

SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Record

FEBRUARY 2017

*A Community of Knowledge,
Faith, and Service*



SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY



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Southwestern Opens New Dinosaur Museum

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On the Cover

Andre Doneskey, Jasleen Escurado, Loisbet Castro, and Anthony Cortes know that Southwestern Adventist University provides an academic, social, and spiritual framework for life.



Point of View»

BY LARRY MOORE » SOUTHWESTERN UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



A Framework for Life

When we talk about Southwestern Adventist University, we aren't just talking about a collection of buildings on a manicured campus. We're talking about the intentional gathering of people, resources, ideas, and the Holy Spirit to educate and prepare the next generation in an environment that encourages and meets genuine curiosity with mentorship and guidance. It's a gathering which seeks to provide an academic, social, and spiritual framework for life.

We're talking about a place with history, as well as a place filled with hope for the future. Southwestern opened its doors to theology and nursing students in 1894, and, in the more than 120 years since, has graduated thousands of students in a multitude of disciplines. These graduates have traveled the globe to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the capacities to which they have been called—doctors, nurses, secretaries, pastors, teachers, missionaries, business professionals, pilots, stay-at-home parents, police officers, counselors, chefs, and more.

I, too, am a Southwestern graduate, and have spent much of my time in ministry right here in the Southwestern Union. I was recently invited to speak for Southwestern's commencement. I told the graduating class, "Your generation is inheriting a mess. But is that all there is? You look good. You're well-prepared. You've got a lot of fight in you. But you're going to need more than the

fight you've got—you're going to need Jesus to be with you."

I know that, at this special gathering place that is Southwestern, they have had opportunity to meet Jesus, and to have been introduced to the purpose He has for their lives. It is my prayer that these young people will heed His call, build on the foundation built at Southwestern, and live their lives humbly with Jesus by their sides. 🏰



Southwestern graduates (from left) Raisa Bryan, Gilbert Perez, Kimberly Bernhardt, Kimber Foust, Austen Powell, and Mandy Foust Smith.



To Your Health

Dealing with the Doldrums

For many people, life may seem a bit boring as we turn our focus back to jobs, responsibilities, and school after the new year. It can even seem down-right depressing. But there is something we can do about it!

Southwestern Adventist University's new Whole-person Wellness program was created for just this reason, to help students learn daily lifestyle choices that will impact their attitude and success. College is challenging anyway and the months after the holidays can be especially so. Under the guidance of the Whole-Person Wellness program (introduced in the June issue of the *Record*), the campus is currently focusing on rest and nutrition.

Proper rest is important for everyone, but especially students. More than 90 percent of American high school students are chronically sleep deprived, according to a 2016 survey. Losing sleep can also have a long-term negative effect on a young person's physical health, with poor sleep quality being linked to diabetes and obesity risk for teens. Each hour of lost sleep is associated with a 38 percent increased risk of feeling sad or hopeless and a 58 percent increase in suicide attempts. Teens who sleep an average of six hours per night are also three times more likely to suffer from depression.

To encourage better rest and sleeping habits, Southwestern has implemented several ideas. Professors have changed their deadlines to earlier in the day, to help students plan better and avoid procrastinating on assignments. The library closes 30 minutes earlier. The Offices of Student Services and Spiritual Life and Development committed to ending official campus events by 10:30 p.m.

"When I feel rested, I also feel more attentive in my classes," says Tanya, a junior communication major at Southwestern. "I've also learned that eating a whole and healthy meal contributes to my ability to rest and pay more attention in class as well."

Proper nutrition plays a significant part in improving the immune system, increasing cognitive abilities, decreasing stress, and promoting a positive attitude (read more at CreationHealth.com). One of the first

things new Food Service Director and Chef Mandy Smith (Class of 2004) did this year was to assess the nutritional value of the menu, putting an emphasis on fresh and local produce. Accessibility is key in helping students make the right choices. While the cafeteria has been known for years for its wonderful salad bar, the salad bar is now front and center of the food service area, encouraging partakers to pile on the salad first. The Rusty Bucket snack counter is increasingly providing healthy, fresh options to supplement the daily buffet hours. All the juices provided are corn-syrup free and the menu is now close to GMO free, with the goal to be 100 percent free as soon as possible.

Chef Mandy is also looking for new local farms and businesses to partner with. "I'm excited about the possibilities of sourcing our food locally," says Mandy. "Fresh food is better for everyone and supporting our local businesses is important. One hundred percent of our honey and pecans are locally sourced and some of our eggs are local, though I'm still looking for more sources."

But Chef Mandy has another idea for beating back the winter doldrums. "We're looking beyond our menu for ways to make a difference. We are looking for ways we can reach our community," Mandy shares. "We donate all of our scraps to local farmers. As I was making a delivery recently, the farmer shook my hand and told me how grateful he is. He says he has decreased his food bill by more than a third!"



It's harder to be discouraged when you're thinking of other people. Tanya couldn't agree more. "I learned it's important to be active and involved with your friends," Tanya explains, when asked how she deals with the letdown after the holidays. "I try to do as much for other people as I can. No matter what else is going on, it gives me the feeling that I've really accomplished something." You can follow along with the cafeteria's adventures into whole-food nutrition at facebook.com/swaucafe. 🍷

Southwestern Adventist University is incorporating fresh local produce in to meals in the Committee of 100 Cafeteria.

A Different Perspective

THE FIRST TIME I OFFICIALLY SET FOOT ON THE CAMPUS of Southwestern Adventist University was to practice basketball. It was my junior year of high school, and I was playing basketball for a local homeschool team. We didn't have our own gym, so Southwestern let us use theirs. The student employee in charge of the gym was friendly and brought each of our team members a Southwestern teddy bear and information on the University. I soon learned that friendliness was something I could rely on anytime I was on campus. After attending the Hoops Classic, a University-sponsored basketball tournament, I decided to look into enrolling the next year. It was a very friendly and efficient process. Even though there were hundreds of other applicants, they made it obvious that I was important to them and they would do whatever they could to help me succeed.

I continued to find the whole campus atmosphere friendly and helpful. My professors would go the extra mile and it was easy to make friends. As a freshman, I lived off-campus with family, so I didn't immediately get involved in all the events. However, I still found it easy to be accepted as part of the Southwestern family. Classes were just the right size and the professors were so caring and so helpful. I didn't intend to go to Southwestern for more than one year because I thought I needed to go to a larger school for more experience and opportunities. As it turned out, Southwestern was exactly what I needed.

Because Southwestern is a smaller school, I didn't expect to find a lot of opportunities but that couldn't have been further from the truth. I am a communication major and my professors are very well connected. They are always looking for new ways to

help their students get experience and opportunities. Though my emphasis is in public relations, I have had the chance to branch out into audio/visual and photograph. I have had the opportunity to develop many more skills than I thought possible.

I was also a bit apprehensive about attending Southwestern because I was not raised a Seventh-day Adventist. I was raised in a non-denominational Christian home. We studied the Bible every night together. During our studies, we noticed that the Sabbath commandment says to keep the seventh day holy. As a family, we decided to start keeping the Sabbath. We hadn't heard of Adventism until I visited Southwestern's campus.

I didn't need to worry. While Southwestern is a very spiritually strong campus, I have never felt forced or pressured into being an Adventist. My professors and fellow students exemplify Christ's example to love and accept everyone.

During my freshman year, I attended Week of Prayer. It was a wonderful experience to see my fellow students leading out. I was so impressed that I decided to give the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church a try. I now consider it my home church and plan to continue attending after graduation.

Southwestern is such a supportive network and I now realize how unique it is. In talking with friends at other schools, I know I was meant to be here. I believe that God guided me here and I would recommend Southwestern Adventist University to anyone, regardless of their religion. Attending Southwestern has been a very positive experience. This is my family. 🏠



Caressa Rogers

Victory Rigdon (right) didn't expect to attend a Seventh-day Adventist university, but the friendly environment and people at Southwestern Adventist University have made it feel like family.

Victory Rigdon is a junior communication major.



Pass it On...

A Monthly Focus on Evangelism in the Southwest

Field School of Evangelism: *Camaraderie + Hard Work = Success*

Every year the Southwestern Adventist University Theology Department, in conjunction with the Southwestern Union, offers junior and senior theology students the opportunity to preach an evangelistic series within the five-state district of the union. This past summer, the Field School of Evangelism program was hosted by the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference in the Baton Rouge/New Orleans area. There were six students, including myself, who had the privilege of being instructed in that program. We learned what it takes to develop and run an evangelistic campaign through camaraderie and hard work.

From the first day of the program, I began to learn the difference between teamwork and camaraderie. People on a team can dislike each other and yet work together toward an end goal. Comrades, however, have built relationships with each other through experiences and have a single mission for success. Through the duration of the Field School, we had a 15-minute detour to an empty parking lot for lunch, difficulties with schedules and personalities, and experiences in the field that required much prayer. In the end, Field School gave me comrades for life and a fresh perspective on evangelism.

