

the magazine of Southern Adventist University

fall 2014

columns



Southern Hospitality

Community members model the grace and generosity of Jesus by “adopting” student boarders page 22



Long Shadows, Short Putts

Players in the Dave Cress Memorial Golf Tournament on September 21 had extra incentive to focus at Nob North Golf Course in Cohutta, Georgia. Along with bragging rights, participants were hoping for a hole-in-one and the shiny prize that accompanied that elusive feat: a 2014 Jaguar F-Type convertible being offered courtesy of Land Rover, Jaguar, and Porsche of Chattanooga. The 4-man scramble event attracted 160 golfers and raised more than \$14,000 this year toward scholarships for Southern students. Nobody sped home in a new car with the top down and a story to tell, but trophies were awarded in several categories. The 2015 tournament is scheduled for September 20.

To join the golfers in supporting Christian education, visit southern.edu/give and choose from a variety of specific areas to direct your gift.

contents



features

- 12 | Building Bridges with Brushes**
Art brings Christian and Muslim students together in Tunisia for mural project and cultural exchange.
- 16 | Eliminate the Gray**
Software and spirituality overlap as professors teach that, despite society's prevailing logic, some issues remain black and white, built with ones and zeroes.
- 18 | Blessed Are the Peacemakers**
In a world increasingly filled with conflict, Southern alumni in a variety of occupations live out this beatitude every day.
- 22 | Southern Hospitality**
Each year a handful of students in need are "adopted" by community members who provide off-campus housing at little to no cost. The open hearts and homes of these Southern supporters create a unique university experience that models the grace and generosity of Jesus.

departments

- 4** | New Media
- 6** | Headlines
- 11** | Program Spotlight
- 25** | Life 101
- 26** | Professor Inspiration
- 28** | Beyond the Columns
- 31** | The Word

On the cover: Seniors Derling Pizarro, left, and Marcella Archilla spend time reminiscing in the kitchen of their former "home," where Southern alumni Forrest and Norma Fuller allowed them, and many other students, to live at little to no cost while in school.

columns

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vimeo



Find the video links at southern.edu/columns.



This Quiet Hour Ministries video features several Southern students on mission trips in Costa Rica, and some of the camera work was done by Kendall Rittenour, a senior mass communications major who recently won Student of the Year at the Society of Adventist Communicators conference in Jacksonville, Florida.



Each May during finals week, Southern's School of Visual Art and Design honors student creativity by holding SHOW, an event in which the best class projects from the year are put on display. This intro video for SHOW 2014, titled "Nothing Does Not Exist," is an open invitation for Christian artists to transform the world.



Clifford Goldstein (attended) is editor of the Sabbath School Quarterly. This video, produced by the Communication Department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, documents Goldstein's youthful obsession with writing the great American novel and how God used that pursuit to build a relationship with him.

twitter



If only the rainbow above Southern was God's promise that He would never again flood our lives with homework. #Friday

»Myron Madden, @MisterMadden
junior journalism and English major

Fixed my washing machine all by myself and stepped farther into adulthood. #imabigkidnow

»Julia Bonney, @jbonney2
sophomore mass communications major

This guy I do not know just stopped and prayed for me ... really needed that. #lovemyschool

»Inah Ulangca, @alohainah
sophomore computer science major

135+ instruments donated to students! Thanks @wsmcfm for making it happen. #WSMC

»Betsy Goldin, @BetsyNC9

Southern's radio station, WSMC Classical 90.5, held a used instrument drive for arts-poor public schools.

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instagram



The things I do for my job!
» **Luke Evans, '13, levans1632**

Evans is public relations coordinator at the Creative Discovery Museum in Chattanooga.

worth a click!



Smithsonian Magazine recently included an article about elephant poaching in Chad and featured missionary Gary Roberts, '00 and '01, prominently in the piece. His bush pilot experience is an invaluable asset in the fight to stem the destruction to both wildlife and human life (park rangers are a frequent casualty in this effort to save elephants). Roberts lives in Béré, a small village that includes an Adventist hospital where he works as a nurse alongside James Appel, '96, a medical doctor. See page 9 for a related article about Appel's call to serve temporarily in Liberia amid the Ebola outbreak.

smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/race-stop-africas-180951853/



facebook



To celebrate my big 4-0, a group of us ziplined in North Carolina.

» **Eric Hullquist, '97**

I checked my mailbox and there was an envelope with \$500 dollars and an anonymous note: "It's a bad day, not a bad life. Keep following your dreams. Pass it on one day!"

» **Kaleb Stock, '14**

Stock majored in music and recently moved to Nashville in order to jumpstart his career. A car accident and financial worries had him discouraged before this answer to prayer.



Already having nightmares and haven't even started yet!

» **Austin Owen, '12**

Owen began dental school shortly after this post.



A great weekend of reconnecting and making music with the guys.

» **Mark O'Ffill, '96**

Die Meistersinger choir performed at homecoming.



youtube

Find the video link at southern.edu/columns.



President Gordon Bietz "volunteered" for the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge in August.



"Old Fashioned," a romantic drama about the complications of godly courtship, was made with contributions from several Southern faculty, students, and alumni. The film is scheduled for national release on Valentine's Day in 2015.

[around campus]

Summerour Hall Renovations Complete; 7,000 Square Feet Added to Building

Summerour Hall’s renovations began three years ago and were financed primarily through Southern’s capital funds. But as generous gifts from friends of the university unexpectedly came in, the budget—and the plans—expanded. In the end, those additional resources meant that more than 7,000 square feet of space could be added to the structure. The value of that space is impossible to measure.

“With all of our classes now in a single building, we are able to build a better sense of community within these specific majors and provide easier access to professors for our students,” said John McCoy, dean for the School of Education and Psychology. “We have already heard from many of the students about the building’s beauty and improved functionality.”

One of the simplest changes in the renovated building has been the Bible verses added on walls in classrooms and hallways. Last year, education and psychology students were asked to submit their favorite Scriptures for just this purpose.

“These words inspire me every day and are one of my favorite parts about being in Summerour,” said senior elementary education major Brianna Weaver.

Faculty and students are the primary beneficiaries of this renovation, but the building serves community members as well. Summerour Hall contains Southern’s

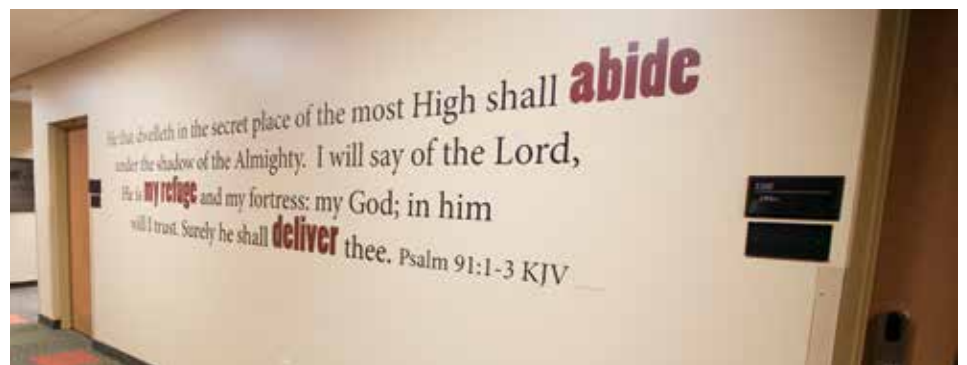
Teaching Materials Center, which offers more than 15,000 curriculum materials and instructional aids to teachers (public or private), home schooling parents, and Sabbath school leaders. The building is also home to office space where the community receives free counseling by master’s-level students who are under the direct supervision of on-staff psychologists. Sessions are recorded and reviewed by professors to ensure best practices are being followed. An average of 70 clients utilize this service each year.

Summerour Hall renovations began in 2011; the building was more than 40 years old and needed both cosmetic and structural improvements. But during the process of making “simple” changes, the vision expanded as faculty, administrators, and donors saw the potential for something greater—both in a building and in the students. And with fall classes in session, that plan is being realized.

—Lucas Patterson



(Top) The School of Education and Psychology is home to some of the most popular undergraduate degrees and several general education classes. (Above) A 70-inch touch-screen monitor in Summerour Hall’s lobby helps new students and visitors find what they need. (Below) Scripture on the walls in hallways and classrooms inspires both students and staff.



» by the numbers

80

Percentage of campus employees making financial gifts to Southern—a record high.

120

Public school students in Peru who asked for Bible studies as a result of recent mission trip by the School of Computing.

8,688

Miles traveled round trip by alumnus who came the farthest for homecoming weekend (from Kalapana, Hawaii).

[around campus]

Third Semester Allows School of Nursing to Accept More Students

Nationwide, the demand for entry into nursing programs is greater than the number of seats available. That dilemma can be seen firsthand at Southern each year as qualified students are put on a wait list. But starting in May, the university will begin offering a 12-week summer term that is the academic equivalent of a third semester, allowing 70 additional students into the School of Nursing every other year without straining facility or faculty resources.

Summer provides a much-needed study reprieve for many, and the modified schedule affords that same rest period for all students at staggered times throughout the year. New students enter the



nursing program during each of the three semesters and stay on a set academic track. These cohorts—groups of students who work through the curriculum simultaneously—study for two consecutive terms and then take one term off. So while some students enjoy “summer break” in the actual summer, other cohorts are taking a three-month break during the fall or winter semesters.

“We’re excited to offer our students, and potential students, an increased variety of options,” said Marc Grundy, vice president for Enrollment Services. “Nursing is Southern’s first academic area to try this approach, but there are many higher education institutions across the country that make greater use of their resources with summer programs similar to this.”

