, loans, and other forms of tuition assistance.

162K

Southern has recouped \$162,607 in recyclable materials so far while razing the old McKee Plant 1 building.

170

During the monthlong Soul Workout Challenge, 170 students memorized Bible promises and exercised daily.

12

2013 marks the 12th year of being ranked "Top Tier" by *U.S. News & World Report*.

## [leadership]

**School of Business and Management Selects Hyder as New Dean**

Mark Hyder, above, replaces Don Van Ornam as dean.

Search committee members working to fill a dean position in the School of Business and Management voted a recommendation that interim dean Mark Hyder be asked to take on the leadership role full time. He accepted.

Hyder earned his Bachelor of Science in accounting from Southern (1982), a Juris Doctor degree at Emory University (1993), and a Master of Science in accounting at the University of Maryland (2007). He is licensed to practice law in Georgia and Massachusetts and is a certified public accountant, certified fraud examiner, and certified trust administrator.

"I was attracted to apply for the posi-

tion because this is an institution that I love, with faculty that I love," Hyder said. "This is my college, after all!"

Before coming to Southern as the interim dean this year, Hyder worked for the General Conference Auditing Service as regional manager. He also has experience in higher education as an associate professor at Atlantic Union College, where he taught business courses and served as the vice president for Finance.

Hyder's appointment allows Don Van Ornam, dean for the School of Business during the past 16 years, to relax and transition into retirement.

—Ashley Rich

## [news briefs]

**Southern Hosting Lifestyle Medicine Conference**

Southern's School of Nursing and School of P.E., Health and Wellness are hosting the Lifestyle Medicine Conference February 3-4, 2014. Guest speakers for the free event include T. Colin Campbell (*The China Study*) and Rip Esselstyn (*The Engine 2 Diet*). For more information, email [jgates@southern.edu](mailto:jgates@southern.edu).

**SONscreen Film Festival Coming to Collegedale**

The annual SONscreen Film Festival, held in Simi Valley, California, since 2002, will take place at Southern March 20-22, 2014. The North American Division created the event to support the craft, career development, and spiritual lives of Christian filmmakers. Southern students have won the "Best in Fest" prize for five consecutive years. For more information, visit [sonscreen.com](http://sonscreen.com).

**McKee Plant 1 Razed to Make Way for New Entrance**

Southern recently demolished Plant 1, the 55-year-old building formerly occupied by McKee Foods Corporation. The razing was part of Southern's Vision 20/20 strategic plan for greening the campus and creating a more welcoming entrance near Brock Hall.

**Religion Professors Lead at International Field School**

The General Conference invited five professors from Southern's School of Religion to New York City for help training Seventh-day Adventist pastors and lay leaders during the International Field School of Evangelism June 7-29. Greg King, Jud Lake,

Carlos Martin, John Nixon, and Michael Hasel gave tutorials as part of the NY13 outreach initiative, a worldwide push to evangelize people living in major metropolitan areas.

**Cafferky Honored for Work Integrating Faith, Business**

Michael Cafferky, professor in Southern's School of Business and Management, is the first Seventh-day Adventist business scholar to be presented the Sharon G. Johnson Award, a national recognition bestowed by the Christian Business Faculty Association to those making outstanding contributions toward the integration of faith and business.

**Symphony Orchestra Broadcasts Concerts Live Online**

All remaining Symphony Orchestra concerts for academic year 2013-2014 that are held in the Collegedale Church sanctuary will be broadcast live at [southern.edu/streaming](http://southern.edu/streaming), beginning with the Christmas Concert on December 13. For performance dates and times, visit [southern.edu/music](http://southern.edu/music).

**Senior Public Relations Major Wins National Award**

The Society of Adventist Communicators named Rebecca Anderson "Student of the Year" during its annual convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, October 24-26. Southern faculty, staff, and alumni took home awards for their work as well. Judges applauded Rebecca, a senior public relations major, for her academic excellence and ambitious internships.



## New Sabbath Trail Planned as Land on Bauxite Ridge Gifted to Southern

Southern increased its geographic footprint by nearly 25 percent as donors recently transferred 258 acres on Bauxite Ridge to the university, a gift worth several million dollars.

The property, located on the east side of campus opposite White Oak Mountain, was a contribution from two alumni who met as students at Southern in the early 1950s before graduating and getting married. Their children attended Southern, and their grandchildren currently attend.

Plans for the acreage include a new trail system that will offer something different from the Biology Trail—a network of paths extending up White Oak Mountain. While the Biology Trail offers hikers and cyclists quite the challenge—including a black diamond level of difficulty in some areas—the new trails will be gentler and not as difficult for the average hiker.

Of greater distinction will be the fact



The Collegedale Church can be seen in the distance from this location on the proposed Sabbath Trail.

that the Bauxite Ridge property includes a spiritual emphasis. Southern administrators are already working on details of the Sabbath Trail, a one-mile loop with stone markers along the way that trace the history of Sabbath from creation to the new earth. Its design will be based on a trail by the same name at the Washington Seventh-day Adventist Church in New Hampshire. In addition to the Sabbath

Trail, Bauxite Ridge will have trails that extend for ten miles in total. The blazing and maintenance of these paths will largely be handled by Friends of White Oak Mountain, a grassroots organization in Collegedale that volunteers those same services for the Biology Trail.

The new trails are expected to be completed by 2015.

—Rachael Hankins

## Student Group Working to Convert Used Vegetable Oil into Fuel

Turning garbage into something useful is an accurate metaphor for the goal of a Christian's life. But students at Southern are working on a project that takes this process more literally, converting used cooking oil into biodiesel for campus vehicles and equipment.

This ambitious and environmentally-friendly idea is the brainchild of Southern's Enactus team. Formerly called SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise), Enactus is an international community of student, academic, and business leaders that frames all of its work in the context of three guiding principles: people, planet, and profit. The biodiesel idea hits all markers.

The Food Services department pays a company to haul away used cooking oil each month. Enactus plans to collect the waste for free and turn it into fuel using a relatively simple process.

After that, the group plans to sell it to the university for use in campus generators, tractors, and other vehicles. If all goes well, start up costs for this project, primarily from the processing equipment, will be paid for by biodiesel profit within two years.

Enactus has a solid plan and strong support from local experts, including David Gutashaw, the energy specialist at Volkswagen's Chattanooga plant. But without an on-campus location to house

the conversion equipment, it's difficult to move forward. Rick Griggs, the sophomore chemistry major serving as project leader for this effort, is not deterred.

"This project is still in its conceptual phase, but so many doors have been opened that I really believe this is going to happen," Rick said. "I feel like this project is being blessed!"

The student group plans to pass those blessings along to others. One by-product of biodiesel creation is glycerin, a key ingredient in soap. Enactus will donate the glycerin to a local nonprofit and train them to make designer soaps they can then sell to support their own ministries.

—Lucas Patterson



# Still a Missionary College

by Angela Baerg, '06

Southern's name and curriculum have changed several times since its doors opened in 1892, but one thing hasn't wavered: a commitment to carrying out the Great Commission. That's never been more evident than this past summer, as God used students to lead more than 2,800 people around the world to baptism.

These days, not only is Southern Adventist University continuing its traditional gospel initiatives—such as short-term and long-term mission trips and evangelistic series conducted by theology majors—but it is also launching additional outreach programs to help spread the gospel both locally and globally.

One development is the Evangelistic Resource Center's (ERC) Summer Evangelism Abroad program. ShareHim and Quiet Hour Ministries partner with the ERC to send students of all majors as volunteer evangelists to countries around the world. On the domestic front, the university's Soul-Winning and Leadership Training (SALT) program focuses on another important task: training students of all majors to become leaders who spearhead evangelism right here at home.