Evangelism is hard work! Evangelist Richard Halvorsen, Jr., and Southwestern religion professor Bill Kilgore provided classroom and field instruction. We knocked on doors, prayed with people, and gave biblical answers to questions, all the while preparing for the two-week evangelism series that we

would be preaching at the end of the program. I learned that, outside of prayer and consecration to God, it takes intentional effort and hard work to be successful in evangelism and consequently build our characters and prepare us for the second coming of Christ.

The Field School of Evangelism was a success. I experienced many people giving their lives to Christ and church members rededicating themselves to the work of reaching souls. I gained comrades for life who shared in my experiences. Finally, I have understood the value of hard work in evangelism that will prepare us for the second coming of Christ. Field School of Evangelism is an opportunity all theology students need. 🙏

Michael Cerda is a senior theology major at Southwestern Adventist University.



Michael Cerda and fellow theology majors participated in the Field School of Evangelism program in the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference.



Campaña de Enseñanza

El estar lejos de casa por seis semanas en una ciudad nueva es difícil. Pasar esas seis semanas compartiendo un pequeño lugar con tus compañeros es aún más difícil. Sin embargo, estos dos desafíos no se comparan con lo difícil que es conducir una campaña evangelística. Pero, de eso se trata la “Escuela de Evangelismo” en Southwestern Adventist University. Antes de graduarme hubiese dicho que lo hacía sólo porque era un requisito, pero ahora puedo decir con confianza que es la mejor experiencia que he tenido.

Mi mente estaba inundada de pensamientos mientras viajábamos a un lugar desconocido a completar un reto como principiantes. Estaba nervioso. Comencé a dudar de mí mismo, “¿Será esto lo que debo de hacer con mi vida? Seguro Dios tiene un propósito por esto, ¿verdad? Debe haber algo que Él me quiere enseñar. Eso espero”.

Lo que aprendí es que Dios jamás te deja solo. A pesar de los desafíos, el miedo, y la duda, Dios convierte tu disposición en algo bueno. Pasar tanto tiempo con sólo seis compañeros y un profesor creó un vínculo inesperado. No sólo los considero compañeros sino hermanos y colegas, hombres de Dios. Además, sé que puedo contar con su apoyo y ayuda. Fue increíble cómo nos conectamos con nuestro profesor, el Dr. William Kilgore. Él nos guió, nos aconsejó, fue mentor, fue ejemplo para nosotros y más que nada fue nuestro amigo.

Después de varias semanas de entrenamiento sobre cómo dirigir una campaña evangelística, llegó el momento de dividirnos en nuestras iglesias para comenzar nuestra propia campaña. Estaba nervioso porque la iglesia era nueva y no conocía a los miembros. Pronto desapareció ese miedo cuando los miembros me extendieron un abrazo y una cordial bienvenida. La iglesia en Metairie, Louisiana fue muy atenta. Se preocuparon sobre donde iría a dormir y a comer. Fui bendecido por la hermana Sylvia quien me proveyó con una cena cada noche después de las reuniones.

La experiencia de la “Escuela de Evangelismo” me enseñó que Dios va a cuidar de nosotros donde sea que estemos. Él pondrá a las personas necesarias en nuestro camino. Aprendí bastante sobre como dirigir una campaña evangelística, pero más allá de eso, mis compañeros se convirtieron en hermanos, mi profesor en mi mentor y los miembros de iglesia en mi familia. 🏠

Edgar Infante estudia teología en Southwestern Adventist University.



SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY SPOTLIGHT



From the President...



Caressa Rogers

As a member of the Southwestern Union church family, you are connected to an incredible University that remains strong in academics, rich in Christian faith, and devoted to Christian service!

Our University family is made up of so many wonderful people including alumni who value their education, cherish the wonderful memories of being a student, provide financial support to upgrade facilities and ensure students have an opportunity to attend, and pray for God's continued blessings on the University. We have talented staff and faculty who dedicate their lives each day to provide students with a quality Christian education. Our students inspire us with their aspirations, their leadership skills, and their desire to serve. We have families who entrust the University with their precious children and who provide financial and spiritual support, and communities and churches who provide valuable

opportunities and sponsorships for our students.

Southwestern Adventist University is one of God's universities; it was instituted by men and women who desired to have a school for their children that was grounded on God's Word. The University continues to value its Bible-based roots and operates to provide Christian leaders for today's society.

In a world of uncertainty, I solicit your prayers for our students, staff and faculty; these are cherished. I also solicit your continued financial support so we can continue to provide the best education in state-of-the art facilities where students will be successful academically, where they can grow their relationship with Jesus, and where they are equipped to make a positive difference in the communities in which they will live. 🏛️

Southwestern Adventist University president, **Ken Shaw, Ph.D.**

2016 Highlights



Statistics:

- #2 Safest College Campus in Texas (up from #3)
- #3 Affordable Colleges Online (out of top 26 nation-wide)
- #21 US News Regional Colleges West Rankings (up from #22)
- #35 US News Best Colleges in Texas (out of 208)
- 61% of faculty hold doctorates.
- 73% retention rate
- 87% of students receive financial aid
- 97% NCLEX pass rate for nursing students
- Students come from 31 states and 32 countries
- Enrollment is 802, up from 790 last year
- Southwestern Adventist University has no debt!
- Endowment fund assets have grown by \$2,832,000 over the last five-year period for a gain of 45%

Accomplishments:

- Business student team tied for first place worldwide in the Business Strategy Competition.
- Enactus Team won the Enactus Regional Competition and placed as a finalist at the Enactus National Expo, placing them in the top 10 percent nationwide.

- New Senior Living Certification program provides certification to professionals in the nursing home and senior living industry.
- Special scholarships are now available to local teachers to complete the Masters in Education program, thanks to a local donor and partnerships with the local schools. Scholarships are also still available for Southwestern Union educators.
- The Film Production class won Best Student Comedy Short at the Lionshead Film Festival in Dallas (page 16).
- The Marketing Department won awards for Best Website and Best Promo Video.
- 88.3 KJRN The Journey, the campus-based radio station reaches over 85,000 weekly listeners in the DFW area and recently ranked #20 out of the top 50 Christian stations in the nation. A new tower has the potential to expand our listener base by 300,000.
- The Dinosaur Science Museum and Research Center opened Fall 2016 (page 10).
- The Committee of 100 Cafeteria went to a tray-less system that saves water and energy. The savings in food, energy, and water costs created a 17% net gain for the department.

A Fresh Outlook

From the moment she stepped on campus, Ann Shaw, wife of Southwestern Adventist University President Ken Shaw, wanted to do her part to enhance the campus life experience. Together with the campus maintenance department, Mrs. Shaw has updated many of the buildings on campus with minor repairs, new carpet, and new paint. Additionally, she has found students to contribute art to the halls and has contributed her own art. The result is a fresh, bright, upbeat facelift to the campus. Some spaces, such as the Mabee Center, now encourage artistic expression and collaboration while the unique 2D paintings in the Scales Science Hall feature chemical and biological elements. 🏠



Above left: Ann Shaw standing with the thousands of cookies she made for students for the first assembly of the year. This has become a tradition and includes vegan and gluten-free options.

Above right: Nursing student Sabrina Illingworth stands next to her ink drawing of a young nurse praying with her sick child patient in the hall of the nursing building.



Bottom: The Mabee Center lobby received a facelift! The space encourages artistic expression and collaboration. Pictured is an art collaboration between students and faculty, where the public was encouraged to join in and paint or work on the large clay pot in time to the live music.

Southwestern Opens New Dinosaur Museum

Southwestern Adventist University is pleased to announce the grand opening of the new Dinosaur Science Museum and Research Center. Located in the bottom floor of the University's Scales Science Hall, the museum is home to over 20,000 dinosaur bones, interactive displays, skeleton replicas, a 3D printer, videos, and opportunities to observe the preservation process. The new space allows for better on-going preservation and research on the bones as well as enhanced educational op-

portunities for the DFW community.

For more than 20 years, Southwestern Adventist University Professor Dr. Art Chadwick and various faculty, students, and science community members have been excavating upper Cretaceous dinosaur bones from the Hanson Research Center in eastern Wyoming. The bones, on loan from the Hanson family, are then transported back to the University campus for preparation, curation, and research. The collection has been featured in many

research projects, presentations at the Geological Society of America, and in numerous videos and documentaries, including National Geographic. "This is something we've worked towards for many years," says Chadwick. "From the beginning, this project has been about preserving the bones for educational and research purposes. Our website allows people from all over the world to access these bones. Now the museum gives our students and community the opportunity to learn from them too."

