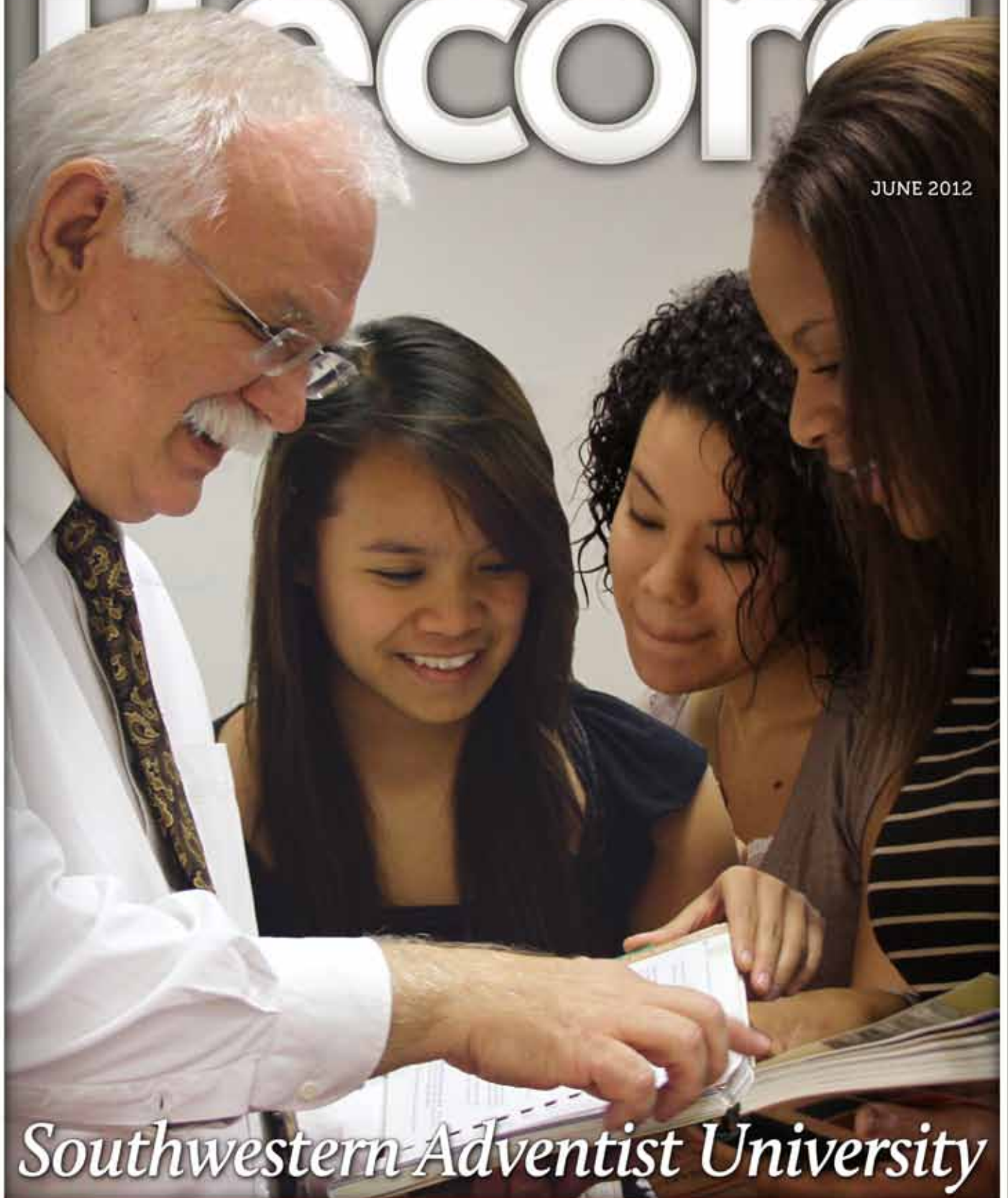


SOUTHWESTERN UNION

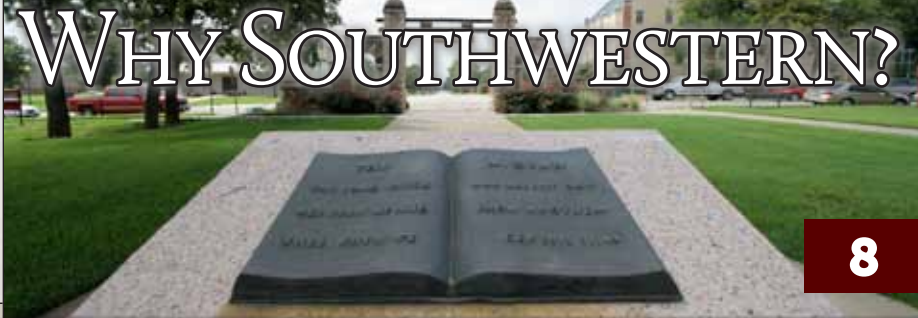
Record

JUNE 2012



Southwestern Adventist University

WHERE WISDOM BEGINS



8

In this Issue...

DEPARTMENTS

- CREATION Health 4
- Lead Your World 5
- Pass It On 6
- Visión Hispana 7

FEATURES

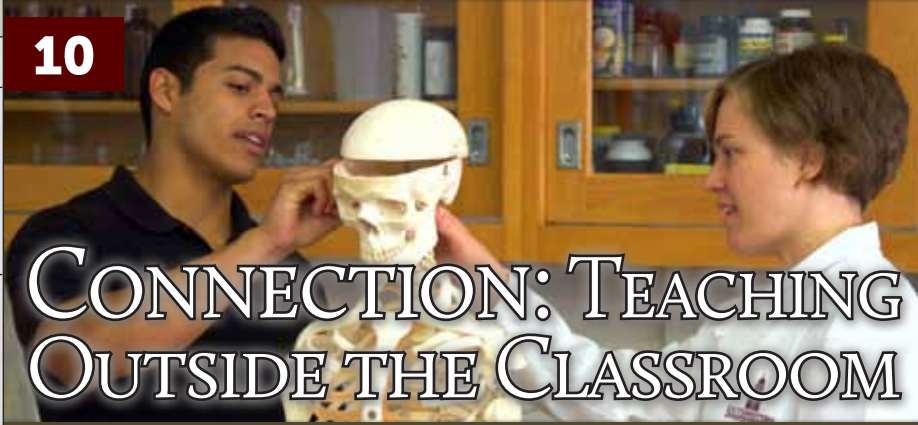
- Why Southwestern 8
- Small Group Ministry 9
- Teaching Outside the Classroom . . . 10
- Will They Be Ready for College? . . . 12
- Come to "The Write Spot!" 14
- New Allied Health Program 16
- A Graphic Emphasis 17

NEWS

- Arkansas-Louisiana 18
- Oklahoma 22
- Southwest Region 26
- Texas 30
- Texico 34
- Southwestern Union 38
- North American Division 39

ETCETERA

- Classified Ads 40
- Announcements 45
- Obituaries 45
- MyFaith 46
- On the Record 47



10

CONNECTION: TEACHING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Summer Camp Contest Winners!



Congratulations to all of this year's Summer Camp Contest winners! You're getting a FREE week at summer camp (travel to and from camp not included).

Here are this year's winners:

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference

- Scotlyn McConnell
- Samuel Henrich

Texas Conference

- Emily Perez
- Samuel Perez

Oklahoma Conference

- Brihannon Greer
- Daniel Hill

Texico Conference

- Zakeya Swenson
- Zina Yroc

Southwest Region Conference

- Xhori Duncan
- Garylei Lovings

Thanks to everyone

who entered the contest this year!

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On the Cover

Students who enroll at Southwestern Adventist University discover that faculty and staff take a personal interest in their growth and development—both spiritually and academically. On the cover, Dr. Renard Doneskey, chair of Southwestern's English Department, helps his students to discover the joy of learning. [Photo by Catherine Wiist]

Point of View»

BY ERIC ANDERSON » SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT



Lost to Prestige?

Dear Carlos, Congratulations on your acceptance to the University of Chicago. As you say, it is one of the great universities of the world. The word “prestige” is often overused, but the place does have a reputation. The spectacular research library, the imposing Gothic buildings, the famous faculty members—well, it is a little overwhelming.

It’s great that you have a scholarship, too.

Still, I think you would be making a mistake to go there. You are better off, I believe, going to Southwestern Adventist Univer-

sity, which is neither rich nor famous. Let me explain.

There are some parts of your education that would be neglected at a big, secular school. In the next four years you will be considering several major questions:

1. How do I reconcile advanced learning with my Christian commitments? (In your case, how does your study of biology connect to your belief in God as Creator?)
2. What is God’s calling in my life? How does He want me to use my talents?
3. Will I remain a Seventh-day Adventist? (And can I find a person with similar ideals for my life partner?)

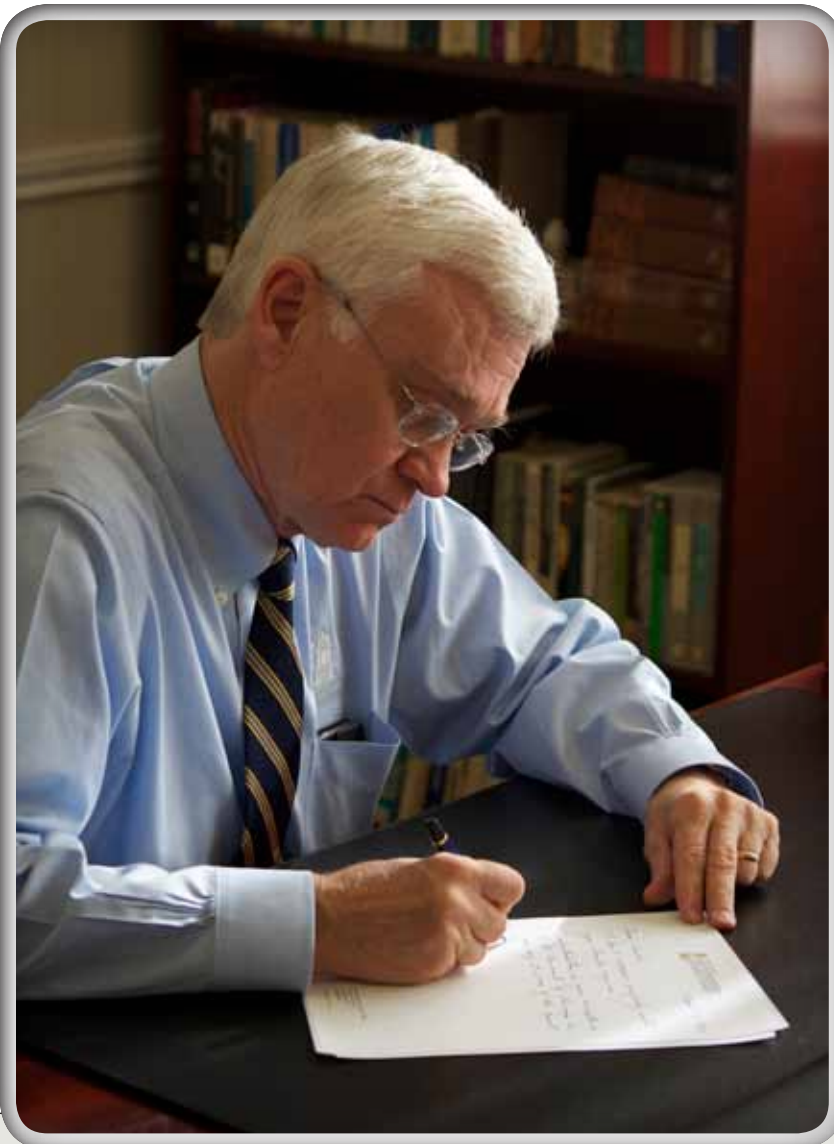
The blunt fact is that the University of Chicago will not provide mentors who will help you answer those questions. There will be wise, eloquent, stimulating teachers there, but they won’t be interested in those crucial questions.

So if you are determined to find answers to the Big Three, come to Keene. Save Chicago for graduate work—after you are firmly rooted in the faith, clear in your vocation, and married to a Christian woman!

Oh, and one more thing. We have some pretty amazing teachers at Southwestern, people whose first priority is undergraduate education. Each of them will know you by name.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Anderson".





CREATION Health

BY LYNELL LAMOUNTAIN

Un-paralyze Your Outlook

Zig Ziglar once said, “It’s not what happens to you that determines how far you will go in life, it is how you handle what happens to you.”

Too often when bad things happen to us and we’re in pain, we want to blame someone—or make someone else hurt. But what we need to do is to look for a solution instead.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, “First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye” (Matt. 7:5, NKJV).

- C** Choice 
- R** Rest 
- E** Environment 
- A** Activity 
- T** Trust 
- I** Interpersonal RELATIONSHIPS 
- O** Outlook 
- N** Nutrition 

CREATIONhealth.com

upset and hurt and felt like somebody owed me—you know, this wasn’t fair, why me? Then I realized as time went on that it wasn’t going to get much better, so I just needed to accept it. No one was going to beg me to do stuff, so I needed to be the person to con-

tinue on with my life and make something, be happy, ’cause you know ... it’s the best that it’s going to be.”

“Donna had been in a wheelchair for 11 years before she came to see me,” her physical therapist remembers. “What really impressed me about her was her outlook on life. Although she was still wheelchair-dependent, Donna had learned to dress and bathe herself. She made her own food and learned to drive her own car. In fact, she’s actually gone back to her profession as a model.”

“I didn’t think that I’d ever be able to meet a great guy,” Donna admits. “But I did, and got married. Now I go out and talk to newly-injured people and encourage them. ‘Look at me,’ I tell them, ‘I’m doing fine. Things will be OK. You can go on.’”

Donna refuses to become discouraged, depressed, or hateful about life. Instead, she chooses to be an inspiration.

“Life is so fragile, as they always say,” she says, “and I so appreciate what I have now. And you know, life is not really so bad—it’s pretty good. I can still have fun and do things.”

A positive outlook makes the difference between overcoming circumstances or being paralyzed by them. God offers wonderful promises to keep us going even in the worst of times.

What kind of outlook have you allowed yourself to have? What kind of attitude do you bring home at night? Could you deal with your problems in a different way?

When faced with life’s challenges, first, look for the good in situations and people; second, learn to forgive; and third, take responsibility for your actions, behavior, and emotions to improve your situation.

Allow an optimistic outlook to illuminate your heart, mind, and soul. Live with Christ’s perspective on life today, and every day until He returns.

That’s CREATION Health!

Lynell LaMountain writes from Florida Hospital in Orlando, Fla.

Lead Your World »»»

BY PAUL HUNT » PASTOR, ACTS TWO CHURCH, PLANO, TEX.



Stop Being Normal

The Olympic games are scheduled to take place this summer, and the entire world will be watching. Athletes are symbols of national pride, and examples of dedication and commitment. We rarely consider them as normal people because of their physical abilities. But is it just talent that separates them from us? Many athletes have to surmount incredible emotional and physical challenges to achieve success.