## Can Lay People Preach?

For many years, Southern focused on training only theology majors in evangelistic preaching, but in 2001, in partnership with ShareHim, the university launched a new initiative that would be open to any student with a desire to preach the gospel. The program would train students and prepare them to preach 19 doctrinal sermons over a 16-day period. At first, many doubted how effective lay people would be in preaching positions and if evangelism could still be effective in our modern age. Fortunately the skeptics were pleasantly surprised.

"They did an excellent job, and it worked," recalled Carlos Martin, director of the ERC Summer Evangelism Abroad program. "I believe strongly in preparing not only pastors, but also other lay people as future leaders. These students are making a major contribution to the world church."

During the summer, students on ERC trips represented

a huge variety of majors from chemistry and computing to mathematics and music. In all, 128 student preachers travelled to seven destinations in five different world divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They traveled 1,119,222 miles round-trip, preached 2,432 sermons, and led more than 2,800 people to baptism. In fact, over the last 13 years, the 774 students sent by Southern have averaged 1,849 baptisms per year for a phenomenal total of 24,042 baptisms.

## Into the Unknown

Why do students leave the comfort of their homes and go overseas to preach? Each student has a story.

For Andrea Calderon, sophomore nursing major, it took every ounce of courage she possessed to agree to go with the ERC to Argentina after she heard faculty and staff make a call during a vespers presentation. She had a tremendous fear of public speaking but felt strongly that she needed to step out of her comfort zone and do something special for God. At first, she thought she was committing to preach only one sermon; she was definitely surprised when they clarified that she would be preaching 19!

"I knew if I participated, then I would surely see the power of God within me," Andrea recalled. "It was one of the best decisions I have ever made."

Katherine Rodriguez, senior social work major, was surprised to hear what came out of her mouth while she was

**INVESTING IN OUTREACH:** In 2012-13, 1,783 donors contributed \$462,078 toward mission projects at Southern. Lives have been forever changed as a result. To make a gift, call 423.236.2772 or visit [southern.edu/give](http://southern.edu/give).





preaching in the Dominican Republic. After she preached, people would regularly come up and thank her for the message she shared, saying it was just what they needed to hear.

“I heard words, phrases, and statements that were not mine,” she remembered. “It was Christ speaking, not me.”

Southern has been grateful to partner each year with ShareHim and Quiet Hour Ministries to make these ERC trips possible. Jeremiah Weeks, '01, associate director for ShareHim, says that of the more than 70 Adventist colleges, universities, and collegiate groups working with ShareHim in its international field school program, Southern sends by far the most participants.

Another ERC partner, Quiet Hour Ministries, has provided more than \$400,000 through the generosity of its donors to assist the hundreds of ERC student evangelists with their travel expenses.

“Southern’s students are having a tremendous impact on both local and foreign mission fields,” shared Bill Tucker, '68, president of Quiet Hour Ministries. “Many develop a passion from doing evangelism on short-term mission trips that makes them want to do it on a regular basis at home or abroad the following summer as well. It gets into your blood.”

## On the Home Front

While some students feel a passion to preach overseas, others feel a calling to share the good news at home but don’t know how. To help meet the needs of these students, Southern launched SALT, a semester-long program that is open to all majors and worth 16 academic credit hours.

These religion classes are focused on practical ways to share the gospel: making friends, giving Bible studies, leading people to baptism, and supporting new

Christians in the path of discipleship. Special attention is given to understanding Seventh-day Adventist beliefs and prophecy, plus learning how to share this information with others. The course also involves a practicum for hands-on experience when students spend time each week in the community knocking on doors and giving Bible studies.

“Something powerful happens when students devote a whole semester to learning about what they believe and how they can share it with others,”

*“We got to know each other really well that semester, worshipping together before class and always encouraging each other.” – Karen Glassford*

shared Michelle Doucoumes, SALT coordinator. “It changes students’ perspectives on life, on their careers, and on what is truly important.”

## Seasoning the World

Students of all majors are drawn to SALT for a variety of reasons. Some take it for the academic credit; others audit, just wanting to gain the experience of the training.

Ryan Neall, junior premed/pastoral care major, enrolled in SALT hoping to learn how to witness in his future profession as a doctor. He got what he was looking for, gaining biblical knowledge during class and practical experience during his practicum. After he completed his time with the program, he could barely contain his desire to share what he had learned.

“I benefitted so much from the

course that when I went to Palau as a student missionary the following semester, I brought my SALT portfolio along and basically taught everything I had just learned from SALT to my eighth-graders there,” Ryan said.

Matthew Disbro, senior film production major, was at an impasse in his spiritual life when he decided to enroll in SALT. He had grown up an Adventist but never invested personally in the faith. He wanted that to change. The passion for Christ he found in his fellow participants in SALT stirred a fire in his own heart.


“We got to know each other really well that semester, worshipping together before class and always encouraging each other,” Matthew recalled. “My teachers and peers demonstrated what a real relationship with God looked like, and thanks to them, I had the courage and enthusiasm I needed to witness to people in the community.”

Karen Glassford, short-term missions coordinator at Southern, believes that having missions involvement of some sort is as essential to students’ education as any academic class they may take. That might mean knocking on doors and giving Bible studies with SALT, participating in a short-term mission trip with the nursing department or the ERC, taking a task force position with inner-city schools in Atlanta, or spending a year overseas in Kenya.

“My dream is to see every Southern student have some mission involvement before they graduate,” she shared. “Students come away from these experiences forever changed, with a new confidence in their ability to impact the world.” ■

Visit [southern.edu/columns](http://southern.edu/columns) to read the story of SALT students giving Bible studies to a police officer sent to investigate the “suspicious” young people walking from door to door in East Ridge, Tennessee.





Southern faculty—along with current and former students—share their vocal and instrumental talents on Sundays as regular, paid contributors at several local churches. This musical witness opens the door for lasting friendships and important conversations about faith.

Gerald Peel, '90, music director for First Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga



# Song Service

by Kendra Stanton Lee, assistant professor

Judy Glass, an award-winning professor in Southern's School of Music, has a motto by which she encourages her students to live: "Why work your way through school when you can play?"

Glass is a prime example of the rich possibilities in that clever turn of phrase, having recently celebrated 40 years as organist for First Presbyterian Church of Chattanooga. Somewhere during these decades of service, Glass became the unofficial point person for Southern students seeking to emulate her Sunday successes. It's a role she has grown to love.

## Southern Talent Agency

Glass' passion for "musical missionary work," as she calls it, is so great that she often operates as a talent agency of one. She has sent students to work at local churches of many denominations. Church leaders in the Chattanooga area know that they can count on her for referrals. That's exactly how Heather Peel, sophomore music major, gained the opportunity to play organ for a local Methodist church. Between rehearsals and practices, Heather has enjoyed getting to know her adopted spiritual family.

"The choir director is one of the godliest women I know," Heather said. "We relate very well to each other because music makes us feel connected to the divine; it gives that awe-inspiring feeling that nothing else can."

And on the occasions that conversations turn toward differences rather than similarities, Heather is happy to share.

"Fellow musicians and members at Ooltewah United Methodist Church have heard of Seventh-day Adventists, but they don't seem to know much about us,"

"I am most moved by hymns that contain important texts with significant music. Pieces like this are a memory trigger that moves me into a realm of thought regarding spiritual things and recalling what my Lord has done for me. This is a great resource in times of joy and in times of sorrow and challenge!" —Gerald Peel

Heather said. "My witnessing style has always been to find common ground with whomever I meet and let God work through me in a very natural and genuine way. I can do that here!"

