

the magazine of Southern Adventist University

fall 2022

columns



Living in Community

Alumni pastors tap into their
LifeGroups experiences at
Southern to help church
members connect | page 12



Photo: Brian Piferos

Photo: Calvin Serban

Make a Joyful Sound

The School of Music ensembles provide a wide range of musical performances throughout the year, on campus and beyond. Anna Estep, junior liberal arts education major, and Eian Dumanon, junior nursing major, are members of the Steel Band, which greeted guests arriving for Southern's inaugural A Taste of Southern event in downtown Chattanooga (see page 8 for the full story).

contents



features

12 | Living in Community

Fellowship and community are important for people of all ages. Southern offers more than 80 student-led LifeGroups that encourage meaningful connection in college and beyond. In fact, some participants use and expand on that model after graduation.

16 | Change and Growth: Celebrating 130 Years

Much has happened in Southern's 130-year-history. What began as a small country school has expanded beyond what the founders could have imagined, as God has continued to bless.

20 | Missionaries for Life

Dedication, personal sacrifice, and a passion to serve are just a few characteristics that set apart this alumni couple, exemplifying Southern's long tradition of serving others.

24 | Homecoming Weekend

The Southern family came together in person for a special Homecoming Weekend 2022.

departments

- 4 | Photo Essay
- 6 | Headlines
- 10 | Professor Inspiration
- 26 | Beyond the Columns
- 30 | Alumni Profile

Cover caption: (From right) LifeGroup members Marc Briggs, freshman theology major; Sierra Dunzweiler, senior social work major; Makena Vonbergen, freshman health science major; and Zach LeClerc, sophomore nursing major, meet outside with others in their group once a week.

Photographer: Calvin Serban, senior film production major

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Campus Keeps on the Move

Students get many opportunities to stay active on campus, from organized activities to walking between classes. More than 50% of current students participate in Southern's intramurals program, which was started in 1955 and is run by the School of Health and Kinesiology.

1: Nestor Amparo, junior information technology major, rounds the bases during All-Night Softball.

2: A popular, long-standing tradition at Southern, All-Night Softball caps off the regular softball intramurals season for students such as Logan Cooper, junior business administration major.

3: Just walking across campus between classes provides an exercise opportunity for Vashti Brantley (left), sophomore liberal arts education major, and Felicia Sanders, sophomore psychology major.

4: Teams give their all during flag football intramurals.

5: Siblings Natalie (senior graphic design major) and Ben Rouse (junior computer information systems major) participate in the Duck Walk, a voluntary biannual event hosted by the School of Health and Kinesiology to assess cardiorespiratory fitness.

6: Southern's trail system, with nearly 40 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails, is popular with students and community members.

7: Connecting one end of campus to the other, the K.R. Davis Promenade is an artery of activity for most students, such as Alexis Dewey (center), sophomore mass communication major.

8: The 3-on-3 basketball tournament drew a crowd.

9: Apollo Jayme, sophomore medical lab science major, catches his breath during flag football intramurals.

10: Triniti Evans, junior theology major, steps up to bat for her team during softball intramurals.

11: Employees also participate in the Duck Walk, including Eric Baerg, '07, and Candy Reichert from Advancement.

12: Playing futsal, a type of soccer played indoors on a smaller court, brings a smile to the face of Alfredo Trevedan, sophomore management major.

13: Futsal is a newer addition to Southern's intramurals lineup in the fall.

14: Saturday nights offer students a variety of fun activities, including an ultimate frisbee tournament that kicked off the school year.



8

Photo: Elias Zabala



1



4

Photo: Elias Zabala



9

Photo: Elias Zabala



2



5



6

Photo: Calvin Seaban



10



11

Photo: Elias Zabala



13

Photo: Jazzylynn Dunbar



3



7



12



14

Photo: Elias Zabala

Photo: Elias Zabala

School of Business Campaign Aims to Build Stronger Leaders



The new School of Business facility, visualized in this rendering, will expand opportunities for students.

For decades, the School of Business at Southern has equipped students with the tools needed to succeed professionally while inspiring them with the eternal purpose of sharing Christ in their chosen field. Southern is pleased to be launching the Business Leadership + Innovation Campaign, a \$20 million effort aimed at empowering the next generation of business leaders.

A new, state-of-the-art facility will be designed to foster a preeminent learning environment in which students will benefit from a quality business education grounded in biblical principles. It will feature designated spaces for the Enactus team and Business Society, the SMARRT Fund Finance Lab, the Business Innovations and Solutions Center, technology-driven classrooms,

collaborative study areas, and more. Additionally, the campaign will establish a School of Business Programming Endowment to improve the department's ability to provide the best education possible for its students. Each year, the endowment will support initiatives such as sending students and faculty members on mission trips and to conferences, providing start-up funds for new academic programs, equipping business faculty with professional development, attracting visiting professors to teach and consult, and offering special scholarships.

"I can trace my success as a Christian business owner to my experience as a student in Southern's School of Business," said Franklin Farrow, '93, CEO and co-founder of Morning Pointe Senior Living and member of Southern's Board of Trustees. "I'm so excited to see the opportunities for leadership and innovation expand in this new space. As a result, businesses and communities around the world are going to feel an eternal impact from the next generation of business graduates from my alma mater."

To learn more about this project, visit southern.edu/gobusiness.

— by Staff Writer

Southern Introduces Bachelor's Degree in Engineering



In this new degree program, students can pick from mechanical, electrical, and computer engineering emphases.

With classes beginning in Fall 2023, Southern is launching a new bachelor's degree in engineering. This program will build on the associate degree in engineering that the university has offered for many years and will be housed in the Physics and Engineering Department.

"This is a program that prospective students have been asking for," said Ryan Herman, director of Admissions. "We're excited that now engineering students will be able to complete their bachelor's degree here and enjoy the full Southern Experience."

Students can choose from mechanical, electrical, and computer engineering concentrations. With a strong emphasis on math and science, the degree will hone students' problem-solving and analytical-thinking skills, preparing them for fulfilling engineering careers or serving as a launch pad for advanced degrees in a variety of fields.

"This bachelor's degree in engineering is a wonderful addition to Southern's academic offerings," said Tyson Hall, PhD, associate vice president for Academic Administration and dean of Graduate and Professional Studies. "Because engineering is a service-oriented profession that emphasizes designing practical solutions for the benefit of others, our new engineering program fits naturally with Southern's mission to equip students to embody professional excellence and pursue Spirit-filled lives of service."

— by Staff Writer

» by the numbers

628

freshmen joined Southern this fall—the third largest class in the school's 130-year history.

50

states are currently represented by Southern's student body.

1,600+

community members check into Southern's Hulsey Wellness Center each month, on average.

100%

of chemistry graduates land a relevant job or begin graduate school within one year of completing Southern's program.

286

Southern students have served as student missionaries to 34 countries over the last five years.

42,955

people have graduated from or attended Southern over the years. To learn more about the school's 130-year history, see page 16.

Inaugural Community Event Establishes New Scholarship

A Taste of Southern, the first event of its kind hosted by the university, debuted in downtown Chattanooga this fall. Southern raised more than \$88,000, with proceeds going to establish an endowed scholarship for first-generation college

students. As early as Fall 2023, students whose parents do not have four-year degrees will benefit from the new funds.

More than 200 local business and organization professionals attended, enjoying a farm-to-table dinner provided in part by the university's own Thatcher Farm. In addition to performances by the School of Music's Steel Band and I Cantori, the evening featured an art gallery curated by the School of Visual Art and Design with works by faculty, alumni, and friends of the university.