Ralph Green managed to turn a nightmare into an incredible opportunity. Green was a young, talented, multi-sport athlete whose life changed dramatically after he lost his left leg in a random shooting. Although many would have given up hope of ever participating, let alone competing, in any sport again, Green was different.

"Years later, I was in college, and indecisive about what I wanted to do," says Green. One day, he packed up his bags and told his mom, "I'm moving to Colorado to be the number one skier." He had only skied once years before. Incredibly, with just his duffel bags, \$300, a major physical disability, and no ski equipment, he arrived in Colorado in 2000, and began adaptive skiing full-time with the National Sports Center for the Disabled. Green trained for four years and made the U.S. Paralympic Alpine Skiing National Team in 2004.

"I was the first one on the lift in the morning and the last one to get off the mountain in the afternoon. I made it a priority to defy expectations. I wanted to be *outside the norm*," he says.

Let's, think about that last statement for a moment. We often focus on skills, raw talent or aptitude when it comes to achievement. However, as Ralph Green's story suggests, it's not just our *aptitude* that predicts success but our *attitude*. Determination, belief, commitment, and perseverance are qualities that transcend talent or physical ability. They also serve us well in relationships, careers, marriage, tragedy, and in just about any area of life. But to live this way requires us to *stop being normal*.

Leading your world is all about thinking and acting outside the norm; it's refusing to let disappointment, disaster and darkness dictate either what we do or who we become. It's having an "A" game mentality. Interestingly, "A" game thinking is not a modern idea. Principles of commitment, determination,

and excellence are found throughout the Bible; "Whatever you are capable of doing, do with all your might because there's no work, thought, knowledge, or wisdom in the grave, which is where you are headed." (Ecc. 9:10, CEB)

The good news is that God wants to help you Lead Your World with an "A" game mentality in at least three ways:

1. Putting a higher value on what we do for God.
2. Giving the best of who we are, not just on the job, but at home and in our spiritual walk.
3. Avoiding the tendency to become consumers, especially at church.

Consider the fact that God never asks us to be normal. The truth is that He looks for just the opposite: people who desire to pursue Him and His agenda with determination.

The Olympic games will take place in my home city of London, where more than 10,500 athletes will participate in more than 300 events in 28 different sports. Each athlete has spent years in preparation with the hope of winning the ultimate prize of a gold medal. Yet,

there are only about 300 gold medals available. To win a gold medal, athletes will certainly have to bring their "A" game. Incredibly, even though most athletes will never win a gold medal, they are still willing to make huge sacrifices and overcome incredible odds just to participate!

The apostle Paul, using Olympic imagery, points out an important reality, "Don't you know that all the runners in the stadium run, but only one gets the prize?" (1 Cor. 9:24, CEB). Then he says this: "So run to win."

Paul understood that to run the race of life, we must *stop being normal*, and bring our "A" game, because thankfully, unlike the Olympics, not only can everyone participate, but if we endure till the end, we all can win!





Pass it On...

A Monthly Focus on Evangelism in the Southwest

BY STEPHANIE RUDISAILE » SOPHOMORE ENGLISH EDUCATION MAJOR, SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Navajo Mission Team Makes an Impact in Arizona

Southwestern Adventist University and Chisholm Trail Academy recently teamed up to sponsor a mission trip to the Navajo Indian Reservation in Fort Defiance, Ariz. Sixty-seven people from Keene, Tex., and the surrounding area dedicated their spring break to participate in building projects, landscaping, gardening ventures, and youth activities.

Following a nine-year tradition started by Randy Butler, former criminal justice professor at Southwestern, 38 students from Chisholm Trail Academy and nine university students, along with trip organizer Bill Kilgore and a group of sponsors, spent 10 days on the Navajo Reservation. The reservation is notorious for having the highest rates of alcoholism, diabetes, and suicide in the country. Fifty-five percent of the population is unemployed, the average family income is \$14,000, and 41 percent of the Navajo population is under the age of 19— a percent almost double the national average—which makes it a prime place for a mission trip here in the United States.

The group stayed at The Good Shepherd Mission, an old Episcopal mission in the heart of the Navajo Nation. While there, students labored preparing top soil for the mission's agricultural project, designed to encourage the use of traditional Navajo planting methods. The plants grown will eventually be given to local youth to enable them to begin their own gardens.

Over the past several years, mission teams have transformed the Rio Puerco Youth Center, which is owned and operated by Rez Refuge Ministries, from a dilapidated, abandoned house, to a functioning counseling and activity center. This year, a sidewalk was put in at the front of the property, and flower beds outlined with railroad ties were added to the backyard.

Across town, Doug and Jerry Peterson supervised students and sponsors in converting a shack into a house for a local Navajo man. The project involved putting on a new roof as well as framing in an additional room.

In nearby Gallup, N. Mex., students and sponsors, working in teams under Doug Peterson's supervision, created more than 400 yards of winding, gravelled trails in the brush

land and rocky hill country on the property of the Gallup All Nations Seventh-day Adventist Church.

At the end of every workday, the work crew split into groups to spend time with the community's young people at the youth center. The teenagers were invited to play basketball on a small court just behind the youth center. A story hour was organized for the younger children, who had fun making crafts, balloon animals, and listening to stories. The craft materials had been donated and assembled ahead of time by several ladies from a Keene senior citizen group.

During the trip, time was carved out to absorb the culture, learning from local Navajo Christians who talked about what life is like on the reservation, and how the Navajo people are coming to know Jesus in spite of being raised in a culture steeped in superstitious tradition. One of the most memorable parts of the trip was a guided journey through beautiful Canyon de Chelly.

"It was wonderful to see so many people work so well together to pull off an amazing mission trip," said Kilgore. "From the students who maintained positive, 'can-do' attitudes, to the sponsors who worked tirelessly to organize the work, to the senior citizen ladies who donated and took time in organizing the craft supplies—they all collectively made an impact on the Navajo community in Fort Defiance."

While addressing the participants of the trip, Butler said, "On behalf of Rez Refuge Ministries, I want to thank all of you for your dedication and service to your fellow brothers and sisters on the reservation. This was an outstanding trip. The Lord blessed us with good weather, contacts, and no serious injuries. Through your work and witness, you touched a lot of lives."





Plantando Semillas

La Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día surgió con la misión de compartir el mensaje de los tres ángeles de Apocalipsis 14. Desde su inicio, este movimiento ha utilizado el material impreso en forma poderosa para alcanzar a las personas alrededor del mundo. Soy de Brasil y mi país es un perfecto ejemplo de esto. En muchas ocasiones escuché la historia de cómo este mensaje llegó en revistas enviadas desde los Estados Unidos en 1879 plantando la semilla en nuestro suelo. Esta semilla ha dado el fruto de una

nos dice, “Cuán hermosos son sobre los montes los pies del que trae alegres nuevas, del que anuncia la paz, del que trae nuevas del bien, del que publica salvación, del que dice a Sion: “¡Tu Dios reina!”

El Ministerio de Colportores de Southwestern ha sido bendecido con estudiantes deseosos como Samuel. Esta es una de sus experiencias: “Mientras caminaba por un vecindario me dirigí a tocar la puerta de uno de los residentes. Una señora me recibió. Le presenté una serie de cinco libros, y sin vacilar, los compró. Ella pagó y tomó los libros, completando así la transacción. Sin embargo, me sentí impulsado a preguntarle si podía orar con ella antes de irme. Entonces, sus ojos se llenaron de lágrimas, empezó a llorar y asentó que sí. Empecé a orar por ella y su familia, diciendo: ‘Señor, no sé lo que pasa en este hogar o en la vida de esta señora, pero tú sí lo sabes.’ Cuando terminó la oración, ella me dio un gran abrazo y dijo: ‘Gracias jovencito, eres un ángel de Dios. No sabes cuánto yo necesitaba eso.’ Entonces le dije que Dios sabe dónde somos necesitados y nos envía hasta allí. Como resultado, ella pidió estudios bíblicos e hizo un gran número de preguntas acerca de Dios y de su amor. Como colportores no sabemos la puerta de quién vamos a tocar, pero sí sabemos que Dios nos está guiando.” La historia de Samuel es sólo una de muchas experiencias similares, y una de las más grandes razones por las que alabo a Dios por permitirme, como líder, ser parte del ejército de colportores que sirve a Dios aquí en la universidad. Nuestro programa se ha convertido en algo especial

que permite a los estudiantes obtener conocimiento teórico y práctico sobre cómo servir al Señor predicando el evangelio.

Durante este año, por la gracia de Dios, los estudiantes de Southwestern distribuyeron cientos de publicaciones y 140 personas solicitaron los servicios que ofrece la Iglesia en relación a los programas de control del estrés, adicción, asuntos familiares, estudios bíblicos, etc. Ha sido un privilegio ayudar y observar el programa crecer. Oración y apoyo es lo que ha nutrido el programa, y les invito a continuar orando por este ministerio para continuar plantando semillas en la viña del Señor.

Antonio Correa



Antonio Correa y Nelson Behena atendiendo a la comunidad.

iglesia de 1.4 millones de miembros, siendo yo uno de ellos. Para que la semilla siga germinando, he trabajado como colportor evangelista por los pasados ocho años y en este momento soy estudiante y Director del Programa de Literatura Evangelista en Southwestern Adventist University en Keene, Texas.

Según comparto las publicaciones por las calles del condado Johnson, junto a mis compañeros, viene a mi mente la necesidad de unidad entre los mensajes hablados y escritos del Evangelio. Estas semillas proclaman esa unidad y hacen germinar la esperanza. El poder de la palabra escrita se pierde sin los dispuestos mensajeros que la distribuyen y comparten, es por eso que me inspira nuestro grupo de colportores. Esta literatura no se puede esconder. En Isaías 52:7 se

WHY SOUTHWESTERN?

Enga Almeida, vice president for enrollment, Southwestern Adventist University

A potential student approached me the other day, and asked very bluntly, “Why should I choose Southwestern?” Off-hand I responded, “Why not?” By the look on his face you could see he wasn’t expecting that answer. As he was struggling to come up with a reply, I started to toss out a few easy reasons why he, and any other student, should choose Southwestern.

- It’s close to home, which equals free laundry service.
- There are small classes where real debate happens.
- You have an opportunity to get to know your teacher as a person, and not just a talking head.
- It’s more than ok to talk about God and what you believe with your friends and teachers.
- It costs \$6,000 to \$8,000 less than most other Adventist colleges and universities, and is \$20,000 to \$30,000 less than some private universities.
- There are some awesome merit scholarships and, if you qualify for the highest one, it equals one free year when you attend all four years.

- If you’re a Texas resident, and if your parents’ adjusted gross income is less than \$92,000, the great state of Texas gives you up to \$3,500 in grants.
- Are you looking to enrich your experience with Jesus? Let me introduce you to Chaplain Matthey. She has countless opportunities for you to reach out to others and grow spiritually while you’re attending Southwestern.
- The campus is lovely, our library is beautiful and user-friendly, and our cafeteria serves really yummy food—no, I’m not kidding!

Finally, I gave him a chance to get a word in and he said, “Wow! You really love this university.” And he’s right! I do love Southwestern Adventist University, because it provides our students with a top-notch education on a beautiful campus, surrounded by supportive faculty, all the while wrapping them tight in the loving arms of Jesus. Tell me, what more do you want for your child or the young people in your church?



Photos courtesy of Southwestern Adventist University.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY AT SOUTHWESTERN

Providing a sense of community and an opportunity for spiritual growth through small groups on campus.

**Makala Coleman, freshman communication major,
Southwestern Adventist University**

“Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am.” So promises Jesus in Matthew 18:20. This is the basis for Southwestern’s small groups ministry. Created with the intent to provide students with a time to study God’s word and make lasting friendships, the ministry’s theme is “belong, grow, share.”

“Small groups create a bond at a deeper level,” says Angie Boothby, student chaplain and small group coordinator. “When you share with someone at a spiritual level, you tend to open up to each other. This way, deep and meaningful friendships are formed. Your small group becomes a trust and support group.”

Students are the main leaders of small groups, but staff and faculty play a large role in the program. “There are a couple of small groups with teachers and community members, but for the most part the goal is for small groups to be student led,” says Islem Matthey, chaplain at Southwestern.

“What we try our best to do is mentor the leaders of small groups so they can make a difference in other people’s lives. We want to mentor student leaders and empower them as they lead other students. I think that’s a fairly common goal that the staff and faculty have here on campus. We want to teach students to be disciples.”

Leaders are required to incorporate three components into their meetings. The first component is prayer, the second is Bible study, and the third is challenge. Each week, members are challenged to do something,

such as pray with someone.

Small groups have been a part of Southwestern for five years. This year, there are 20 groups on campus. This is more involvement in small groups than there has ever been before.

There are a wide variety of small groups on campus. Groups range from book clubs to work-out sessions. Despite the various activities, one thing each group has in common is learning about God.

“It’s good to talk about spiritual things and to share faith,” says Eric Jackson, junior theology major and small group member. “I enjoy getting together and connecting with people in my small group that I may not always see in classes or around campus.”

“I think that small groups help create community on campus,”

says Matthey. “They are one of the best places for students to find a niche. They’re not only used for Bible study, but also to share about life. This way when it’s time to go to a corporate worship, such as church, you’ve already had a connection that you’ve developed with people in a small group.”

Small groups offer a personal setting for spiritual growth. There are also many other ways for a student to get involved with spiritual life on campus. A few of these include Friday night vespers, visiting door to door to offer prayer, outreach on Saturdays, and missions club.



Small groups of students often meet together for a moment of prayer.

CONNECTION: TEACHING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Darcy Force, director of marketing and public relations, Southwestern Adventist University

Apprehension was the first thing on Adrian Ramirez's mind when his teacher asked him to stay after class. Worried that he'd done something wrong, Adrian approached Dr. McHenry cautiously, only to be met with an enthusiastic smile and a question. "Have you considered a Ph.D., Adrian?"

In fact, he had. He had planned on it. But his freshman year had been discouraging and he was no longer sure he was cut out for higher education. He'd felt lost in the crowd at the much larger university he'd been attending, disconnected from his teachers and any real source of encouragement and help. So he transferred, hoping for a fresh start.

Completing applications at several different schools, it was the phone call from an exceptionally friendly student from Southwestern that made the biggest impact. Following up on Adrian's application, the student answered all Adrian's questions and chatted with him about life at Southwestern. Adrian was sold.

The dream of med school was firmly planted in Adrian's brain during a career day in high school when he had the opportunity to follow an orthopedic surgeon. Active in music and sports, excelling at his studies, and working summers as a colporteur, Adrian was no stranger to hard work. However, sometimes you just need a little encouragement.

"At my previous school, I was just a student in a big class. My teacher didn't know my name. At Southwestern, all my teachers know me. Dr. McHenry is constantly encouraging me, helping me find summer research programs and grad school information. But I've had several teachers who've pulled me aside to encourage me, to tell me that they notice my efforts. I have the best grades I've ever had!"