Jonathan Harper, '13, spent his senior year commuting two hours round-trip to serve as pianist at Red Bank United Methodist Church. Harper knew the job would be worthwhile, based on the advice of Alex Mejias, '10, who had previously held the position. Harper had no intentions of pursuing music full time—he was simply saving money to help pay for medical school at Loma Linda University—but enjoyed putting his gifts to good use and watching God use him along the way as he took a stand for his faith.

"I made it very clear to them that I would not rehearse on Sabbath," Harper said. "I didn't mind performing on Sabbath—giving the gift of song to the church—but I won't work for pay on God's special day. They were completely understanding, and this actually led to some good conversations about Adventism with some of the choir members, which was pretty neat."

Emily Kurlinski, '09, was another student seeking freelance music projects. She began singing at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga to earn extra cash after hearing about the opportunity from a friend in I Cantori, Southern's advanced student vocal ensemble. But the compensation was secondary to her first love, music. And spending time on both Saturday and Sunday cultivating and sharing these talents has only strengthened the connection in Kurlinski's mind between music and mission.

“I believe we each experience our personal spirituality and interaction with God in the context of things we’ve embraced as part of our identity, whether these things be family, friends, careers, or hobbies,” Kurlinski said. “Many of my greatest joys and spiritual highs have been related to music. Simultaneously, my absolute darkest valleys and greatest tests of faith have also been musical ones. Whenever I share something in song, these experiences allow me to communicate an aspect of the Christian experience in the truest, most relatable way I can.”

## Friendships Forged

Toward the end of Harper’s time at Southern, he was rehearsing before his senior recital when he paused and looked up to find 25 familiar faces, some of the “gray-haired wonderful people” from Red Bank. They had piled into two large vans and come to support their favorite church pianist as he performed in a different venue.

Unexpected signs of appreciation like this can be found in accounts from many Southern musicians, making it easy to understand why oftentimes the motivations that prompted these musicians to seek out work are not the ones that keep them in touch with the churches.



Sophomore music major Heather Peel practices before her job begins at the Ooltewah United Methodist Church.

Kurlinski’s relationship to the Northminster Presbyterian Church was not restricted simply to rehearsals and practices. She remembers how, after returning from her time in the Ukraine as a student missionary, people at the church were very interested and asked her about the experience. Church members, as well as the choir director and his wife, also came to support Kurlinski at her senior recital with a dozen red roses.

“It was really sweet and left quite an impression on me,” Kurlinski said. “I was wanted.”

## Full-time Ministry

For a fortunate few, Sunday churches offer more than just part-time work. Heather Peel’s father, Gerald Peel, ’90, serves as the musical director of First Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga in addition to volunteer work he does with the choir for his Adventist church. At First Cumberland, he plans all the concerts and directs both the vocal and handbell choirs. As part of

Judy Glass (here shown with junior Josh Knight, an organ performance major) enjoys not only teaching students, but also mentoring them to use their talents for earning extra income.

the ministerial staff, Gerald is occasionally called on to visit shut-ins or to see church members in the hospital, and he has even been chosen by the denomination to be the music coordinator for their General Assembly (similar to Adventists’ General Conference Session) next summer. He considers it an enormous blessing to build bridges with believers from other denominations, and these unique roles help him do just that.

“With this job, I am quite naturally outside the saltshaker,” Peel said. “From my experience, Adventists seem to be known mainly for certain distinctions, many of them regarding our lifestyle. The people I work with have learned more about Adventists from me, and I hope to be a good representative for our church.”

But sometimes learning is a two-way street, as Southern’s faculty, staff, and students have had occasion to expand their spiritual worldview, too.

“I met some of the kindest, most loving people at Red Bank,” Harper said. “I am still quite convicted about what our denomination teaches, but it was eye-opening to encounter so many godly people outside the Adventist church.” ■





# 100,000 WATTS OF FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has many outreach programs. Some are for Adventists, and many of the others target non-Adventists in an overtly evangelical way. WSMC Classical 90.5, Southern's high-power radio station that has been on the air for more than 50 years, is carefully positioned to do neither. Instead, the organization's student workers and small team of full-time staff continue to work on friendship evangelism.

WSMC is the only classical music station in the Tennessee Valley, and most of the station's programming caters to the very predictable needs of its audience. On Sabbath, however, there is a subtle, yet deliberate change as the works chosen for broadcast are more uplifting and meditative. In addition, listeners will hear a handful of Bible verses and



WSMC is sponsoring 300 tickets for at-risk students to attend January's "From the Top" performance in Chattanooga. For information on how you can help, visit [wsmc.org](http://wsmc.org) and click "Share the Dream."

devotions mixed in among the selections. Perhaps the only obvious change to format is the broadcast of an entire worship service from the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists. But if listeners are tuned in Sunday through Friday, they may miss the fact that WSMC has a spiritual mission. Sound like a marketing mistake? It's not.

The goal of Southern's radio station isn't to immediately share information about the investigative judgment or any other uniquely Adventist message. The goal is to put out a product of impeccable quality that speaks highly of Southern and the church behind it. It's all about relationship building. For example, one WSMC listener shared that although her children were raised in the Adventist faith, her oldest son had become disinterested in attending church. However, he is a classical music lover and still listens to the station, even tuning in to the worship service broadcasts on Sabbath mornings.

WSMC student hosts do their best to connect with people like this by inviting them to the university's free concerts, archaeology museum exhibits, and world-class lectures. They talk about opportunities for hiking or biking on Southern's campus and options for enrolling in one of Southern's many academic programs.

The station also interacts with its audience through several community service programs, for which it has earned the Crystal Award from the National Association of Broadcasters. One of these is "From the Top," a National Public Radio show that shares the stories and live musical performances of talented youth. January 23 will mark the third time WSMC has brought this show to Chattanooga, partnering with civic, educational, and nonprofit leaders along the way.

"It's exciting to work with such a wide variety of organizations," said Scott Kornblum, WSMC general manager. "What an opportunity to build relationships and make new friends!"

—Lucas Patterson



WSMC's student announcers, such as senior music and psychology major Tyler Rand, make a point to connect with their listeners.

# PRESSED

## FOR TIME

By Luke Evans, '13





## *When Darlene Turner retired to Florida after practicing orthopedics for 20 years, she never thought her golden years would be spent ironing clothes for Southern students as a Lights Volunteer in Collegedale. Never underestimate the pull of family and the power of prayer.*

**I**t all started innocently enough. Darlene Turner's son, Fred, came to work at Southern in 1996 as a corporate architect. Ten years later, Turner's daughter, Kelly Crawford, joined the campus staff as office manager at the University Health Center. Soaking up the sun during retirement in Florida was nice, but the thought of being near her son and daughter warmed her heart. Turner and her husband packed their belongings once again, this time for a move to Tennessee.

As Turner's grandson prepared to start classes at Southern in 2008, she decided it made sense for her to take an even greater interest in the university. Just being near her family was not enough; she longed to invest her time and energy in the people and places they were always talking about. After spending several weeks in prayer, asking God for a way to help, she finally came up with a magnificently simple idea. Ironing.

"I felt impressed to call the dean and ask if anyone was doing the ironing for the boys' Sabbath clothes," Turner said. "He assured me that no one was and that they would love to have my help. So I brought my own iron and board and got started that very week."