Members of the Hanson family, who own the property from which the bones are excavated, attended the opening, traveling from Colorado and Wyoming and the museum was often full to capacity during. Dr. Art Chadwick presented a lecture on the Dinosaur Research Project history, as part of the Saxon Lecture Series in Science and Religion, and the Keene Chamber of Commerce and local community leaders participated in a ribbon-cutting



Members of the Hanson family attended the ribbon-cutting, pictured with Dr. Ken Shaw and Dr. Art Chadwick.



Replica dinosaur bones are available to hold and inspect at the Dinosaur Science Museum and Research Center at Southwestern Adventist University.

museum. "He especially enjoyed the T-rex and holding the Triceratops head!"

"I really like the museum," says Jessica, a junior education major. "The fact that our school has a dinosaur museum is really cool! I like how they show the process of cleaning out the bones. I can't wait to bring my friends and family!" The museum is free and open to the public and is specifically designed to encourage school groups to visit. Arrangements for tours can be made by calling 817.202.6336. Regular hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and Sundays from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to park in the Chan Shun Centennial Library parking lot on the corner



Find out more!

as part of the festivities.

Reactions from the community and student body have made the efforts worth it! "My 4-year-old really enjoyed the museum," shared Olivia, a local business owner who brought her son to the

of Magnolia and College Drive, and follow the dinosaur signs to the museum. 📍



Dig dinosaur bones for class credit!

Join Southwestern Adventist University professors and scientists from the around the world at the Dinosaur Research Project dig in Eastern Wyoming!

The dig runs every June. Everyone is welcome, including families and church groups. Length of stay can vary. For more information, visit swau.edu/dinosaurs.

World Renowned Guests at Music Festival

Southwestern Adventist University's annual Music Festival, featuring A Night at the Meyerson, the grand finale concert, is fast approaching. The event features hundreds of high school students from all over the Southwestern Union Conference and beyond. The finale concert at the Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas is the only one of its kind in all the music festivals in the North American Division, providing a world-class venue and experiences to the students. But this year, the 23rd annual concert, promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for all involved!

The 2017 A Night at the Meyerson concert will feature the world premiere of award-winning composer Ēriks Ešēvalds's newest choral composition! Written specifically for the Southwestern Music Festival, Ešēvalds will be in attendance, visiting from his native Latvia, to work with the singers and prepare them for the performance.

Ešēvalds is a much sought-after composer and has received multiple awards for his work, including the Latvian Grand Music Award three times, first prize from the International Rostrum of Composers for his work *The Legend of the Walled-in Woman*, the New-Composer Discovery from the Philadelphia Inquirer, and two CDs that were awarded Best Latvian Classical Album of the Year. He visited and worked previously with the Southwestern University Singers in a workshop on his piece *Stars*, which the Singers performed at the General Conference Session in San Antonio and at last year's A Night at the Meyerson. From that experience with the Singers, Ešēvalds expressed a desire to work on a commissioned piece. This project has been several years in the making to accommodate the demands on Ešēvalds' schedule.



High school students in the Southwestern Union will join Southwestern Adventist University's choir and orchestra for the 23rd annual concert, A Night at the Meyerson. Photos courtesy of Jorge Velez and Southwestern Adventist University's Department of Marketing.

This year's concert will also feature another exciting guest, Chisholm Trail Academy alumnus Raehann Bryce-Davis. Bryce-Davis, a featured soloist, is the winner of the 2016 Richard F. Gold Career Grant, the 2015 9th International Hilder Zadek Competition at the Musikverein in Vienna, the 2015 Metropolitan Opera

National Council Pittsburgh District, the 2015 Sedat Gürel - Güzin Gürel International Voice Competition in Istanbul, and is currently performing dynamic roles in Belgium as a part of the Opera Vlassnderen. For more information on the concert, the weekend schedule, or ticket sales, please visit swau.edu/musicfestival.



Find out more!

New Music Faculty

Southwestern Adventist University is pleased to introduce Dr. Devon Howard as the new Director of Keyboard and Theory Studies. Howard brings with him extensive experience in the music arts and an inspiring sense of adventure. Aside from music, his wife and baby girl, his favorite things are rock-climbing, motorcycles, Italian food (especially tiramisu), and the color orange. His favorite Bible verse is Romans 8:38-39 and he speaks Dutch. He began piano and organ studies at the ages of eight and 13, respectively, and has been sharing his gift for music ever since.

Howard earned a bachelor's degree in organ performance at Southern Adventist University before moving to the Netherlands on a Fulbright Scholarship studying organ performance and improvisation with Aart Bergwerff and Sietze de Vries. In 2012, he completed a doctor of musical arts degree under Dr. Kimberly Marshall at Arizona State University. He comes to Southwestern from the Kettering Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ohio where he served as the Director of Music and the Arts.

Howard has visited the University on several occasions, performing on campus and with Southwestern's Music Festival at the Meyerson Symphony Center as a guest soloist. "I'm excited to be collaborating with the outstanding faculty and administration at Southwestern Adventist University as we continue to build on the legacy of music at the school," says Howard. "It's exciting to join a department that is committed to not only recruiting top quality students, but also to providing them with practical skills and an academic foundation which sets them up for rewarding careers as professional musicians." 🎷



Devon Howard

Exceptional Student

Christian Gonzalez is a freshman music performance major, a graduate of Joshua High School, a Meyerson Festival Scholarship Finalist, and an award-winning sax player. Christian attended another local Christian college and applied to several others, but ultimately he decided Southwestern Adventist University was the place for him.

Christian heard about the University from a teacher and toured the campus last fall. He really enjoyed the tour as he was able to talk to both students and professors. He couldn't get over how friendly everyone was. Sitting in an English class, Christian was surprised to notice how easily the students and professor conversed. The tour was also when he found out about the Music Festival Scholarship and decided to try out.

The experience was amazing, he remembers, as he won one of the finalist scholarships and had the opportunity to play at the Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas. In addition to all the friendly faces, experiences such as the Meyerson is one of the reasons why Christian appreciates Southwestern so much. "Where else do you get a campus where you can be friends with everyone, and still experience something like playing at a venue such as the Meyerson," he asked, laughing.

Christian thinks the campus is just the right size, giving him ample opportunity to make a lot of friends and get to know his professors, though it is likely that some of that has to do with his own gregarious attitude and big, friendly smile. As a non-denominational Christian, he also finds the spiritual atmosphere refreshing. He admits that some things have taken some getting used to, and he misses his bacon, but overall Christian enjoys the campus and all it has to offer, even eating in the cafeteria!

"There is a lot going on for the size of school. I'm getting so much experience. And I just love the beautiful campus, the nice buildings, and all the diversity," he says. "I love hearing about the stories and experiences of people from other countries. I'm getting to know my professors, which I haven't done before. I can talk about spiritual stuff and it isn't unusual."

Christian started playing saxophone at age 10 and, although he prefers the tenor sax, he can play the alto sax and baritone sax equally as well. During his junior year of high school, he earned enough money from working part time at the local H.E.B. grocery store to purchase a brand-new Cannonball tenor saxophone. He knows what it is to work hard for his dreams. It is really nice to be at a place where others are helping him realize those dreams. Just recently, Christian was paid to play for the University gala, giving him the opportunity to meet even more people.

"There are so many opportunities here," Christian says. "Even outside the music department, faculty approach me with other ideas or needs, and I get to go play for an event. My dream is to work with music and film, writing music for film. I love to perform and share my music. I really appreciate that I get so much help and can take film classes along with my music major to round out my knowledge and experience. I just really like it here." 🎷



Christian Gonzalez

Raising the Roof and Test Scores

By Makala Coleman

Nursing students from Southwestern Adventist University are continuing to gain a significantly positive reputation in the DFW area. Because of this, the program is bursting at the seams.

New scholastic and community initiatives have been implemented in the Southwestern Nursing Department. As a result, Southwestern students are ranked as some of the most well-prepared nurses in the nation. Nursing graduates across the United States are given a National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) to determine if a new nurse is qualified to begin practice at an entry level. The ability for nursing students to pass this exam on the first attempt is a marker of an institution's quality.

In 2016, the national NCLEX average pass rate was 84.30 percent. Southwestern Adventist University outperforms most nursing schools with a pass rate of 96.88 percent. Within the State of Texas, there are 113 nursing schools. Southwestern Adventist University ranks in the top 10 percent, at number nine out of 113.

"In the United States now, medical errors rank number three for people's deaths," says Dr. Sallieann B. Hoffer, Chair of Nursing. "That's scary. We have to work together as faculty to change

those statistics and make our students as safe as possible when they leave us."

Nursing students are now offered extensive NCLEX test prepara-



Caressa Rogers

Nursing students Melissa Gibson, Courtney Ryan (above), Kimberly Bernhardt, and Isaias Ortega (right) learn about neonatal care at Southwestern Adventist University.



Caressa Rogers

ration. Kaplan, an exam preparation company, offers a live four-day review on campus. In addition, each nursing student receives Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) exam preparation software, compliments of Southwestern. This software provides practice exams and simulations. Since implementing these tools, Southwestern has seen a 20 percent increase in NCLEX test scores.