Amy McHenry grew up on college campuses, watching her father take great joy in his job as a religion professor. His passion for his job and his interaction with his students was inspiring to Amy. However, it wasn't until after she was married, a mother of three small children, and a successful researcher that Amy found the opportunity to follow more closely in her father's footsteps.

Consumed by two careers in research, Amy and her husband felt that the timing of the call to teach at Southwestern was perfect. It also presented Amy with a chance to reach out to students in the way she'd observed her dad doing. "My husband and I both graduated from Notre Dame. Our philosophy is that Notre Dame produces exceptional professionals because they only accept exceptional students. Southwestern is the perfect place for us to

make a difference because here we can produce exceptional students with a spiritual experience, helping them realize their full potential. They will experience solid, quality academics. But the spiritual growth is the real feature.

"This is when students are making their big decisions. I want to help make sure that a part of that decision is the question, 'what can I do to further God's cause?' In every class we pray, we have a worship thought, I share personal stories. We're learning. And we're empowering the Holy Spirit to change lives."

As Adrian reminisces about the day Dr. McHenry asked him about his graduate plans, he grins broadly. "I shouldn't have worried. Everything the McHenrys do is with care and concern. One of my classmates told me that Dr. McHenry bakes cookies once a week and takes them to the girls in the dorm, stopping at each room to pray and share cookies. And that's why I love being at Southwestern—we really do care about each other."

Friendships between faculty and students aren't a new concept on Southwestern's campus, nor do those friendships stop when the students inevitably go their different ways.

Larry Moore remembers some very influential teachers. After receiving a personal call to ministry during a Week of Prayer, Larry began taking classes from what he calls exceptional professors.

"My religion professors had a profound impact on my life. Elder Burr had a tremendous mind. He would write notes, thoughts, bullet points on the blackboard straight from memory for every class without consulting any notes. Elder Richardson was our Greek language teacher and he was not only a good teacher but he created an atmosphere that allowed us students to really bond. It was a great class."

Now the president of the Southwestern Union, Moore remembers his entire experience at Southwestern as very influential. Though he'd met his wife-to-be years earlier, it was in college that their friendship grew and blossomed into a relationship resulting in 44 years of marriage. During his time at Southwestern, he was at first called by God into ministry and then received his first call to pastor a church. He learned how to work hard by earning his entire tuition working long hours at Brandom Cabinets.

Then there's one professor he's stayed in touch with so closely that it was just two weeks ago they enjoyed a good conversation. "Morris Lowry and I have remained friends all these years. He had a significant impact on me as my teacher, especially outside the classroom. Every weekend he would fill his car with students and

we'd drive to Fort Worth to go door-to-door. It wasn't a part of his job description. He was just passionate about sharing Jesus Christ. And he passed that on to us."

Over the years, there have been many phone calls from Professor Lowry to his former student, asking if Larry is available to speak here, or lead some evangelistic meetings

there. "I treasure his friendship," Moore says. "I have a lot of good friendships, the foundations for which can be traced to my days at Southwestern."

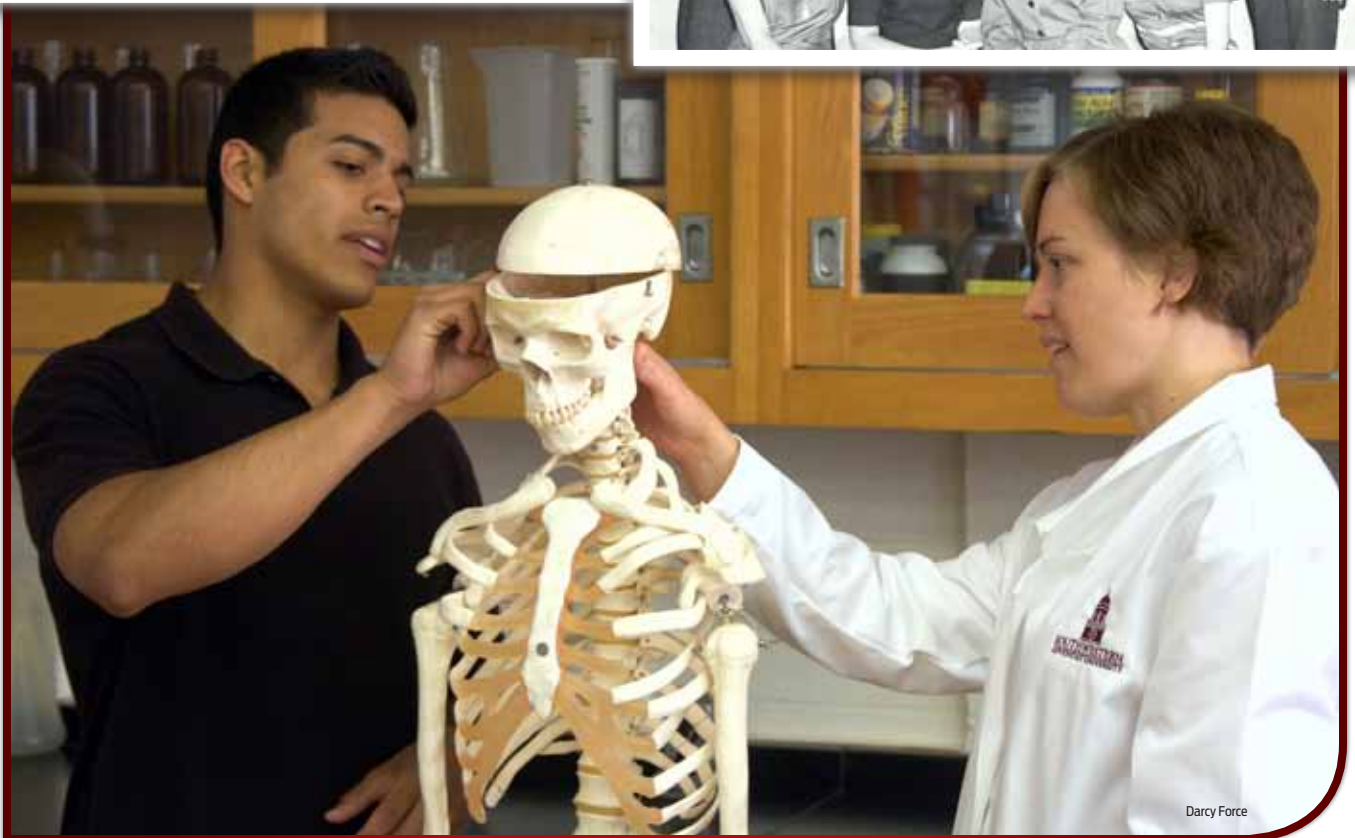


◀ Morris Lowry (back) and students in 1968.

▼ Southwestern's student association in 1968. Larry Moore (back row, second from left) was the religious vice president.

Below, left: Professor Morris Lowry continues to be a friend to former student Larry Moore.

Bottom: Dr. McHenry and Adrian review the names of bones.



Darcy Force

WILL THEY BE READY FOR COLLEGE?

Benjamin McArthur, vice president for academic administration, Southwestern Adventist University

What do Christian parents want for their children? Spiritual development and commitment is essential. Happiness, certainly. But many parents also want their children to attain financial security and career success.

In today's world, there are many careers that require a college degree. While not necessary for everyone—in fact, there are individuals whose career path did not lead through college who are happy in what they do—a college degree is a gateway to many careers.

College costs are high, though student aid and scholarships can reduce that cost significantly, and it's a huge commitment for both parent and student. It's understandable that parents want some assurance that their child will have the academic tools and habits of life necessary for handling the challenges of college, and beyond.

How can parents ensure that their children will succeed at Southwestern Adventist University or other schools? I have noticed, during three decades of observing young people in Adventist higher education, some things parents can do to ready their child for college and for success in later life—and not just when your 18-year-old is filling out application forms. Here are some suggestions to help prepare your child, at any age:

Encourage a love of reading. Without doubt, this is the single most important thing a parent can do—and your child should enjoy reading more than text messages or Facebook status updates! Most college students can understand written English. But the truly successful students have a desire to read, and have been exposed to a variety of literary, scientific, and religious texts that have given them the ability to understand things in their context, to comprehend more than just the words on the page. There is no end to the number of wonderful books for children and young adults. Have books and magazines in your home and read to your child every day, from pre-grade school through high school years. Reading comprehension is the single most important skill for college.

Inspire a love for math. America's long-standing scientific dominance in the world has been threatened in recent years by declining mathematical literacy. Over half of America's graduate students in computer science, engineering, and math areas are now from abroad. Even if your child is not destined to become

a scientist or mathematician, he or she needs the discipline and training in logic that arithmetic and higher forms of math provide. Make sure your child takes a math course every year of secondary school. And if you are home-schooling and feel that your own math skills are in doubt, make the effort to involve your child in a home school group for this subject.

Cultivate your child's curiosity. All children are naturally curious, but this quality can be nurtured to enhance their learning ability. Learning is not so much a matter of accumulating facts as it is the process of formulating good questions; the students I encounter in college who are on the path to success are often eager to dig deeper and ask penetrating questions. Encourage those endless questions from your child! And if you don't know the answer, it's a wonderful opportunity to learn together.

Hold your school accountable. Large or small, every school can and should promote high standards of accomplishment. As a parent, you have the right to expect this. Teachers and principals appreciate a respectful



interest in their school; they know that involvement in school affairs usually means strong parental support at home. But a word of caution: respect their judgment and try not to impose your ideas of what is suitable learning material, within appropriate guidelines, on your child's teachers. And second, do not challenge the teacher over your child's grades, or assume that they should receive all As and Bs. It's true that mistakes can be made and should be corrected. But As should be reserved for superior accomplishment in class work. I've seen too many students who were bewildered about their low grades in college, not having learned to work hard to achieve true academic accomplishment.

Embrace the age of electronics—properly. The digital age is not going away. As parents, we must help our children find a balance and not be overrun by today's technology. Studies have shown the corrosive effect of video games and gadgets on children's ability to focus on intellectual tasks for extended periods of time, especially for boys. As a parent, you not only need to help your child set boundaries with technology, but to also ensure that your child receives adequate physical activity away from those gadgets. Adventism preaches a doctrine of wholeness, and the youth best prepared for college will exemplify the principles of health.

Involve your child in the arts. Provide your children with music and art lessons. Attend concerts and museums.

Encourage your school to provide arts education. The favorable impact of these activities on learning and for nurturing creativity is being increasingly realized. Further, these things help students enjoy school in general. There is a correlation between accomplishment in the arts and more general success in college.

If you suspect a learning disability, have your child tested. Educators too often encounter the tragedy of a student entering college with an inability to read or concentrate on schoolwork, or who have some other deficiency that should have been



David Pollock

identified much earlier. It's important to address those issues early in your child's life to ensure their academic success in college.

While not associated with learning disabilities, if you speak more than one language in your home, give extra attention to the child's readiness to use spoken and written English at an appropriate level. Also ensure that your child masters both languages; young people may possess a conversational knowledge of their first tongue, but may not be proficient in its grammar or be able to write in it. The career advantage of being skilled in a second language is incalculable in today's world.

As parents, we send our children to school from kindergarten on with the expectation that they will receive the best possible education. But research on academic achievement shows that a child's educational background in the home also is essential for success. Your involvement in the learning process, while not a guarantee, gives high likelihood of success in school. It can also be a wonderful way to strengthen the bond between you and your children, which has its own rewards. As an educator, I want every student to reach their highest potential. As a parent, you can be a great influence in helping your child develop that potential, long before they set foot on a university campus.



COME TO “THE WRITE SPOT”

Tiffany Collier, junior English major, Southwestern Adventist University

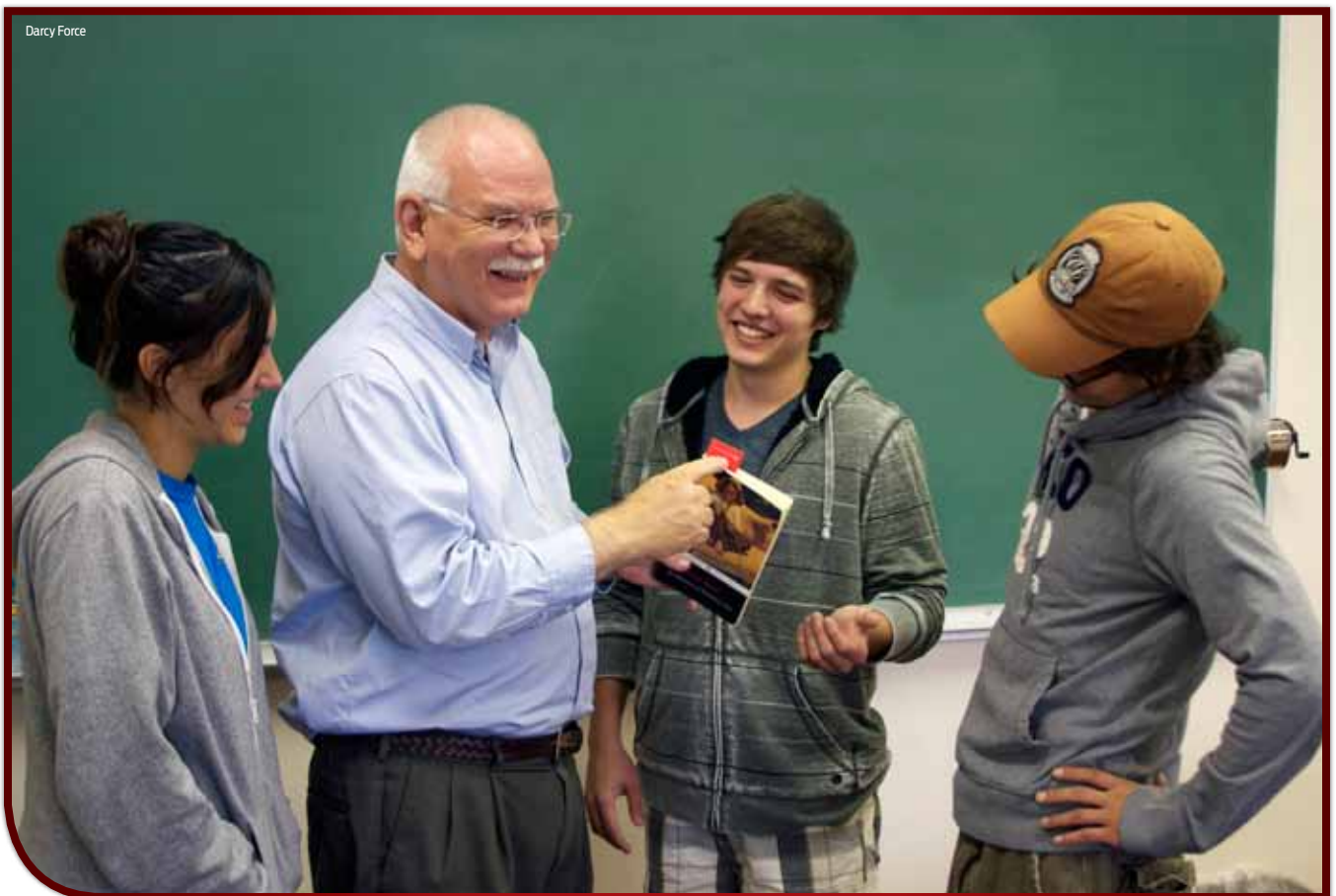
Southwestern Adventist University’s Department of English is solid and growing. “Not enough good things can be said about our English department,” declares junior Melissa Mancilla. “We have fantastic professors who have been here for years, and yet keep their material fresh and interesting. I brag about my English teachers all the time.”