To encourage initial enrollment into this new cohort, Southern has prepared several financial incentives unique to the program. Scholarships, reduced housing costs, and other waived fees total more than \$2,200 for residential students. This is above and beyond any additional assistance the student has been awarded.

Students taking classes in the summer will enjoy many of the same co-curricular opportunities available to those in fall and winter terms, including a variety of worship and mission opportunities.

For more information email smayer@southern.edu.

—Lucas Patterson

WSMC Launches Oasis, an Online, Faith-Based Radio Station

In the more than 50 years since Southern’s classical music radio station first came on the air with the goal of friendship evangelism—a mission that remains in place and effective—there have always been those who offered a polite push for this outreach tool to become more overtly Christian in its programming. During Alumni Homecoming Weekend this year, these desires were realized as WSMC launched Oasis, an online radio station.

Content is a mixture of syndicated Adventist shows combined with original programs, including devotionals by *The Clear Word* author Jack Blanco and recordings of popular Southern classes.

Though the station is starting online, there are plans to grow Oasis’ broadcast footprint by generating a digital (HD) signal. Once completed, listeners with an HD radio will find the faith station at 90.5 HD2. After that, Southern can take the

HD broadcast and repeat it on an analog FM band, where traditional car and home stereos in the area will be able to receive the signal.

To get to that point will cost \$350,000, \$115,000 of which has already been raised. Visit wsmcoasis.org and click on the “Give” tab to support this fundraising drive for the technology that will help create a broader listening audience.

—Staff Report

1,765

Dollars raised to fight global hunger during 30-Hour Famine sponsored by students in the World Vision club.

16

High school students who attended Christian Media Camp held by the School of Journalism and Communication.

5:34

Time in the morning when Southern’s All-Night Softball Tournament ended.

[around campus]

New Science Facility Encourages Independent Student Research



More than 25 Southern students are pursuing data-driven experiments this semester.

The Biology and Allied Health Departments held an open house and reception in October for the new Undergraduate Research Lab. This state-of-the-art facility was shared with friends and colleagues in Chattanooga’s science and business communities to encourage biology internships locally. Alumni, students, faculty, and friends were also invited so they could meet Southern students conducting research for projects ranging from black widow spiders to the DNA of conifer trees.

“It’s extremely impressive,” said senior biology major Chad McLennan. “It will no doubt encourage and excite future students to take part in research.”

This unique lab includes multiple work stations with ergonomic and space-saving designs, a fume hood with clear

panels on all sides so professors can demonstrate techniques while being viewed from any direction, touch-screen computers, LED lighting, and a glass refrigerator with electric outlets, among other features.

The Biology and Allied Health Departments are developing a research culture at Southern, evidenced by more than 25 students pursuing data-driven experiments this semester. With the new lab, more students can participate and present their research at regional and national meetings, becoming better prepared for professional school, graduate school, and the science industry.

To schedule a tour of the research lab, call 423.236.2690 or email wnorskov@southern.edu.

—Staff Report

[news briefs]

Land Dedicated for \$28 Million Student Life Center

On October 3, trustees joined student leaders to prayerfully seek God’s blessing on the construction and mission of the new student life center. The facility will be funded entirely by donors who have designated their gifts for the project. Departments slated to move into the building include Food Services, Student Success Center, and Student Services (which includes Chaplain’s Office, Student Association, and Student Missions).

“Best Colleges” Guide Ranks Southern as Top Tier

Southern earned a Top Tier ranking from *U.S. News & World Report’s* “Best Colleges” guide for the 13th consecutive year. In addition to the university’s overall honor, its School of Nursing graduate program—which offers Southern’s first doctoral degree—earned specific recognition.

Archaeological Dig Succeeds Despite Political Unrest

The Fourth Expedition to Lachish, a joint project by The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Southern, continued in Israel over the summer. The research objectives for 2014 were to reach the destruction layers of Sennacherib and Nebuchadnezzar II. Although political instability cut this trip short, the goals were met.

To view professor Martin Klingbeil’s presentation about the dig, visit southern.edu/archaeology/lectureseries.

State Recognizes Campus as Healthy Workplace

Southern recently received the 2014 Governor’s Healthier Workplace award from the State of Tennessee for meeting all 32 of the program’s requirements and being an involved community advocate for wellness. Additional areas where the university excelled were the health-related lunch and learn programs, employee participation in group activities such as intramurals, and the availability of hiking and biking paths.

Alumni Honored for Global Health Work

Southern honored Gilbert Burnham, ’64, with the 2014 Distinguished Service Award for outstanding professional contributions to the advancement of public health research and tropical disease control. He is a tenured professor of international health at Johns Hopkins University. Lars Gustavsson, ’79, was recognized as *Alumnus of the Year* for his professional and personal contributions to advancing economic and social conditions for developing countries. He is World Vision International’s chief futurist, creating strategic shifts and scenarios for complex resource dilemmas.

Alumnus Confronts His Fears, Serves Amid Ebola Outbreak in Liberian Hospital

James Appel, '96, has been working as a missionary doctor for many years, but recently came into the national spotlight because of his willingness to serve in Liberia, one of the West African countries that are ground zero for the Ebola outbreak. His skills and sacrifices tell a captivating story amid the heartbreak of this crisis. COLUMNS had a chance to speak with him.

You recently completed two months of service at Cooper Seventh-day Adventist Hospital in Monrovia, Liberia—a city fraught with sickness and panic because of Ebola—but you didn't work directly with Ebola patients. Describe the situation there and your primary responsibilities.

I was called to Liberia from the Republic of Chad, where I normally work (Béré Adventist Hospital), to help out at Cooper in August and September. It was one of the few hospitals still open and treating non-Ebola patients. People there are afraid to come to the hospital, so they will wait until they are on death's door before showing up, making it often too late to save them. One of the other underreported effects of Ebola is the psychological stress on the population. People are afraid and anxious. Not getting enough sleep and being stressed depresses the immune system and makes people more susceptible to disease. All of this combines to make the impact of Ebola higher than fatalities from the disease alone.

Do you know anyone who has contracted Ebola?

Yes, a nurse's aid at Cooper passed away last week from the disease, and another nurse was just diagnosed with it. One of our cleaning staff also died mysteriously, probably of Ebola.

Do you live and work in fear of this disease? How did you make the decision to move closer to the virus when the rest of the world would give anything to stay clear of it? What role did your faith play when contemplating this?

In all of my medical school training, the only thing that really scared me was Ebola, so it is constantly lurking in my subconscious. But the Bible tells us that perfect love casts out fear, and I didn't want to become a victim of my fears, so I made a conscious decision to face Ebola head-on. I didn't do it to be reckless or adventurous, but because I felt I could help out and that God had given me this opportunity to come to the aid in a difficult situation. Still, after accepting the call to Liberia, I didn't sleep well and had nightmares.

The story of Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf is especially relevant given your family's history of risk and loss in Africa. Have you considered coming back to the United States to work in a more traditional environment?

We lost our firstborn son, a twin, to complications of malaria when he was 6 months old. His twin sister, Miriam, had malaria at the same time and survived. She is now 3 years old. We also have an 18-month-old son, Noah, and another son, Isak, about to be born. Some people have asked us why we would risk our children's lives by taking them to Africa, to which we respond: How many African children are our children's lives worth? Hundreds of kids in Chad would be dead if we hadn't gone there. Is our child worth more than someone else's child in God's eyes?

As believers, we know it's a temporary separation. We'll get to see the child we lost grow up in the best possible environment imaginable. I met my wife in Chad, and we both love it here. Even though we have two kids and another on the way, we have no plans of leaving Africa anytime soon.

How can readers best help you and the people you serve in Africa?

Learn French or Arabic and come join us! It's human resources that are lacking in places such as Chad and the rest of Africa; money is not the problem, God can order that around wherever He wants. But because of His loving character, God doesn't manipulate or force people to go where they could be useful. Like Jesus said, "the harvest is ripe but the workers are few."



[graduate school]

MSEd Degree in Instructional Leadership Offered Entirely Online

After carefully considering feedback from former, current, and prospective students, Southern's School of Education and Psychology will offer its Master of Science in Education's Instructional Leadership degree entirely online starting in June of 2015.

Each class will last seven weeks, and the program can be completed in two years and one semester; previously, it took three years. The new format not only reduces program duration, but it also allows greater flexibility for students whose geographic location or other obligations make it difficult for them to come to campus.

"Many students interested in this program are principals or other employees whose job duties continue through the

summer," said MSEd Program Director Bonnie Eder. "Even though they may have had interest or need, they just were not able to leave home for one or two months at a time."

Two different tracks or concentrations are available in the MSEd Instructional Leadership program: content area and administration.

With the administration concentration, students are prepared for administrative positions and experience greater employability in leadership roles, such as principals and administrators. Students in this concentration will take all classes online through Southern.

Content area concentration students will take 18 semester hours of their core classes online through Southern. How-

ever, these students will be able to take the 33 hours of additional masters-level courses in their content area (e.g. music, math, English, history, etc.) from another accredited university and transfer the credits. These classes will constitute the additional hours needed for students to complete their MSEd degree from Southern.

"This will help middle school and secondary teachers continue to grow in their chosen concentration," Eder said. Completion of this degree emphasis increases the students' level of professional expertise and gives them foundational knowledge about curriculum planning and implementation at the elementary or secondary level."

—Staff Report

GIS Technology Used to Map Tanzanian Infrastructure Data

Tanzania is most often recognized for its Serengeti National Park, snow-covered peaks on Mount Kilimanjaro, the Maasai tribe, and the gleaming beaches of Zanzibar. But for 16 graduate students in Southern's Global Community Development program, it will be best remembered as a life-changing classroom in which they learned the art of transformation development through participatory planning, mobilization, and evaluation.