In the classroom, students are encouraged to actively participate in learning. They focus on evidence-based projects, applicable to professional work after graduation. Professors often team-teach class to provide more expertise on a subject. The majority of Southwestern Nursing faculty members are educated at the doctorate level with a wide variety of specialties.

“What makes Southwestern so unique is that our professors not only have outstanding credentials, but they are guided by Christian standards and possess a heart to serve others,” says Hoffer. “The nursing professors give tirelessly in order to ensure the students’ success.”



Several faculty members recently joined the Southwestern Nursing Department. Fay Foreman arrived in August. She is a neo-natal nurse practitioner with a master of science in nursing. Hoffer joined the nursing faculty in January. In addition, Dr. Terri Gibson joined the faculty last year and is now leading students in a new community initiative called Wellness Counts.

“Wellness Counts is a partnership with Texas Health Huguley Hospital, the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Southwestern Nursing Department to address community needs,” says Gibson. “It’s one thing to learn about your health, but it matters that you make changes so you can be healthier and stay out of the hospital.”

In addition to Wellness Counts, Southwestern nursing students are incredibly involved in the community. In the last year, they offered a clinic at the Keene Business Expo, volunteered with Meals-on-Wheels, hosted a bone-marrow drive, and more. “We are super proud of our students and faculty for holding the

bar high,” says Gibson.

From the NCLEX to the community outreach, Southwestern nursing students are taught to be caring and professional nurses. The new nursing facility will enable Southwestern to attract students who desire to attend a school where state-of-the-art equipment is used that simulates real-life situations in hospitals, doctor’s offices, and clinics where they will work. Nursing students already account for a quarter of the University’s total enrollment and continues to be one of the top draws for local Johnson County students.

With all of this growth in the department, the urgent need for the new Nursing and Administration Building increases. Nursing department classes are spread out between four buildings, but space is still cramped. The new building will provide space for growth and the latest in technology. Southwestern students and staff have been witness to one miracle after another as University alumni and friends allowed God to answer prayers for this project

through them. What a testimony of God’s power for our students!

As of this printing, \$9.7 million has been donated, with another \$4 million given in pledges! The monies given and pledged will cover all the construction, architectural costs and other fees. Funding is still needed to cover the furnishings and equipment. The new building construction is scheduled to begin this spring and the grand opening of the new building will take place prior to the beginning of the 2018 fall semester.

As the new building begins to rise up out of the ground, it is a testament to God’s providence, and the commitment of hundreds of donors to Southwestern Adventist University, and its students.

“I am overwhelmed by the response. We are so grateful to our alumni and friends for the response to this project,” says Dr. Ken Shaw, University president. “We have seen Him work miracles and bless this project.”

Makala Coleman is a 2015 communication graduate and freelance writer.



Find out more!

Growing a Department

The communication department at Southwestern Adventist University has some big dreams. “We’re just blowing it up,” says Mike Agee, department chair and University alumnus, speaking of the Communication Department. “We’ve got dreams, we’ve got some big plans. We’ve doubled our enrollment. So come along for the ride!”

The plans started taking shape when Kyle Portbury, the award-winning director of the recently released Adventist film *Tell the World*, joined the team from Australia in fall 2015. He also directed the television series *Beyond the Search*, which won 14 international awards including the prestigious CINE Golden Eagle. Kyle’s award-

winning documentary *The Mountain Within* chronicled the challenges of seven disabled climbers as they tackled Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania featuring an original score by Emmy award-winning composer Michael Price (BBC *Sherlock*). Michael was a guest judge for the department’s 48-hour film challenge in 2016.

The department is no stranger to awards. Communication department chair Michael Agee, who is also the General Manager for KJRN The Journey radio station, won three Dove Awards (and several others) at his previous station. The Journey just recently placed 20th out of the top 50 Christian radio stations in the nation and has grown to over 85,000 listeners weekly. Veteran commu-





Kyle Portbury, award-winning director and Southwestern Adventist University associate communication professor is pictured with Tanya Soria while editing a project (opposite). Shane Miosi is recording Christian Gonzalez and Kyles Hines with Tanya Soria at the microphone.

nication professor Glen Robinson has written 20 books, has more than 200 published articles and stories, and has won two national Angel awards in editing and writing.

But the professors aren't the only ones winning awards. In June 2016, the film production class won Best Student Comedy Short at the Lionshead Film Festival in Dallas for their short film *The Prepper*. The class worked together, under the direction of Portbury to produce the short film. After completing *The Prepper*, each student in the class also produced individual short film projects. One of those films, produced by student Shane Miosi and titled *100% Match*, was recently officially selected and screened at the Rockport Film Festival in Texas.

For the students, this is exactly the experience they're looking for. "I found it pretty cool that our film was accepted into the Lionshead Film Festival," says Justin Hudgins, senior communication major, who had the privilege of accepting the award at the festival. "I can say that I wasn't expecting to win an award. This whole experience was quite rewarding for me, as making films is something I have an interest in doing."

New experiences are quickly becoming the norm for the communication department. Earlier in the year the department hosted its first 24-hour film challenge, with teams attending from all over the U.S. The event culminated in a film festival with celebrity judges, including Michael Price. The event was so successful, the University has decided to make it an annual event.

Spring semester of 2017 sees the department launch something else new, The Institute of Christian Film. With a number of screenplays already in discussion with major studios for distribution deals, "We are working hard to create real world opportunities for our students," says Portbury. "Southwestern is in a unique position thanks to some very strong contacts on the distribution side of the film industry, but we can't do it alone. The institute is actively looking for financial investment to realize these opportunities for our students to become the next generation of Adventist storytellers who will take the Adventist message global." 🙏



Find out more!

Go With a “7”!



When it comes to getting a college degree in preparation for a life career, how does one decide on a college or university?

With so many colleges and universities that would love to have you studying on their campus, how do you decide where you should go? What criteria should be considered to determine what is your best fit? The answers to those questions will come after careful consideration is given to the following questions: What are you looking for? And, what are your top priorities?

If the common denominator of what you want from a college is top-notch academics, a great faculty, an attractive campus with outstanding facilities, an atmosphere of genuine caring, friendliness, and spirituality, and all of that at an extremely affordable cost, then there are very few

places to consider. For a Seventh-day Adventist looking for an Adventist Christian education, there are a lot of colleges and universities that quickly get eliminated, even if they possess some of the above noted features.

So when I match up Southwestern Adventist University to all the above considerations, on a scale of one (1) to seven (7), where one is “not good” and seven is “tops,” Southwestern is always a “7”! It is a reputable institution of higher learning that provides a high degree of academic excellence at a cost that is far less than other comparable institutions. With a variety of grants, scholarships, loans, and work opportunities, financial issues can be resolved.

For years, the campus of Southwestern has been known for its friendliness. There is a culture of acceptance, openness, and friendliness that permeates all of campus

life. Excellence in academics has also always been a high priority. Professors take a keen interest in their students and work hard to see that every student will be as successful as possible in achieving their scholastic goals.

I have been amazed at how many times I have spoken to former students and listened to their personal stories of how caring one or more of their major professors was during their college career and what an impact it made—not just in successfully completing their degree program, but in becoming a true friend of enduring influence.

So what are you looking for? I say, go with a “7”! Go with an institution that will give you what you are looking for in life—and a sharp focus on the life to come. Go with Southwestern Adventist University!

Steve Orian, president

Conway Women’s Ministries Sponsors Christmas Party

CONWAY, ARK. » Theresa Martin, the women’s ministries leader of the Conway church, along with Sharon Dunaway and Karla Montelongo, sponsored a Christmas party for the Faulkner County Women’s Shelter on December 17, 2016. There were seven women and seven children who were guests. They were comfortable in the decorated fellowship hall where they shared their favorite holiday memories and talked about the nativity story and then prayed. After a nice supper of soup, dip, crackers, and cake for dessert, the children were given gifts of toys and each woman received a gift bag containing literature, goodies, and some homemade scarves and hats that Susan Engel and her mother made for this occasion. Even though it was a cold and rainy evening, the families felt the love expressed to them by the Conway church and said they were “blessed.”

Rusty Litten



Explore Prophecy at Slidell Church

SLIDELL, LA. » James Stevens, former Texico Conference president, is not being idle during his retirement. He preached an Explore Prophecy seminar at the Slidell church, and the church has gained 14 members from this effort. As the meetings came to an end, several baptisms took place at the end of October and early November, 2016.

Milton Reggio, brother of current and long-time member David Reggio, was the first to be baptized on October 28. On Friday evening, November 4, there were three more baptisms and a profession of faith: Diane McBride, Aileen Atkinson, and James Coster were baptized, and James' wife, Carol Coster, joined by profession of faith. Diane and Aileen's husbands had joined the church through prior meetings with Tommy Blount. The following day, Ruby Bush, Kim Haynes, and Thomas Jennings were baptized in front of family, friends, and the Slidell church congregation. Ruby and Kim

are mother and daughter.