With a combined teaching experience of 100 years, the five professors make a dynamic team. Representing a wide range of specialties, from medieval literature to 20th century literature, the team contributes much to the campus. Andrew Woolley, a professor at Southwestern for more than 30 years, directs the honors

program. Renard Doneskey and Susan Gardner direct the annual drama production. Judy Myers Laue has taught at Southwestern for 12 years, and is noted for her expertise in both American literature and the development of anthologies in the 19th century.

Karl Wilcox specializes in medieval literature as well as literary aspects of the Bible. And Gardner is responsible for the vision and initiative behind “The Write Spot,” a writing center that provides help for students wanting to improve their writing skills through tutoring.

The professors are the reason at least one student studies at Southwestern today. Senior English major Chelsey Evans says she



Darcy Force

was seriously considering transferring to another Adventist university. “My professors kept me here,” Evans says. “I knew that they were great professors, and that I would learn so much from them. And they are the reasons I stayed.”

Students are also discovering that an English major opens many doors for them in terms of a career. Renard Doneskey, English department chair, elaborates, “An English major prepares students to go into a wide variety of careers, including public relations, marketing, editing, journalism, law, medicine, teaching, business, and many others. It works that way because it trains students to write and speak well and develop their critical thinking skills, which people need in almost every imaginable job.”

In keeping with this thinking, the English Department now offers a writing emphasis as an option for the English major. English majors now can choose to focus on either literature or writing, and the emphasis offers several new courses designed to enrich the current program. English majors choosing the writing emphasis will take three courses designed to strengthen writing skills, in addition to the regular courses in literature and language. Students may choose three courses from the following group: Narrative Writing, Essay and Opinion Writing, Poetry Writing, Drama Writing, and a senior project.

“The new emphasis promises to enhance our English major,” explains Doneskey. “Many English majors come into the program with a love of writing. Until now, these students have had to follow a literature track to complete an English major, but the new emphasis gives flexibility for those students who particularly want to focus on the writing aspect of the discipline.”

Cassandra Borntreger, sophomore English major, says, “When the writing emphasis program was introduced, my interest was piqued and after reviewing the courses available, I knew instantly it was perfect for furthering my knowledge. The writing emphasis program has helped me better understand and put to use the knowledge I received.”

The writing emphasis is noteworthy in

that the newly added courses focus on creative writing, and therefore offer entirely new content not previously offered at Southwestern Adventist University.

“In designing the emphasis, we didn’t just add units that students could already take from another discipline,” Doneskey says. “We wanted entirely new content. Other Adventist universities tend to create a writing emphasis by having students take units from another department. Instead, we modeled our emphasis after writing programs such as the one at the University of Iowa, one of the best writing programs in the world.”

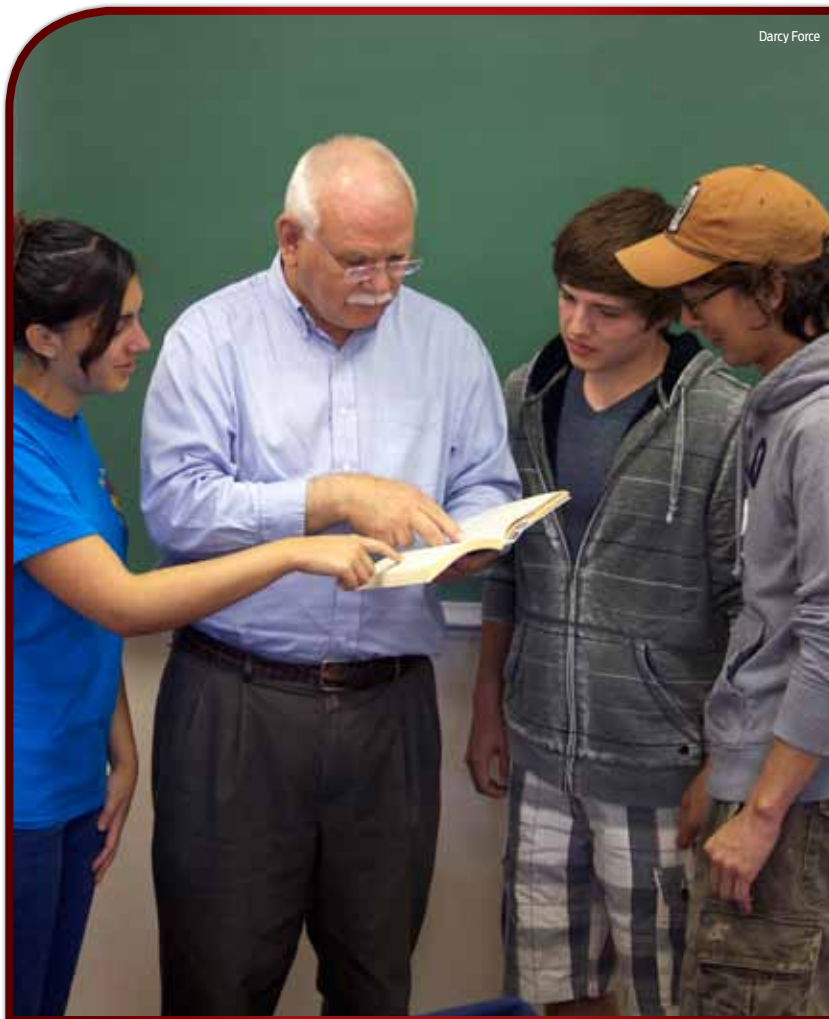
The new writing emphasis has already attracted several students and interest is growing. “I love being able to focus on my writing,” said Tiffany Collier, a sophomore English major who is currently pursuing the writing emphasis. “Literature is great, but my real passion is creating the stories that people read. Being in this program has already taught me so much, and I feel like my writing skills have already improved dramatically.”

Two of the new courses have already been taught. Poetry Writing, taught last fall by Karl Wilcox, challenged the students not only to express themselves, but also to write in a variety of styles while studying classic examples of those forms.

“It was a lot of fun,” said Collier. “The atmosphere of the class was relaxed and yet still academic. What I loved most was that

Wilcox pushed me to get out of my comfort zone to try styles of poetry I had never tried before.”

The new writing emphasis promises to be a great asset to the English department, as well as to the university as a whole. By providing this option to aspiring writers, Southwestern Adventist University’s English Department is able to offer inspiration and guidance to students, not only for their future careers, but also for their futures as witnesses for Christ.



Renard Doneskey, chair of the English department at Southwestern, helps students review for an English literature quiz.

SOUTHWESTERN STARTS ALLIED HEALTH PROGRAM

Glen Robinson, professor of communication, Southwestern Adventist University

The majority of professions in health care today don't fall into the typical fields of nursing, medicine, or dentistry. They include careers like radiology technician, dental hygienist, or sonographer. It is estimated that as much as 85 percent of the jobs now available in health care fall into the category of allied health.

Allied Health Professions, a new two-year program at Southwestern, is designed to not only let students know what career options are available to them in health care fields, but also structured to assist them in getting the prerequisites they need to enter formal training in that area, as well as awarding them a degree for their efforts.

Here's how it works. Students interested in a particular field—such as dental hygiene—will investigate the school that offers training in that field, in this case, Loma Linda University. Loma Linda requires that all incoming dental hygiene students have completed general education courses, as well as specific science and humanities prerequisites, before they are accepted. The student comes to his or her advisor in the biology department at Southwestern, who will have a printout of the requirements for that track. The advisor builds a two-year program for that student so that when the student leaves Southwestern in two years, he or she leaves not only with an associate of science degree, but also with the proper preparation they need.

What courses that student takes at Southwestern varies from specialty to specialty, according to Ben McArthur, vice president for academic administration. "We have five tracks now that we have worked on with Loma Linda, and more will probably be added," he says. The initial allied health programs include communication sciences and disorders, dental hygiene, health information administration, nutrition and dietetics, and respiratory care.

Allied Health Professions is completely independent of what students take if they want to

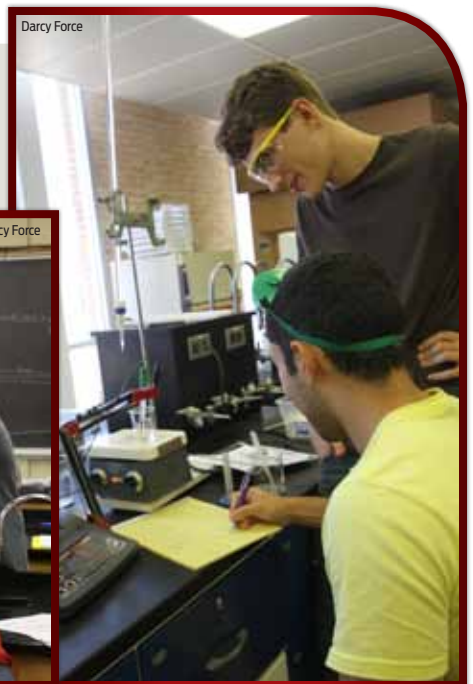
get into medical or dentistry school. Both pre-medical and pre-dental now require a bachelor of science degree.

"Most professional schools—like medicine and dentistry, pharmacy and physician's assistant—require you to have a B.S. degree," says Suzanne Phillips, chair of the biology department. "And so essentially our pre-professional program has been that you get a B.S. degree, and while you get that degree, you complete whatever prerequisites they require."

And Southwestern also offers two four-year programs in cooperation with other universities. The medical lab science degree, formerly called clinical lab science, calls for students to complete three years at Southwestern, then attend Andrews University for the fourth year. They do all their clinical work there, but the degree is from Southwestern.

Southwestern also offers pre-physical therapy as part of its allied health professions program. A student who wants to pursue that career can earn a four-year degree at Southwestern, usually in exercise science or biology, and then earn a graduate degree from another school. Or they can come to Southwestern simply to complete their prerequisites, then leave when they are accepted to Loma Linda or Andrews to complete a doctoral degree in physical therapy.

Southwestern students perform a chemistry experiment under the supervision of Suzanne Phillips, biology department chair.



A GRAPHIC EMPHASIS

**Darcy Force, director of marketing and public relations,
Southwestern Adventist University**

The communication department at Southwestern now has four areas of emphasis: advertising and public relations; graphic communication; journalism; and radio, TV, film. Classes in this new graphic communication emphasis are taught by adjunct professor Trent Truman, who comes to the university with over 20 years of experience in graphic design. Still currently

employed as the contract designer for *Insight* magazine, Trent brings a wealth of knowledge and artistry to the department of communication.

In order to accommodate the needs of this newly-formed graphics emphasis, the university added a new computer lab and supplied it with 15 new iMacs with Adobe Design Creative Suite software.

Classes are structured to give students time to learn the software, a design industry standard, before gradually transitioning to more complex projects. The projects themselves are taken from real-world scenarios, so students gain practical experience that will benefit them in future jobs.

Communication major Kyndall Snow says, "Graphic design class is the first time I have ever worked on creating Web sites. I love that I am being taught to create something useful, while using my own creativity."

Graphic design has both artistic and technical elements; students learn basic design principles and then have the freedom to apply their own creative take on projects. It's a skill that any communication major needs, whether they are looking to be a reporter, public relations executive, videographer, or a graphic designer.

"I've had a great experience with all the digital graphics classes I have taken," says communication major, Nathan Wilson. "You begin to really understand how much time and effort it takes to make even the simplest-looking Web site. Even though it's not my emphasis, I can say that taking these classes has really been beneficial to my growth as a communication major."

Professor Trent Truman demonstrates graphic design skills with software such as Adobe's Creative Suite 5.5.



David Pollock



David Pollock

A Campus That Keeps Making a Difference



ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

Just recently, I sat in a Southwestern Adventist University board meeting when Dr. Frank Knittel, retired educator, administrator, and former president of Southern Adventist University, announced that, after six years of serving as a member of the board, he would be resigning. He briefly shared what a privilege it had been to serve on the board, and of the impact Southwestern had made on his life. Years earlier, when he'd come to the campus (then Southwestern Junior College) as a student, he didn't want to be there. It wasn't long, however, before a caring faculty member transformed not only his attitude, but also his life. As I listened to his brief testimony, I couldn't help sense a parallel in his experience to that of my own.

Southwestern Union College (as it was known when I attended) was the last place I wanted to go for college. Yet, after two years at a state university, I knew I would never get the theology degree that I wanted. Reluctantly, I made my way to the little college campus in Keene, Texas. It didn't take long to discover how wrong I had been about the college. Southwestern Union College was just what I needed, and my life was never the same again.

What I found was a staff that was seriously committed to academics, excellence, and friendliness, all immersed in a distinctly spiritual environment. It was as if they were all there just for me. Regardless of their disciplines, everyone was supportive and helpful, just as if I were majoring in their field. The college became like a family—instructive, supportive, and encour-

aging. Friendships were made that have lasted to this very day.

You could go to an Ivy League university and find brilliant professors, a huge research library, and science laboratories filled with the latest experimental equipment. You would be able to leave with a degree, but what is needed for life today and eternity tomorrow would largely be lacking. That's what made the difference for Dr. Knittel, and that is what made the difference for me. It's what continues to be the difference at Southwestern Adventist University—a spiritual environment where the God of creation is recognized in every classroom and professors who care deeply about the heart and soul of each of their students.

Stephen Orian, president

Love Never Comes to an End!

ROGERS, ARK. » An atmosphere of great excitement pervaded our first Arkansas-Louisiana Hispanic couples retreat on February 3-5. More than 50 couples registered for the event, each with high expectations of what was to come. Our internationally-known guest speakers, Luis and Kelly Dulac, brought a biblical message of health and restoration, encouraging each couple and giving them tools to bring about the renewal needed in their lives as individuals and as couples.

We were reminded of five biblical instructions God gave to couples:

1. That a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.
2. That husbands love their wives, just as Christ loved the church.
3. That wives respect their husbands.
4. That they do not deprive each other.
5. That they forget what lies behind and strain forward to what lies ahead, and to press on toward the goal.

We were surprised to find that what has been programmed into our brains from our parents, from our environment and friends, from what we watch and listen to, and from bad habits that we have picked

up over the years, has all become a part of how we behave toward our spouse. We often forget that what is in our brain is who we are. If we are not thinking about it, we often treat our spouses in the same way we were treated as children. But praise the Lord! We have hope. Jesus promises to give us a new heart. We only have to ask Him and with His grace and the Holy Spirit, we can get a renovation—and a new start!