The program also included stories from a current first-generation student as well as a first-generation alum who is now impacting the Chattanooga community as director of video at McCallie School.

Southern has been part of the region for 130 years, and alum Greg Vital, '14, of Morning Pointe noted, "The unique factors of the campus and the contributions its students are now making as part of the business and professional community are quite amazing, and it was nice to see that highlighted."

Visit southern.edu/taste for photos of the event, the art gallery, and more.

– by Tina Smith



President Ken Shaw (center) greets guests at the inaugural A Taste of Southern event.

Southern Archaeologists Find Ivory Comb With First Written Canaanite Sentence

An archaeology team of students and employees from Southern Adventist University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem uncovered an ivory hair comb with linguistic significance. Discovered at Tel Lachish in Israel during a 2016 excavation, the comb features the first known complete, alphabetic sentence ever discovered. It was written in the Canaanite language, which is the predecessor to all modern alphabets.

"The find cannot be overestimated. The invention of the alphabet was the most important contribution to communication in the last four millennia," said Michael G. Hasel, PhD, professor of archaeology at Southern and co-director of the Lachish excavations with Professor Martin G. Kilingbeil, DLitt, and Hebrew University professor Yosef Garfinkel, PhD. "Before this time, complicated



This small, ivory comb, found by Southern archaeologists, features the first written Canaanite sentence ever found.

[news briefs]

Archaeology Exhibit Coming

Beginning in January 2023, Southern's Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum will host a new temporary exhibit titled "Peace and War: The Assyrian Conquest of Lachish." It will feature the work of Southern students and employees in partnership with Hebrew University of Jerusalem, focusing on one of the most dramatic events ever recorded: the Assyrian conquest of Judah and the deliverance of Jerusalem. With more than 80 newly excavated artifacts from the Fourth Expedition to Lachish (2013-2017) in Israel, this exhibit explores the important role Lachish played in the earliest development of archaeology and as one of the crucial tipping points of history. It is sponsored by the National Treasures Department of Israel Antiquities Authority and Southern.



Michael Hasel and Katherine Hesler work in the Lachish excavation area where the comb was uncovered.

Southern Students Win National Web Design Competition

This summer, two brothers attending Southern received gold medals during the SkillsUSA's national championships held in Atlanta, Georgia. Allen and Brandon Gustrowsky, sophomore and junior computer science majors, participated in the collegiate division for Web Design and Development. The annual SkillsUSA national conference is a showcase of career and technical education, where this year more than 5,200 outstanding students competed in 108 different trade, technical, and leadership fields. The Gustrowsky brothers qualified for the national championship by winning first place in the Tennessee competition. In that event, Southern students earned both first and second place, with junior computer science majors Simon Sierra and Adrian Morales receiving silver.

systems of writing in Egypt and Mesopotamia limited literacy. Today most of the world constructs sentences using the alphabet found on this comb from 3,700 years ago. Here we have the first verbal sentence using the alphabet ever found."

Dating to about 1700 BC, the engraving on the small comb says, "May this tusk root out the lice of the hair and the beard."

"When we found the comb on the first day of excavation in 2016 the inscription was not seen due to the encrustation of dirt," said Katherine Helser, '19, in whose area the find was made. The discovery of writing on the comb was made in 2022 by a specialist in Israel.

Despite its small size, the inscription on the comb from Lachish has very special features, some of which are unique and fill in knowledge gaps of many aspects of the culture of Canaan in the Bronze Age. Among other things, for the first time, researchers have an entire verbal sentence written in the dialect spoken by the Canaanite inhabitants of Lachish, enabling them to compare this language in all its aspects with the other sources for it.

The Canaanite alphabet is the same used in the written Hebrew of the first books of the Bible. The comb inscription dates the alphabet before the biblical writers existed and confirms that the alphabetic script was in everyday use in cities that were later occupied by the Israelites. Lachish was a major Canaanite city state in the second millennium BC and the second most important city in the Biblical Kingdom of Judah.

– by Staff Writers

Southern Volunteers Help With Hurricane Ian Disaster Response

In the wake of Hurricane Ian, two groups of Southern students and employees traveled to Fort Myers, Florida, where they assisted in disaster relief efforts. In partnership with the organization 2Serve, the 44 Southern participants helped with provision distribution, debris cleanup, and yard work for victims of the disaster.

Alumni Business Directory Launches

Southern is rolling out an online Alumni Business Directory to showcase the variety of products and services offered by alumni and attendees across the country. Anyone who has attended or graduated from Southern and owns a licensed business is invited to submit information for inclusion in the directory. To learn more, visit southern.edu/alumnibusiness.

Business as Ministry

By Anaya Miller, sophomore fine arts major

From the beginning, Michelle Doucoumes, '05, '10, and '22, knew that she wanted to work in business. After completing her undergraduate degree in accounting at Southern, she entered the workforce. Four years later, she returned to pursue a Master of Business Administration, followed more recently by a Master of Ministry with an emphasis in evangelism and missions.

For Doucoumes, business is a way to reach and minister to people.

"The goal is to help people, make their lives better, and share the gospel with them," Doucoumes said. "Business is the tool to do that."

In 2011, she helped found the Soul-winning And Leadership Training (SALT) program, which is a partnership between Southern and the evangelistic ministry It Is Written that provides Bible worker certification. She ran and coordinated the program for several years.

With her passion for business and helping others, Doucoumes joined Southern's School of Business teaching faculty in 2017. In addition to her role as an associate professor, Doucoumes also sponsors Southern's Enactus chapter, a student organization dedicated to meeting the needs of the local and global community through innovation and Christ-centered service.

More Than a Professor

As Doucoumes teaches personal finance and entrepreneurship courses, she is intentional about including spirituality and making her lectures interesting. At the beginning of every class period, she shares a short spiritual thought with her students.

"She is a phenomenal professor!" said Ashley Blake, senior accounting major. "I've always appreciated her use of real-world examples in the classroom. She manages to tie the practical from

"The goal is to help people, make their lives better, and share the gospel with them."



Photo: Calvin Serban

In her classes, business professor Michelle Doucoumes interweaves spirituality with business concepts, preparing students to make a difference in their future careers.

the real world to the theoretical that we get in textbooks."

"As a professor, she was dedicated to ensuring that we understood the material by finding creative ways to teach us," said Jake Miller, '22. "She is a spiritual mentor as well, which is so important when you are working in the secular world of business. She always ensured we kept Christ at the center of everything we did and encouraged us to seek Him."

Why We Do Business

In her role as Enactus sponsor, Doucoumes mentors Southern students who are involved in social entrepreneurship projects that aim to positively impact the community. These include projects such as working with boys from low-income families in the local area to teach them personal finance and entrepreneurship and helping small businesses with marketing. She enjoys working with the Enactus students and watching them grow in their confidence and abilities.

"It's really fun to see students get to do things that they never felt they could do," Doucoumes said. "When you're in college, most students don't automatically think, 'I could start a business' or 'I could change this whole community overseas.*' It's really gratifying for me to be a part of that."

Mason Harmon, senior marketing major and vice president of Enactus, has worked with Doucoumes for two years.

"As our Enactus sponsor, she makes it her mission to connect with us members on a personal level," Harmon said. "Even though Enactus is an extracurricular student organization, she makes it feel like a family environment and creates the ties that bring members back year after year."

Throughout her work as a professor and as Enactus sponsor, Doucoumes seeks to show the love of God through her own love of business.