That was five years ago. For two hours every Thursday afternoon, Turner sets up shop in the Talge Hall conference room and presses any clothes that students living in the building would like to wear for church that weekend. On average, she irons between 25-30 items during each visit. Campus historians and long-time employees do not remember any similar service ever being offered to Southern students.

The snap judgment of many who hear about Turner's work is that men at Southern must be incapable of taking care of themselves. They're not. Sophomore biology major Paris Christodoulides, for example, learned how to iron in the ninth grade. But he's thrilled to have Turner's help when the week gets turned upside down by a hectic schedule.

"You wouldn't want to see what I'd look like on Sabbath around midterms or exam time without her help," Paris said.

Over the years, Turner has developed a close bond with several students and has seen firsthand just how much her unique volunteer work is appreciated.

"The boys often come by and thank me," Turner said. "A few years ago when I fell and hurt my shoulder, many of them even wrote me cards and letters letting me know that they were praying for me. I feel like everybody's grandma!"

Turner's connection with the students isn't limited to ironing. Many of them come to her seeking advice or with a request to spend a quiet moment in prayer together. Volunteering has shown her that students at Southern really love the Lord.

"It has given me a chance to observe the students up close, and I have seen that they are here not only to receive an education, but also to grow closer to God," Turner said.

Dwight Magers, dean of men at Southern, has witnessed over the years just how important Turner's ironing is to the men living in the residence hall.

"The guys would often bring her so many clothes that she finally had to put up a sign limiting the service to three items each so that she could get to them all," Magers said.

Turner plans to continue her special project. Volunteering at Southern has been a wonderful experience for her, and she recommends that others try it for themselves.

"It has been very relaxing to me, both physically and spiritually," Turner said. "The Lord works in mysterious ways, and if He can turn something as simple as me ironing into a ministry for Him, than He can certainly do the same for others."

### **Lights Volunteers**

Turner is one of numerous helpers at Southern known as Lights Volunteers. This remarkable group of community members—including several non-Adventists—contributed 6,964 hours of labor last year, an investment of time estimated to be worth \$151,994. Tasks ranged from helping test fire extinguishers to being a test patient for nursing students working on assessment skills. For more information on volunteering, call 423.236.2618 or email [volunteer@southern.edu](mailto:volunteer@southern.edu).





# Experience the Spirit



We have an innate longing for community, both here on Earth and with Jesus in Heaven. Alumni Homecoming Weekend provided plenty of one and a glimpse of the other as former students came back to campus October 24-27 for a time of reminiscing and worship.





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**FACING PAGE:** Dwight Nelson, '73, preaches a sermon for alumni during worship services at the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists. Nelson, author and senior pastor for Pioneer Memorial Church at Andrews University, was the featured speaker during Alumni Homecoming Weekend.

**1:** Alumni and current students of the Southern Scholars academic honors program enjoy time spent at the reunion dinner on Friday evening.

**2:** Sarah (Matthews) Asaftei, '03, and her daughter, Sophie, enjoy socializing with familiar faces in the Dining Hall as well as making new acquaintances.

**3:** David Steen, '68, reminisces with fellow classmates and alumni.

**4:** Coral (Gibson) Miller, '83, pauses for prayer before the Ladies Luncheon meal and program begin.

**5:** Southern's choirs I Cantori and Die Meistersinger, along with the Wind

Symphony, deliver a moving sacred worship services.

**6:** Karin Covi, '81, speaks to former and current Southern Scholars at the Friday evening reunion dinner.



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**7:** Kaylie Beerman, freshman general studies major and student in Southern's new Culinary Arts program, serves soup appetizers to guests at the Ladies Luncheon.

**8:** Chris Carey, vice president for Advancement, shares campus updates with alumni, including Ralph Hendershot, '62, at the Gentlemen's Picnic on Friday.

**9:** Dwight Nelson (left), '73, and Chester Damron (right), '57, take a moment to catch up during the Gentlemen's Picnic.

**10:** A homecoming attendee participates in the workshop hosted by the student blacksmithing club, Southern Smiths.

**11:** During the School of Journalism and Communication's open house on Sabbath afternoon, Associate Professor Stephen Ruf, attended, does his best to capture memories made while alumni visit together.

**12:** Larry Williams, longtime community member, arrives in style at the 10th Annual Classic/Antique Car Show. His 1914 Ford Model T was the oldest vehicle featured in the event.





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**13:** Nancy Thiel (seated at left), retired professor from the School of Nursing, and Lights Volunteer Elsie (Steele) Blair-Davis (seated in middle), attended, visit with friends during the Alumni Potluck.

**14:** The Classic/Antique Car Show featured a variety of vintage cars, including a 1960 Ford Mustang, two Shelby Cobras, a 1931

Ford Model A, and this 1946 Chevrolet truck.

**15:** Alumni and future alumni came out Saturday evening for School Spirit 'N Sports Night in Iles P.E. Center.

**16:** The cool weather forced riders to bundle up for the Fall Colors Motorcycle Ride through the Smoky Mountain foothills.

**17:** Two (soon to be three) generations of Southern alumni gather for a McKinney family picture. Left to right: Barbara (Chase), '81 and '85; Mark, '83; Caleb (future student); James Ray, '55; and Phyllis.

**18:** Stephen Johnson, '83 and '85, visited the Physics and Engineering Department while on campus for homecoming. Pictured

here, he works to calculate the moment of inertia for an object.

**19:** As dean for the School of Nursing, Barbara (Davis) James, '75 (right), had a busy Sabbath afternoon helping alumni catch up on the latest news when they stopped by Florida Hospital Hall.

# Dinner and Doctrine: How Loneliness Led to Baptism

By Aaron Snelgrove, sophomore biology major

Anyone who has been a student missionary will tell you that certain memories are forever embedded in your mind. For example, who can forget the first time they ate the local cuisine (and then had a strong desire to find a Western toilet)? On a far more serious note, many of us are fortunate enough to have seen peoples' lives change because we showed them a little piece of Christ. That's a memory that will never fade! I had one of these moments in Thailand while watching a young girl whom I studied with being baptized.

It was my fourth month of teaching English in Thailand, and I was living in my own apartment. One of the families in the church noticed that I seemed to be lonely, and their youngest boy knew exactly how to fix that—by running up and inviting me to come over for dinner. This happened more than once, and each time I gladly accepted. We truly enjoyed each other's company, and they soon asked if I wanted to live with them. I joined their family of six as the unofficial seventh member and immediately realized that their hospitality was a gift from God. But He didn't put me there just so I could be happy. He put me there to do His work.

## Ready for a Savior

As I grew to know the family better, I learned that one of their daughters was adopted. Her name was Ploy, and she came from a Buddhist family. She listened intently during the services at church and in our family worship at home. She would ask many thoughtful spiritual questions, and by the grace of God my language skills soon developed to the point where Ploy and I could talk about such things. She was so curious and ready for a Savior.

I watched her mature in her relationship with



As his honorary sister from Thailand was baptized, student missionary Aaron Snelgrove wept with joy.

God. She stopped taking extra classes and tests on the Sabbath and stood up for Him in other ways as well. She stopped eating unclean meats and took great pleasure in explaining why to others. In short, she became a missionary in her own school. After weeks of implementing the things she was learning, Ploy came to me asking if she could be baptized. I've never smiled as large a smile as I did in that moment.

"Of course you can!" I exclaimed.

Ploy sought out the pastor the following day but came home discouraged. He wasn't there, but his wife told Ploy that she needed to wait for baptism because the church didn't want to "waste water" on someone who had not studied the official 28 Fundamental Beliefs.