The following week, Blanche Orde-neaux and Brenda Winters were baptized on Friday evening, and the Sabbath worship service witnessed Clarence Davis III and Georgette Davis baptized with Clarence Davis, Jr., (Georgette's husband and

father of Clarence III) and Frankie Davis, (Georgette's mother-in-law) being re-baptized with their family members. We thank God for and welcome the new members as additions to the Slidell church family.

Vernella Rogers



▼ Baptismal candidates with James and Rita Stevens.



Texarkana Distributes Hacksaw Ridge Books

TEXARKANA, ARK. » Hacksaw Ridge, the true story of Adventist conscientious objector Desmond Doss, opened in Texarkana with a pre-showing Thursday, November 4, 2016. On Tuesday morning preceding the first showing, Brenda Litchfield, personal ministries leader in Texarkana, met with several prayer warriors before asking the theatre manager for permission to set up outside the theater to distribute the book, *Hacksaw Ridge*. Prayer was answered when the manager gave approval for the book distribution, not outside, but in the lobby of the theater.

Daniel Hudgens, an elder at the Magnolia church, created a poster with the book cover announcing the free book. It drew quite a crowd, and Brenda's team had a wonderful response, but after an hour, the manager told the team she was in trouble

with her boss for giving permission to distribute the book; however, they could finish the night. She said they might be able to set up outside on Friday. The manager even offered to distribute books for Brenda while she took a break.

The team arrived Friday morning at 10:30 a.m., planning to hand out books for the first showing. The boss wasn't due in until 4:00 p.m., so they had no problem setting up in the lobby. When he did come, he totally ignored them, and the team stayed until 10:30 that evening without a word from the manager's boss. The team returned to the lobby on Sabbath about 2:30 p.m., and left around 4:30 after distributing all 800 books.

Several employees came by for books and were glad to see the team still there on Sabbath, because they wanted to see

if they could have books for friends. The employees always helped set up each day and helped take down at night and stored everything in one of their rooms.

Some who refused books on the way in rushed to get one on their way out. One patron and the manager chased Brenda out to the church van while she was packing up to leave. She gave the manager and the patron her two last books.

Carl Bandy, a team member, distributed more books to veterans at the Golden Corral's yearly meal for veterans. Because of this response, Daniel Supler, pastor, had to rush more books to him. When people asked who sponsored the books and were told it was Seventh-day Adventists, they smiled and said "God bless you."

Lorretta Johnson



Brenda Litchfield and Annette Moore hand out books about Desmond Doss at the premier of Hacksaw Ridge.

The Southwestern Difference



According to the National Center for Education Statistics, there are 4,726 post-secondary, degree-granting institutions in the United States. I'll go out on a limb and say that the majority of them are less expensive than Southwestern Adventist University. The expenses of any college or university are daunting, causing many families to seriously consider public education. Unfortunately, many are wondering if the additional cost of a Christian education is truly worth it. I answer with an emphatic, YES!

There are several points worth mentioning. A favorite among Christian education apologists is the spiritual atmosphere on Adventist campuses: everything is geared toward enhancing the faith we as Seventh-day Adventists profess. However, the strategies for successful careers in education, nursing, and a plethora of other fields are not limited to a small private college in North Texas. What truly sets Southwest-

ern apart from the secular colleges and universities is the positive impact the faculty and staff make in the lives of the students who attend.

During my time at Southwestern, my life was changed by faculty who not only taught me, but loved me and modeled Christian service. I think of Dr. Barbara Jones, who on a day off came by her office to pick up something and wound up staying for three hours, helping students in a class she wasn't even teaching that semester. Robert and Bev Mendenhall, former communication department chair and alumni director, respectively, opened up their home for those who could not go home on a school break. More than once, I had a good meal and watched the Dallas Cowboys on Thanksgiving Day at their home because I had to stay at school and work to pay my bill!

Some might be tempted to say, "That was then, this is now." Fortunately, this faculty and staff behavior has not changed at Southwestern. I know several students

who attend Southwestern currently and I still hear similar stories. One student was captain of a team and needed an additional player. When she spotted Dr. Ken Shaw, the university president, walking up the sidewalk, she asked him to play even though she figured he would say no. Instead, he asked when the game was, said he would be there, and he was! He makes a point to be available to students and the public alike. Last year, his office was able to accommodate a meeting with me without much advance notice. I don't see that happening in one of the large state schools. Can you get a less expensive education somewhere else? Yes. Can you find a greater value? Absolutely not!

Don't take my word for it. Call, write, and talk to the people who are molding and shaping the next generation of leaders in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. You, too, will discover the Southwestern difference.

Jim Landelius, Native Ministries Director

TAA's Outdoor Challenge

TULSA » A busload of high school students and adult sponsors maneuvered out of the Tulsa Adventist Academy (TAA) parking lot at 7:00 p.m. one balmy November evening in 2016. Their destination was Sedona, Arizona, but unlike many travelers' wishes for pampering and shopping, this group was anticipating stars, sunshine, fire, ice, rivers, tents, hiking, biking, canyons, rocks and bonding. TAA's high school challenge brought together 22 students, one baby boy, one very fluffy, big dog and 10 adults for eight days free from flushing, homework, technology and bathing (unless two frigid river dips count). The adult subject matter experts were trip coordinator, science teacher and 11th grade sponsor Louis Melchor; Mike Moon; TAA School Board Chairman Rowland Knight; Kenneth and Becky Seery; mathematics and 9th/10th grade sponsor Larry Seery; and TAA principal Mark Griffin and his wife, Marilyn

Griffin, TAA high school vice principal.

What is the purpose of such an adventure? TAA's motto is "thrive." For all TAA students, that means establishing a personal relationship with Jesus and confidence in the power of the Gospel; cultivating a sense of responsibility for the welfare of their home, their community, and their nation; and developing the ability to think independently and critically. Thriving during the required week-long high school challenge included self-discovery, bonding as a group, personal challenges, spiritual discovery and experiencing the natural world as God's first book.

Growing up in the Pacific Northwest as students and then educators with the resources of the vast federal lands as a classroom, the vision of Mark and Marilyn Griffin was to develop an academic high school program that included immersing students in God's wonderful first book. When

that vision was combined with the similar experiences that Mr. Melchor and his wife, a former TAA Spanish teacher, had as students at Mount Ellis Academy in Bozeman, Montana, the vision came to fruition. Some of the Melchors' outdoor challenges were climbing to a summit within the Grand Tetons, and climbing up to Glacier National Park's glacier. "These experiences helped us build strong relationships with fellow students and brought us closer to God," says Mr. Melchor.

Last year was TAA's first adventure, in Colorado. This year, the first outdoor activity was camping at Star B Ranch in Sand Springs, OK. For November's trip, the group first stopped at the incredible Grand Canyon for some breath-taking sights; for many, it was the first time to visit God's splendor in this realm. Later in the day, they pitched camp in the Coconino National Forest, well after dark. Thankfully,

many of the students have been or are Pathfinders, so pitching a tent in the dark wasn't as difficult as it could have been.

What are the results of such an adventure? An appreciation for nature, freedom from phones, time to revel in outdoor sports, and strengthen friendships, for starters. Students also learned survival skills in the "jaw-dropping-red-rock paradise" that makes Sedona popular, says Melchor. Bristow Seventh-day Adventist Church pastor and Oklahoma Conference communication director James Bokovoy was the official photographer and resident chaplain. Hearty

singing and heartfelt prayers were expected, but one of the worship features was encouraging students to share short testimonies (Tiny-Ts) each evening. This helped students open up about their views on spiritual matters with peer support all around, and is a witness to students of other faiths.

Practical lessons were applied as the students prepared all of the meals: the fishing class provided some evening meals, thanks to Mike Moon. "I'm glad I got to try prickly pear for the first time, and I enjoyed cooking our own food every evening," freshman Kyle recalls.

Independent and critical thinking skills were crucial in the fire building skills: Rowland Knight, who helped students build fires using lenses, bags of water and other uncommon fire-starting items. "There were very few resources in this arid, mountainous area, and mostly old juniper trees. You can build a fire by making tinder from clear plastic bottles and other trash items, and tree pitch is very useful to make a torch. But aside from showing students how to do these things, they had to think outside the box because there was no

one to call, nowhere to obtain items and it was very difficult to start a fire," Knight says. The difficulty in creating a fire from scratch was minimal compared to the difficulties some of TAA students have endured in their lives, Knight adds. "For some, TAA is a refuge."