"There is a quote in *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 349, that says, 'Religion and business are not two separate things; they are one,'" Doucoumes said. "I think there is a lot of truth to that. It's how we do business, but it's also why we do business. You can do business just to make money, or you can do business to make a difference. If you learn how to do business to make a difference, then your business is going to be a ministry." ■

*Learn more about how Enactus is impacting lives in Zambia on page 8.



Photo: Elias Zabala

Celebrating a Cultural Cornucopia

Sahyii Lozano, junior chemistry major, and Marco Swaisgood, '22, participated in Latin American Club Night this fall, celebrating many of the vibrant cultures represented on campus. Students who identify as Hispanic currently make up 27% of the student body, and Southern is now the only recognized Hispanic-Serving Institution in Tennessee.

Living in Community



Fellowship and community are important for people of all ages. Southern offers more than 80 student-led LifeGroups that encourage meaningful connection in college and beyond. In fact, some participants use and expand on that model after graduation. *by Angela Baerg, '06*

Zachary LeClerc, sophomore nursing major, was excited to make new friends during his freshman year at Southern. When he attended the on-campus Ministry Expo held by the Office of Ministry and Missions, he was encouraged to host a LifeGroup—a small group of students who meet regularly to foster belonging and support each other in their spiritual walks. Groups can be based around Bible study or any type of shared interest. LeClerc's group went rock climbing and running and enjoyed breakfasts together. His most memorable excursion was caving in Collegedale.

"We were all gathered in this tiny room in total darkness," he remembers. "We had absolutely no visual sensory input, and we had our worship thought in that silence. It was really special to be somewhere with God with no distractions."

At first, the group was full of strangers. By the end of the year, they felt like a small family. Many students, such as LeClerc, make lifelong friendships through LifeGroups. For others, it can lead to even more: a life calling to ministry.

SEBASTIAN LOPEZ, '16

Associate Pastor at Palm Coast Seventh-day Adventist Church

All his life, Sebastian Lopez had heard mission stories from his grandparents, who had traveled all over South America. Eager to follow in their footsteps, he accepted a position as a student missionary during his sophomore year at Southern. Lopez loved meeting new people and embracing different cultures as he taught English in Poland. His time overseas helped him realize that while he didn't love teaching, he did love spreading God's word.

When Lopez returned to Southern, he was eager to continue mission work on the home front. He accepted a position as the Student Missions coordinator and organized

events such as the Student Missions Vespers and the Ministry Expo. He also served as the men's Lifegroups director, and in that role, he met weekly with Associate Chaplain Anna Bennett, who provided guidance and encouragement. Lopez loved the structure of the LifeGroups program, which made sure that the leaders always felt nourished spiritually so that they would not burn out and would have something left to give to others. Every week, he met one-on-one with each coach, and each coach in turn met with and supported several group leaders.

Sometimes Lopez brainstormed with the coaches on how to solve problems that their groups were facing. Other times they would pray and study the Bible together. With every meeting, he did his best to figure out what each student needed in order to be successful and how to help that person access it. Lopez enjoyed supporting others on their spiritual paths so much that he decided to enter the ministry, completing his bachelor's degree in theology.

Now a pastor at the Palm Coast Seventh-day Adventist Church in Florida, Lopez does his best to make sure that everyone in his church feels seen, heard, and appreciated; his favorite part of being a pastor is growing alongside his congregation. LifeGroups are an important part of his church community, encompassing activities from biking to knitting to Bible study. The members of his church recognize the value of these small groups.

"I love the growth that happens between members in such a short amount of time," says Andrew Anobile, a Palm Coast LifeGroup member. "Often it takes years to realize that other people believe and struggle like we do, but a LifeGroup allows for that intentional safe space to really get to know each other."



Sebastian Lopez



Jamil and Vanessa (Hernandez) Hairston



Aubrey Toup

JAMIL, '18, and VANESSA (HERNANDEZ) HAIRSTON, '18

Personal Trainer/Nutrition Coach and Associate Pastor for Worship at Miami Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church

Vanessa Hernandez had wanted to attend Southern for as long as she could remember. Her youth pastor, Keith Bowman, '08, was always talking about all of the fantastic memories he had made there, and many of her favorite teachers were Southern alumni as well. Once enrolled, Vanessa became deeply involved in campus ministries, first as a LifeGroup coach and later as the women's LifeGroups director. Her responsibilities involved mentorship, one-on-one meetings, leading and organizing small groups, and public speaking.

"As a pastor's kid, I'd always been active in ministry, but being a part of the Office of Ministry and Missions deepened my relationship with Christ," Vanessa says. "It was at one of our retreats that I first heard God's voice clearly, and the trajectory of my life changed."

Jamil Hairston, Vanessa's boyfriend at the time, spent so much time around her office that he, too, began to grow intrigued by ministry. Jamil had never enjoyed being in the spotlight. In fact, in the past, he had been so shy that he would not even sing in his pew at church for fear of being overheard. However, Associate Chaplain Anna Bennett was so welcoming and kind that Jamil ventured to lead a men's LifeGroup about dating. The friends he made through that group helped him grow as he steadily tunneled further and further out of his comfort zone. Eventually he became a LifeGroups coach and even began to do public speaking at events such as Week of Prayer.

Jamil vividly recalls one night in particular. "I didn't want to preach," he says. "I was so scared, but when it actually happened, I remember feeling like I wasn't alone up front. God was speaking through me."

After graduating from Southern, Jamil and Vanessa married and launched First Love Ministries. Their goal was

to help people look at God as their first love, because that perspective would enhance every other relationship in their lives. They wanted to create a safe space for an open dialogue about how to have a godly relationship and be sexually pure. Their passion for working with LifeGroups also inspired them to pursue their Master of Divinity degrees together. Now they both work in ministry at Miami Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church, where LifeGroups remain a major focus.

"Having an intimate space where we're able to learn more about each other and make the Word more practical has helped a lot," says Marsha Tru, a Miami Temple LifeGroup member. "It's also encouraging to have people praying with you and for your personal battles."

Jamil often shares the story of two men who rode the bus together for years. Eventually one asked the other where he attended church, and it turned out they had attended the same church for years and had never known. In a large church, it can be so easy to just disappear. By contrast, LifeGroups are the antidote to modern loneliness. Brick by brick, they help build strong congregations.

Roger Hernandez, Vanessa's father and the ministerial and evangelism director for the Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, recalls when he personally felt the impact of LifeGroups:

"For me, LifeGroups at Southern is not just a program I read or heard about. I had a first-row seat to experience the transformation in my daughter from being in the church to being the church," he says. "Vanessa and Jamil started out leading LifeGroups at Southern, and they are still engaging in the transforming activities of LifeGroups at Miami Temple. It's great to see the integration of home, school, and church in the life of many."

AUBREY TOUP, '15

Pastor at Stone Mountain Seventh-day Adventist Church

Aubrey Toup felt the call to ministry at age 15. Although she spent her elementary and high school years in a public school setting, she often heard her pastor, Jerry Wasmer, '05, talk about how uplifting and influential his time at Southern had been. Toup decided to try Southern for herself, eager to become immersed in campus culture and make the most of her new Adventist surroundings.

"At the beginning of my freshman year, I went to the Office of Ministry and Missions and said, 'I want to be a part of all this; what should I do?'" Toup remembers.

The chaplain at the time suggested that Toup become a LifeGroup leader. In that role, she made many friends, strengthened her faith, and learned how to troubleshoot problems. During her sophomore year, she became a LifeGroups coach and had the opportunity to mentor other young leaders. Toup also immersed herself in a three-year pastoral externship, where she received hands-on experience with everything from baby dedications to funerals. In the process, she learned what it meant to be a pastor, to build a church, and to work with people.