Mortified at this response to her enthusiasm, I quickly found the pastor and pressed him for details about how soon he could start teaching Ploy these beliefs. He said he didn't have time. Frustration began to build up deep within me as I could see Satan trying to derail Ploy's commitment. But God provided the solution: I felt impressed to ask if I could lead out in the studies. The pastor excitedly agreed.

Over the course of the next 28 days, Ploy and I looked them over. One by one, she agreed. One by one, her beliefs were defined and strengthened.

## The Sweetest Sound

When the day came for Ploy to be baptized, we had a special family prayer to dedicate her new life. I was the speaker at church that Sabbath and chose to talk about the importance of perseverance with Christ at our side. When things or people of this world try to bring us away from Christ, it is imperative that we continue to do what is right.

I remember watching as Ploy walked into the baptistery, and the words we always hear sounded sweeter than ever.

"Ploy, because of your love for Christ and your willingness to serve Him, I now baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."

I am not ashamed to admit that I wept with joy when I saw her come up from the water. Because of my small role in her conversion, I carry with me now a better understanding of how Jesus must feel when we commit to Him. I've had a taste of that deep inner satisfaction and look forward to more of the same as I've returned to the States carrying a new burden for leading others to God.

I'm convinced that this is not just the work of pastors and evangelists, but of people like you and me. We can make an eternal difference. Step by step. One by one. ■



# Javier Krumm

**Athletic Director for La Sierra University  
Master of Science in Education, 2008**

## **What drew you to this career?**

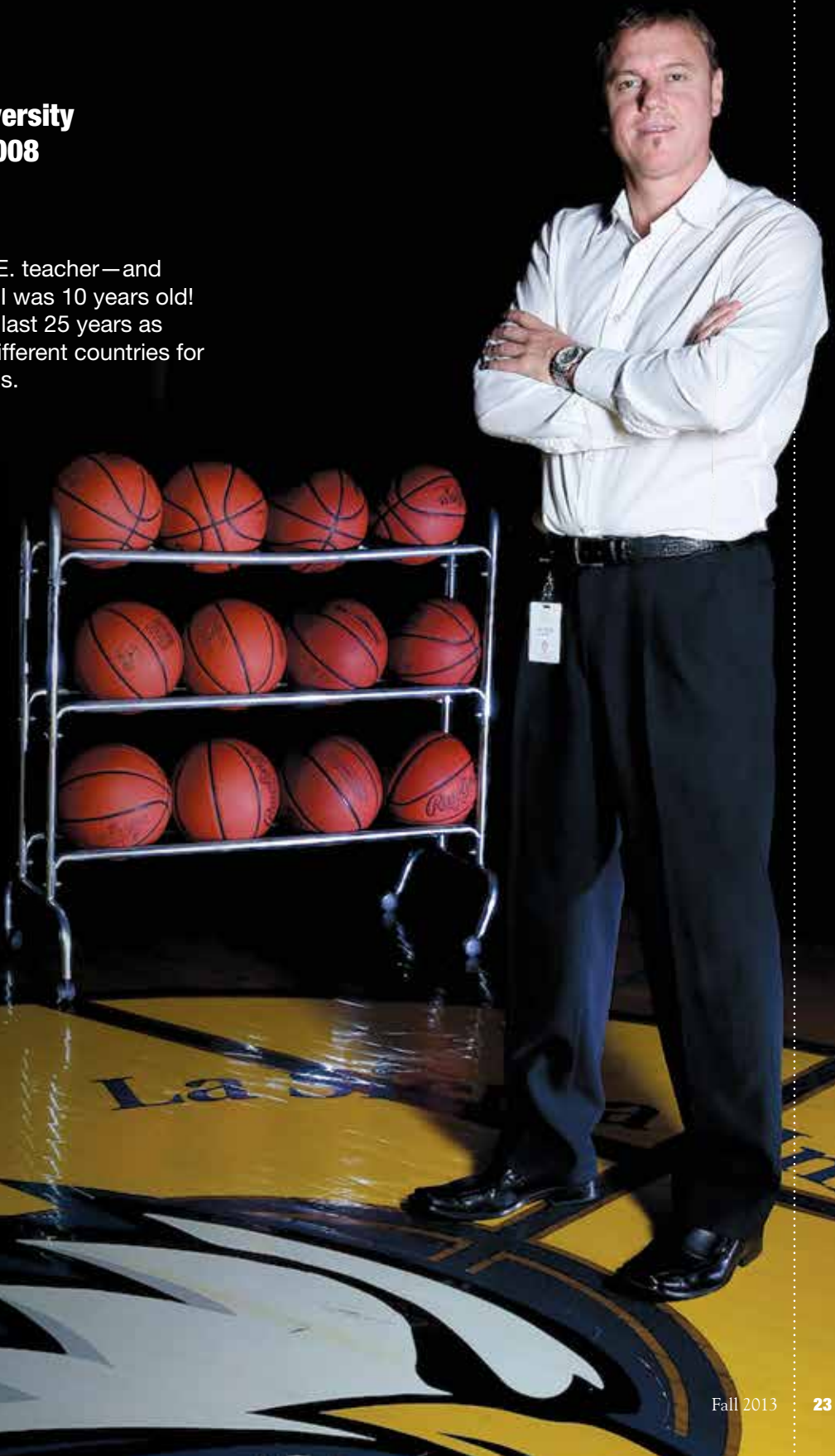
Somehow I knew I was going to be a P.E. teacher—and later an athletic director—beginning when I was 10 years old! Many mentors have guided me during the last 25 years as I've had the opportunity to work in three different countries for public, private, and professional institutions.

## **Your job covers a broad range of responsibilities. Which part do you enjoy the most?**

It's true, athletic directors wear a lot of different hats! I handle everything from budgeting and fundraising to assessment and strategic plan development. But one of the things I especially enjoy is the opportunity to incorporate spirituality into athletics, whether it's through prayer or one-on-one relationships with the student athletes. At the entrance of our offices is a sign with this biblical message that offers great wisdom, both for myself and the students: "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11).

## **You had a master's degree before coming to Southern, so what brought you here?**

I was looking for ways to improve my leadership, and two good friends insisted that I should join them there. They were right. While at Southern I learned to do the impossible. I grew to expect the unexpected from professors with a variety of teaching styles. They continue to inspire me.



# Safe Space for Sharing, Learning

By Elizabeth Camps, junior mass communications major

Students pursuing the sciences at Southern acquire more than just what their textbooks and professors have to say. The Biology Department, especially, emphasizes hands-on research and experiential learning. This provides students with a working understanding of what they're studying—and a head start on acceptance into professional and graduate schools.

## Outside the Classroom

Some classes, such as Ecology and Tropical Biology, take studies on the road as students visit the Bahamas and Indonesia to experience nature directly. But not all field work involves a literal field. When seven spots opened up at Erlanger Health System in Chattanooga for students to do research involving emergency medicine, internal medicine, and surgery, they didn't stay open for long.

Rick Norskov, Biology Department professor, heard that student Laurel Schuler was looking to bolster her academic resumé with work outside the classroom, and he quickly put the biology major in touch with Francis Fesmire, head of research for emergency room residents at Erlanger. Since that time, she has been volunteering three hours each week to help build the nation's largest—and possibly the world's largest—stroke database.

The project involves looking at charts of stroke victims and extrapolating as many independent variables as possible with the goal of isolating patterns. Laurel hopes the work will shed some light on how stroke procedures such as dye injections affect long-term kidney function, or how certain other treatments affect mortality.