The seeds of these life-changing moments were planted in 2013 when Southern began offering a Master of Science degree in Global Community Development. Designed by Professor Sharon Pittman, the hands-on degree emphasizes both one-on-one interactions and cutting-edge technology such as geographic information systems (GIS), the most advanced mapping method available.

"GIS lets us visualize, question, analyze, interpret, and understand data to re-



Jeremy Weaver, one of Southern's graduate students, headed a research project that mapped the impact of improved access to dairy cattle on rural Tanzanian families. "We collected information quicker and so much more effectively," Weaver said. "We were also able to capture pictures of the research with the tablets and map areas that have never been mapped before."

veal relationships, patterns, and trends," said Mike Ruth, a consultant helping Southern implement the technology.

Some of the students in Tanzania had the opportunity to work with World Vision staff members collecting basic human infrastructure data using GIS while visiting more than a dozen villages. In less than three days, they helped map cattle, el-

ementary schools, health centers, roads, and water sources. Community leaders and non-government organizations will now use this information to better plan how to improve services for villagers. The goal of this training is to replicate the process in nearly 70 other sites within the country.

—Staff Report



Kristie Wilder, Dean of the School of Social Work, discusses programs with a colleague.

Social Work Programs Expand to Meet Need

By Rachael Hankins, senior English major

Finding creative ways to manage the 46 percent enrollment growth shown over the past three years is a problem that Kristie Wilder, '03, is happy to inherit. As the new dean for Southern's School of Social Work (SOSW), she continues to explore methods of integrated learning with a focus on community, both for the undergraduate and graduate-level students.

Specialization

Much of the enrollment success enjoyed by SOSW can be traced directly to the newly accredited Master of Social Work (MSW) degree. The program is a hybrid model designed to blend online learning with in-class study. Students choose from a variety of specializations that range from entrepreneurship in social services to international social work.

Graduate students are not the only ones able to carry a specialization. Those pursuing an undergraduate degree are also able to pair a variety of minors with their degrees, including deaf studies, Spanish, and youth ministries, among others. Newly available in Fall 2014 is an emphasis in psychology, and administrators plan to add a specialization in long-term care administration for Fall 2015.

Leading this diversification is Wilder. Before teaching at Southern, she developed programs for children in the state's custody, trained child welfare workers and foster parents, and developed juvenile justice and child welfare policies. Although her experience prepared Wilder well for the subject matter at hand, the process of teaching students and leading staff is one she still finds humbling.

"It is a privilege and a blessing to serve the university," Wilder said.

Start Local

Social work is an outward-facing field by its very nature. One such product of this focus is The Community Tree, an on-campus assistance pantry that opened this spring and provides non-perishable food and other basic essentials for Southern students who are not on one of the university's pre-paid meal plans. Tania Barry and Marlenny Franco-Johnson, both students in the MSW program, brought the idea to Mioara Diaconu, MSW program director, and Wilder. To start the pantry,

several assessments and analyses were made to gauge the extent of assistance required.

Another example of Southern's SOSW program impacting the area is its partnership with Breakaway Outreach, a local nonprofit, to provide help in the Acres of Shade community near the Chattanooga Airport. The program has been such a success—both in longevity and results—that it has taken on a life of its own and is now called Restore. It's not unusual each semester for students to lead collections of coats for children and food items for families who struggle to make ends meet. Lizeth Rego, '12, social work graduate student, has taken over leadership of Restore, and feels passionately about her service for Acres of Shade and the opportunity it gives her to grow as a social worker.

"As a future family nurse practitioner, I aim to focus mostly on the Hispanic population and this gives me the opportunity to identify and learn how they feel about different topics such as health, family, lifestyle, and religion," Rego said.

Go Global

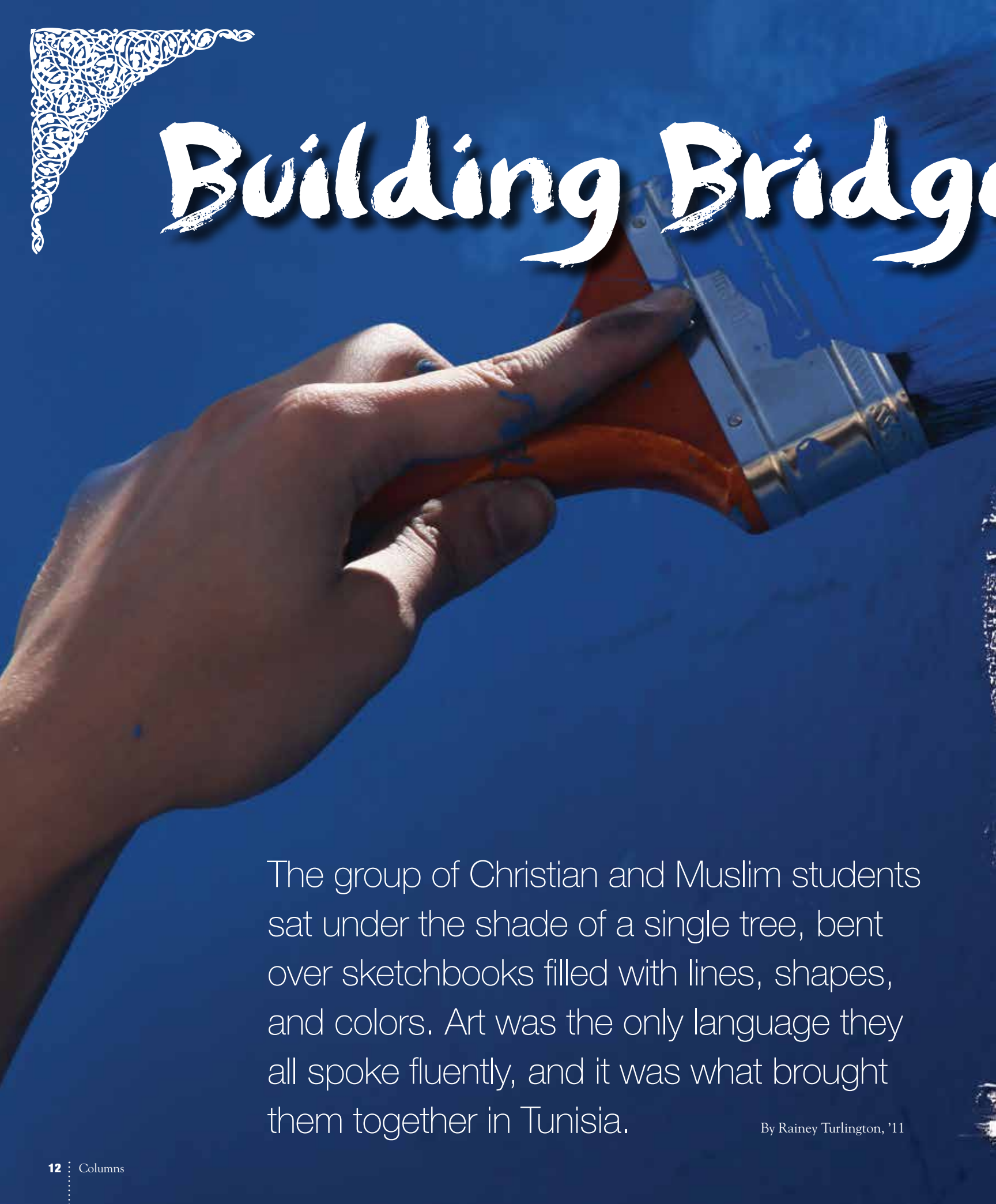
In addition to serving the local community, SOSW offers a study tour that seeks to integrate faith and learning in an environment where students are able to have a personal experience with organizations that interact directly with need on an international level. Last year's trips benefitted Uganda and Kenya. This year students went to Tanzania, where they helped raise funds on behalf of a local orphanage and developed a project proposal for an Adventist-run vocational training college.

Issues pertaining to poverty, domestic violence, and other negative community indicators are on the rise; so too is the need for social workers. Whether it is on campus, in the local community, or on an international level, students studying social work get an opportunity to make a difference in the world, one person at a time. And sometimes, that person is in the mirror.

"I'm learning more than just academically," said Kaylie Dobbs, senior social work major. "I'm learning about myself as I serve others!" ■



Building Bridges



The group of Christian and Muslim students sat under the shade of a single tree, bent over sketchbooks filled with lines, shapes, and colors. Art was the only language they all spoke fluently, and it was what brought them together in Tunisia.

By Rainey Turlington, '11

es with Brushes

Northern Africa is half a world away from Collegedale, and to 12 students and faculty from Southern's School of Visual Art and Design, it felt even farther. Working beneath the June sunlight that blazed over a dusty Tunisian landscape, they dared to attempt what seemed impossible: paint a mural on a 525-foot wall in two weeks alongside 16 local students whom they had just met.

While the focus of the trip was to promote art and tolerance, as individuals these Southern artists felt personal burdens to share love and peace with those they encountered. Though they left the comfort of home to work in a predominantly Muslim country, their commitment to living a life devoted to God did not waver while abroad. They knew they would be closely watched. They did not desire to offend or impose their beliefs on anyone, and yet they also knew that their every action would have spiritual implications. The time spent working, laughing, and talking with those they encountered had the potential to deeply impact perceptions of the West.

Their assignment was to work with Tunisian art students and Beyond Walls, a nongovernmental organization whose mission is to promote tolerance, youth empowerment, community involvement, and cross-cultural bridge building. Across the street from the park where they brainstormed stretched the 525-foot wall where they would paint a mural celebrating the themes of citizenship, constitution, and environment. Tunisia's government chose these words, but the visual representation of them was left entirely up to the team of students and artists.