Now, as pastor at Stone Mountain Seventh-day Adventist Church in Georgia, Toup is passionate about nurturing LifeGroups for members. When she was first hired, she prayed with her ministry team about what gifts she could bring to their congregation. She felt God telling her that they needed to rejuvenate the small groups at their church to help people build relationships, especially in the wake of the global pandemic.

"Now LifeGroups are the heart of our church," Toup says. "We make a call every week, inviting people to join a LifeGroup so they can plug in and become truly engaged."

Toup loves seeing people build meaningful relationships in a LifeGroup setting and going above and beyond to support each other. One group in particular overwhelmed Toup with its generosity. When a woman's husband passed away, the other members offered to sponsor her young son for his remaining middle school years in Adventist education.

"I'm so glad that I got involved with LifeGroups as a college student," Toup says. "My time at Southern helped me become the person and the pastor I am today." ■

TIPS FOR BUILDING A LifeGroup

You don't have to be a professor of religion or a Bible scholar to lead a LifeGroup. Here is some advice from pastors Anna, Aubrey, Jamil, Sebastian, and Vanessa:

- The best LifeGroups are those that meet to share their lives, focus on a short passage of Scripture, and discuss how God's Word applies to each member. - Pastor Anna
- Focus on quality over quantity. Your group doesn't have to be big or do anything elaborate. It's more important that it's intentional and prayerful. - Pastor Vanessa
- Never invite someone to church before you invite them to your house. LifeGroups are powerful because they are a door for people to go through. They're a much easier invitation. - Pastor Jamil
- Plan your LifeGroup around something that you're passionate about, whether that's baking or mountain biking. - Pastor Sebastian
- Focus on creating a safe space for people to share and grow. - Pastor Aubrey
- Listen and be present. Learn to listen to understand rather than only to respond. - Pastor Jamil
- Just do it! Sometimes we don't start things because we are afraid of not being perfect on the first try. What you might see as failure at first can propel you to future success! - Pastor Jamil

To learn more about Southern's LifeGroups or how to start your own, visit southern.edu/belong or reach out to lifegroups@southern.edu.



Change and Growth:

CELEBRATING 130 YEARS

Much has happened in Southern's 130-year-history. What began as a small country school has expanded beyond what the founders could have imagined, as God has continued to bless. Here are a few highlights through the years, although this is not intended to be an exhaustive history. For a more in-depth look at Southern's past, visit southern.edu/columns.

— Research by Tanya (Johnson) Jansen, '93, and Helen (Case) Durichek, '56 and '58



1892

At the urging of Robert Kilgore, George Colcord and his wife, Ada, moved from Oregon to Tennessee to establish a Seventh-day Adventist school in Graysville. In April 1892, 23 students began school in the upper level of a small store and paid \$4 per month for tuition.



1916

The school moved to a farm in the country called Thatcher Switch, nestled in an idyllic valley, which developed into Southern's current 1,300-acre campus. At first, conditions were rustic, with male students and many faculty living in tents spread over wooden walls—conditions that visiting missionaries declared to be more primitive than in their fields of service.



1933

Approximately 75% of students worked their way through school by holding jobs in the dairy creamery, hosiery mill, College Press, and furniture shop.

1940

In preparation for World War II, Southern offered the first Southern Union-sponsored Medical Cadet Corps. The two-week course provided training in military discipline, first aid, map reading, signal communication, self-defense, and the Seventh-day Adventist philosophy of military service. The next year, the first Southern students were drafted into the armed forces.



1955

Southern introduced intramurals, still a thriving tradition on campus today. Recreational and organized activities took place in the field down the hill from Lynn Wood Hall—where Wright Hall is now located—and in the gymnasium area of the Tabernacle.



1895

Nine Graysville Adventists, including three Graysville Academy faculty members, were arrested for Sunday-law violations. Although the fine was dropped, the arrested Adventists chose imprisonment rather than paying court fees, believing that paying the fine would validate the unjust sentence. They were sentenced to 20-76 days in prison.



1924

The college built a new administration and classroom building, now known as Lynn Wood Hall, which remains the oldest inhabited building on campus.



1926

The first issue of the *Southern Accent* (under the name *The Southland Scroll*) was printed. The weekly student newspaper is still in print nearly 100 years later.

1934

The Tabernacle opened, becoming the new center for student life activities, such as roller skating, basketball, commencements, and church services. It burned down in 1989.



1944

Southern became a four-year institution offering bachelor's degrees (accredited in 1950), and its name changed to Southern Missionary College.



1957

McKee Baking Company outgrew its downtown location and moved to Collegedale. Many students earned their way through Southern by working at the bakery.



1917

A new women's residence was built; however, campus had no running water indoors. Both students and faculty hauled water from the spring in what is now the Student Park. Women bathed on Thursdays, while the men had turns on Fridays.



1959

WSMC was fully licensed as the first non-commercial public radio station in the greater Chattanooga area. It operated from a studio on the third floor of Lynn Wood Hall.

1964

Enrollment exceeded 1,000 for the first time.

1967

Southern sent out its first official student missionary—Leslie Weaver, '69, who served in Panama for a year—and Wright Hall was built as Southern's main administrative building.



1982

Southern offered the first free summer session, now known as SmartStart. Additionally, after years of petitions, blue jeans were finally approved in the dress code!

1973

The Nursing Department (now the School of Nursing) was the largest academic area on campus and the largest nursing school in Tennessee. The program continues to be the largest on campus, with more than 900 nursing students today.

1993

Southern's first Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Day was held, becoming a long-standing tradition to commemorate King's life by volunteering in the community.



1997

As the campus continued to grow, it gained university accreditation and was renamed Southern Adventist University, as it is known today. The next year, the School of Education and Psychology conferred Southern's first master's degrees.



2004

The Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum opened, featuring one of the largest teaching collections of ancient Near Eastern ceramics in North America.



2021

The Bietz Center for Student Life officially opened, named in honor of Southern's 25th president, Gordon Bietz, DMin, and his family's long-standing dedication to Seventh-day Adventist education. The same year, Ken Shaw, '80, became the first Southern alum to return as president.

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

2010

2020

1944-1982
Southern Missionary College

1982-1996
Southern College of Seventh-day Adventists

1996-Present
Southern Adventist University

1965

A new church, now called Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists, was built on campus to serve the growing needs of the Adventist community in Collegedale.



1972

Kenneth Bonaparte, '72, became the first Black student to graduate from Southern with a four-year degree (for more of his story, see page 30).



1974

Students elected Gale (Jones) Murphy, '76, as Student Association president, becoming the first female and the first Black person to hold the office.

1983

The K.R. Davis Promenade was finished, connecting academic and administrative buildings on campus.



1992

Led by E.O. Grundset, beloved biology professor, students sang "Happy Birthday" to Southern, celebrating 100 years since its opening.



1996

SonRise, an interactive Easter pageant, began and is still hosted on campus on the Sabbath before Easter.

2001

With 2,098 undergraduate students, Southern's increasingly diverse student body surpassed its previous enrollment record, and the university became the largest undergraduate institution in the North American Division. Southern also launched its first entirely online degree, a Master of Business Administration.

2018

Southern was ranked by U.S. News and World Report as tied for most diverse regional university in the South. The university remains in the top two and is now recognized as the only Hispanic-Serving Institution in Tennessee.



2022

With more than 2,900 students enrolled, this fall Southern had the largest incoming freshman class in more than 10 years. Students can now choose from 100+ academic options, with degrees ranging from associate to doctoral. Nearly 43,000 students have attended or graduated from the institution through the years, impacting communities around the world.