Laurel receives no compensation or class credit for her work with Fesmire. Instead she spends time off campus for the love of science and in anticipation that this project will bolster her medical school application for Loma Linda University.



Senior Laurel Schuler works on stroke research for Erlanger Health Systems in Chattanooga.

Biology faculty and staff are excited about this kind of work and have established a research endowment to support students with their projects. Currently 100 percent of the department's employees have contributed to that fund, but there is a long way to go before reaching the \$50,000 goal. To make a gift, call 423.236.2772 or visit [southern.edu/give](http://southern.edu/give).

## Creation Campus

Along with heading the research charge, the Biology Department is also a campus leader in showing students how to integrate their spiritual experience with their secular life. The Origins Exhibit, a museum-quality permanent display in Hickman Science Center, does just that by addressing origins from a creationist perspective.

Guilherme Brasil de Souza, a senior theology and archaeology major, was moved to deep discussion with friends and family by that concept. After considering who on campus might help him build a safe environment for complicated conversations about the topic with other students, he reached out to the Biology Department. The result of this brainstorming is Encounter, a student-led group that gathers every other week on Sabbath afternoons. Attendees ask tough questions about faith, science, and philosophy, seeking honest answers with the help of two faculty mentors, one of whom is Norskov. Encounter first met in February with 15 students attending. Currently, nearly twice that many show up. Norskov attributes the growth to the idea that students enjoy being challenged.

"This is about more than science," Norskov said. "We drive our students to ask 'how does my worldview fit in?'"

## Important Conversations

While many departmental activities are geared toward students, faculty spend time educating each other, too. The Faith-Science Discussion Group is composed of employees representing biology, chemistry, physics, computer science, religion, and the library. Participants read an article or book chapter on an origins-related issue ahead of time and meet monthly to deepen their understanding.

"Our opinions are fairly uniform," said Keith Snyder, chair of the Biology Department. "We are not fighting; we're trying to recognize our biases and understand how they affect objectivity."

Whether it's databases in a hospital or discussions among peers, Southern fosters a love of learning. Statistical research meets spiritual reasoning as passionate students and professors come together in the Biology Department. To learn more, visit [southern.edu/biology](http://southern.edu/biology). ■



Rock/Creek  
TRAIL SERIES  
START/F

## Friendly Competition

The fifth annual Rock/Creek Southern 6 Trail Race took place on campus September 15, with the Biology Trails on White Oak Mountain serving as the majority of the course. There were more than 100 participants, with all registration proceeds benefitting trail upkeep and the university's Outdoor Leadership program. The addition of a Kid's K event this year gave the day a family-friendly feel and helped the race stand out from others in the area. Winners brought home ceramic mugs created by local artist Loren Howard, '03.





# Beyond the Columns



**60s** **Lillian Bolton**, '63, celebrated the 70th birthday of her twins, **Robert**, '67 and **Ruth (Bolton) Prosser**, '65, as well as a four-generation family reunion, on May 27 in Maryland. Front row: Lillian; daughter, **Ruth**; granddaughter, **Kelly Rose Bishop**, '87 and '88; Center: son, **Robert**; Back row: daughter-in-law, **Becky (Swinson) Bolton** (attended); grandson, Kevin Prosser; and great-granddaughters, Addison Prosser, and **Judy K. Prosser**, '01.

**Barbara (Hoar) Edgar**, '64, lives in Lansing, Michigan, and works for IBM as an advisory application developer programmer. She married Philip Edgar in December 2012. They have five children, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, all from previous marriages. One of Barbara's sons, John Arena, and his wife, Kelly, are expecting a grandson in January 2014.

**Albert Dittes**, '67, lives in Portland, Tennessee, and recently published a book through TEACH Services, Inc., titled *Three Adventist Titans: The Significance of Heeding or Rejecting the Counsel of Ellen White*. In addition to writing, Albert is a semi-retired musician who still plays piano and organ for three churches and teaches private piano lessons.

**David Holland**, '68, has been practicing cardiovascular surgery in Las Vegas, Nevada, for the past 16 years and previously practiced for 11 years in Bismarck, North Dakota. He and his wife, Melita, have three children and two grandchildren. They

went on a vacation with Loma Linda Broadcasting Network in 2013 to Turkey and Greece visiting the sites of the Seven Churches of Revelation.



**80s** **Kelly Bishop**, '87 and '88, is now employed as an administrative specialist in the Trust & Investment Division of NBT Bank Financial Group in Glens Falls, New York.

**James Gulley**, '87, was appointed director of the medical oncology service at the Center for Cancer Research in July 2013. He and his family live in Takoma Park, Maryland.

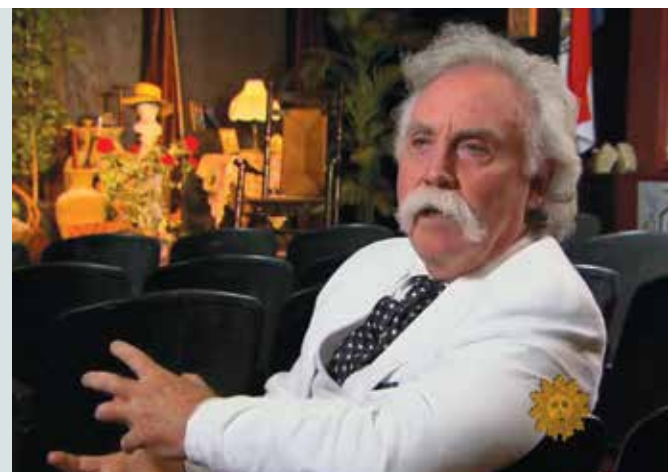
**David** (attended) and **Celia (Mitchell) Denton**, '82, have been living in Florida since July 2012 and work at Forest Lake Academy. David is the principal, and Celia teaches math and works in the business office. They have two daughters. Darcie is a freshman at Forest Lake Academy, and Charis is in sixth grade.

**Charles**, '87, and **Shauna (McLain) Richert**, '88, are both medical doctors and live in Olympia, Washington, with their two children, Luke (ninth grade) and Lauren (seventh grade). Shauna works as a dermatologist. Charles, trained in pathology, works at the Western Institutional Review Board and is an eight-year cancer survivor.



**90s** **Luc**, '93, and **Anita (Gonzales) Sabot**, '94, have been working for ADRA in Timor-Leste (East Timor) since 2010, where Luc is the country director and Anita does public relations. Timor-Leste is a small island east of Indonesia and northwest of Australia. It continues to be one of the poorest countries in Asia. The Sabot family is

**Richard Garey**, '68, was featured on "CBS Sunday Morning." He has been performing as a Mark Twain impersonator for the past 40 years, most recently at a theater in Hannibal, Missouri, where he lives. He also performed the Saturday night program for Alumni Homecoming Weekend a few years ago. To view the television segment, visit [southern.edu/columns](http://southern.edu/columns).





pictured here in front of a newly built ADRA well which provides clean water to a community formerly without water. To read more about their work, visit [adra.tl](http://adra.tl).

**James, '95, and Pamela (Christenson) Callan, '95,** have been married since 1997 and live in Fleming Island, Florida, where James is an emergency medicine physician and a commander in the Navy. Pamela is an internal medicine doctor. They have two children, Madeleine (5) and James (3).