Before work would begin, the Southern team wanted to become acquainted with the Tunisian students. Both the Tunisian and the American students came with preconceived notions, but those were quickly put away as they participated in icebreakers and got to know one another. One such icebreaker had participants draw pictures to represent themselves, in answer to a series of questions.

"There was always something that we could connect on and talk about, and it was so easy to make friends," said Sarah Scott, senior graphic design and fine arts major.

The Wall

As the bonds formed, the group moved on to address their next challenge: overcoming the language barrier enough to develop a design and color scheme that they could apply across the wall.

"It was kind of amazing how that all worked out," said Elizabeth (Martin) Pontvik, '04, faculty chaperone on the trip and assistant professor in the School of Visual Art and Design. "We did a lot of voting, and since one of the themes was dealing with citizenship, we wanted the process of actually painting the wall to reflect good citizenship, so we collectively decided things by voting."

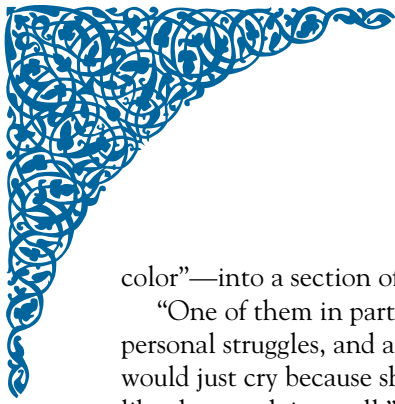
In the process, the group from Southern also learned what symbols and elements are significant in Tunisian culture—things such as olive trees, palm trees, and Arabic calligraphy.

"It was fascinating to interact with students from another country who understand art differently, and to hear what they thought about the creative process," Scott said.

Within a couple of days, as the designs and color scheme were finalized, the group began painting. However, the bridge building didn't stop there.

"A key point going into this project was the idea that the wall itself would not be something that we were dividing up into assignment areas for individuals," Pontvik said. "Instead, we tried to encourage a process where people fluidly painted in and around each others' designs so we could build community by creating in community."

It was also a process of trial and error as the art students learned to work on a project of such large scale, many of them for the first time. Once, Pontvik noticed that two of the Tunisian students were frustrated at their inability to express themselves, so she paired the girls up with Stephanie Garcia, senior graphic design major, and Amber Kuo, sophomore graphic design major, who helped them develop their idea—"we all bleed the same



color”—into a section of the wall.

“One of them in particular had some personal struggles, and a lot of times she would just cry because she didn’t feel like she was doing well,” Garcia said. “I kept telling her not to give up.”

Garcia, who grew up in a family of doctors and nurses, had often participated in mission trips. Those outreach efforts were a blessing, but she battled with feeling that her artistic skillset was not as useful as those of her relatives when it came to promoting God’s love.

“The fact that we couldn’t really talk about our faith on this trip was challenging; we had to rely on our actions to speak for us about what we believe,” Garcia said. “But that’s what I liked the most, because I’m shy!”

Transition Time

In January 2014, after three years of protests and civil resistance that led to the ousting of Tunisia’s president and a democratization process, the government ratified a new constitution. Change can be exciting but also overwhelming. Citizens of Tunisia, especially its younger ones, don’t seem quite sure about what the next step looks like.

El Mourouj 2, the neighborhood where Southern’s students served, is undergoing a transformation of its own from the junkyard of Tunis to a beautiful, environmentally friendly area. While the future looks bright, the road to get there is long and bumpy. As a result, several of the Tunisian students expressed a degree of discouragement with their situations. For them, the collaborative art project turned into a source of hope and inspiration; one of the students even told Pontvik that working alongside her students was the best experience of his life.

Just One Church

According to the Tunisia 2013 International Religious Freedom Report prepared by the United States government, although freedom of religion is

technically protected under the constitution, it is not uncommon for divergents to experience threats, persecution, and even criminal punishment on the grounds of causing “harm to the public order or morals.” As a result, many of the roughly 50 Adventists who live in Tunisia worship in secret. Hearing their stories left a deep impression on the group and made them appreciate their own religious freedom in a new way.

“I’ve spent a lot of time since the trip thinking about what these dedicated Christians went through and how they had everyone telling them that they were following the wrong religion,” Scott said. “They decided for themselves, against all odds, that this spiritual path was right. This made me think deeper and talk to God differently about my own decisions. It’s been incredible to see how He has used the trip to shape my life.”

Lasting Impact

Once the mural work came to an end, a large ceremony celebrated completion of the wall. What was once a plain boundary between a former landfill and a dusty wasteland is now a vibrant landmark covered with images of fish, trees, geometric shapes, people, and calligraphy. Mounir Majdoub, Tunisia’s Secretary of State for the Environ-

ment, gave certificates to student artists as he shook their hands and thanked them for their creative contributions. He then walked along the wall with them, asking each of them to explain the significance of their parts.

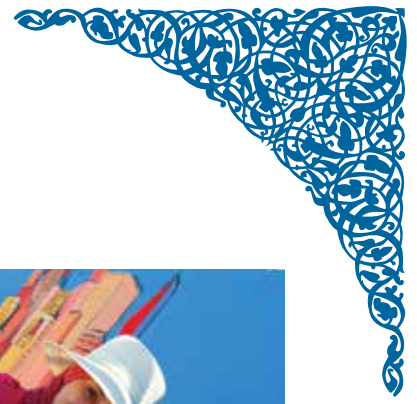
“Getting to see the finished project, and getting to sign our names on the wall, was probably one of the best feelings in the world,” Scott said. “We were all really proud of it!”

The last day was bittersweet as the two groups said goodbye. There were many smiles and tears as they exchanged notes, drawings, and gifts. Although it had been only two short weeks, the relationships that were formed went deep, and students from each group continue reaching out to one another via social media and other online outlets.

“There’s a perception that art is just kind of frivolous and not very useful in the world, especially in regard to spiritual matters,” Pontvik said. “This project allowed students to see that it really does play a powerful role in bringing people together and creating common ground on which we can build relationships.”

Southern is working to raise funds for another trip to Tunisia in 2015. For more information about participating or how to financially support the effort, email epontvik@southern.edu. ■





1: Students working on the mural take a break to enjoy some shade.

2: This shows part of the finished 525-foot mural celebrating the constitution, citizenship, and environment in a Tunis neighborhood.

3: A Tunisian art student applies the last layers to her design.

4: Southern art student Crystal Bueno (center) works together with two Tunisian art students to paint one end of the mural.

5: Busy street markets filled the town center, or medina, of Tunis.

6: A student sketches out preliminary design ideas for the mural.

7: Light filled the atrium of the youth hostel in Tunis where the group stayed.

8: The youth hostel hosts and the Southern students cooked together this special dinner of typical Tunisian cuisine for the last evening of the trip.

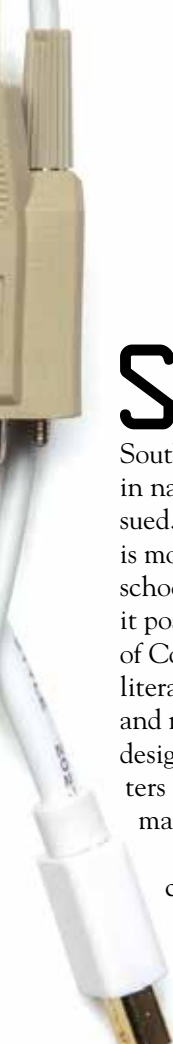
9: Southern art professors Marc Boyson and Elizabeth Pontvik (left, back) work with students preparing designs for the wall. Southern students Stephanie Garcia and Amber Kuo (left, front) discuss possibilities with Tunisian art students.

10: Colorful spices for sale brightened the street markets of Tunis. Tunisians generously season their food with spicy harissa!



THE INTEGRATION OF FAITH AND LEARNING IS KEY TO THE SOUTHERN EXPERIENCE; EVEN COMPUTER SCIENCE PROFESSORS FIND TEACHABLE MOMENTS OF ETERNAL CONSEQUENCE. SOFTWARE AND SPIRITUALITY OVERLAP AS STUDENTS LEARN THAT, DESPITE THE WORLD'S LOGIC, SOME ISSUES REMAIN BLACK AND WHITE, BUILT WITH ONES AND ZEROS.

By Luke Evans, '13



Students (and parents of students, perhaps even more so) understand and value that an education from Southern is both academic and religious in nature, regardless of the major pursued. However, this wholistic approach is more easily accomplished in some schools and departments than others. Is it possible, for example, in the School of Computing—where class work often literally boils down to ones and zeros and nearly all outcomes are manmade designs—to speak at length about matters of faith? How does God fit into the machine?

“On the surface, concepts in computer science have absolutely no connection to either atheism or Christianity; in fact, many people consider computer science as a pure creation of man,” said Professor Scot Anderson. “However, when you take the Association for Computer Machinery’s Code of Ethics, our industry’s guiding principles for programming, and apply them to people, we can see a lot of similarities to the original code of ethics for mankind, the Ten Commandments.”

Take the sixth commandment, for example: “Thou shalt not murder” translates to the programming imperative “Avoid harm to others.” The seventh commandment has another parallel: “Thou shalt not commit adultery” correlates to the computer law of “Be honest and trustworthy.”

Even more important to Anderson than the comparison between these laws is that students see the unique way God’s design for man is made manifest in these machines that seem so integral to modern life.

“At the core of computer science you find binary code, which is ones and zeros, or, true or false,” Anderson said. “A code that’s even a little off is unusable. This is the very system of truth stated by Jesus Himself. Either you come

to God through Jesus or not at all. You either choose life or you choose death. There are no shades of gray.”