MISSIONARIES FOR LIFE



From the deserts of Chad to the jungles of Indonesia, **Gary, '01,** and **Wendy (Byard) Roberts, '01,** have committed their lives to following God's leading and sharing the gospel message with the world.

Dedication, personal sacrifice, and a passion to serve are just a few characteristics that set apart this alumni couple, who exemplify Southern's long tradition of serving others. by Lori (Pettibone) Fletcher, '94

When he first arrived at Southern, Gary Roberts, '01, had no question what his goals were: obtain medical certification, find a wife, and return to the mission field. Born in Kenya to missionary parents Bob and Jan Roberts, two-week-old Gary had ridden in a basket wedged against a diesel generator to Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo), where he spent his childhood years.

Gary became interested in the medical world at an early age. Growing up with unusual African pets such as a Genet cat, hawks, and a bush baby, his first career goals included being a veterinarian or a zoologist. By the time he was 10, Gary was helping in the clinic where his dad did dental work and his mom served as a nurse.

It was while translating for a Congolese doctor, who didn't speak the local dialect, that Gary decided it would be more important to work with people rather than animals. The doctor would perform cataract surgeries, giving sight to people who had been blind for years.

When the patients completed their seven-day, lying-on-their-backs recovery and were handed thick glasses, the first person they would turn to was young Gary. After all, it had been his voice they had been hearing

throughout their time at the clinic.

Another of Gary's childhood dreams never wavered: Following in his dad's footsteps as a missionary pilot. As a teenager, Gary earned his private pilot's license with the goal of one day taking medical care to some of the most remote areas of the mission field.

Gary enrolled in Southern's nursing program and almost immediately met his future wife, Wendy Byard, '01. Also pursuing a degree in nursing, Wendy was in the same anatomy and physiology class as Gary during the summer SmartStart session. However, it wasn't until their last year and a half of college that the two became close friends and eventually began dating.

After the couple graduated with their nursing degrees, Wendy was ready to join Gary in the mission field, but he wasn't sure the mission field was ready for her. He didn't even have a place to live where he would be going, so she stayed behind and worked while he ventured out to Guyana.

Gary quickly discovered how much he missed Wendy and how much help she could provide at the mission base. A year after graduation, the two were married, and they began their missionary lives together.

Left: Growing up in the mission field, Gary had many exotic pets. Right: Wendy and Gary met at Southern, graduating together in 2001 and marrying a year later.





Gary got an early taste for flying from his mission-pilot father. Left: His brother, Eric (left); father, Bob (center); and Gary (right) were all pilots. Right: Gary continues that tradition today as a mission pilot in Indonesia.



Flying in Faith

The couple worked together in Guyana for four years. During that time, their son, Caleb, and daughter, Cherise, were born. Because childbirth was risky in Guyana, Wendy returned to the United States to deliver her children.

To help more women have successful childbirths, Gary spent much of his flying time transporting women from remote villages to the clinic for life-saving medical attention. The nursing skills he learned at Southern helped him assess patients, and his faith in God helped him transport them even in circumstances that seemed impossible. Once he even delivered a baby mid-flight while his co-pilot kept the plane flying safely.

One Sabbath afternoon, Gary and Wendy received a call over the radio alerting them to a woman in a remote village who had been in labor for more than 50 hours. The baby had passed away, and now the mother's life was in danger. "We fear she won't make it through the night," the caller said.

Evening was fast approaching, and with no lights along the village's runway, Gary wouldn't be allowed to fly in at night. However, he wanted to at least try, so he called Civil Aviation for special permission. He was shocked when the director answered her cell phone on a Saturday afternoon and even more astonished at her response to his request: "Approved!"

While Wendy instructed the villagers to build fires along the runway so Gary would be able to see it, Gary and a visiting obstetrics nurse, who had just arrived the evening before, rushed out the door and to the airplane.

Gary's flying buddies radioed him as he flew toward the village: "The weather isn't so good." Still, he had to try.

Sure enough, as he came to the remote valley, a cloud was covering the village. "I don't think there's any way we can get in," he told the nurse. "We can't mess around in the dark, but we'll fly overhead so they hear the plane and know we tried."

But as he got where he could see the runway with the fires around it, he was surprised to see that the cloud covered everything except the runway itself. Later, villagers told him that as soon as they heard the sound of the aircraft, the clouds parted, leaving the runway clear.

Gary flew the woman back to town, where she had a cesarean section that saved her life.

An Unexpected Prayer Request

Following their time in Guyana, Gary and Wendy moved to Africa, living in Cameroon temporarily while they decided where to settle down. One of the options they considered was a location in Chad where fellow alum James Appel, '96, served as a doctor. Because the location was so remote, the missionary couple was unable to contact James before Gary flew in for an unexpected visit.

After arriving, Gary met a young Muslim man who had been at the clinic for three months. He had come in with his wife for a routine C-section. This normally would have been a five-to-seven-day stay, but the night before his wife was to be discharged, she came down with malaria. The medical staff at the clinic treated her and were about to discharge her again when she got sick with something else. This pattern continued for three months, causing the young couple to be detained at the clinic much longer than expected.

Soon the young Muslim man began hanging out near where the clinic held its daily worships. After two and a half months, the man came forward when an appeal for prayer requests was made. The clinic staff assumed he was going to ask for prayers for his wife, but his actual request shocked them.

"I have seen the challenges here at the hospital," the man said. "I would like to pray for this hospital to have an airplane."

In a village where oxcarts are more common than cars, an airplane seemed absurd. "That would be the equivalent of me saying we should get a space shuttle," Gary says.

The Christian staff at the clinic brushed off the man's prayer request—until two weeks later when Gary arrived in an airplane. There was no doubt in anyone's mind that Chad would become the home base for Gary and Wendy.

Ups and Downs

While Gary ran the aviation program, Wendy set up a nutrition center for malnourished babies.

"It was so rewarding to witness babies, who had come in looking like skeletons, with no life in their eyes, go home several weeks later looking healthy and happy," Wendy says.

One of the babies she was able to help was little Kebi, who was malnourished from malaria. Wendy went to work trying

to help him overcome his illness. For three weeks she attacked the malaria with different medications, but nothing seemed to help. Instead, Kebi developed a respiratory infection.

"He's probably not going to make it," Wendy's consulting doctor told her. "All you can do is try—and pray."

That's exactly what Wendy did. For 17 days straight, Wendy gave Kebi various treatments and prayed for his recovery. Finally, he pulled through and regained the weight he had lost.

Several years later, when Wendy returned to Chad for a visit, Kebi and his mom stopped by to thank her for what she (and God) had done.

It wasn't just human babies the couple got to help. On the side, Gary was able to fulfill his childhood dream of working with animals as he helped local conservationists. He even airlifted a baby elephant for treatment.

But their mission experience has not been without pain.

"We buried our 4-year-old son in Chad," Gary says. "Then my father was killed in a plane crash in Indonesia. It was a tragic, difficult time, and I don't want to repeat it. But God has promised to be with us, and we have the blessed hope that we will see our son and dad again."

Continuing the Mission Legacy

The death of Bob Roberts left a void in Indonesia, where he had been serving since Gary was a teenager. The country needed a new mission pilot, and Gary answered the call to continue his father's legacy.

The country also needed a new mission plane. Adventist Aviation Indonesia began making plans to purchase one in Austria. However, an initial inspection of the plane revealed severe corrosion. The owner canceled the sale but then decided to offer it to the Adventist group at a reduced price.