**Joseph Choi, '95,** recently accepted the position of music director/conductor of Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Maryland, and will begin his studies toward a Doctor of Musical Arts in Orchestral Conducting at Shenandoah University Conservatory of Music this fall. His wife, Angela Jinhee Choi, also assumed a new role as music director of Mt. Aetna Adventist School in Hagerstown, Maryland. They are happy to announce the arrival of their second child, Samuel Yoomin Choi, born in December 2012. Friends may contact them at [josephchoi73@yahoo.com](mailto:josephchoi73@yahoo.com).

**Stacy Spaulding, '96,** has been promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure at Towson University. She graduated with a doctorate in media studies from the University of Maryland, College Park, in 2005. Prior to her appointment at Towson University in 2007, she spent nine years teaching journalism at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Maryland. She lives in downtown Baltimore and, in December of 2012, married Rayned Wiles. Stacy serves on the board for the Friends of the H.L. Mencken House, a group working to restore the lifelong home of the city's most famous journalist.

**00s Kalie (Conrad) Kelch, '00,** is the author of the 2014 junior/earliteen devotional *Grab Your Boarding Pass*. She and her husband, **Randy, '00,** live in Calhoun, Georgia, with their two children, Katelyn and Ryan. Kalie is a freelance book editor and is active in youth ministries at the Georgia-Cumberland Academy Church.

**Danny DuBosque, '01,** is a sixth-generation Adventist and a direct descendent (great-great-great grandson) of Ellen and James White. His website, [eighteenfortyfour.com](http://eighteenfortyfour.com), "embraces the SDA culture" in a humorous way via calendars, T-shirts, and other items. He was recently included in a *New York Times* article for his work as a coach at a Louisville non-profit medical clinic, where he helped staff adapt to demands of the new federal health care overhaul.

**Jonathan Snyder, '01,** lives in Orlando, Florida, and works as a sales account executive.

**Tres Wood, '02,** was named a lifetime certified packaging professional by the Institute of Packaging Professionals, honoring his more than 20 years

of work in the field. He manages two West Coast packaging laboratories for The Smithers Group of Akron, Ohio.



**Marius, '03, and Sarah (Matthews) Asaftei, '03,** live in Zephyrhills, Florida, where Marius has been serving as the senior pastor of the East Pasco Adventist Church since 2012. He volunteers as chaplain of the area fire and police departments, is an active Rotarian, and is vice president of the local interdenominational ministerial association. He is also working closely with a local church planting effort in a growing area of Tampa Bay. Sarah is the owner and creative director of skaMEDIA Productions, Inc, and skaMEDIA Films, Inc., the visual media team behind several film projects including [answered.tv](http://answered.tv) and [legacyprojectfilms.org](http://legacyprojectfilms.org). She manages social media for a number of General Conference initiatives, including Revival & Reformation, and serves as associate editor for *The Journal*, an international resource for spouses of Adventist pastors. They have two children, Tristan and Sophie.

**Christina (Mills) Birsan, '05,** graduated from Loma Linda School of Medicine in 2010 and is finishing her pathology residency at Loma Linda Medical Center. She will be moving to Ohio in 2014, where she'll be completing a gastroenterology fellowship.

**Daniel, '06, and Tesha (Gilmore) Bair, '06 and '07,** are living in Thailand with their two children, Natanyah (3) and Nathaniel (2). They met and married while attending Southern. Daniel is working as a volunteer missionary at the All Asia Studio in Chiang Mai.

**Linda Cox, '06,** moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, after graduation and worked at the University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine. In 2008, after her husband died, she moved back home to California. She is currently employed as a nurse educator at St. Jude Heritage Healthcare, an affiliate of St. Joseph Health. She provides education for patients with diabetes as well as those with other chronic illnesses. Her responsibilities include teaching classes for diabetes and weight management programs. She credits the excellent faculty and support

personnel in the School of Nursing for the education that equipped her so well for this position.



**Timothy, '09 and '13, and Kristin (Thomas) George, '06 and '10,** were married on May 26, 2013, and live in the Chattanooga area. Kristin currently works in the NICU at Erlanger Health Systems, and Timothy works at SkyRidge Hospital while attending Southern's Master of Science in Nursing program.



**Maranatha Hay, '07,** won her fourth regional Emmy in June 2013. She co-produced "Heart to Heart," a segment for the "Loma Linda 360" television show. Maranatha (pictured between Southern professors Jodi and Stephen Ruf) runs her own production company, Tower Films. Learn more at [facebook.com/thetowerfilms](http://facebook.com/thetowerfilms).

**10s Juan, '11, and Vanessa (Ruiz) Martinez, '11,** met at Southern while studying religion and social work. They began dating during their second year and were married a few months after graduation in July 2011. Juan is sponsored by the Florida Conference, and they live in Berrien Springs, Michigan, where he is finishing a master's degree at Andrews University. Vanessa is employed as a case manager at Lakeland Hospital and graduated with her master's degree in social work in the summer of 2013.

## Remembrance



**Nancy (Guillen) Cobaxin**, '88, died on February 8, 2013, in San Jose, California, from complications related to her treatment for multiple myeloma. She was a solution engineer for Fusion Ops, Inc., in San Jose, California, and formerly worked as a consultant in the Atlanta area. She is survived by her husband of 23 years, Abner Cobaxin; son, Michael Cobaxin; daughter, Janelle Cobaxin; mother, Elvira Popa; father, Jose Guillen; sisters, **Opal (Guillen) Melendez**, '89, and Gloria Guillen; niece, **Jessica Melendez** (attending); and nephew, Giovanni Melendez.



**Vanessa Greenleaf**, '79, passed away August 6, 2013, in Marblehead, Massachusetts, after losing her battle with cancer. She is survived by her parents, **Floyd Greenleaf**, '55, and **Betty (Wallace) Greenleaf** (attended); sister, **Vickie Knecht**, '77; brother, Kelvin; and nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a niece, **Daphne Knecht** (attended).

**Bill Morrison**, '50, passed away on May 27, 2013, in Citrus Heights, California. He was a retired civil engineer with California Water Resources in Sacramento, California, a veteran of World War II, and a member of the Carmichael Seventh-day Adventist Church. He was a private pilot, photographer, avid reader, gourmet cook, and gardener who enjoyed traveling, hiking, and camping throughout the western United States. Bill is survived by his wife, Eleanor Morrison; daughters, Lynn Sanders, Susan Mallory, and Sharyl Tobin; son, Bruce Morrison; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

**Lila (Edgmon) Fleener Poole**, attended, died at the age of 88 on December 10, 2012. She was a native of North Georgia and a resident of High Point, North Carolina, for 41 years. Lila enjoyed family gatherings, shopping, quilting, sewing, cooking, camping, and traveling. After attending Southern Missionary College, she served as a missionary in South America and Mexico before settling in High Point, where she retired from working as a secretary and bookkeeper. She spent most of her free time volunteering at the High Point Seventh-day Adventist Church. She is survived by step children: Tim Poole, Cynthia Slack, and Vicki Walters; her daughters: Joyce Fleener Carbajal and Nancy Fleener Nelson; son-in-law, Bloyce Nelson; three grandchildren; three great grandchildren; sisters: Dot Fuller and Thelma Skeggs; and a brother, Deward Edgmon. She was preceded in death by her sister, Eunice Edgmon Jenkins, and brothers, John Edgmon and Warren Edgmon. Her husband, Herman Poole, and one of her brothers, Grover Edgmon, died shortly after Lila. Donations in her memory may be made to the High Point Seventh-day Adventist Church.

**Ronnie D. Smith**, attended, taught as an adjunct professor in the Technology Department for many years. He passed away on July 8, 2013, following an illness. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Smith, who worked in Food Services for many years, and two sons, Roger and Randy.