A regular component of Anderson’s class is learning how to deal with difficult moral and ethical questions related to computing. In fact, the final exam requires students to write out their personal beliefs and defend them as the rest of the students attempt to disprove them. This trial-by-fire approach is good practice for a career where, according to Anderson, the majority of practitioners are atheists or agnostics and issues of faith will almost certainly arise.

IT’S IMPORTANT THAT STUDENTS SEE THE UNIQUE WAY GOD’S DESIGN FOR MAN IS MANIFEST, EVEN IN MACHINES.

“I want students to be so confident in their relationship with God that they will be able to handle any question the world may throw at them,” Anderson said. “And if they are unsure of an answer—if it seems like there’s a gray area—I remind them to ask Him for clarity.”

Southern’s Institute for Biblical Foundations of Faith and Learning, a group tasked with finding best practices for making sure Christ is in every campus classroom, recently held a show-and-tell seminar for faculty on methods for combining faith with curriculum. One course used as a model was Issues in Computer Science and Religion, a graduate-level class taught by Anderson.

Richard Halterman, dean for the School of Computing, shows Christ to students in his Fundamentals of Programming course as well. He challenges them to try, even if just for a brief while, walking a mile in God’s shoes and to consider the unfathomable

responsibility and complexity of divine programming.

“Students learn how software development is a purely mental endeavor, and that allows them, in a very limited sense, to play the role of creator,” Halterman said. “But the most sophisticated and advanced software systems we design today cannot match the intricacy of a microscopic cell, much less an entire organism. When students recognize this, it helps them develop a greater appreciation of God’s work making us and everything else on Earth.”

Computer science students understand the challenges associated with integrating faith into their curriculum and appreciate how professors work to engage them on a deeper level. Alex Brady, sophomore computer science major, had his belief in God strengthened when a teacher challenged him to consider the absence of chance in programming and what spiritual implications that might have.



“In class we would spend hours constructing code, paying attention to small details; there’s no way that our program would work unless we were careful with every line,” Brady said. “This is exactly how I believe our universe was created, with every detail in mind. I’m more confident of that now than ever.” ■

Blessed Are the Peacemakers

By Angela Baerg, '06



In a world increasingly filled with conflict, several alumni and faculty make peacemaking a priority. It's a difficult, yet divinely rewarding pursuit because "For these souls the kingdom of God has begun. They have Christ's joy, the joy of being a blessing to humanity" (*The Desire of Ages*, page 312).

Ever since Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9) followers have tried to figure out what it means to be a peacemaker. No two lives are the same, and everyone's answer is unique. Southern alumni in a variety of occupations live out this beatitude every day.

ALEXIS HURD-SHIRES, '05 PEACE THROUGH EDUCATION

After graduating from Southern with a degree in social work, Alexis Hurd-Shires was sent to Lebanon by the Pacific Union with a mission: find a way that the Seventh-day Adventist Church could help the Muslim community.

She started asking around to determine what people needed most. She heard about a recent influx of Syrian refugees which had put a strain on the local economy, and community leaders had no resources to help them. When Hurd-Shires visited those refugees in their homes, the utmost desire they expressed was for their children to have an education.

Families say that the school has helped create a sense of community where there was once only isolation.

children in the house all day or have them out in the streets, but they had no safe place to send them."

In 2013, Hurd-Shires helped establish The Bourj Hammoud Adventist Learning Center, a remedial education school teaching English, Arabic, science, social studies, and moral education. Soon Hurd-Shires and her staff were able to interview and accept 70 families with children ages 6-12. The center's student missionary from Southern, Tamara Giebel (currently a senior biology major), was a big help. In evenings, the school staff visited with families to get to know them better on a personal level, and they provided special programs on Sabbaths.

"Our school is a peacemaking outreach to the community because we have lifted a strain off the local economy, reducing tension between the local residents and refugees," Hurd-Shires said. "It is breaking down barriers and reminding everyone that we are all people, not just subhuman strangers. Families say that the school has helped create a sense of community where there was once only isolation."

Learn more about the school by visiting [facebook.com/AdventistLearningCenter](https://www.facebook.com/AdventistLearningCenter) or by watching a video at southern.edu/columns.

Peacemakers Around the World

(captions for photos on page 18)



David Kay, '79, left, stands alongside a guard shortly before the Berlin Wall came down in 1989.



Kay worked to help evacuate Americans from Baghdad, Iraq, this summer, including his wife, right.



Kay, right, and some of his team take a break while evacuating nearly 15,000 American citizens from Lebanon in 2006.



All forms of transportation, including buses, were utilized during Kay's evacuation work in Lebanon.



Kay and many other U.S. personnel worked with British troops in 2008 to help develop and train the Iraqi police forces.



Kay met with Rwandan President Paul Kagame in 2005 to discuss economic development for women within that country.



Evangelist Mark Finley broadcast a series of programs from Rwanda in 2005 using Kay's diplomatic and logistical assistance.



Melissa Turner, '05, visits the brickyards in Kohlapur, India, where, until recently, children were forced to carry up to 1,000 bricks on their head for 38 cents per day.



Turner, left, participated in the Gandhi Legacy Tour in India with Mahatma Gandhi's grandson, Arun Gandhi, and great-grandson, Tushar Gandhi.



Lisa (Clark) Diller, '96, right, was part of a trip in 2010 to plant olive trees alongside Palestinian women. This event was sponsored by the Joint Advocacy Initiative.



Alexis Hurd-Shires, '05, middle, helped start the Bourj Hammond Adventist Learning Center, a remedial elementary school for Syrian refugees in Lebanon.



Hurd-Shires' center provides faith-based education for children ages 6-12 who have missed more than one year of school due to war and relocation.

MELISSA TURNER, '05
PEACE THROUGH COMMUNICATION

Melissa Turner will never forget the day that she watched “The War Photographer,” a documentary about journalist James Nachtwey, during a class at Southern. The film addresses dilemmas that arise when covering conflicts for the media.

“Afterward, I felt like someone had flipped a light switch in my head,” Turner said. “I processed what I saw in that documentary for some time after, and it truly impacted my interest in using journalism to inform and inspire others to learn about human rights issues, and to take action.”

In 2009 Turner and her friend, Missy Crutchfield, created *Be Magazine*, inspired by Mahatma Gandhi’s quote to “Be the change you wish to see in the world.” Its mission is to spotlight the movements, people, places, and stories that inspire us all to “Be the Change.”

After launching the magazine, Turner and Crutchfield went to listen

to a presentation by Mahatma Gandhi’s grandson, Arun Gandhi. Afterward, while he was signing their books, they told him about *Be Magazine*. Arun Gandhi invited them to come on the Gandhi Legacy Tour of India, and a few years later Turner and Crutchfield were able to write about the tour in their magazine.

“We traveled across India with Arun and his son, Tushar, in the footsteps of Gandhi, following the Indian independence movement and the nonviolent movement that continues in India today,” Turner said. “It was a life-changing journey, and it informed much of what has evolved into the Gandhi Global Center for Peace and its programs and outreach.”

The Gandhi Global Center for Peace was co-founded by Arun Gandhi and Crutchfield with Turner as communications director. The center is an online hub for education and community-building to further Mahatma Gandhi’s philosophy of nonviolence and peace. It

hosts an Annual Student Essay Contest and is also accepting applications from peace, humanitarian, and social justice organizations worldwide to be listed on the website, where they will serve as resources for organizations to partner with and learn best practices from one another.

Mahatma Gandhi said that the inspiration for his philosophy of nonviolence and activism came from Jesus’ “Sermon on the Mount.” The Gandhi Center helps people continue to apply these philosophies to modern-day issues by providing a free conflict-resolution training manual titled, “Be The Change.” They also present “Be the Change” days in schools, empowering youth to tackle tough issues such as bullying and gang violence.

“I know that I am doing what I was born to do,” Turner said. “It’s exciting to take the education I received at Southern, build on that foundation, and apply it to this work I am involved in today for peace and justice around the world.”

For additional information, visit bemagazine.org.

DAVID KAY, '79
PEACE THROUGH POLICY

Upon graduating from Southern with degrees in history and German, David Kay joined the U.S. Army Medical Department as a medical corpsman and a conscientious objector.

Kay was present in 1989 when the Berlin Wall came down. Because he spoke German, he was chosen to be one of the first officers to cross into the interzonal, no-man’s land area to coordinate arrangements with East German guards.

“That was a wonderful experience to see greater liberty and freedom come to the people of East Germany,” Kay said. “They came streaming over the border into West Germany, not in tanks looking for targets to shoot, but in cars looking for fresh fruit!”

As Kay saw more of the world, he



Rarely do peacemakers have the opportunity to see such immediate fruit from their labors, but David Kay, '79, was part of the team that both politically and literally helped tear down the Berlin Wall in 1989.

contemplated things through the lens of what he had learned at Southern in classes ranging from religion to history.

“Southern prepared me to enter a secular world with useful information,” Kay said. “The professors had a tremendous influence on my developing mind as I tried to figure out what I wanted to do with my life.”

Kay rose through the ranks to become a foreign service officer with the U.S. State Department in 2002 and has been on diplomatic missions ever since.

In Rwanda from 2003-2005, Kay aided business development to help

refugees, particularly women. As a highlight, he was privileged to serve alongside Laura Bush during the first official visit of an American First Lady to the country after the genocide of 1994.

Kay headed up logistical support for a delicate and urgent effort to evacuate 16,000 U.S. civilians in war zones in Lebanon in 2006, and he supervised a \$2 billion dollar effort to overhaul the quality and capability of the Iraqi police force from 2007-2008. In 2010-2011, Kay worked to jump-start stalled efforts on constructing the new NATO headquarters building in Brussels. Kay is cur-

rently in Iraq again, wrapping up a major team effort to draw down U.S. governmental operations in greater Baghdad.