After finalizing the sale, Gary began flying the plane on the 10,015-mile trip from Austria to Indonesia. He stopped in Switzerland to have work done on the corroded engine, but when the Swiss mechanics put their scope into the engine, it was clean. Everyone was shocked. The factory inspector had seen pictures of the corrosion and asked Gary, "Are you sure this is the same engine?"

It was in this same plane that sometime later, Gary landed in the remote village of Suminka, Indonesia. He was the first pilot to land in this isolated area, where it had taken villagers 10 years to clear trees to create a runway.

The villagers gathered to greet him. Then came the unexpected question: "Is this a Seventh-day Adventist plane?" He was even more surprised to learn that many of the villagers kept the Sabbath.

The story of how they learned to observe Sabbath began

with what appeared to be a disappointment. Two Adventist church workers had both received the same dream telling them to go into Suminka. After the long trek to get there, they held some evangelistic meetings, but when they made an appeal, no one came forward.

After the men left, the village's best hunting dog started demonstrating some very strange behavior. Every Sabbath, it would go to the tree where the church workers had held their evangelistic meetings and would stay there all day. It also refused to hunt—or eat—pigs or unclean animals. The villagers decided there must be something to what the men had preached, and about half of them began worshipping on Sabbath.

When Gary learned this, he contacted one of the two church workers, who returned to the village as a missionary.

"I love being a missionary, because you never know what a day might bring," Wendy says. "Life can be pretty raw, and the great controversy is very obvious at times. It's almost like you're forced to rely on God, because there is nothing else. It's a good place to be."

Today, 16-year-old Cherise is following in her father's footsteps. Not only has she had some interesting pets, including monkeys, a small antelope, and a tree kangaroo, but she also loves working on the airplane and flying with her dad. She dreams of being a pilot or an emergency medical technician some day.

"Jesus is coming soon," Gary says about his dedication to mission work. "We need to get as many people ready as possible. And I thoroughly enjoy this work." ■

The Roberts family—Cherise, Gary, and Wendy—love serving in the mission field.



HOMECOMING WEEKEND

REMEMBER. RELIVE. RECONNECT.
October 27-30, 2022

Once again, more than 700 Southern alumni and friends from across the country came together to reconnect and fellowship during Homecoming Weekend. Returning to a pre-pandemic format, the weekend included many favorite events, such as the Ladies' Luncheon, honor class reunions, golf tournament, academic open houses, and much more. Additionally, participants enjoyed new activities, such as a guided hike on the Sabbath Trail and hearing students share their mission testimonies during Sabbath School.

"It was a pleasure to meet and visit with so many of our alumni and their families!" said Cheryl Torres, '05, director of Alumni Relations. "Seeing alumni parents bringing their kids and sharing Southern with them is particularly special to me."

For updates about Homecoming Weekend 2023 as plans progress, be sure to visit southern.edu/homecoming.



- 12. A Sabbath afternoon concert featured the talent of School of Music students, including Jonathan Castro, senior music major.
- 13. Making the most of the glorious fall weather, Ben Thornton, biology professor (left), led alumni on a hike exploring the Sabbath Trail.
- 14. The 50-Year Honor Class visited over lunch in Iles P.E. Center.
- 15. John Lazor, '80, reconnected with old friends—an activity at the heart of Homecoming Weekend.
- 16. Several students, including Liz Hilario, sophomore nursing major, shared their testimonies of serving in short- and long-term missions through Southern.
- 17. More than 100 golfers participated in the annual tournament, including (from left) President Ken Shaw, '80; Justin Mertz, junior theology major; Assistant Chaplain Jake Mertz, '17; and Dan Mertz. Proceeds from the event went to the Dave Cress Memorial Scholarship.

Photos by: Jazzalynn Dunbar, Nick Evenson, Calvin Serban, Ian Tidwell, Elias Zabala



PICTURE CAPTIONS

- 1. Family and friends gathered during the Kick-Off Banquet to celebrate Abner, '13, and Edely (Ypez), '09, Sanchez (center and center-right), who were honored as Young Alumni of the Year.
- 2. Kevin Brown, '94, chair of the Mathematics Department (left), enjoyed a treat during the Alumni Faculty and Staff Reception, which recognized the many alumni working at Southern.
- 3. A special luncheon brought together faculty and the recipients of the Dr. Rahn and Natalia Shaw Endowed Scholarship with the fund's namesake for an inspiring gathering.
- 4. Janita Herod, '78, was celebrated as Southern Lady of the Year during the Ladies' Luncheon.
- 5. Alumni such as Madai Miller, '18 and '20, enjoyed visiting the John C. Williams Art Gallery, which featured the work of guest artist Myung Joo Shin.
- 6. President Ken Shaw, '80, greeted alumni during the Welcome Home Supper.
- 7. McKee Library hosted an open house featuring Signatures Through History, a collection of prominent figures' signatures on loan from Rahn Shaw, '78.
- 8. Tom Verrill, senior vice president for Financial Administration (center), visited with invited guests during Tea With the President.
- 9. Vespers speaker Benjamin Lundquist, '04, shared an engaging talk with students and Homecoming participants.
- 10. Students such as Michael Willis, freshman psychology major, and Lily Sakata, freshman biology major, led out in praise music during Friday vespers.
- 11. The weekend featured a rich variety of music, including selections provided by the university's I Cantori Chamber Choir during the Sabbath worship service.



To view more photos from Homecoming, visit southern.edu/columns.

Alumni Notes

'50s John Ryals, '52, is enjoying good health and continues to be very active in the Dunnellon Seventh-day Adventist Church in Florida. He does volunteer work and helps neighbors and friends with their gardening and landscaping projects in the community where he lives and also in the local Marion County area. His wife, Virginia (Wright) Ryals (attended), passed away in February of 2017.

'60s Sandra (Elliott) Haynes, '62, graduated from Southern with a degree in English and then received a Master of Education degree at the University of Oregon. She taught English for 28 years, both in Adventist and public schools, most recently in a local junior college. Now retired, Sandra spends her time writing and recently published her 10th book of poetry, *Words for the Soul*. Her husband, Ed, enjoys planting a spring garden on their country property in Oregon, and they both enjoy being involved in church activities. Next year, they will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary.

'70s Joleen (Leland) Horine, '71, is semi-retired and recruiting with Helping Hands Therapy for the southern United States. She lives in Tellico Plains, Tennessee.

Debi Strom, '77, is semi-retired from careers in early childhood education and pediatric and adult nursing. She served as the director of two daycare centers in Maryland and California and became a nurse in 1990, working on clinical trials with pediatric patients at Johns Hopkins and Loma Linda and with adults at Princeton Baptist Hospital. She also worked as a concierge independent advocate nurse in Palm Springs, California, for 10 years and served as an independent court advocate for children in family court in Southern California for 20 years. Debi lives in Chicago, Illinois, and currently works part-time as a lead recruiter for Helping Hands Therapy agency. She also runs a nonprofit for families in crisis and is writing a book on general health and wellness.

'80s Linda Shriver-Buckner, '86, moved from Tennessee to Montana, where she works to raise the visibility of Highgate Senior Living at Bozeman within their local community and to increase occupancy at the facility. She continues to enjoy making and maintaining relationships that add value.

3 Kelly (Bishop) Bolton, '87 and '88, retired from corporate employment in June 2021 and entered private employment as a personal financial adviser. She lives in Bolton Landing, New York.

William McKnight, '87, is a United States age-group champion for HYROX, a global fitness race. Recently William also has been recognized as a top global thought leader and influencer in cloud computing and big data.