A beautiful wedding and a renewal of marriage vows took place on Saturday night of the retreat. Edith and Javier Figueroa were married in a beautiful ceremony, and many couples promised again to “love, honor, and cherish,” until their hearts have beat their last. We saw miracles happening also. Patty Mondragon, one of the attendees, came to the meeting with a lot of pain and not much movement in her right arm. But love works miracles, and by the end of the retreat, she was moving her arm with no pain. What a wonderful feeling of joy and love we witnessed.

Pedro Ledezma

Couples who attended the Hispanic couples retreat renewed their commitment to love, honor, and cherish one another.



Baton Rouge Church Celebrates the Resurrection

BATON ROUGE, LA. » It was an event never seen before at the Baton Rouge church—an awesome experience to honor the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The walk-through performance, simply

entitled, “The Resurrection,” humbled, inspired, and convicted many who attended. Directed by Takase Vunileva, wife of the church’s pastor, Paul Vunileva, its purpose was to reach out to the community by ex-

emplifying the depth and scope of Christ’s sacrifice on the cross, and to make clear that we serve a Risen Savior.

The performance was split into seven different scenes, most of which took place outside. The first scene was of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane as He agonized in prayer to His Father. As He lamented in prayer, His only help was from an angel that came to His aid while His trusted disciples slept soundly. The scene concluded with Jesus’ arrest.

In scene two, His faithful follower, Mary Magdalene, pleaded with the crowd on His behalf. Scenes three through six were depicted at different stations on the church campus, and were of Jesus’ trial in Pilate’s court, His encounter with Simon of Cyrene, and His inevitable crucifixion.

The seventh scene, which portrayed His resurrection, was the most powerful, according to many in attendance. As the stone was rolled away from His tomb, many angels, portrayed by the church youth, harmonized as Jesus rose from the grave.

The dramatization was unique because there were not many speaking roles. Although there were some monologues, narrators described most of the scenes, and songs were used to accentuate the roles. It was also interactive, as the crowd walked along with the actors and was made to feel part of each scenario. It was the first resurrection program of its kind at the church; members are hoping it will become an annual occurrence.

Mesha Cage



The Baton Rouge church members celebrated Christ’s resurrection by creating a “walk-through” of His life.



God Continues to Bless Ozark Adventist Academy

GENTRY, ARK. » For many years, Ozark Adventist Academy has been the home of tennis courts, an athletic field, and a gym that needed some updating. Thanks to some wonderful donors, this is no longer the case. The new Davis Tennis Courts will have all-new, professional-grade, double courts for the athletic department and community to use. This will allow the school to expand their athletic program for the following year. While the new courts are designed for professional grade tennis, they will be fun for the novice, as well. This beautiful edition is the first part of a new “sports-plex” development. Next to the tennis courts will be new basketball courts, which will be paid for by another donor this year. This project will be completed by next school year. Across from the tennis courts and the basketball courts will be a new backstop for baseball, and the goals will be repainted to match the new tennis courts.

The academy’s gymnasium is also taking on a new look, thanks to another donor. Once completed,

the gym’s entry and bathrooms will have new flooring, thanks to Tufco Flooring. The bathrooms will have all new fixtures, a new ceiling, new lighting, and new mirrors. There will be new doors in the entry area, plus new dressing rooms for athletic teams. The walls in the main gym area will be redone, and new storage rooms will be added above the coach’s office. In addition, new stage curtains will be added in the main auditorium, and new software will be purchased for the technology program for the coming school year.

God has truly blessed Ozark Adventist Academy and the students. Everything has

been accomplished through prayer and the faith of our staff and students. God has held Ozark Adventist Academy in His mighty hand and has touched the hearts of many donors as well.

Mike Dale, Ozark Adventist Academy principal



▲ The new Davis Tennis Courts in the construction process.
▼ Students during Academy Days at Ozark Adventist Academy.



Arkansas-Louisiana Conference Positions Filled

SHREVEPORT, LA. » During the first meeting of the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference executive committee for the new quadrennium (2012-2016), several conference departmental positions were filled that had been referred to the executive committee by delegates at the April 15, 2012 constituency session. Stephen Orian, who had been re-elected president, was asked to serve as ASI (Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries) secretary. Juan Borges, elected at the constituency session to serve as conference secretary, was voted by the executive committee to serve as Hispanic ministries coordinator, coordinated ministries director, and Adventist chaplaincy ministries director. Dennis Shafter was elected ministerial director, evangelism coordinator, and stewardship director. In addition to his responsibilities as superintendent of education, Stephen Burton was voted to serve as communication director; and Ray House, who was voted as youth director, was also asked by the executive

committee to serve as health ministries coordinator.

A number of departmental positions have been carried by gifted lay persons and the following individuals were voted to serve as volunteers in those positions: Lavidia Whitson, Adventist Community Services/Disaster Response; Joyce Fortner, children's ministries coordinator; Lloyd Clapp, Pathfinder director; Marian Parson, prayer ministries coordinator; Don Gilbert, retiree coordinator; Melody Radde, women's ministries coordinator; and Ana Alvarez, women's ministries assistant coordinator-Hispanic.



Attendees of the 33rd Arkansas-Louisiana Conference Constituency Session.

Two corrections that should be noted from the report given in the May issue of the *Record* are that Kenneth Simpson was re-elected planned giving and trust services director at the constituency session, and Terry McCormick was re-elected to serve as association secretary, not associate secretary.

Slidell Church Celebrates 40 Years

SLIDELL, LA. » On March 25, the Slidell church celebrated its 40th anniversary with a guest speaker, Brian Danese, former Slidell member and current pastor of the Gulfport, Miss., church.

The Slidell church was organized on March 25, 1972, and in January 1979, Reggie Phillips became its first pastor. Douglas Estey was the first baptized member of the church. Other charter members who joined by transfer or letter were Sam and Connie Danese; Glynn and Camille Griffin; Lyle, Barbara,

and Bernard Lawrence; Linda McElvania; Alma Miller; Lonnie and Scott Tarver; Bobby, Evelyn and Steve Teal; Loretta Smith; and Frances Van Gorder. Dexter

LeBlanc is the current pastor, serving since August 1997. The church is continuing to grow in membership and brotherly love, with about 220 members.

The anniversary celebration service was well attended by charter members, as well as current and former members. After Danese's moving sermon, the attendees enjoyed a delicious potluck meal.

Vernella Rogers



Slidell church charter members attending its 40th anniversary service. From left: Brian Danese, Connie Danese, Katherine Danese, Nancy Estey, Ted Estey, Patsy Alsobrooks, Evelyn Teal, and Bobby Teal.

Looking Back on Southwestern



May 1 marked 35 years since I graduated from Southwestern Adventist University. It hardly seems possible!

Much has happened in my life since then. I began a ministerial internship at the Fort Worth First church with Joe Ray. I married. All of my younger siblings graduated from Southwestern. God gave me two very special children. My daughter has grown up, become a registered nurse (graduating from Kettering College of Medical Arts), married and gave me a wonderful son-in-law, and has given me two amazing granddaughters. My son has grown up, graduated from Southwestern, married, and given me a wonderful daughter-in-law, and both he and his wife have become physical therapists (graduating from Loma Linda University). Both of my parents (my mother attended Southwestern during the years that World War II was going on) sleep in Jesus. God opened the doors for me to

attend law school to extend my ministry for the church.

Much has happened at Southwestern since then. The name has changed twice. My diploma is from Southwestern Union College. The afternoon after I graduated the board changed the name to Southwestern Adventist College. Later, the board changed the name to Southwestern Adventist University. Administration and faculty have changed. Some have retired. Some now sleep in Jesus. Old buildings have been torn down. Some old buildings have been renovated. New buildings have been erected.

But the most important things at Southwestern have not changed. Godly faculty encourage students not only to learn, but to incorporate God in all areas of their lives. Faculty become life-long friends and mentors. Students meet other students and become life-long friends. Students meet spouses. Students go into their varied

careers making a difference for God and His church in their careers.

With the benefit of looking back across the years, I recognize more than ever the value of the education I received at Southwestern. I thank God for the godly influence of the faculty from whom I had the privilege of learning and who strengthened my faith.

I wish *all* of the Southwestern Union's college-age Adventist young people would attend Southwestern. If so, they would reap enormous benefits. Southwestern is not perfect, just like all of us and our churches. But God is still using it to train our young people for a life of service to God and mankind.

Let us take advantage of the benefit of a Seventh-day Adventist Christian education at Southwestern Adventist University!

Vialo Weis, Jr., director, PARL and Planned Giving and Trust Services

Enid Church Women Enjoy a "Garden Party"

ENID » In early March, the Enid church's women's ministry hosted its annual friendship tea with "a garden party," as its theme. The record-breaking attendance of 140 included many from other denominations, including out-of-town churches and local friends.

Participants enjoyed a buffet of salads, sandwiches, and desserts, which was served after a greeting by the event's leader, LaVerna Beltz, and a prayer by Becky Joyner, co-leader. Those not familiar with vegetarian and vegan foods were very impressed, and were interested in knowing more and getting recipes. The tea table also provided punch, water, and a small treat. Harold Beltz was kind enough to restock the liquid refreshments.

A potting bench in the prayer garden area was a reminder to plant seeds for Christ. White picket fences, bouquets of flowers, and tall, leafless trees bordered the room. A pond, nestled among green plants, contained a fountain that made a refresh-

ing sound. The stage was a lovely garden vista with tall white columns. A striking, urn-based, "party" table was trimmed with pink and white roses. The back of each of the four wrought-iron chairs held flower-trimmed hats with flowering chiffon sashes in pastel colors.

During the evening, participants were shown a delightful video by Patsy Clarmont, a Women of Faith speaker known for her wit. The church's pastor, Walter Martinez, took portraits in the fellowship room, while to his wife, Heather, took candid shots in the "tea" room. Penny Landeros and her daughter, Erika, provided



The Enid church's annual friendship tea had record attendance this year.

beautiful music.

As the evening drew to a close, participants reflected on what a gracious expression of Christian love had been portrayed.

Gloriann Byrum

Creativity on World-wide Display

Years ago, a person's ability to creatively represent Christian lessons, morals, values, or ideals was mainly limited to skits and live illustrations. These days, those venues still exist, but they are no longer as limited.

The world of video and film production has evolved and become something so user-friendly that nearly anyone can become an Internet celebrity. A popular video can reach millions of people, all over the world, just from the click of a mouse. For a long time, creating a film was cumbersome because of the expensive equipment and endless hours of uploading and editing. Now, almost everyone carries some form of camera or video camera, and many people have access to simple editing tools.

The Oklahoma Conference is learning from these new developments and hoping to utilize all the tools available in order to apply these methods to Christian outreach and communication. We began with purchasing affordable equipment and putting it into the hands of those who can use it in the most effective ways.

An example of how this has been used creatively is at Hope Adventist Fellowship in Moore, Okla. Pathfinders were given a short, but informative run-down about simple techniques and equipment used in video production. They were then challenged to come up with a simple idea for a short film illustrating an idea that would be presented at a local youth rally.

Once the Pathfinders had their ideas, they created their characters, came up with simple props (all on-hand at the church), and got to work filming. Not long after, they had their raw footage ready for editing. The world of creativity is wide open when it comes to editing tools, allowing them to present their production in any number of ways and in any number of venues.

Any motivated youth group with a bit of creativity and a little know-how can come up with short, meaningful illustrations that can be shared across a variety of venues. From comedy to drama, uplifting



Scenes from short films produced by the youth at the Moore church, made to illustrate messages for a youth rally.

to poignant, a little time and attention can turn what used to be something seen once and only at one event, into a production

that can move hearts around the world.

Richard Castillo

Muskogee Pathfinders Learn About Prayer While Camping

MUSKOGEE » The Muskogee Pathfinder Club enjoyed some time with God and nature during an early spring campout at the Sequoyah Western Hills State Park near Wagoner, Okla. The club enjoyed the park's nature center, hiking trails, and excellent campsites by the shores of the Fort Gibson Lake. The weekend was lead by God as the Pathfinders enjoyed a restful Sabbath and learned many lessons from nature.

As arrangements were made for the campout, the Pathfinder leaders were

pray for the rain to stop for the rest of the afternoon, and that the weather would remain cloudy and cool. A few minutes after her second prayer was lifted up, the rain stopped and it stayed cool and overcast. The Lord listened to her request!

When supper was over it began to rain again and the Pathfinders prayed that it would rain very little for the remainder of the weekend. God answered this prayer as well, and it only rained twice more for a few minutes each time.

As the Pathfinders were enjoying the campout, God allowed them to stay relatively dry, and allowed them to see where they were able to pray and have prayers answered. It affirmed in all of their minds the promise that Jesus gave when He said, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened" (Matthew 7:7,8 NIV). The Pathfinders asked and they received teaching them that the God cares about them and all their concerns.

Geraldo Alonso II



◀ Muskogee Pathfinder Club members and their families enjoyed sitting around the fire during a recent camping trip.

▼ The Muskogee Pathfinder Club enjoyed a weekend of camping and learning about the power of prayer.

concerned about weather reports that predicted rain. Despite the possibility for precipitation, they decided to go forward with the campout. It turned out that God used the chance of rain in His favor in order to teach the Pathfinders about prayer. While enjoying a campfire by the lake, storm clouds began to form. One of our Pathfinders decided to pray for rain, and her request was answered!

As the rain was coming down, she shared that she had asked God for the rain. Immediately, everyone encouraged her to



Oklahoma Campmeeting 2012

OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE

Please join us for a spectacular time of spiritual blessings!

Keynote speakers:

July 13 and 14 — Randy Roberts, senior pastor
Loma Linda University church

July 19-21 — Abraham Jules, senior pastor
Mt. Vernon church

For a complete schedule and list of speakers, visit
www.oklahomasda.org and click on “Camp Meeting”

Concert: Saturday, July 14, 4:00 p.m.

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What Southwestern Adventist University Has Done For Me



When I enrolled at Southwestern Adventist University (Southwestern Union College when I attended), it was my first encounter with a Christian educational institution. All of my education up to that point had been in public schools and universities. Needless to say, it was a cultural change—but it was a good one. There were so many new experiences—prayer before beginning classes, learning new words and phrases, such as vespers, colporteur, canvassing, morning and evening worship, intercessory prayer, new testament witnessing, and many others. I recognized that I had a learning curve if I was going to become an Adventist minister. Two wise, older church elders, Willie

Brown and Elbert Domino, Sr., befriended me, and their conversations and counsel were invaluable.

I had a thirst for what professors Richardson, Burr, and Reid taught me in my religion and theology classes, but the time that they spent with me, outside of the classroom in their offices, probably shaped my ministry more than anything else.

I found support in Leroy Lieske and Ben Bowen when it came to student finance. I know for a fact that, although the financial compassion that I, as well as other students, received was probably what could be called “outside of policy”—at Southwestern, the students’ needs always took precedence.