“We are called to be the salt of the earth—not the pepper or sugar, but the salt,” Kay said. “That means get your training and get out there to make a difference in some constructive way, wherever ‘there’ may be for you. It sure is a frightful business, this service business—mission service, medical service, foreign service, military service, intelligence service, education, ministry, etc.—but very rewarding, if you trust in God to guide your path.” ■

Adventist Peace Fellowship

When asked to identify foundational doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, many think primarily of the Sabbath or the health message. Members of Adventist Peace Fellowship (APF) believe that peace—in the broadest sense of the word—is also an extremely important part of the denomination. APF emerged in 2001 as organizers at-

tempted to connect people interested in a variety of social justice issues so that together they could promote peacemaking as an indispensable facet of Adventism.



In recent years, some Southern students have participated in pro-peace rallies around Chattanooga.

tempted to connect people interested in a variety of social justice issues so that together they could promote peacemaking as an indispensable facet of Adventism.

APF's efforts today go beyond dilemmas of violence and war, including: care for creation, economic justice, freedom of conscience for persons both inside and outside of the Adventist

community, racial and gender equality, and health and human rights. APF provides a certification program for Peace Churches, groups committed to working toward nonviolence and justice as an integral part of the congregation's identity and mission. Lisa (Clark) Diller, '96, is chair of the History and Political Studies Department at Southern and is a member of the APF Advisory Board. She has been excited about the idea of Peace Churches from the start, believing it is a great way to give language to a church's mission of peace. Diller helps lead out at The Well, a church in Chattanooga that recently became the fifth official congregation to join the Peace Church network.

“In this time of increased tension and heightened division in politics, Adventist Peace Fellowship is something everyone can tap into,” Diller said. “It's a way of going around the divide and saying, ‘Let's just unite on the work of peace, following Jesus by doing the work that He did.’”

Within the last decade, a time filled with heavy U.S. military action overseas, Southern students have shown an interest in peacemaking. While the campus has never had an official APF club, some students have been active in pursuing the group's goals independently. Donn Leatherman, professor

in the School of Religion, while acting as an unofficial adviser to an unofficial club, was continually struck by the fact that most of the students didn't realize that the Seventh-day Adventist Church had, historically, a strong stance about military involvement.

“Forming an opinion about the Christian's response to war seemed as random to some of them as if they were choosing between chocolate, vanilla, or strawberry,” Leatherman said. “APF provided guidance without forcing a specific viewpoint on them; they grew to develop their own defensible positions.”



For more information, visit adventistpeace.org.

Southern



Hospitality

By Ingrid Hernandez, '13

EACH YEAR A HANDFUL OF STUDENTS IN NEED ARE “ADOPTED” BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO PROVIDE OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING AT LITTLE TO NO COST. THE OPEN HEARTS AND HOMES OF THESE SOUTHERN SUPPORTERS CREATE A UNIQUE UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE THAT MODELS THE GRACE AND GENEROSITY OF JESUS.

For two out of every three students at Southern, a big part of college involves living in a residence hall or university apartment and bonding with roommates over late-night snacks and even later study sessions. Community students who attend class but then leave to go home typically have a different experience. (Study sessions with parents at the kitchen table just aren't the same; sorry, mom and dad.)

But for a small group of students, it's not an either/or scenario.

When Derling Pizarro, senior nonprofit major, lived off campus, her connections with other students remained strong. She boarded with the Fuller family, two retired alumni who had a burden for hospitality, and was free to invite classmates over for study sessions and Sabbath potlucks. Sometimes the Fullers even had other Southern students living there as well, meaning she was never cut off from the spontaneous peer interaction so critical to building lasting college memories.

Pizarro was a sophomore when she put in her request with the university for permission to live with the Fullers at their home near the Collegedale Airport. Typically only juniors and seniors are allowed to move off campus, especially with non-relatives, but when administrators learned the financial impact that this arrangement would have for Pizarro—and

perhaps just as importantly, whom she would be living with—they gave her the green light to proceed. This news provided more than just financial relief; it also gave Pizarro confidence that she had a partner in her quest for a faith-based education. The university's flexibility meant the world to her.

“Receiving an Adventist education means a lot to me,” Pizarro said, “and because Southern listened to my needs and was so accommodating, it made me feel welcome here.”

SOUTHERN SUPPORTERS

Forrest and Norma (Meyer) Fuller met while they were students at Southern in the early '40s, but it wasn't until Forrest retired from medicine that the couple returned to Collegedale. Almost immediately the Fullers began nurturing students by providing a safe and inviting home.

Over the years, the Fullers welcomed more than 10 Southern students into their lives by offering them room in their house. And it was only after Forrest's passing in 2007 that Norma began to ask the students for assistance with anything: \$25 each toward the electricity bill and help with household chores as their schedules allowed. Pizarro said Norma would make the funniest jokes at the dining table and that the joy her host felt in helping to house students was apparent.

“She was like a grandmother,” Pizarro said. “Whenever my friends and I had potluck at the house, we would all cook and Ms. Norma would make us pie. It's something my mom would have done for my friends!”

(Left) Seniors Derling Pizarro, left, and Marcella Archilla sit on the steps of their former “home” and flip through old Southern yearbooks, looking for pictures of Norma Fuller, the host who let the two girls live there at almost no cost to them.



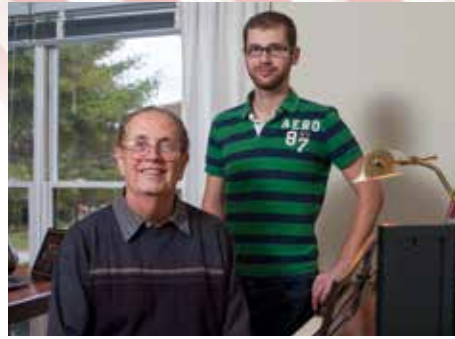
For Deriling Pizarro, life boarding with Norma Fuller (shown above with her husband, Forrest) was filled with unexpected gifts. Once there was chocolate cake on the counter with a note that read, “Eat this so you’ll always stay sweet!”

Katie Campos, '13, still recalls several memories from her time living with the Fullers. She had been struggling with two jobs and needed to save money; still, transitioning to a stranger’s home was a little disconcerting. That is, until she got to know Norma.

“During the first month living there I tip-toed around the house as quietly as possible so I would not disturb my new landlord, but then one day Norma stopped me and said to quit being so careful; she preferred hearing our footsteps, conversations, and laughter,” Campos said. “Norma gave and gave and never expected anything in return. She will always hold a special place in my heart, and I hope that one day I can return the favor to those in need.”

Other students looking for an off-campus home-away-from-home have found refuge through the years in the nearby Pierson Drive neighborhood with host Ralph Hendershot, '62, a retired school counselor. Hendershot grew up watching his parents assist Southern students in this same manner at their house off University Drive, where helping others was “standard procedure” as far back as he can remember. Together, he and his parents have provided rooms for students from Chile, Denmark, England, Equador, France, India, Israel, Mexico, Peru, Romania, Sweden, and Ukraine, as well as numerous states and U.S. territories.

“These experiences over many years



Some of Ovi Goia’s best memories from living with Ralph Hendershot, '62, are playing violin and piano together in the living room. “Music helps me relax after work or studies; I am grateful that I had these opportunities.”

provided lots of fun and meaningful times to treasure,” Hendershot said. “Plus, it broadened our world view and has been extremely rewarding.”

For Hendershot, hospitality is no respecter of class standing. He has boarded students who had already completed graduate school at Southern, current students, and even kids in high school. For example, Ovi Goia, senior biology major, and his brother, Gabe, '07, moved from out of town to attend Collegedale Academy, and because their parents were good friends with Hendershot, they spent their high school and college years, prior to getting married, living under Hendershot’s roof. The three remain extremely close.

LEGACY OF GENEROSITY

As if housing students wasn’t gift enough, the Fullers wanted to take their generosity even further. In 1996 they created the Dr. and Mrs. Forrest L. Fuller Student Loan Endowment Fund through the Advancement office at Southern. The low-interest loan is open to students from any major, and one of its largest criteria—of profound importance to the Fullers—is that recipients of the funds desire to make a meaningful contribution to the world through a selfless attitude and involvement in campus activities. In short, students need to recognize the generosity being shown to them and pay it forward.

Even though Forrest and Norma

have both passed, their impact at Southern continues through their generous legacy gift. Upon Norma’s passing in May 2014, an additional \$1 million from the Fullers’ retirement accounts was added to the endowment—something both Forrest and Norma agreed to years ago. According to Marc Grundy, vice president for Enrollment Services, this influx of funds means that beginning in the 2015-2016 school year at least 10 additional students per year will be able to attend Southern who otherwise wouldn’t have had the resources.

“There is nothing more satisfying than knowing your legacy of generosity and values will continue to impact and encourage others after you are gone,” said Carolyn Liers, director of Planned Giving, who worked closely with the family for the past decade. “It is truly a crowning act of stewardship.” ■

To support one of Southern’s funds or scholarships, including the Fuller Student Loan Endowment Fund, visit southern.edu/give. For information about establishing a legacy gift, call 423.236.2832.



Adoption Agency

The Collegedale Church encourages members and Southern faculty to “adopt” students, providing the opportunity for intergenerational fellowship activities (such as the meet-your-adopted-family meal pictured above). This year, all 450 students who requested to be part of this program have found a home away from home.



Garrison Hayes graduated in May and is serving for a year as assistant chaplain at Southern.