**Bankie (Johnson) Linebarger**, '33, passed away early in November. She had been living with family in the Collegedale area and celebrated her 100th birthday on September 21, 2013.

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**  
**P.O. Box 370 • Collegedale, TN 37315-0370**





Barry Tryon is in his third year of teaching for the School of Religion.

# New Understanding of Ancient Truth

By Krystle Cartagena, junior social work major

Walking away from the religion building for the last time at the end of my sophomore year, the same thought kept coming back again and again.

“So *that’s* why I’m here. *That’s* what makes every penny of my tuition worth it.”

If I had any doubts before about my decision to attend Southern, not a single one remained. I had finished the last day of my Christian Spirituality class with Associate Professor Barry Tryon, and it felt like the beginning of an entirely new life.

## Finishing the Race

Like most Southern students, I was raised Seventh-day Adventist. Every Saturday for 20 years, I went to church and listened intently as the pastor preached about a God who was serious and stern, to be respected and feared. My father unintentionally reinforced this idea by focusing on that same side of God and constantly reminding me what not to do. To be fair, I also heard “God is love” during my upbringing. I’d sung the songs, read the stories, and tried to believe them all of my life. But it wasn’t until the second semester of my sophomore year, in Tryon’s classroom, that I finally understood the reality and depth of those three simple words.

On the first day of class, Tryon began to explain our role in salvation by showing a popular video of a handicapped son and his father completing the Ironman Triathlon together. The father bicycles, swims, and runs the entire race with his son in tow on a wheelchair, raft, or in his arms. This was not the first time I had seen the clip, but it was the first time I had been moved to tears (joining nearly every other student in class, along with Tryon).

“Salvation is not a relay race,” Tryon said. “Jesus didn’t run the first half and then pass on the baton so that we could finish the rest. He is doing *all* of the work. He carries us. Just like the man in the video, Jesus is running for us because we just cannot do it alone.”

It took my professor’s moving explanation of something that I already knew—I had heard a similar message countless times before—for me to fully grasp its significance and beauty. From that day onward, it was

discovery after discovery. I thought I knew most all there was to know about God, but my mind was absolutely blown class after class. Tryon helped me forget what I thought God was like and fall in love with who He really is.

## Reflecting God

Tryon helps students form a lasting relationship with God not only by teaching us about His characteristics, but also by displaying them. I had never taken a class from a professor who was so Christ-like. His office was open for all of the support, prayer, and advice you could ever need. He took the time to answer every burning question I had on my heart about God, and he even invited the whole class over for dinner at his house.

Through Tryon’s example, I was finally given an up-close glimpse of what God’s character looks like. Whereas the church and my upbringing had only shown me one aspect of God, Tryon described and lived out a more loving and approachable Father who is irrevocably and unconditionally in love with His children. Correcting my foundational belief of who God is was essential to forming a lasting relationship with Him. I have that now.

It was for this personal attention, experience, and growth that I chose to come to Southern. Professors such as Tryon are the reason why students and parents invest in Christian education. We could learn the academic material anywhere, but we come to Collegedale for this—to see God in the hearts and actions of those who teach by example each and every day. We’re learning how to follow before we learn how to lead. ■

To view the father/son triathlon video Krystle mentions in this article, visit [southern.edu/columns](http://southern.edu/columns).



## Academic Style

After a time of prayer, faculty descend the Collegedale Church stairs and enter the sanctuary for a student dedication service on August 29. The variety of colors and styles represented in the academic regalia is decided, in part, by the school from which the person graduated and the degree that they hold. For example, Freddy Fuentes, associate professor in the School of Education and Psychology, wears a red robe representing the University of Hartford, where he earned his doctorate. The stripes on his sleeves and tam (felt pillow hat) are also indicative of a doctorate. To listen to Gordon Bietz's dedication address, visit [southern.edu/columns](http://southern.edu/columns).





# community

By Gordon Bietz, president

I have twin daughters. They are identical and were born 13 minutes apart. They spent 9 months sharing the same environment of the womb and lived in the same home for 20 years. They went to the same school and took the same classes for 14 years. They are alike in almost every way, so it is not hard for them to dwell together in unity. Living in community and being “one” comes naturally to them.

Our church was born in the United States of America. It grew up in the same culture. It developed its organization in the same social context. It grew its theology in the same religious soil. We started as a homogeneous church of like-minded people. If we did not always agree—and we didn’t—at least we could argue from the same platform of cultural and social experience.

We now have a multiethnic, multicultural, multilingual church. We come to community with a world of different experiences. What is the glue that will hold us together in worldwide unity?

Jesus came from glory to Earth with the good news of grace and acceptance for all, no matter your color, language, culture, or nationality. Whether you are circumcised or uncircumcised, whether you are black, white or Hispanic, “there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28). His gospel unites us.

## A Carpenter’s Work

A story is told of a traveling carpenter who went to the door of a farmhouse to seek some temporary work. The farmer welcomed him but said that he really didn’t have any jobs for him to do. But while they were visiting, an idea came to the farmer.

“Do you see Joe’s farmhouse over there?” he asked.

The carpenter nodded.

“Well, Joe and I used to be the best of friends, but a few years ago a stray heifer came into my field and he said it was his. He took it, kept

it, and even put his own brand on it. We were so mad at each other that he eventually quit talking to me.”

The carpenter listened patiently as the story continued.

“And then a few months ago, Joe took his plow and dug a trench, starting at the pond above his house, and created a creek that separates our properties. But you know, I have this great idea. I’m going out of town for a couple of days, and I want you to use that pile of wood behind the house and build a tall fence between Joe’s house and my house. That way, I won’t have to see him or his creek!”

The carpenter said he could do it. With that, the old farmer went off on his trip, and the carpenter went to work. The farmer was gone for a few days, and on his way back was thinking about that fence and how he would show Old Joe by doing better than a creek—he would have a fence between them.

As he returned to his farm, his mouth dropped open. He couldn’t believe his eyes. He couldn’t speak. As he gazed on the carpenter’s work, he didn’t see the large fence that he ordered, but instead he saw a beautiful bridge across the creek to Joe’s house.

Before he could speak, across the bridge came Joe, with his hand outstretched.

“Neighbor, you are so good, and I was so wrong to keep that heifer. You can have it! Our friendship is more important than a cow. You are something else, building that bridge across my creek. Let’s be friends again.”

The farmer paused, looked at the carpenter then back at Joe, and smiled.

“Yes, Joe, let’s be friends. By the way, you can keep the cow.”

The carpenter turned to pack his tools, and the farmer grabbed him by the shoulder, saying “Stay; I have other work for you to do.”

But the carpenter replied, “No, I must go. You see, I have other bridges to build.”

“For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility” (Ephesians 2:14). ■

# Immediate Value. Eternal Values.

**New four-year scholarships make investing in a traditional Adventist education from Southern more affordable than ever, even when compared with public colleges and universities.**



## **Worth the Investment**

Our students and parents regard Southern as a valuable spiritual and academic investment. While hearts and minds remain the highest priorities, we are a smart investment in other ways as well. Affordable Colleges Online ranked Southern fifth in Tennessee for schools with a solid combination of low cost and lifetime earnings after graduation.

## **Earn More, Pay Less**

Beginning in Fall 2014, Southern's freshmen scholarships will be renewable at 100 percent for up to four years. With \$10 million in financial aid awarded annually, Southern is committed to making traditional Adventist education available to everyone.



Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA to be eligible for renewal, which is established at the end of each fall semester for the following school year. Southern's scholarships and grants cannot exceed the cost of tuition and fees.