Having had the opportunity to serve on the university’s board for the past 20 years has been superbly rewarding. I have been able to support our students, as well as an institution that helped shape me into what I am today. I’m serving in the leadership role that I am, and I have formed life-long relationships and friendships because of Southwestern.

However, the greatest gift that Southwestern Adventist University gave me is my loving wife of 38 years, the former Mary Alice Thomas. I can say with no hesitancy—to God be the glory, great things has Southwestern Adventist University done!

Samuel L. Green, president

Cooking It Up at Fondren!

HOUSTON, TEX. » The Fondren church has been cooking it up vegetarian-style to promote health and weight loss for members and the community. On Sunday, March 18, the church’s health ministry, under the direction of Cornel McKenzie, conducted its second vegetarian cooking class. Dora G. Morton, a retired nutrition educator, along with some very eager and willing helpers, conducted the class. Attendees learned about the importance of pursuing a healthy lifestyle and eating fiber-rich meals, and

how to prepare several fiber-filled, nutritious breakfast dishes, including homemade granola and almond butter toast.

Participants also learned how to use chickpeas to make a variety of dishes, such as hummus, chickpea spread, “tuna” surprise, and “crabby” cakes. The highlight of the recipes was a veggie bean soup, made from 15 different beans and vegetables.

Attendees were able to sample several dishes, and they also received a booklet with healthy lifestyle tips and additional recipes. The participants thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and were eager to sign up for the next church potluck.



Beverly Bennett

Cooking class participants enjoyed sampling the dishes.

Beverly Bennett

Memorial Church Hosts Winter Camp for Pathfinders

MANSFIELD, LA. » In late January, the Memorial church hosted the Ark-La-Tex Pathfinder winter camp. The camp was supported by members from the Bethel church in Texarkana, Tex., the Emmanuel church in Marshall, Tex., and the Cedar Grove church in Shreveport, La.

The Pathfinders earned badges, enjoyed church services, and participated in other activities, all right there on the church property, where the campout was held. The campers had easy access to the church, and were active participants in the Sabbath afternoon's Adventist Youth Society program.

The camp was broken into federations, unlike the conference camp that has been held in the past; therefore, the numbers were smaller. This created a warm, cozy, and inviting camp feeling, just like the blazing campfire. Despite the fact that it

was winter, the weather was not as cold as it had been at past winter camps. Ages of the campers ranged from about four to around 80.

Daniel Polley, the Memorial church's Pathfinder leader, gave the sermon for the Sabbath service held at the church. His scriptural text was taken from Psalm one,

from which he implored the youth to make choices and associations that would cause them to reap positive benefits for the rest of their lives. This was a timely message for an active bunch of Pathfinders and company.

Precious Fuller



Precious Fuller



Top: Campers keeping warm by the campfire.

Bottom: Pathfinders posing in front of their tent.

Precious Fuller

Senior Citizens Recognized at the Berean Church

SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

BATON ROUGE, LA. » “The hoary head is a source of wisdom if it be found in the way of righteousness” (Prov. 16:31). Perhaps this is the scripture that prompted the Berean church’s pastor, Robert Davis, to recognize of the church’s seniors recently.

It was following the divine worship preliminaries that Davis and Robert Landry, first elder, began the recognition service by honoring 87-year-old Doris Hubbard Gilliam, Berean’s only direct descendent of a charter member. It was Gilliam’s mother, Laura Hubbard, who, in 1936, joined the Berean church under its first pastor, J. G. Dascent. In addition to a certificate, Gilliam received a dozen long-stemmed red roses. A surprised, but grateful Gilliam accepted the recognition on behalf of her mother, and thanked the church for the honor.

Davis prefaced the next honorees by announcing, “And now it’s time to recognize a couple who has been married longer than

some of us have been living. I present to you Sherman and Bertha Stewart, for their 54 years of marriage!”

Following the standing ovation, Bertha Stewart, who is head deaconess as well as the senior citizens’ leader, also received a dozen long-stemmed red roses, while member Cheryl Hightower pinned a boutonniere on Sherman.

Then it was the youth’s turn. Right on cue, and under the direction of youth ministries leader Robyn Oguinye, youth as young as three-year-old Maison Smith

began distributing long-stemmed roses to each of the church’s remaining seniors.

The day was not complete without the Sabbath lunch that was to follow. The seniors enjoyed a Caribbean meal, courtesy of Davis and his Jamaican-born wife, Denise. According to Davis, “The repast was a fitting tribute to such a wonderful group. We are so blessed to have so many seniors in our congregation, as well as a couple [the Stewarts] who really respect marriage.”

Evelyn Edwards



▲ Robert Davis, pastor, poses with member Doris Gilliam, who received roses and a certificate of recognition.

◀ From left: Robert Landry, first elder, Sherman and Bertha Stewart, and Robert Davis, recognizing the Stewarts for their 54 years of marriage.

Women's Week of Prayer

MANSFIELD, LA. » In early March, the women of the Memorial church held and hosted their annual "Women's Week of Prayer." Despite the name, it was held for only a partial week, beginning on Wednesday evening and ending after the Sabbath service of the same week. Ashley Young, Precious Fuller, Demetrious Jackson, Roshonda Lewis, and Joyce Fuller, all members of Memorial church, spoke for the event.

The women's messages centered on trusting God and managing minds and emotions. Attendees were encouraged to seek and trust God for their health and wholeness. Sabbath's sermon, by Joyce Fuller, was a combination of all of the messages, titled, "Get Your Mind Right." The audience was admonished to avoid foolish mindsets, and encouraged to be in their "right minds," meaning to have the mind of Christ as mentioned in Phil. 2:5.

What added to the joy of the messages was that the women did not speak to each other about their topics, yet all of the messages blended very well together. There was not a theme for the event, but all of the messages tied into the same theme of trusting God for help, health, and right

minds. It was truly inspiring, motivating, and captivating for all who attended.

Precious Fuller

Speakers for the Week of Prayer (from left): Ashley Young, Precious Fuller, Demetrious Jackson, Roshonda Lewis, and Joyce Fuller.



Religion and Health

HOUSTON, TEX. » The Spirit of Prophecy promotes the concept that the health message is the right arm of the gospel. With this in mind, the Fondren church's pastor, Helvis Moody and Cornel McKenzie, its health ministry leader, organized the medical, mental, and social health professionals of the church to provide the church and the community with information and practical tips on health and wellness, with a focus on prevention during 40 days of health and spiritual emphasis.

All of the seminars, workshops, prayer meeting activities, and preaching were organized and presented under the umbrella of "Religion and Health." Moody emphasized the very practical side of the matter of health. An old Arabian proverb says that he who has health has hope, and he who has hope, has everything. Moody made it abundantly clear that God is interested in mankind's health, both physical and spiritual.

All came away from the preaching with the conviction that conformity to God's

requirements will bring health. An emphasis on 40 days of health left participants with the following lessons: 1. The Christian is under obligation to care for his or her health. 2. A health-conscious person will foster the harmonious development of mind, body, and spirit.

Several medical doctors participated in the health seminars and workshops, offering information on addictions, cancer, and heart disease. The social and psychological health professionals offered seminars and workshops on stress and depression. Exercise classes and a cooking class were also organized. The exercise classes varied, and were comprehensive in nature, with the intent to work all of the muscles, especially those that are not normally and regularly or intentionally used.

The nutrition and lifestyle classes were extremely beneficial to all who attended. The focus was on how to pursue a healthy lifestyle for the following reasons: longer life, better quality of life, greater productivity, enjoyment of work, more

energy, fewer health problems, improved ability to enjoy sports activities and movement, strong bodies, weight loss, reduced risk of heart disease, and the enjoyment and overall feeling of well-being.

A vegetarian cooking class provided demonstrations that would help increase fiber and taught about balanced fruits that are antioxidant-rich. The participants sampled a high-fiber breakfast, lunch, snack, and supper dish. Each member of the class took home a guide with tasty recipes, information on how to plan healthy and nutritious meals, and a shopping guide.

Another program was based on *The Full Plate Diet* book and workbook. The eight-week program emphasized how to have a full plate and keep weight off by eating more fiber. The diet is based on the simple concept of increasing dietary fiber. Each participant came away with the motivation and willpower to stay committed to losing weight and keeping it off.

Karla Swan



Southwestern: In the Business of Forging Leaders

TEXAS CONFERENCE

The year was 2000. I had just arrived in Keene, Tex., to begin my new ministry assignment as youth director of the Texas Conference. The school year had just begun, and I was a little short on help to pull off my first major youth event as I prepared last-minute details for an East Texas camp meeting and youth rally at LeTourneau University in Longview, Tex. A few days prior to the event, I found myself on the campus of Southwestern Adventist University. There, I was approached by a young man named Ryan Long. He was quiet, yet had a strong leadership presence. He offered to travel with me that weekend to Longview and assist me with *anything* I needed in order to make the youth rally a success. I don't remember much about that weekend, but I do remember how blessed I was to spend quality time with that future leader. Today, Ryan Long is the senior pastor of the Bursleson church. He is appreciated and respected by his church members, peers in ministry, and administrators.

From the moment I met Kristina Pascual Lockhart, it was obvious that she's a "can do"

type of person. At the time, she was a communication major at Southwestern, and was active at school, in her local church as a Pathfinder and youth leader, and was instrumental in the Texas Conference's summer camp program for several years.

I will always remember the year Letty and I asked her to be our right hand at camp, which required a number of obligations and responsibilities. She ended up being the assistant girls' director and the programs director, as well as a part-time lifeguard during her spare time (of which she had little). However, I know she was developing strong leadership skills at Southwestern, because those skills were blossoming before our eyes. Kristina went on to work for the Texas Conference, and despite her young years, she has already left a distinct mark in a variety of events and aspects of ministry in Texas.

I have known Armando Miranda, Jr., whom I have affectionately called "Armandito" since he was about 10 years old. Even then, you could see qualities in him that the Lord could use for His glory. Flash forward

to the early 2000s when Armando and I met again. He was a theology student at Southwestern, receiving more than a quality education—he was being indoctrinated in the art of ministry and service to others. He was active as a student leader and a student chaplain. He had friends who were his flock, and he ministered to them. He also spent time at summer camp as a counselor, impacting the lives of young people. Today, Armando is the senior pastor of the Houston Northwest church. He is an excellent minister of the gospel and anyone who meets him finds him to be wise beyond his years, level-headed, and driven toward excellence!

Thank you, Southwestern, for being in the business of forging strong leaders for the cause of Christ—leaders who are not afraid to say that they love Him and have given their lives to the service of His people. For those who say Adventist education is not making a difference, here are just three stories among thousands that beg to differ.

Carlos Craig, Texas Conference president

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 Featured Speaker: Elizabeth Talbot

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Student Week of Prayer at NDAA

RICHARDSON » North Dallas Adventist Academy (NDAA) Bible teachers and administrators recently chose twelve of its high school students as speakers for its student-led Week of Prayer.

To prepare for this spiritual leadership, the students participated in a two-day retreat that helped connect them to Jesus Christ. Dustin Serns, a pastor currently attending seminary at Andrews University, led out in bonding activities, gave personal devotions, helped choose a theme for the week, and demonstrated how to give a talk. The students

were then given the opportunity to pick a quiet place in which to write their Bible-based messages. The teachers and pastors

roamed around to help those who needed it.

The students chose the theme, "In God We Trust," along with the theme song, "This is My Desire." The students had a great time together, eating, sharing, and listening to God, in addition to singing, playing together, and preparing for the Week of Prayer.



Lois Serns

Dustin Serns, pastor, helped the group of high school students prepare for their Week of Prayer.

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Christian Record Services Honors Will Kowarsch

TEXAS CONFERENCE



Will Kowarsch, center, was recently honored for his service to Christian Record Services.

CROWLEY » Will Kowarsch was recently honored at the Crowley church by Keith Elliott, Christian Record field services director, for raising one million dollars for the ministry of Christian Record Services throughout the Texas Conference and the Southwestern Union during the 18 years that Will has been a representative for CRS, which serves the blind and visually impaired.

Kowarsch retired after 40 years of service to the church as pastor and CRS director and representative in 2006, but he is still the honorary Southwest director and still works 30 hours a week.

As Kowarsch was honored, the Crowley church was able to learn more about CRS, whose mission is for the blind to “see” Jesus as their Lord and Savior and be ready for His coming. CRS provides all large print, audio, and Braille reading material for free, to both Adventists and non-Adventists.

Will Kowarsch

COWBOY Camp Meeting

presented by the Crossroads Fellowship Church
October 5-6, 2012



Speaker:
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Speaker:
 Carlos Craig



Pastors:
 Henry and Bunny Reid



Pianist:
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Gulfhaven Adventist School's Fundraising Concert

HOUSTON » Forgiven, a professional quartet, was the main attraction for the Gulfhaven Adventist School's recent fundraising concert. The group, along with other local artists, including Brenda Blanca, Mark Williams, Chiquita Penney, and Lorena Trujillo, was recorded live by Spanish-language radio station RJA in front of a packed church. The fundraiser was an enormous success in many ways. The tickets sold, in addition to the personal donations, amounted to much more than we have made in previous years.

Other blessings included the volunteers, who brought and prepared food for a fundraising dinner, those who sold tickets, the Pathfinders who worked by the doors, and all the members, friends, visitors, and families who came out to support this special event. The school is especially grateful to all of the performers who came to help make the program the success that it was.

DVDs are available through the radio station, if anyone would like to order a recording of the concert. Call 713.562.4580 for more information.

Jean Hagen



Top: The packed audience for the Gulfhaven Adventist School's recent fundraising concert, which took place at the Gulfhaven church and included music from Forgiven as well as local artists, Brenda Blanca, Mark Williams, Chiquita Penney, and Lorena Trujillo. The concert was recorded live by Spanish-language radio station RJA.

▲ The professional quartet, Forgiven, performs a concert at the Gulfhaven church.

◀ A group of Pathfinders pose with Forgiven. The Pathfinders helped out at the event by working the doors.

Thank you, Southwestern!



TEXICO CONFERENCE

For the next two months, we are focusing on Adventist education. I am proud to be both a financial supporter and on the Board of our university. This month, I am sharing the words of our newest ministerial intern, Carlos Arellano, who just graduated from Southwestern Adventist University. May God bless you as you read.

“When I came to Southwestern in 2005, I had no idea what I was going to do with my life. The only thing I knew then was that God had impressed me to register there. I never thought God’s choice of sending me to the university was to call me to ministry.

My second religion class with professor, Ingo Sorke, took place that Fall. It was during one of his class periods that God first called me, but that was just the beginning. During Bill Kilgore’s class on homiletics, God helped me see the importance of preaching and dedicating the appropriate time to sermon preparation. Through another class with Kilgore on the writings

of Ellen White, I learned where to find answers for those who oppose the gift of prophecy.