Lessons from Behind the Camera Lens

By Garrison Hayes, '14

Toward the end of summer, I had an exciting opportunity to lead morning worship with a group of high school students attending the School of Journalism and Communication's Christian Media Camp. As I prepared the short talk, I remembered many incredibly impactful courses taken during my years at Southern. While pursuing a photography minor, I had the privilege of studying under Billy Weeks, an award-winning photographer. Professor Weeks (who insists on being called simply "Billy") has taught here for the last 24 years and brings a special charm to the classroom.

Each of Billy's courses was filled with invaluable nuggets of knowledge—wisdom that has changed the way I look at day-to-day life, human interaction, and even ministry! Amongst all of the many things Billy wanted us to remember, there were three points that he especially emphasized. I shared these three points with my captive audience of future communicators, emphasizing their significance to us as Christians.

Be Prepared

A true photojournalist is never without his camera. Having your camera at a scheduled event, such as a sports game or press conference, is great, but not impressive. A photographer is expected to be prepared in that situation. The true test, however, is your preparedness when absolutely nothing is supposed to be happening. Billy insists that the best images are captured at times when you least expect to be taking photographs. The natural, unscripted, and unsolicited picture speaks volumes. I have found this principle to also be true when it comes to sharing Jesus with others. When I randomly encounter a person in need of earnest and immediate prayer, those are the times God's voice and power seem to speak the loudest through me and with the most authority. The Apostle Paul urges believers to be ready to give a message from God at all times; "Preach the word! Be prepared in season and out of season" (2 Timothy 4:2).

Stay Alert

Great photograph opportunities, according to Billy, are happening all around us, all the time. What might seem like a simple task or common sight may be an extraordinary photograph when looked at through the right lens. Perspective is everything. Disciplining myself to truly view every moment as a new chance to glorify God has not been easy! I believe that Jesus' command to His disciples to "watch and pray" in Mark 14:38 is relevant to this conversation. Being present, watchful, prayerful, and constantly on the lookout for a soul-winning opportunity is a responsibility and discipline only mastered through intentionality. As Christians, we often miss critical moments to share Jesus because we've grown too familiar with our surroundings and comfortable in the expectation that our lives are not exceptional and that we are not agents for eternal change. God, however, calls us to look at the world through His divine lens!

Stop "Chimping"

Perhaps one of Billy's most esoteric terms, "chimping" is the bad habit many new photojournalists fall into: stopping to review their images while the action in front of them continues. Billy placed particular emphasis on the egregious nature of this act! He suggests that while photographers are busy acting like a chimpanzee and admiring their own photography skills, they are missing the best of the action in front of them! By taking your eyes off of the subject, even for a moment, you could miss the best of what that subject has to offer.

This reminds me of Peter, taking a step of incredible faith on the waters toward Jesus. When Peter's focus was set entirely on his Savior, his steps were sure. When he took his eyes off of Christ, however—choosing to admire his work—Peter's previously sure footing began to waver. Christ calls us to set our viewfinders to Him only, not on our own power, but in His. Jesus promises, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

I believe wholeheartedly that by implementing some of Billy's photography wisdom in our lives, we can help usher in Christ's second coming by reproducing the most beautiful image of Him the world has ever seen! ■

Teaching Me What I Thought I Already Knew

By Rachael Hankins, senior English major

During the course of pursuing an English literature education, there have been countless days where I spent hours upon hours in a single book, grappling with universal truths surrounding the frailty of the human condition. I have lost myself to my studies (in the process losing anything even vaguely resembling a social life) and have become so enveloped in my immediate surroundings that I never even know what movies are current.

Mindi (Rahn) Wiygul, '02, assistant professor in the History and Political Studies Department, brought me back to reality. Last year I found myself in her World Geography class and was shown an aching humanity that exists outside of textbooks. Wiygul taught me about issues surrounding malnourishment, the geographic and demographic results of war, and basic human need. She had us spend time in the campus' community garden and used nature, among other tools, to encourage our understanding of and reliance on Christ.

It was the practical awakening I needed. I was reminded of issues larger than my own and was humbled by the abundance so often taken for granted in America, and in my life specifically.

Global Village

I had just returned from a year abroad studying at Newbold College, a Seventh-day Adventist school just outside of London, England. I had done a fair bit of traveling, made friends with students from a wide variety of European countries, and felt that my perspective had been broadened in such a way that I now knew everything about life outside of the United States. However, Wiygul's class challenged that idea and showed me just how little I actually knew.

I was introduced to a world that exists beyond the glamor of tourist attractions and posh city centers. Wiygul exposed the tarnished underbelly



Mindi Wiygul works with students planting winter greens in the campus' community garden.

of the United States and taught us about issues surrounding human rights in the Middle East. She taught us about the migration of peoples due to man-made erosion and about the need for sustainable agricultural programs in African nations facing hunger.

Wiygul would often reference Isaiah 58 and Matthew 25, telling us how we are called to serve the world's population in tangible, immediate ways. And she spoke with authority born from experience. Wiygul has spent much of her time in mission service, taking a trip nearly every year since she was a student at Georgia-Cumberland Academy. She has visited 30 countries and even interned with the United Nations.

Garden Geography

World Geography turned out to be much more than becoming familiar with maps; it provided a practical look at the importance of agricultural development and the natural resources that have a tremendous impact on nations, economies, and international relations. As part of our instruction, Wiygul required us to spend several Sundays throughout the semester in the campus' community garden, doing a variety of jobs.

We wrote essays describing our reaction to the time spent outdoors. As I put pen to paper, I realized the benefits of this assignment. I enjoyed the work; it cleared my head of the stresses that come with being a student in college. Many of us are unfamiliar with a garden trowel, having spent minimal, if any, time on our knees with hands in the earth. The job seems laborious and daunting, but as we weeded I dedicated my energy to one single task and found the work fulfilling. I was able to see the result of my efforts, and it felt good to be doing something beneficial not only for me, but also for others (including students in the Dining Hall eating salads made with *my* lettuce).

I'm a prime example of how students can lose themselves in their studies when overwhelmed by reading, term papers, and exams. It's ironic that our quest for increased book knowledge can sometimes result in a narrower worldview. Because of a laser-like focus on assignments, we lose sight of the larger picture.

Wiygul taught me to stay open to the Spirit's leading beyond the borders of my own understanding. I learned that there is more to this life than what is immediately in front of us, and yet it's always a good idea to get started—and get your hands dirty—right where you are! ■

A man with curly hair and a beard, wearing a blue plaid shirt and brown pants, sits on a wooden bench. Next to him, a woman with long brown hair, wearing a pink top and blue jeans, also sits on the bench. They are both smiling at the camera. In the background, a small, yellow wooden tiny house with a gabled roof and a porch is visible. The house has a white rocking chair on the porch. The scene is set in a lush green yard with trees and a raised garden bed with plants. In the foreground, there is a fire pit made of large stones with some wood inside.

Big Plans, Tiny House

Brittany (Thayer) Pyke (attended 2006-2008) and her husband, Travis, live in this 200-square-foot “tiny house” their company, Wind River Custom Homes, built. Based only minutes from campus in Apison, Tennessee, the business also includes partners Jeremy Weaver, '10, and his wife, Lindsay (Martz), '08, who are graduate students in Southern's Global Community Development program. Their homes have been featured on television, websites, and in newspapers recently as the architectural and social movements toward simpler living gain momentum. Southern's Technology Department students worked on a similarly small house in the spring of 2013, providing a valuable case study in sustainability and eco-friendly construction. To learn more about these young alumni's work, visit [facebook.com/windrivercustomhomes](https://www.facebook.com/windrivercustomhomes).

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



60s **Merwyn Crandell**, '63, and his wife, **Donna (Dunham)**, '62, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 23. They live in Russellville, Alabama, and are both retired radiologists.



70s **Stephen Wickham**, '76, and his wife, **Karen (Walls)**, '75, have been operating the Diabetes Prevention and Reversal Program in Grundy County, Tennessee, for nearly two years using a grant from the University of West Virginia. Karen coordinates the programs while Stephen presents the diabetes reversal seminars. Program events include cooking classes, blood pressure and weight checks, and lifestyle change lectures. Stephen recently received the Mercy Award from LifePoint Hospital and the Governor's Volunteer Star Award for Grundy County.



80s **William McKnight**, '87, president of McKnight Consulting Group in Plano, Texas, recently published *Information Management: Strategies for Gaining a Competitive Advantage with Data*. His book details big data, analytics, enterprise information, architecture, and the related disciplines necessary to master corporate information as a competitive asset.



Eugene Korff, '88, was appointed as the General Conference controller, effective June 1. He and his daughter, Emma, reside in Columbia, Maryland. Emma entered the third grade at Atholton Adventist Academy in August.

90s **James Dittes**, '93, was one of 80 educators nationwide to be awarded a fellowship this year by America Achieves, a reform-minded foundation focused on issues of public policy and education. During the two-year fellowship, he plans to develop ways to enhance parent voice in local public schools. An English and German teacher in Gallatin, Tennessee, he has also worked as a teaching coach for the state's Department of Education, helping teachers adapt to the new Common Core standards.

Franklin Farrow, '93, was named Chattanooga's Outstanding Philanthropist by the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Franklin, a Board of Trustees member, is co-founder of Independent Healthcare Properties and lives in Collegedale, Tennessee.

Ann M. Aaron, '94, has been married for 14 years to Eduardo Barrios-Ruiz, and they have an 8-year-old son, Jose Angel. They live in Lacey, Washington, and she currently works for Kokua, a residential support agency serving adults with disabilities.