Students reacted positively, despite the hardships. Some "firsts" for many of the high school students included eating prickly pear cactus; cleaning a fish; "going a week without a cell phone" said Taylor, a junior; using a squat-pot; sliding down a mountain (on purpose!); and visiting Ari-

One day was spent with high school students from Holbrook Indian School (HIS) and they were given a special welcome since they brought a portable potty with them. The group studied Native American history at Montezuma Castle National Monument and Montezuma National Well Monument, then careened and slipped down a natural water slide at Slide Rock State Park. This activity was rated number one by most of the students! "I'm still finding red dirt here and there," laughs Jordan, a junior.

Several students especially enjoyed a trip to a cave with Mr. Ojeda, from HIS. The spelunkers sang inside the cave, their voices echoing through the underground chambers as if they were a choir.

The high school challenge is meant to enrich TAA students' lives in every aspect, especially in leadership and team building. "Having the opportunity for our young people to rediscover God's first book (creation) in person, in real life, is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for many. With not only our staff but

the TAA school board, Oklahoma Conference and Southwestern Union office in support of this program from the very first day, it is clear that this is a much needed ministry," says Mr. Griffin.

Although some students were reluctant about the physical consequences of days of strenuous hiking and biking, 19 over-the-coals-with-what-you-caught meals, below-freezing night temperatures and two very icy river baths, freshman Sophia remembers "I saw God in different ways during our activities," and that is just one example of how TAA helps its students thrive.

Caroline A. Fisher



Tulsa Adventist Academy students stand at the edge of the Grand Canyon.

zona.

Mountain biking was a winning activity with the students also, even the face-first wipe-outs, according to sophomore Sarah. During the bike rides, sophomore Jeremiah was impressed not only by the breathtaking views, but "It was awesome how nature could be so calming."

Some of the other skills learned were environmental (digging toilet pits, hauling water, weather extremes), and hands-on "classes" included identifying edible plants, hiking, mountain biking, fire building and fishing. Students also focused on group relationships, enjoying life without technology, and encouraging each other in their walks with God.

Lawton On the Move

LAWTON » Last fall was abuzz with activity: “Herbs as Medicine”, presented by Dr. Annex Luberisse, kicked off a renewed interest among church members and visitors alike at the Lawton Seventh-day Adventist Church. From October 28-30, Dr. Luberisse, a Naturopath and Holistic practitioner with Marshall Lifestyle Clinic in Marshall, MO, explained how many church members have many of the same ailments as mainstream America because we’ve lost sight of eating healthfully, getting enough exercise and enough rest. He also noted that many of us just don’t drink enough water. On Sunday, he met with attendees for private consultations to help them with specific health issues and offered advice and free samples. One of our elder members who suffers debilitating back pain took his advice and within a few days was almost pain free, saying, “It’s nothing short of a miracle for me.” Some members plan future trips to Marshall Lifestyle Clinic in the coming year.

Not letting the momentum wane, Sabbath, November 5th started “Revival Week” with Evangelist Harold Brooks of Tampa,

Florida. Being a towering man with a booming yet melodious voice, he kept us on the edge of our pews. Inspired preaching and uplifting music by the group “Undivided” filled us with the renewed hope that the Lord is soon on His way. As Sabbath drew to a close, we praised God together as four souls were baptized.

Willie Brown had been baptized privately and wanted to share his joy publicly. Georgia Megehee, originally baptized 16 years ago, was born again and chose to be re-baptized. Second Lt. Kevin Blash, Jr., a newlywed soldier is now also

a soldier for Christ, and shares with others his joy in the Lord. Annette Lyles learned of the true Sabbath while watching our local 3ABN station. She had begun attending church several weeks before the revival and now has five other family members attending church with her. Lawton is again on the move. Lawton’s pastor, Gregory Stinson, says, “Let’s prepare in the coming year for another revival and grow this church!” To that, the congregation said, “Amen.”

Charlotte Myers

New members at Lawton Adventist Church include Kevin Blash Jr., Willie Brown, Annette Lyles, and Geogia Megehee (left to right).



LEGAL NOTICE

Oklahoma Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Notice is hereby given that the Sixty-ninth Regular Session of the Oklahoma Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at the Edmond Seventh-day Adventist Church, located at 4701 East Danforth Road, Edmond, OK 73034, on Sunday, April 30, 2017. The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers and directors for the ensuing quadrennial term and to transact such business as may properly come before the session. The meeting will convene on Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

According to the bylaws, each church is entitled to one delegate for the organization and one additional delegate for each thirty (30) members or major fraction thereof. Delegates must hold membership in the local church which accredits them.

John H. Moyer, President

Richard C. Dye, Sr. Executive Secretary

Roger Driver, Treasurer

Muskogee Berean Adventist Church Celebrates 100 years

MUSKOGEE, OKLA. » The Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church in Muskogee, Oklahoma celebrated 100 years in 2016. The church was organized in 1916 by W.G. Nuñez and W.S. North. The theme for the weekend was “We’ve Come This Far by Faith.” The celebration began on Wednesday night, September 28th, with a soul stirring sermon entitled “My Ebenezer” by Tyrone Douglas, former pastor and current youth director for Southwest Region Conference. Thursday night continued with a power-packed sermon entitled “The Just Shall Live by Faith” by J. Malcolm Phipps, Jr., former and current pastor. Friday night, we heard a Holy Spirit saturated sermon entitled “Building on the Past with the Future in Mind” by former pastor and former Southwest Region Conference president, Sam Green. On Sabbath, our hearts were thrilled as we listened to Calvin Watkins, president of Southwest Region Conference, preach “Stuck in Lodebar.” Braylon Dedmon, saxophonist, brought the house down with “Encourage Yourself.” We were blessed to have Terry Foster as our guest musician for the day. Sabbath evening closed with a concert followed by vespers given to us by Rawdon Brown. Each night we were fa-

vored with special music by Teresa Freeman, the Mount Zion Men’s Chorus, Norma Mayfield as well as the Peter’s Chapel AME church.

Adelaide Hershey and Juanita Davis were honored for being the oldest members in the church. Marvin Freeman was honored for his service to the church as head elder along with his son, Andrae Freeman, and his wife, Shenelle, for their community involvement each year in providing for the homeless in Muskogee. Norma Mayfield, who is not a member, was honored for her years of dedicated service as the pianist for the Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church.

A presentation was also made by Phillip Palmer, treasurer for the SWRGC, to the Berean Church.

We had a delicious Sabbath lunch prepared by Odessa Griffin and Gwen Freeman. The menu consisted of choplets, cooked greens, yams, macaroni and cheese, cornbread, salad and various desserts.

It was a Spirit-filled extended weekend.



The Berean Adventist Church in Muskogee, Oklahoma celebrating 100 years with special guest Southwest Region Conference President Calvin Watkins.

The Holy Spirit was present and everyone in attendance walked away with a blessing. “To God be the Glory” for truly “We’ve Come This Far by Faith.”

Deniece Anderson

Berean of Baton Rouge

BATON ROUGE, LA. » Continuing its tradition of Christmas worship programs, the Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church recently hosted its annual Christmas concert thanks to Henry Jones, Berean’s own music maestro. This time the invitation went to “The Zion Harmonizers,” an ensemble of seven males whose roots originated in a Zion City community in New Orleans in 1939. Thus their 11 AM performance at Berean commemorated their “77 Years of Harmonizing” traditional

Brazella Briscoe (left) praising in song with Marion Chambers (right).





gospel music. According to president and lead singer Brazella Briscoe, who began by acknowledging the absence of Benjamin Francois who left the group to pastor the Slidell Glad Tidings Seventh-day Adventist Church, “Today we are one of the last to carry on the tradition of an earlier era. Once you see The Zion Harmonizers in action, you’ll find yourself clapping your hands and maybe even singing along.”

In addition to performing nationally, the ensemble’s international repertoire has taken them to Spain, Italy, Holland, and Brazil. During their Berean performance, the group, handsomely clad in their signature black suits and white shirts complemented by their identical black neckties, rendered some traditional Christmas songs such as “Joy to the World,” but interspersed them with familiar and for some, unfamiliar favorites in-

cluding “This Old Soul of Mine,” “At the Meeting,” “Bringing in the Sheaves,” and the late Curtis Mayfield’s (of the pop group “The Impressions”) “People Get Ready.” True to what Briscoe predicted at the outset, the audience found itself responding on its feet while hand clapping, swaying to the beat and at the group’s invitation, joining them in song. After all, there was no ignoring the sounds emanating from keyboardist J.B. Warrick who has the distinction of having been with the group for 60 years, percussionist Brandon Woods, lead guitarist Lloyd Smith, sound technician and first tenor Marion Chambers, bass guitarist William Briscoe, keyboardist and vocalist Ronald Robinson, with Brazella Briscoe at the helm. With a de-

The Zion Harmonizers with Berean Adventist Church’s director of music and concert organizer, Henry Jones in red jacket, pastor T. Ron Weegar in pastoral robe, and J. B. Warrick, who has been with the group for 60 years (seated).

gree of apprehension, what we anticipated came with Briscoe’s announcement of the group’s last song “When We All Get to Heaven,” a fitting conclusion to a tribute to our Lord in song. Our pastor and Hebrew scholar T. Ron Weegar’s reciting of Psalms 150: 1-6 in Hebrew followed by English added to the praise in song already rendered by “The Zion Harmonizers” as we echoed our “Amen’s” to David’s “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.”