God used Jorge Rico’s class on pastoral ministry to help me while I was working for the Texico Conference as a student senior pastor for four churches. The class helped me understand the connection between lectures and reality. I realized the importance of education, and how essential it is for students to take advantage of every word professors speak.

Professor John Peckham’s class on biblical theology was amazing—his class challenged me to search scripture in a way I had never done before. Through his class, God inspired me to be a biblical pastor. Be-



Dr. James Stevens

Congratulations to Carlos Arellano, who graduated from Southwestern Adventist University in May.

fore I graduated, God inspired another professor, Lloyd Willis, to tell me that his class on prophetic studies was not just for graduation, but a vital subject for any Adventist pastor! He said, ‘Put your heart into it, and you will be successful and blessed!’ He was right! I have been very blessed.

Southwestern Adventist University will always mean so much to me, because it was the instrument God used to prepare me for where I am right at this very moment—signing papers needed for my employment as the Texico

Conference’s newest pastor. Thank You, God, for Southwestern!”

James L. Stevens, president, and **Carlos Arellano**

Antonio Takes His Stand for Christ

CORRALES, N. MEX. » On March 17, the Corrales church praised the Lord for Antonio Piazza’s commitment to follow Jesus through baptism. It was particularly special because it was also his eleventh birthday. David McLauchlan, the church’s new pastor, had just moved into the area a few days before, but lost no time in getting to know the baptismal candidate.

Antonio had been studying with a group of young people under the leadership of Bonnie Garner, and is the first of seven to take a stand. McLauchlan mentioned that he didn’t know what gift the Holy Spirit would give to An-

tonio, but the church is already aware that Antonio recently raised \$300 for the fight against cancer, and that his mother is a cancer survivor.

Bonnie Garner, Sandia View Elementary School teacher



Eleven-year-old Antonio Piazza seals his decision to follow Christ as he is baptized by Pastor David McLauchlan (above) and signs his baptismal certificate (left).

Prayer Not Only Changes Things, Prayer Changes Me

ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX. » The Texico prayer team believes strongly in the power of prayer. The team has conducted six Weeks of Prayer in different churches, including the Espanola, Taos, Santa Fe Airport, Santa Fe Marcy Park, El Paso Meraz, and Lubbock English churches. Prior to each Week of Prayer, the team dedicates one day for fasting and prayer. They pray for the pastor and the church leadership, and ask God for the anointing of His holy presence. The team's motto is, "Prayer not only changes things, prayer changes me."

The entire Week of Prayer is dedicated to prayer. The main focus is the family, upholding the ideals of "healthy families, healthy homes, and healthy churches." During the Week of Prayer, the team invites people to bring special requests before God. They are also invited to share their testimonies of what the Lord has done in their lives. The team visits people in their



▲ A Week of Prayer in the El Paso Meraz church.

◀ Jaime Calvo, prayer ministries coordinator, and members kneel in prayer.

Bottom left: Jaime Calvo, prayer ministries coordinator, leads out in prayer for the church.



sanctuary, and sermons on prayer.

Each Week of Prayer is a week of revival in which the church experiences the presence of God. Individuals are encouraged to commit themselves to serve Him even more in their lives. The team has heard from many pastors and leaders that "lives have been transformed by the power of God."

The team likes to remember and share that, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14).

Jaime Calvo, prayer ministries coordinator



homes, and prays with and for them.

The team tries to bring prayer to life for the individual, facilitating the individual's prayer experience with such tools as the prayer room, the praising wall, the box of prayer requests, the prayer time in the

A Family Comes to God

LAS CRUCES, N. MEX. » Jesús was baptized several years ago, having come out of a life of gangs and various abuses to his body, spirit, and community. As he wanted to become more active in the Las Cruces area churches, he began the Texico Conference lay pastoral assistant training with Pastor Ron Halvorsen, Sr., who was once a gang member himself.

A personal disappointment continued for Jesús, as his family members were not baptized. His children had studied, but

had not yet decided to take the final step in baptism. Jesús heard about an Amazing Facts evangelistic series with Jason Morgan, a two-hour drive away in Deming, and the family decided to attend as many meetings as possible.

Following these meetings, Julie, the mother of his children, his son, Jesús, Jr., and daughter, Cecilia, continued studying God's Word, and then decided to plan a very special Sabbath day. A triple family baptism occurred, along with the bap-

tism of four other Las Cruces believers. The blessings continued as Jesús and Julie united in marriage preceding sundown on the same day. Jesús is an excellent cook, so the reception that followed the wedding was a special delight for family, friends, and church members who attended. With God's continued blessings, we hope to have many more of these high, holy Sabbath days in the near future!

Chuck Workman

TEXICO CONFERENCE

Julie and her children, Cecilia and Jesús, Jr., rejoice in their baptism by Chuck Workman, pastor.



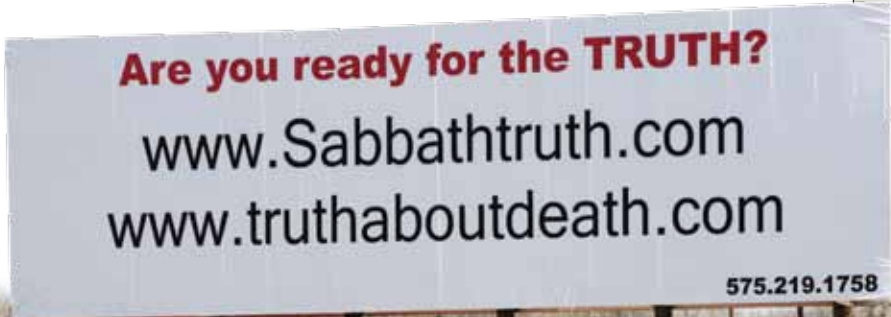
Julie and Jesús seal their commitment to each other in marriage on the same day that she and their two children are baptized.



A Silent Witness

CLOVIS, N. MEX. » If you're traveling in either direction on U.S. 60/84 outside of Clovis, N. Mex., a new billboard can be seen on the north side of the road. The Clovis church is passionate about sharing the truth in every way possible. Members Harry and Mary Stone sponsored the billboard on behalf of the church for at least six months, in order to attract the attention of passersby in hopes that it will be a silent witness to the power of the gospel.

Nehemias Basit, pastor



The billboard stands as a silent witness to those traveling on U.S. 60/84 near Clovis, N. Mex.

Portales Church Dedicated to Missions

PORTALES, N.MEX. » This is a story about what can be accomplished if people become energized and committed to a purpose. Over the years, the Portales church has shown its commitment to missions and projects. The church of only 20 members, most of whom are retired and on a

fixed income, still presents mission stories each Sabbath morning, and keeps such projects in the forefront of the members' minds.

For senior citizens who cannot participate physically in the projects, it was quite exciting to reach the goal and know that

their offerings were going to places and projects that they would never visit or see.

Members started giving each week to the 13th Sabbath offering instead of waiting until the end of the quarter. Giving each week instead of a one-time offering has helped the mission fund to continually increase.

The 13th Sabbath offering for the first quarter of 2012 was a record-setting \$4,397.26, almost three times the amount of their original goal.

The Portales church is in awe as to what 20 senior citizens can do if they commit to it. The members hope that by sharing their story, other churches will focus on the 13th-Sabbath mission projects, challenge their groups, and be blessed as they have been.

Dennis Harper

Members stand with their pastor, Nehemias Basit (second from left), in front of the Portales church.



A Child Shall Lead Them

LAS CRUCES, N. MEX. » As it says in Isaiah 11:6, "a little child shall lead them." Jeff and Kara had been teaching their children, Kloe and Jonah, from the Bible, both at home school and in their family worship. Upon completing Bible study programs, both at home and with Chuck Workman, pastor, Kloe was asked if she could share what she had learned with her friend Christopher, as his grandmother, Maria, had seen them studying the Bible together in a dream.

She did, and these studies occurred after potluck for several weeks. Upon completing their lessons, both children asked for baptism. Pastors, parents, and grandparents are ecstatic when children publicly

demonstrate their love for the Lord, and it's extra special when one child has shared the love of Jesus with another!

Chuck Workman

Kloe (left) shared what she learned from the Bible with her friend, Christopher (right), and both were happy to be baptized.



Kelsey Workman

Huguley Memorial Medical Center Joins Texas Health Resources

Adventist Health System and Texas Health form non-profit joint venture

FORT WORTH, TEX. » Adventist Health System, the parent company of Huguley Memorial Medical Center, has formed a joint venture company with Texas Health to own and manage the hospital. Huguley Memorial Medical Center, located in south Fort Worth, has become part of the Texas Health Resources health system effective May 1.

Huguley Memorial Medical Center will remain a non-profit, faith-based organization, and over time, is expected to adopt the Texas Health brand. Adventist Health System will continue to manage the daily operations of the hospital, and Texas Health will own the controlling interest in the joint venture.

“Huguley Memorial Medical Center’s affiliation with Texas Health Resources connects two systems that share a commitment to providing patient care driven by excellence, delivered with compassion, and inspired by the healing ministry of Christ,” said Adventist Health System president and CEO Don Jernigan.

The seed of Huguley Memorial Medical Center was planted by Herbert Huguley, D.D.S., in a camp meeting in 1966. “I am going to build a hospital in honor of my parents,” he announced. The dentist and real estate investor from Dallas passed away the next year, leaving his entire \$6 million estate to the Adventist Church.

After Dr. Huguley’s initial donation, more than \$3.25 million was contributed

by foundations, individuals, and corporations. After several years of fundraising, site planning, and construction, the hospital opened 35 years ago with the mission to further the healing ministry of Christ.

“At the public ceremony announcing the affiliation, I looked at the buildings and became aware that we were stand-

Ken Finch, Huguley Memorial Medical Center president and CEO, added, “Health care is changing and we must collaborate to more effectively meet the health care needs of those we serve. I believe this new partnership will be a great benefit to our communities, physicians, employees, and patients as we combine our resources and talents to better reach more people in need.”

By joining together, Texas Health and Huguley will improve coordination of care delivery along the south I-35W corridor. They are developing integrated strategies for addressing the health needs of specific population groups. They are also coordinating their entire continuum of care, from wellness, prevention, and primary care through



▲ At a ceremony announcing the joint venture of Texas Health and Huguley Memorial Medical Center, Larry Moore, president of the Southwestern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, makes remarks before offering a prayer of dedication as Ken Finch, Huguley’s president and CEO, looks on.



ing on the shoulders of those who had come before us. God blessed the efforts of Ben Leach, Cyril Miller, William Wiist, and many others who laid the groundwork of where we are today. This joint venture positions Huguley for a strong future and to retain Huguley’s Adventist heritage, culture, and mission,” said Larry Moore, president of the Southwestern Union Conference and a member of the board of directors of Adventist Health System and Huguley Memorial Medical Center. At the ceremony, Moore led the crowd of 200 in a prayer of dedication.

acute care in the hospital, to rehabilitation, long-term, home health, palliative, and hospice care for the benefit of the communities served.

“This is a true partnership, and Huguley will benefit from the strength of Adventist Health System plus the regional market presence of Texas Health. This joint venture aligns the hospital for growth, and it secures our future and our mission in this area,” Finch continued.

Frank Sherrill: A Life of Ministry

Born in 1923, Frank Sherrill spent his boyhood in the Jefferson, Tex., area, attending church school there. He graduated from Southwestern Junior College (now Southwestern Adventist University) and Union College in the pursuit of a career in ministry. In 1944, he married Joy Hargrove, and in 1949, at Texas camp meeting, he was ordained as a pastor for the church. He pastored several churches in Texas and Colorado, and also served as a conference evangelist for a period of time in both states. In 1956, he received a call to be the education and youth director of the Missouri Conference, where he served for three years.

In 1959, the Sherrills moved to the Po-

tomac Conference, where Frank served as youth director. In 1963, Frank became the youth director of the Southwestern Union, and three years later he was elected president of the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference. After an eight-year tenure there, he received a call to be president of the Arizona Conference, where he served for 14 years before retiring in 1988.

After retirement, Frank conducted evangelistic crusades in Arizona and northern New England, and three evangelistic crusades in the Central Philippine Union, with more than 1,200 baptized. Frank had the privilege of serving on the board of trustees of four Adventist colleges, including 11 years on Southwestern Adventist

University's board. He also served as president of the Texas Association of Junior Colleges in 1965. His beloved

wife, Joy, passed away in 1999, after 55 years of marriage. Frank later married his high school sweetheart, Avanelle Sherrill. He is survived by Avanelle, his sons and daughters-in-law, and a multitude of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



All for Christ and Campus

NAD NEWS

College students meet to grow secular campus ministries.

The first North American Division-wide campus ministries conference was held the weekend of April 13-15 on the campus of Columbia University in downtown Manhattan, New York. Sponsored by Columbia University Adventist Christian Fellowship, North American Division Youth Ministries, and the Atlantic Union Youth Department, nearly 250 students from across North America spent a memorable weekend in New York City being inspired to *Break Well* as opposed to *Breaking Bad* (a term from the southeast referring to leaving home and making a bad break from parents into adulthood that spirals down instead of up), also based on a current AMC TV drama reflecting the conflicted life of Walter White, a high school chemistry teacher with only two years to live.

Zane Yi, pastor of the Canton Seventh-day Adventist Church and professor of philosophy at Kennesaw State College, Marietta, Georgia, encouraged students to *Break Well* into adult life, personally, on campus, and in the world they are preparing to serve. He initiated an interactive dialogue with students as they sat around tables, lights low, as in a café setting. During his weekend presentations he focused on the need to address the broken places on our campuses

and to reach out to those in need.

Worship leader Nick Zork led the group in inspiring worship throughout the weekend, which began on Friday evening at Church Of The Advent Hope on Manhattan's upper east side and continued on to Columbia University's Earl Hall, a religious life building. Special weekend features included a concert from Ohio's Spring Valley Academy, musical performance from the Columbia University Gospel Choir, solo performance by guitarist and singer/song writer Nick Zork, and breakout workshops on Sabbath morning, including topics on relationships, spirituality, story as a form of communicating the gospel, and an update on campus ministry from ACF/NAD Volunteer Coordinator, Ron Pickell. Campus ministers and student leaders from across the NAD gathered in the afternoon to talk shop and plan future campus ministry conferences.

Pastor Yi's final presentation emphasized the importance of going back to our campuses and sharing "What great things God



University students and campus ministries leaders gathered at Columbia University for the first-ever Adventist Christian Fellowship Conference.

has done for us." His passage was from the story of the healed demoniac and the demoniac's desire to stay with Jesus. Jesus however, commanded him to stay in the area and share his story. "This is our challenge as well," added Yi, "The challenge of returning to our campuses to share what God blessed us with in New York City."

The NAD-sponsored Adventist Christian Fellowship Conference will be held every three years with regional conferences in the intermediate years. Visit www.acflink.org.