'00s Trevor Fulmer, '06, is currently principal of Trevor Fulmer Design, an interior design studio located in Boston, Massachusetts. He was recently featured in *Modern Luxury Interiors* magazine, which highlighted his first wallpaper and rug collection titled "Natural Principles." These hand-drawn patterns were inspired by pastels he dug up from the color theory course he took while at Southern.

5 Yasmin Phillip, '20, is a freelance author and illustrator and recently released a new children's coloring book. Titled *Amazing Black Women in History: An Educational Coloring Book for Kids Ages 6 and Up*, this inspirational book explores the lives of lesser-known Christian, African American pioneer women. Having worked as an elementary school art teacher, Yasmin has a special place in her heart for creating artistic content children can enjoy and learn from.



We'd love to hear from you, and so would your classmates! Send updates about additions to your family, accomplishments, marriage, professional recognitions, or other news you'd like to share to:

alumni@southern.edu
 Alumni Relations • P.O. Box 370
 Collegedale, TN 37315-0370
southern.edu/alumni/updates



Introducing the New Alumni Relations Team

In her new role as director of Alumni Relations Cheryl (Fuller) Torres, '05, is enthusiastic about helping Southern alumni connect with each other and their alma mater. After graduating from Southern with a degree in public relations, Cheryl entered the nonprofit world, where she spent seven years in marketing and communications at various organizations in Norway and the greater Chattanooga area. She transitioned to fundraising for organizations in Collegedale and then Denver, Colorado, before moving back to Chattanooga. Cheryl took on her new role at Southern this summer and dived right in. She is married to

Alejandro Torres, '15, and they have a 4-year-old son, Ezra, and two dogs. Cheryl is joined by John Boone, '21, the new assistant director of Alumni Relations. John graduated with a double major in public relations and business administration, and as a student, he was actively involved in ministry on and off campus. After graduation, he continued his work with the Office of Ministry and Missions part time while working part time with an alumni entrepreneur in Chattanooga. This summer, he joined the Alumni Relations team. John is engaged to Sarah Cole, a junior social work major at Southern, and the couple plans to marry next summer.



Happy Birthday, Future Alumni!

Your alma mater is committed to recruiting the next generation of alumni. Through the Future Southern Alumni program, we hope to excite the children of alumni about their possible future at this university through a series of age-appropriate birthday gifts. Visit southern.edu/future-alumni to enroll your child in this complimentary program. For further information, call 423.236.2829 or email alumni@southern.edu.

Lillia, the daughter of Caleb, '07, and Jennefer (Hiles) Robinson, '06, proudly shows off the Future Southern Alumni gifts she received for her eighth birthday.



Weddings and Family Additions



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2

1 Luke, '20, and Shelby (Lewellen) Hickman, '20, were married on February 19, 2022, in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. The couple currently lives in the Lake Lanier area of Georgia. Luke is a buyer/planner for Strategic Repair Solutions, and Shelby is a physical therapist assistant at Atlanta Rehabilitation & Performance Center.

2 Justo, '06, and Marcella (Colburn) Morales, '04, welcomed their daughter, Annabel, on May 31, 2022. They live in Richmond, Indiana.

Remembrance

1 **Floyd Greenleaf**, '55, passed away on April 1, 2022, at the age of 90. He graduated from Forest Lake Academy in Florida in 1949, then received a bachelor's degree in history and religion at Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) in 1955, a master's degree in history from George Peabody College in Tennessee in 1961, and a doctorate in history from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville in 1977. In the 1950s and 1960s, he taught elementary and junior high school students in Pensacola, Florida; Birmingham and Mobile, Alabama; and at Bass Memorial Academy in Lumberton, Mississippi, before joining the History Department at Southern in 1966. Over the course of 31 years, he served as professor, department chair, and academic vice president at Southern until his retirement in 1997. He published 12 books, including *In Passion for the World: A History of Seventh-day Adventist Education* and *Light Bearers: A History of the Seventh-day Adventist Church*. He also published numerous articles on Adventist history. Floyd enjoyed stamp collecting, baseball, woodworking, fine-line ink drawing, and writing poetry, and he studied his Sabbath School lesson in English, Italian, Spanish, French, and Portuguese. He is survived by his wife, Betty, whom he married in 1952, and with whom he had three children: Vickie Knecht, Vanessa, and Kelly; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Linda (Ryals) Herbert, '72, passed away on May 5, 2021, in Fleming Island, Florida. She grew up in the Southern Union, graduating from Fletcher Academy in North Carolina in 1968. After graduating from Southern Missionary College with a major in home economics, Linda went on to complete a master's degree at Loma Linda University in California. She served God all of her life and dedicated 40 years to the field of elementary education. She taught at Tri-City Junior Academy and Captain Gilmer Christian School in North Carolina and at Greater Jacksonville Junior Academy in Florida. Linda was very active in providing nutritious lunches and in the after-school care programs. She directed many musical plays with her students for holiday performances in the Jacksonville-area Seventh-day Adventist churches. After retiring, she lived in Florida and dedicated her life to family, friends, and spreading the Good News. She enjoyed studying the Bible and learning Hebrew, and a highlight of her life was traveling to Israel.

2 **Norman Gulley**, '55, passed away on July 14, 2022, at 88 years old. He grew up attending the Stanborough Park Church in Watford, England. Later he enrolled at Southern Missionary College, and in 1958, he married **Leona** (attended), his wife of 64 years. That same year, he began teaching at Madison College in Tennessee while pastoring two churches. The Gulleys went on many mission trips, including to Japan and the Philippines, where Norman started master's programs in religion. In 1967, he completed his doctorate in systematic theology at Scotland's University of Edinburgh, and in 1978, he returned to his alma mater to teach religion at Southern, where he stayed until his retirement. Norman was the author of numerous articles and books, and in the 1990s, he began an ambitious project to produce the first truly scholarly and extensive systematic theology, which became four volumes.

3 **Donn Leatherman**, professor emeritus of religion at Southern, passed away on September 6, 2022. He served on Southern's faculty from 1992 to 2017 and was known for excellent classroom teaching, a thoughtful interest in his students, a keen sense of humor, and an exemplary willingness to utilize his talents and spiritual gifts to advance God's kingdom. Prior to his work at Southern, he served as a pastor in Canada and a missionary teacher in both Lebanon and Egypt. He is survived by his wife, Annette, and son, Daniel.



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All memorial gifts may be mailed to Southern Adventist University, Advancement, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, Tennessee 37315, or shared online at southern.edu/give.

SCANDINAVIA

Alumni Association Tour

July 9-12, 2023

Join alumni and friends of Southern on a tour of spectacular Scandinavia. Explore the scenery and cities of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark with experienced tour leader Bill Wohlers, PhD, vice president emeritus for Student Development. Highlights include the mountains and fjords of Norway and its capital, Oslo; traversing the Swedish countryside to its majestic capital, Stockholm; Småland, the center of Swedish crystal; and the friendly Danish capital, Copenhagen. The tour price of \$4,900 (based on double occupancy and the current exchange rate) includes round-trip air fare from Atlanta, coach travel in Europe, hotel lodging with two meals per day, and admission to sites. Visit southern.edu/alumni-tour to learn more. Reserve your spot on this adventure with a non-refundable deposit of \$800.

Visit southern.edu/alumni-tour for details.

Kenneth Bonaparte, '72

Member of the 50-Year Honor Class, retired educator, and head elder of the New Bethel Seventh-day Adventist Church

How did your years at Southern influence your life?