Evelyn M. Edwards

The Third Time

BATON ROUGE, LA. » The year was 2015 and the beginning of a tradition that would reveal itself twice in the following year. It would reek of the camaraderie between the mother church and its fledgling, but proud offspring. And even though some might want to equate it with the adage “The third time’s the charm,” it refuses to accept the association. The “it” referred to is the annual combined communion between the Berean church and the Faith church. This united communion began under Berean’s most recent former pastor, Robert Davis, who along with Faith’s most recent former pastor, Michael Bailey, embraced David’s 133rd Psalm (NIV): “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity.” Thus, the beginning of the united Holy Ordinance of Communion services. The first was in 2015 and saw Mother Berean travel across town to her former child, Faith, and the family celebrated communion together with Davis delivering the spoken Word. January ‘16 began with Faith making the trip to Berean where Faith’s Bailey spoke. Thus the year 2016 would begin and end with a union of the two church families gathering for communion, with Faith beginning the year at Berean and Berean ending it at Faith. However, unlike the previous meetings, neither of the two pastors who began it all was present for this candlelight end of the year celebration. Berean’s recently installed T. Ron Weegar would speak with Faith’s First Elder Cheryl A. Moore acting in the absence of her church’s yet-to-be announced pastor.

After the introduction by Moore, Weegar began by noting a connection to the church. “I like the name ‘Faith.’ I have a daughter with the same name,” to the chuckles of some in the au-

dience. He continued by acknowledging the joint praise team, deacons and ushers with emphasis on Moore as Faith’s acting pastor. Using Exodus 14:15 and 16 coupled with Philippians 3:13-14 as his text, he titled his message “Move Forward in 2017.” “For some of you, there was the Baton Rouge flood bringing with it a loss of the very place you called home—not to mention the ensuing battle with the government, your mortgage company and your own finances and for some the very loss of those you deemed friends; while for others it was being spared the raging waters of the flood and their aftermath. Your good year was filled with promotions, and your coffers ran over with your financial savings and your faithful companion by your side. But regardless, as was the experience with the Israelites in Exodus and Paul in Philip-
pians, we all made it through 2016.

Our God wants us to move forward. Yes, we know what 2016 was like, but have no

guarantee of what to expect in 2017. So, let us stretch, press and move forward.” The serving of the ‘wine and bread’ followed with the deacons serving the seated congregation while Weegar and Moore served the elders and deaconesses. At its conclusion and with lights turned off, it was time for the lighting of the five-inch white candle each had received upon entering. Each row was directed to light the candles of the row behind it until the entire sanctuary was ablaze with light. With our candles stretched out in front, Weegar reminded us that we are all reflectors of light, lighting each other up. After extinguishing our candles, and with lights back on, we wished each other a “Happy New Year,” embraced for the last time in 2016 and sang a farewell song. Again, the spirit of unity prevailed as we were obedient to Psalms 133 and looked forward to our next union.

Evelyn M. Edwards



T. Ron Weegar (middle) speaking as communion is served while the Faith church’s elders (from left) James Evans and Cheryl Moore, along with Baton Rouge Berean member Robert Landry, look on. Henry Jones, an elder at the Baton Rouge Berean church, is at the lectern.

The Road to Service



As I thought about what to write in regards to our beloved Southwestern Adventist University (SWAU), institution of higher learning here in the Southwestern Union, my thoughts were led to the Southwestern website. There I learned that way back in the year 1892, a group of Adventists left their places of origin and traveled to a little place later to be named Keene, just east of Cleburne. They sacrificed and purchased 800 acres for \$8,000. During that first winter in that spot to which undoubtedly the Lord had led them, they lived in tents. Having just gone through a week with low temperatures in the low 20s, I shivered when I read that!

Continuing to read the website, I discovered that the new tagline for the University is “knowledge, faith, service.” Under values, Christ, our central focus. What a wonderful statement as to the mission and objectives of the school! Ellen White says the following about the objective of Adventist higher learning in her book *Tes-*

timonies, page 187: “Among far too many, the mind is devoted to self and not to the good of others. (service) This world is not the Christian’s heaven, but merely the workshop of God, where we are to be fitted up to unite with sinless angels in a holy place. We should be constantly training the mind toward noble and unselfish thoughts. This type of education is necessary to bring into exercise the powers which God has given us that His Name shall best be glorified upon the earth....” I think of the fine young pastors, products of SWAU, who serve in the Texas Conference, throughout the Southwestern Union and the North American Division. I think of the many fine nurses who serve in hospitals, and nursing homes throughout Texas and across America, products of SWAU. I think of the fine teachers, younger and older, who serve gallantly here in the Texas Conference, Southwestern Union, and North American Division. I think of the fine men and women who graduated from the business program at SWAU who are a blessing to academies,

universities, conferences, unions, Adventist Health System, and the public and private sector. God is Good! His people are resilient! His work goes forward by the blessing of His hand!

Southwestern Adventist University has made, is making, and will make a difference in our lives, the lives of our families, churches, communities, states and nation. These are the things from which legacies are forged. Far too often, we either forget or overlook the great blessing that we have been afforded to have this institution of higher learning right here in our own backyard! But with privilege comes responsibility. If we don’t lift up our university, who will? If we don’t wholeheartedly support our university, who will? I implore the members of the Texas Conference and the Southwestern Union to come together in support of Southwestern. As 2017 rolls forward, let be united in praying for Southwestern Adventist University, its leadership, faculty, students and families.

Carlos Craig, president

Pineywoods Students Visit Fire Station

NACOGDOCHES » While most children donned costumes and went trick-or-treating on October 31, students from the Pineywoods Adventist Christian School in

East Texas had other ideas. They chose to honor local heroes. In the morning, they traveled to the Nacogdoches Fire Station for a tour during October Fire Prevention

Month. Once there, they saw the fire truck, dorm rooms, and museum. At the end of the tour, the students presented the firefighters with cards and homemade cookies. Honoring the firefighters was the idea of the church’s pastor, Brad Minnett, who worked as a firefighter prior to becoming a pastor. “As Heroes” was a theme the students were already studying, so this was a wonderful opportunity. Giving something back was our school’s way of making a statement that we’re training the students to serve others. The firefighters were humbled by the gifts, and the students and staff were blessed to be able to minister to them.

Jeanie Valdenegro

Pineywoods Adventist Christian School students visit with Nacogdoches firefighters.



Giving Season

HOUSTON » As the holidays drew near, the spirit of the season prompted many of us to reflect on what we should be thankful for. Oftentimes, we are reminded that so many others are not as fortunate to have and enjoy some of the luxuries we take for granted. But as Christians, we are encouraged to carry this spirit of giving with us year-round. The Women's Ministries of the United African Seventh-day Adventist Church in Houston, Texas, keep this spirit of giving as a continuous motivation to be women in action, "lifting Him up" just as their Women for Christ motto says.

Throughout the year, members of the women's ministries department have been collecting and storing donations of toiletries and various personal care items such

as laundry detergent, toilet paper, paper towels, toothpaste, body wash, deodorant, and more. Simultaneously, the Community Services Department was being revamped and reorganized to become an operable food pantry approved by the city of Houston, and requested the congregation donate at least 50 turkeys and additional food items to provide Thanksgiving meal baskets to those in need. On November

20, 2016, the women's ministries and community services departments, under the leadership of Edith Ugboaja and Beatrice Ahamba, respectively, joined hands to accomplish a Big Give initiative.

On this crisp Sunday morning, an overwhelming number of women came to

The Houston United African Seventh-day Adventist Church provided 20 Thanksgiving meals and 300 sack lunches for families and individuals around Houston.



church early to prepare sack lunches, in addition to Thanksgiving food baskets. By 11:00 a.m., after a word of prayer from the Pastor Juneroy Nugent, women divided into groups to act. Those assisting with Community Services took their stations in the community services wing and prepared to check in families coming to receive food baskets, and to possibly meet additional needs of clothing and other items. Likewise, those assisting women's ministries divided into subgroups and car-pooled to different areas of the city looking for homeless people to bless with a meal. Within an hour, some who had gone into the streets came back looking to restock their supply of sack lunches. In all, 300 sack lunches were distributed along with

evangelistic tracts, and 60 Thanksgiving meal baskets were provided to families in need. The large collection of toiletries and personal care items were divided and delivered to both the Star of Hope Women and Family Shelter and Casa De Esperanza House of Hope for Motherless Children. Everyone who participated in one way or the other walked away with a testimony, and many shared the experiences they had while providing some with the only meal they may have eaten for the day, or giving a family something to be thankful for. One resident blessed by contributions given at the Star of Hope commented, "I was once just like you ladies, and I pray God helps me get back to that," then asked to take a picture with them.