Jonathan Borne, '96, completed his second year of teaching at Midland Adventist Academy in Shawnee, Kansas (his 15th year leading a classroom). He completed his master's degree in biology from the University of Nebraska-Kearney in 2009 and began working on his doctorate in biomedical research at the West Virginia University School of Medicine in 2011. Jonathan placed further studies on hold to return to teaching. He and his wife, Laura, have four children: Rebecca, 11th grade; Courtney, eighth grade; Michael, fourth grade; and Kelly, first grade.

Eric Bates, '99, went on from Southern to graduate with a Doctor of Ministry in Biblical Counseling from Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After serving the past 13 years in the Gulf States Conference, he is currently the senior pastor at Arden, North Carolina, Seventh-day Adventist Church and serves as family life director for the Carolina Conference. He is married to Ann Marie and they have four children, **Alex** (attended), Evan, Eran, and Austin.

00s **Zary (Hernandez) Colon**, '02, was honored with the 2014 La Paz Chattanooga Latino Leader of the Year Award. She currently works for Unum as senior linguist in the Marketing and Communications Department and lives in Collegedale, Tennessee.

Erin (Hall) Shaw, '01 and '06, has been named Naturalist of the Year by the Ohio State Parks. Erin has served as a park naturalist for almost eight years, working at Cowan Lake State Park, Caesar Creek State Park, and Little Miami State Park. She lives in Oregonia, Ohio.



Norine (Briner) Reese, '01 and '03, and husband, Nathanael, are excited to announce the birth of their son, Tyler Philip, on March 19. Their other two children, Tristan, 8, and Aidan, 6, are happy to welcome baby brother to the family. The family lives in Canton, North Carolina.



Tres Wood, '02, has recently joined the staff of Westpak, Inc. as a test engineer. Westpak is the largest third-party product/package testing laboratory on the West Coast, providing ISO-accredited services to many companies in Silicon Valley. He resides there with his wife, **Sunny (Lambeth)**, (attended).

Nickling St. Fleur-Rrustemaj, '04, started Belle Chapelle, a line of designer clothing created specifically with Christian modesty in mind. She lives in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

David Gordon, '04 and '05, has partnered with Southern to spread the word about Adventist Health System's mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ. He has developed connections with students and alumni to help AHS secure talent to further its mission. He recently accepted a recruitment leadership position with Kettering Health Network. David lives in Beavercreek, Ohio.

Anthony Vera Cruz, '05, and his wife, Tiffany, are excited to announce that their son, Greyson Oliver Vera Cruz, was born on June 16. Anthony is a marketing and brand strategy manager at Adventist Health System. The family resides in Ocoee, Florida.

Sean, '06, and **Linda (Gotshall) Reed**, '07, welcomed their second child, Emily Karen Reed, on May 26, 2014. Emily joined big brother Gavin, who is 3 years old. They live in Russellville, Tennessee.

Debra Moore, '06, has been named president of Memorial Hospital Hixson. Debra joined Memorial in 1987 and most recently served there as senior vice president. She lives in Hixson, Tennessee, and credits her graduate degree from Southern as instrumental in this professional development.

Zach McDonald, '08, and his wife, **Riley (Cochran)**, '05 and '09, are excited to announce that their son, Paxton Moss McDonald, was born on August 12. They live in Asheville, North Carolina.

Doug Baasch, '09, graduated this past May from Loma Linda University's dental program. He was one of 10 students selected for the program's honor society, earned an alumni award, and was selected for the presidential award (marking the first time one student received both awards). Doug and his wife,

Kim, are moving to Jacksonville, Florida, where he will complete a residency and MD program with the goal of becoming an oral and maxillofacial surgeon.

Jordan Wagner, '09, and his wife, **Ashley (Cheney)**, '11, are excited to announce the birth of their second daughter, Cora Lynne Wagner, on August 16. They live in Collegedale, Tennessee.

10s **Manuela Asaftei**, '10, is the new corporate recruiter for Adventist Health Systems and lives in Orlando, Florida.

Remembrance

Steven Allen Bennett, '78, born January 27, 1954, in Wichita, Kansas, passed away on March 16, 2012, while cave diving at Ginnie Springs, Florida. He was a loving brother and excellent nurse to his many patients. While in the military,

he served with the White Coat Project at Fort Detrick, Maryland. He went to Southern Missionary College in 1975 after his military duty was completed and began to pursue his nursing degree. After graduation he worked at several hospitals in the Chattanooga, North Georgia, and Nashville areas until his passing. He is survived by siblings Terry, **Daniel**, '77, and Nancy.

Carol (Smith) Palsgrove, '56, born July 2, 1936, passed away on April 12, 2014, in Avon Park, Florida. She is survived by her husband, **John**, '56, and her two children, **Michael**, '85, and **Diane (Palsgrove) Loweke** (attended).

Cecil Rolfe, faculty, born June 2, 1929, in Zambia, passed away on June 26, in Longwood, Florida. He began teaching in Southern's School of Business and Management in 1964 and retired in 1993. He is survived by his wife, **Becky** (retired employee); his sister, Joy Breetzke; and his children, **Robert**, '79, and **Carolyn (Rolfe) Bottomley**, '84.

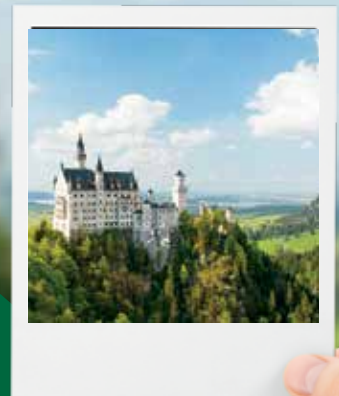
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Higher Education

Outdoor Education and Outdoor Leadership graduates gathered at Southern's Student Park on October 25 during homecoming weekend for praise and worship, a picnic, and supervised climbing and caving activities. Some brought their children along and gave them the green light to try scaling Goliath Wall, the face of an abandoned rock quarry measuring 200 feet wide by 40-60 feet high. Opened in 2006 after donors invested in site work to prepare it for public use, the popular spot is bolted for top-ropes and boasts many climbing routes. It is also a training wall for the Hamilton County Cave and Cliff Rescue Team.



acceptance

By Gordon Bietz, president

The television camera zooms in to get a close-up of her face. She is beautiful, but bad—at least she had a bad reputation—and yes, it was deserved. He is there too, draped over a couch. No one in the room knows that they have had a little thing going. No one, that is, but the dinner guest who seems to know everything.

She wasn't supposed to come to this high-class reception, but she knew the host and decided to come without an invitation. He couldn't throw her out; she might tell someone their secret, even make a scene.

She really wouldn't have come at all, except there was something that she wanted to do for the special dinner guest. This guest had given her some major counseling, and she wanted to show how grateful she was. Normally her gratitude would have been shown in immoral ways, but this counselor had led her out of immorality. She determined that she would give him a gift.

If she would have given him a check or a picture, it might have been done discretely, but a bottle of perfume? If the bottle had been sealed it would have been okay, but it was opened. If it had been opened a crack it might have been all right, but she poured it all over him.

You can imagine the smell that penetrated the room. It was one week before Jesus would be in a tomb, and Simon had thrown a party to express appreciation to Jesus for healing his leprosy, but now all eyes were drawn toward Mary at the feet of Jesus. The room grew silent; you could hear a pin drop.

In that silence questions were asked about why this money was wasted in this way when it could have been given to the poor.

Simon, the host, wasn't thinking about the waste of money or about the smell in his dining room. He was thinking about the woman at the feet of Jesus, and he knew what she was like. He thought to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."

Simon was a sin spotter, someone who sees problems with everyone's character except his own. Are you like that?

Simon had people arranged in classes. It's easier to dismiss what people say or do when they are categorized, isn't it? We classify so we won't have to deal with the "liberals" or the "conservatives," but we destroy the unity of our church when we separate people into classes.

Sin spotters can't tell the difference between the sinner and the sin. Jesus could. Jesus was not blind to Mary's sin; He knew of her problems, but He also knew of her heart. He brought salvation to Mary by accepting her. How often do we feel driven to condemn, trying to prove our own purity instead of accepting others and enabling them to be pure?

The very thing that saved Mary—Jesus' acceptance—was what caused Simon to think that he was not a prophet. Prophets are supposed to call down fire from heaven, burn up the wicked, and point out the sins! If this man were a prophet, he would not be allowing this woman to touch him.

Self-perceived righteousness creates blindness, so Jesus turned toward the woman and asked Simon a pointed question: "Do you see this woman?"

The woman was right there, but it was not a dumb question. Simon didn't see the woman. He saw the sinner, the sensuality, the sin, the sex.

Luke 7:44-47 says: "I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."

And finally Simon sees the woman. Jesus had healed him of leprosy and now of Pharisaism.

What do we see?

We see the homosexuality, the jewelry, and the heavy make up. We see the wine in the closet and smell the alcohol on their breath. We hear the foul language and observe the tattoos and piercings. When that is all we see, we will stay clear of them until they clean up their lives. When that is all we see, we will not accept them.

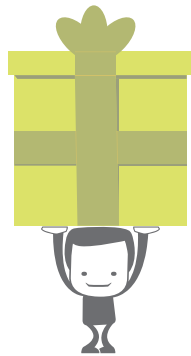
Do we see the woman? What you see will determine whether or not you have caring communities. Don't give people what they deserve. Give them what will save them—Christ-like acceptance. ■



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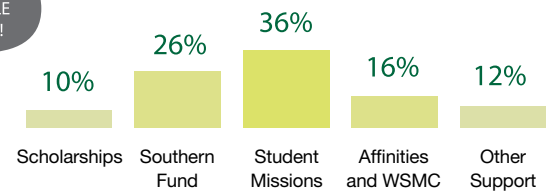


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