My experience at Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) was a definite turning point in my life! It encouraged me to focus on my God-given gifts and talents and motivated me to accept the will of God in my life and allow Him to take full control. Being a product of Christian education from first grade through college, I had ample opportunity to feel the Holy Spirit working in my life. I realized that it was imperative for me to accept God's calling in my life and to inspire young people with the same philosophy.

Do you have a specific memory that stands out from your time at Southern?

Something that stands out for me was how, as the first African-American to complete a four-year degree at Southern, I received amazing respect and godly love from the student body, the faculty, and the Collegedale community at large.

What was the best thing to come from attending Southern?

While at Southern, I developed an intense love for the Word of God! I got to know an elderly Christian lady who invited a group of us students to her home and, step by step, took us from Genesis to Revelation, marking our Bibles. She provided connecting scriptures, which have been so beneficial through the years as I have prepared powerful sermons to deliver at many Adventist churches.

What are some of the highlights of your career?

I spent most of my life as an educator, including 10 years serving the South Atlantic Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. That began with five years as principal of Ephesus Junior Academy in Wilmington, North Carolina. One of my outstanding memories there was organizing the school choir, with students from kindergarten through tenth grade. God blessed this group, and we were given a local television program, which aired every third Sunday morning. The school became a household name in the city, growing to capacity due to this exposure.

Later, God led me to step outside of the box, and I began teaching in the Columbus, Georgia, public school district. Because most of my students functioned academically on different levels, I implemented differentiated instruction to meet the academic strengths and weaknesses of each individual student. God indeed blessed my instruction, and I was selected "Teacher of the Year" at the two Columbus schools where I taught.

Thanks to a scholarship from the local school district, I obtained a master's degree in education supervision and development. I continued on to earn my education specialist degree. Shortly afterward, the Spirit of God led me to serve in Talbot County, Georgia.

Four years ago, I retired as associate superintendent for the school district. I truly felt the power of God working in my life when, upon retiring, a Seventh-day Adventist Church was founded in the county, which previously had none!

What advice do you have for the current generation of college students?

Always look to God for guidance and direction in life's decisions. I've learned to be governed by Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths" (KJV). Keep God first in your lives, study His word, stay committed to the truth, let Him have full control, and there is no way but up—both in this world and in the world to come! ■

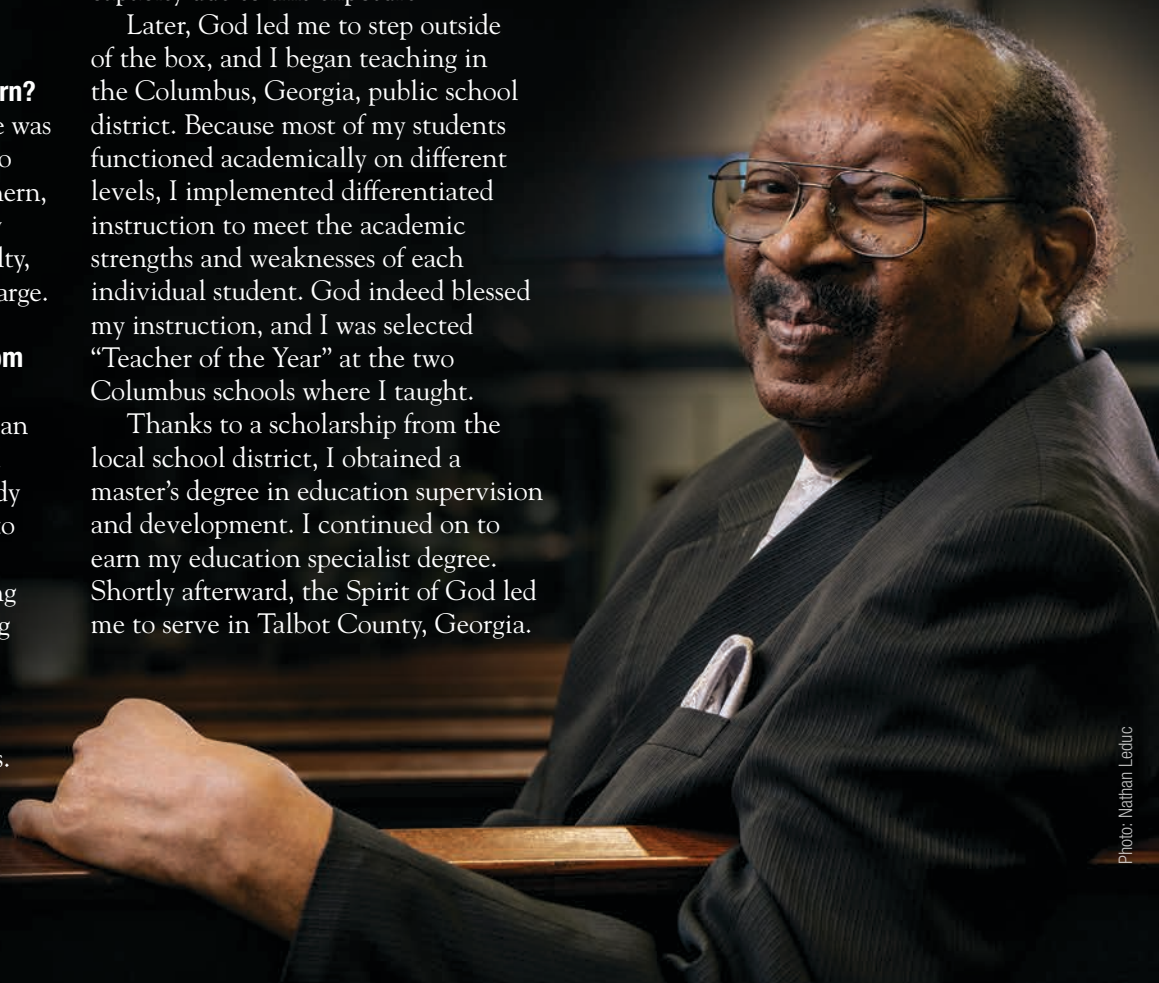


Photo: Nathan Leduc

Fun With a Purpose

This summer Southern offered an outdoor leadership option to its lineup of Academic Summer Camps. High school students such as Ryan Templeton (top) and Immanuel Han got an introduction to rock climbing, rafting, and caving as they learned the basics of knot tying, trip planning, first aid, and more. While having fun, they also got a glimpse of how they could turn a passion for the outdoors into a career.



Photo: Nick Evenson

Southern's Planned Giving Office Presents a Free Workshop

ASK AN ADVISER

This three-part series will be held at the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists in the South Atrium. Events also will be livestreamed.

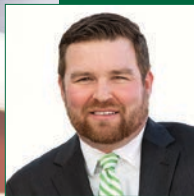


Building a Strong Financial Home

Monday, February 6, 6:30 p.m.

Presented by Jay Dedeker

Tackling your personal finances to ensure a strong financial home can be overwhelming when you're unsure where to start. This workshop will provide tools to help you build a strong financial home.



Financial Planning for Early Investors

Monday, February 13, 6:30 p.m.

Presented by Adam Dutton

You have many financial choices to make. In a world where we find few guarantees, thorough financial planning, prudent financial management, and careful spending can help you achieve your financial goals.



Estate Planning for Young Parents: Protect Your Legacy in Every Season

Monday, February 20, 6:30 p.m.

Presented by Monica Edwards

For most young parents, writing a will is less about distributing their assets and more about making decisions in advance so that their children are protected and provided for.



Please RSVP at southern.edu/ask-an-adviser to attend in person or to register for the livestream.

Kimberly Bobenhausen
Director for Planned Giving

423.236.2832
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southern.edu/plannedgiving



SOUTHERN
ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Advancement
Planned Giving