Bernadine Delafield, recently-retired associate director, NAD Office of Communication

Classified Ads

REAL ESTATE/HOUSING

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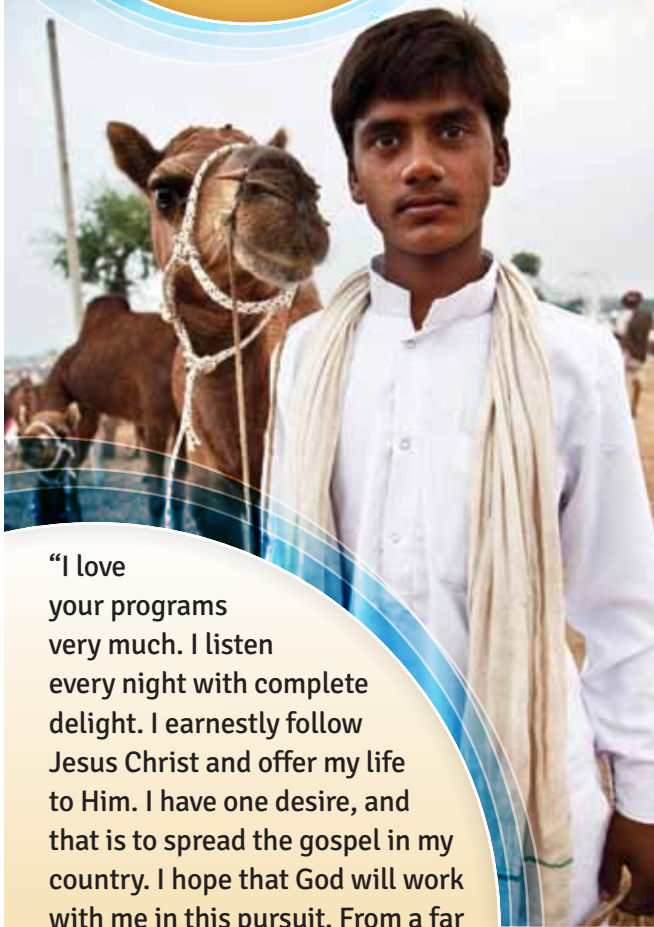
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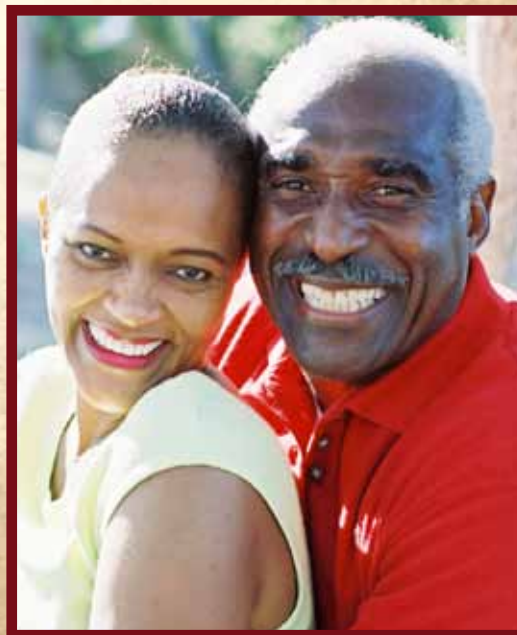
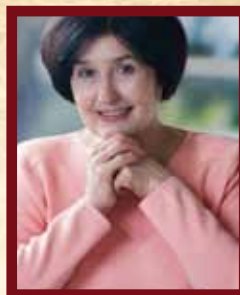
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through the names He gave Himself.

First NAD Adventist Muslim Relations Training & Networking Weekend. Interested in reaching out to Muslim neighbors? How does our Adventist theology of mission apply to the Muslim context in North America? Want training from practitioners, who will present their field-tested fruitful practices? If so, this event is for you! Dates: July 26-29. Location: Heritage Academy, TN. Register early. Contact Heidi Guttschuss: Heidi.NADAMR@gmail.com, 404.558.4682.

Seeking Students. One-room conference elementary school in rural setting with small conservative church in Umpire, Arkansas. Active Pathfinder club

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Country Living Seminar. July 15-22. Simple, practical living in the country. Devotionals focus on rural life and last day events. Cost: \$370. **One-Week Lifestyle Renewal Seminar**—July 1-8. Focus on lifestyle change, health education, hands-on cooking, and exercise. Cost: \$370. **14-day Lifestyle Renewal Seminar**—July 22-August 5. Cost: \$740. Location: Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, TN. Contact: Charene 931.724.6706. www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org.

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Announcements

The Second International Bounty-Pitcairn Conference will be held at Pacific Union College, August 20-21, 2012. Attendees will enjoy presentations and discussions about Pitcairn Island and its Adventist connections. Complete details about the conference are available at www.2012BPC.com.

Oak Park Academy Alumni Weekend will be held September 28 -29, 2012, in Gates Hall, 825 15th St., Nevada, Iowa. All alumni and former faculty and staff are invited to attend. For more information, contact Mary Dassenko Schwantes at 636.527.0955, or maryschwantes@sbcglobal.net. Send us your email—postage is too expensive! Send them to Warren Wooledge at

warrenw2u@gmail.com, or call 402.570.0346.

The Los Lunas church in N. Mex., would like to get in contact with the following persons: London Banks, Charlene Ortega, Michael Ortega, Larry Roche, Monique Roche, Gabriel Roche, Troy Bennet, Lisa Hoenigke, Dolly Raley, and Jamie Mireles. If you know a phone number, and/or address, please contact Betty Johnston at 505.861.0105, at labetjohnston@msn.com.

Ozark Adventist Academy invites all former faculty, staff, and students to attend Homecoming Weekend, June 8-10, 2012. Plan to sing with the alumni choir, visit with classmates and friends, and enjoy the beautiful OAA campus. For more information, call 479.736.2221 ext. 1109, or visit the Web site: www.ozarkacademy.org.

Madison College Alumni Association Homecoming will be June 22-24, 2012, honoring the classes of 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957, and 1962. Also invited are those who attended Madison College, Madison College Academy, and the Anesthesia School. We will have activities and meals beginning Friday evening through Sunday morning at the Madison Academy campus. For information, contact Henry Scoggins at 615.919.7767, or Jim Culpeper at 615.415.1925.

Second Annual Andrews University Leadership Conference will be July 20-23, 2012, at Andrews University. The keynote speaker will be Daniel Goleman, best-selling author of *Emotional Intelligence*. Conference topics include emotional, social, and spiritual leadership. To register, go to www.andrews.edu/grad.

Obituaries

GÓMEZ, Reynaldo, born January 20, 1947 in Santa Rosa, Tex., and died March 21, 2012 in McAllen, Tex. He was a member of the Edinburg church. Survivors: wife, Carmen Gómez of Santa Rosa; daughter, Melinda G. Turner, of Dallas, Tex.; son, Francisco Gómez, of Austin, Tex; mother, Julia Gómez of Santa Rosa; brothers, Ricardo and Martin Gómez of Santa Rosa; sisters, Elida G. Yañez, of Sugarland, Tex., and Yolanda G. Hernandez, of Santa Rosa.

GOSS, Alice Gertrude (Franklin), born on October 8, 1921 in Martinsville, Ind., and passed away March 27, 2012, in Claremore, Okla. Alice was a long-time member of the Tulsa First church. For many years, her free time was filled with volunteer work and other activities associated with the church. Survivors: daughter and son-in-law, Carolyn and J.T. Branch, of Claremore; three grandchildren, Jane Emily Shaw and Michelle Elaine Burton, of Tulsa, Okla.,

and Gregory William Shaw, of Claremore.

HINES, Edna Marie, born April 7, 1920 in Tiffon, Mo., and died April 16, 2012. She was a member of the Fort Worth Handley church at the time of her death, and previously had been a member of the Tulsa First church for more than 50 years. After retiring from teaching pre-school, Edna enjoyed spending time with her daughters' families and being a grandmother. Survivors: sister, Gail; daughters, Sharon Gail and husband, of Plano, Tex, and Del Jeanne and husband, of Arlington, Tex.; six grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

WILLIAMS, George (Bud) Wiley, born July 9, 1933 in Weir, Alaska, and died February 20, 2012 in Alvarado, Tex. He was a member of the Hillsboro church. Survivors: wife, Floren Quilliams of Alvarado, Tex.; son, Gary Williams, of Morrison, Tenn.; daughters, Debra Tucker of Alvarado, Donna Eagan of Florissant, Colo., and Deana Rook, of Norman, Okla.

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SABBATH SUNSET CALENDAR

	Jun 1	Jun 8	Jun 15	Jun 22	Jun 29	Jul 6
Abilene, TX	8:41	8:44	8:47	8:49	8:50	8:50
Albuquerque, NM	8:15	8:19	8:22	8:24	8:25	8:24
Amarillo, TX	8:56	9:00	9:04	9:05	9:06	9:05
Brownsville, TX	8:17	8:20	8:23	8:25	8:26	8:26
Dallas, TX	8:30	8:34	8:37	8:38	8:40	8:38
El Paso, TX	8:07	8:10	8:13	8:14	8:16	8:15
Fort Worth/Keene, TX	8:32	8:36	8:39	8:41	8:41	8:41
Gallup, NM	8:25	8:29	8:32	8:34	8:35	8:34
Galveston/Houston, TX	8:17	8:20	8:23	8:25	8:26	8:26
Gentry, AR	8:30	8:34	8:37	8:39	8:40	8:39
Little Rock, AR	8:17	8:21	8:24	8:26	8:26	8:26
Muskogee, OK	8:32	8:36	8:39	8:41	8:41	8:41
New Orleans, LA	7:56	8:00	8:02	8:04	8:05	8:05
Oklahoma City, OK	8:40	8:44	8:47	8:49	8:49	8:49
Roswell, NM	8:02	8:06	8:09	8:11	8:12	8:11
San Antonio, TX	8:29	8:32	8:35	8:37	8:38	8:37
Shreveport, LA	8:17	8:21	8:24	8:26	8:26	8:26
Tulsa, OK	8:35	8:40	8:43	8:44	8:46	8:44

BY JONATHAN ARMSTRONG

The “Uncomfortable” Walk with Christ

IF I’VE LEARNED ONLY ONE THING THROUGHOUT MY WALK WITH CHRIST, it’s that if everything seems ok, then something is very wrong. Don’t get me wrong, a loving relationship with Christ brings a peace that nothing else can, but the journey is hardly “comfortable.”

I never really put much thought into my spiritual walk until I was about 11 or 12 years old. While I’d say I was a lucky kid with a good upbringing (both of my parents were there for me, I never went hungry, and I always went to church), I was never really happy, and I longed for something to give me purpose. It was around that time that I started attending an intense Bible seminar at my church. A short while later, I was baptized, and it had a much larger effect on my life than I ever would have guessed.

Studying the Bible taught me how to consider others instead

which boosted my self-esteem. My newfound sense of self-worth improved my grades, like some kind of miracle tutor. Improved grades boosted my self-esteem even higher, which caused every other part of my life to improve, as well. To this day, I’m in shock and awe at just how much the Lord blessed me then, and how He continues to bless me.

When you live the life of a Christian, every decision you make is an attempt to follow God’s will, and you have to trust that God’s will is what’s best. Unfortunately, no matter just how enormously

blessed I am, Satan has constantly tried to lead me astray. Every day I’m plagued with questions. “What if God doesn’t exist?” “What if my decisions aren’t right?” “What if I’m wasting my effort?”

Some people like to say that Christians simply follow their emotions, and don’t look at life objectively. Let me tell you that if I only followed my emotions, I would not be a Christian today. When my heart tells me to do what’s best for myself, instead of what God wants me to do, I’m forced to look at the evidence. God has never led me astray, and every decision I’ve made for Him has only made my life happier in the long run, whereas decisions made for myself have only led to disappointment.

God has revealed Himself in such obvious ways in my life that it’s almost embarrassing that I could ever doubt him. Nonetheless, I have to fight a battle with my heart each day to remember what He’s done for me. It’s a struggle, but with each choice made for the Lord, my faith gets stronger and my life becomes happier. As I said in the

beginning, it’s certainly not a “comfortable” life, but it’s far better than one I lived for myself.

Jonathan Armstrong is a junior communication major at Southwestern Adventist University.



Catherine Wlist

Jonathan Armstrong discovered that his “uncomfortable” walk with Christ is far better than living for himself.

of only thinking about myself, and it was amazing. I’m honestly not trying to blow this out of proportion, but baptism was the turning point of my life. By making a conscious effort to be kind and generous, I became much more sociable and liked at my school,



On the Record »

BY PAT HUMPHREY » COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, SOUTHWESTERN UNION

If I could choose...

ACCORDING TO CONVENTIONAL THINKING, a few of the purposes of higher education are to prepare students to become good citizens, develop critical thinking skills, and obtain the kind of employment that will enable graduates to achieve the “American Dream.” According to the experts, higher education should foster the development of individuals who can think critically, have a broad perspective, and who are culturally literate—people who are well-rounded, and have an expansive knowledge about the culture in which we live.

Judging by those standards, I can confidently say that I obtained a quality education. I attended a very large, well-established private university that is known for its “rich social and cultural life.” Its faculty members are known for their outstanding teaching qualities and engagement in research that has made valuable contributions to our society. I am very thankful for my parents who, though not Christians, recognized the importance of a college education and provided the resources for me to obtain one. My education has helped to refine and enlighten me, and has opened doors for me that would otherwise be closed.

You see, it wasn’t until I was enrolled in graduate school that I was introduced to the Adventist Church and its wonderful system of Christian education. Soon after joining the church, I was married

and joined my husband in Huntsville, Alabama, where we settled into the Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) community and church. As a fairly new Adventist, I was amazed at (and a bit envious of) the deep social and spiritual ties that seemed to bond the students at Oakwood, even though they came from a variety of backgrounds. I can still remember enjoying the rich, soul-stirring music and student-led preaching during the jam-packed Friday-evening programs that we often attended. I also remember thinking and feeling that I had really missed out on something special. And deep down, as I went through that experience, I wished that I could have had the opportunity to change the course of my educational journey. If that were possible, I would have chosen an Adventist college.

Before I discovered Adventist higher

education, I didn’t know there were colleges where teachers prayed with students, both in and out of the classroom. I was amazed that colleges existed where students not only study and learn together, but they also pray, sing, fellowship, and worship together. How I longed for a college experience in which you can make friends that last not just for a few short years, but for a lifetime, because you are bound by a common faith. A place where teachers are interested, not only in guiding your education, but in shaping your future—both for this world and the next.

I can honestly say that if I could make the choice again, I’d choose a college where not only the values of good citizenship, cultural literacy, and the American work ethic are taught, but where Christ is made the center of every aspect of one’s education, from the physical, to the social, to the academic, to the spiritual side of life. Yes, I’d choose a place like that—a place like Southwestern Adventist University! Wouldn’t you?

Record

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- Editor** Pat Humphrey
phumphrey@swuc.org
- Associate Editor** Jessica Lozano
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- Assistant Editor/Designer** Reggie Johnson
rjohnson@swuc.org
- Advertising Manager** Dianne Jones
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