Such experiences are Jesus' words made practical in our lives; as Acts says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." The smiles of children, the "thank you" silently expressed by weary eyes, and the relief evident on so many faces, reminded us that we do receive more when we give. The women's ministries department of UAS-DAC look forward to continuing these giving initiatives with more frequency in the coming months. May the Lord continue to impress upon our hearts that it is always giving season. And may we continue to share the love of Christ by being His hands and feet to a needy world around us.

Chinwe Asomugha

LEGAL NOTICE

Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Notice is hereby given that the Biennial Session of the Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church, located at 114 S Fairview St, Keene, TX 76059, on Sunday, April 30, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to review the business of the Conference for the past two years, to consider changes in the constitution and by-laws, and to transact such business as may properly come before the Constituency.

Each church is entitled to two (2) regular delegates for the organization and one delegate for each 60 members who hold membership in the local church which accredits them.

Carlos Craig, President

Elton DeMoraes, Secretary

Edwin Romero, Treasurer

Texas Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists

Notice is hereby given that the Biennial Session of the Texas Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church, located at 114 S Fairview St, Keene, TX 76059, on Sunday, April 30, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to review the business of the Association for the past two years, to consider changes in the constitution and bylaws, and to transact such business as may properly come before the Constituency.

Delegates to the Biennial Session of the Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventist are also delegates to the Texas Conference Association Session.

Carlos Craig, President

Roger Mekelburg, Secretary

Valley Educational Foundation

Notice is hereby given that the Biennial Session of the Texas Conference Valley Educational Foundation will convene at the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church, located at 114 S Fairview St, Keene, TX 76059, on Sunday, April 30, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to review the business of the Foundation for the past two years, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the Foundation.

Delegates to the Biennial Session of the Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are also delegates to the Valley Educational Foundation.

Southwestern Changes Lives



Christian education is about changing lives and developing a relationship with the Lord. Southwestern Adventist University serves that purpose.

Its mission is to educate students not only for a better life here on earth, but to prepare our young people to live with the Lord throughout all eternity. This is the place where mission and education go hand in hand, and where spiritual development is part of their instruction. Developing a relationship with the Lord is an integral part of the curriculum and focus at Southwestern Adventist University.

The other day I heard a parent talking excitedly because her daughter was attending Southwestern. She was a straight "A" student at age 17, had taken college courses and was applying at prestigious universi-

ties. Much to her parent's disappointment, she had no interest whatsoever in attending Southwestern.

Wanting to see her daughter attend an Adventist university, the mom and daughter came to an agreement. They agreed to pray before choosing which school she would attend and then she would go to a university where they would accept all her credits in a dual major program. As they were checking with the different schools, some accepted part of her credits, but not all. One by one the doors kept closing. School after school presented problems. Reluctantly and grudgingly, the student finally went to Southwestern to see what they had to offer. She found they would accept all her credits and enrolled her in the dual program. Everything the mother and daughter had agreed upon would be taken

care of by the university.

Regardless of this confirmation, she still did not want to go. Unenthusiastically, she enrolled. Right away she noticed how the students were friendly and happy. It didn't take long before she too, realized what a great place it was.

She looks forward to attending church, and is excited about doing missionary work. People around her have noticed a positive change in her life, and now her younger sibling wants to attend Southwestern one day.

Adventist education is about spiritual and character development. Southwestern is about changing lives.

Lee-Roy Chacon, president

TEXICO CONFERENCE

Yard Sale for a Greater Cause

AMARILLO, TEX. » Oralia Lozoya was recently appointed by the Amarillo Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church board to be the community services assistant for this year. Ambitiously, she began with a project to collect 50 blankets for the homeless people in Amarillo. Blankets were donated by the church members to be distributed.

A yard sale to help fund the project was scheduled for October 30, but that morning didn't look very promising for an outside sale and some people thought it may need to be canceled. With prayers and words of encouragement, all the items were laid out on the church parking lot. It didn't take long for God to answer our previous prayer for good weather. The sun soon appeared and with the help of about ten people throughout the day, \$291 were collected, which exceeded their expectations. Approximately 150 people came by over the course of the day and many tracts and "Great Hope" books were distributed to them. Some people were also invited to visit the church.

The blankets as well as jackets were



A yard sale was held in the parking lot of the Amarillo Spanish Church to raise funds to help the homeless of the city.

given away to the homeless at the Amarillo Community Services Center on November 20, accompanied with delicious homemade burritos and hot chocolate. A thank

you goes to the Pathfinders who also came and helped with the project.

Juscileide Gomes

Community Outreach in Tucumcari

TUCUMCARI, N. MEX. » A flurry of activity takes place the first Sabbath afternoon of each month in Tucumcari. Banners are hung outside the church building. Is the church hosting an evangelistic crusade? Well, yes, but not exactly. Several pews are removed from the front of the sanctuary. Are members preparing for Bible panel discussions? Well, yes, but not exactly. Tasty food is prepared and placed artfully on individual plates. Is a health lecture going to take place? Well, yes, but not exactly. Classrooms are organized into Bible story-time centers. Is the church preparing for a branch Sabbath School? Well, yes, but not exactly. Craft tables are set up and Bible-

themed craft supplies are laid out. Is the church offering child daycare? Well, yes, but not exactly.

So, what exactly is happening the first Sabbath of each month in Tucumcari? It's Vacation Bible School day (VBS)!

The concept of a VBS day was developed as a result of an extremely successful VBS week. Although it had been many years since the Tucumcari church had offered a VBS, thanks to the generous assistance of the Amarillo Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church, members were able to host a Deep Sea Discovery VBS this past July. The 40 community children who participated daily were encouraged to invite their fami-

lies to a VBS graduation and dinner on the final evening. Church members were inspired by the "over flow" attendance at this event and by the positive comments from community members who typically would not have visited an Adventist Church. Tucumcari Spanish Adventist Church pastor, Mabio Gomes, encouraged church members to nurture the newly-formed friendships through the monthly VBS day. For continuity and ease of planning, "Fruits of the Spirit" was the theme chosen for this outreach with a different "fruit" being presented each month.

Please pray for Tucumcari and for the "Fruit of the Spirit" to be evident in church members as they share God's love through VBS day.

Marion Weidemann



◀ Forty children came to the Tucumcari Adventist Church to participate in their outreach program.

▼ Among the many activities and learning opportunities, healthy snacks are provided for the children.



Feeding the Homeless in Española

ESPAÑOLA, N. MEX. »

Recently, some of the members of the Española Seventh-day Adventist Church have been meeting on Tuesday and Thursday mornings to prepare breakfast burritos or sandwiches to distribute to homeless people around the Española community. The food and fellowship are met with heartfelt thanksgiving by the recipients, and the church members certainly experience a joy in serving and giving. Española church pastor, Ricardo Castro, and those who distribute the food have an opportunity to fel-



lowship, pray and meet spiritual needs of the recipients. A recent and welcome donation of clothing by the Santa Fe Rancho Viejo Seventh-day Adventist Church makes it possible for the Española Adventist Church to distribute clothing to the needy in their community.

Carmen Payne

Española Seventh-day Adventist Church members feed the homeless of their community on Tuesdays and Thursdays, which leads to opportunities to pray and fellowship with the recipients.

A Taste of Thanksgiving in Española

ESPAÑOLA, N. MEX. » On November 20th, the Española Seventh-day Adventist Church hosted a Thanksgiving luncheon for the homeless in the community, and

for members who have become inactive in the church. Community services leaders Miriam Castro, Gina Martinez and assistant, Pauline Herrera, coordinated the

event with the help of several members in the church who prepared a full Thanksgiving meal with all the fixings. Over thirty homeless people were fed, in addition to the several members who came to share in this wonderful occasion! The homeless individuals were very thankful for the warm, hearty meal and were also hungry for prayer. Española Adventist Church pastor, Ricardo Castro, and his family, as well as the many church members who participated, had an opportunity to fellowship and pray together with them. Miriam Castro said, "I was inspired by the smiling faces at the church, a dynamism and a joy that only the Spirit of God can give."

This was truly a day of thanksgiving for everyone involved in this worthy outreach!

Diahann Cordova



Over 30 homeless people were fed on Thanksgiving Day!

Compassion Movement Makes an Impact at 2017 NAD Ministries Convention

More than 750 Seventh-day Adventists converged in Tucson, Arizona, on Jan. 8-11, to worship, learn, share their talents, and network at the 2017 North American Division Adventist Ministries Convention (NAD AMC). They also gathered to serve the local community through three NAD Compassion Movement outreach opportunities: assisting two public schools through Tucson Serve the City, and packing more than 25,000 meals for Stop Hunger Now. Stop Hunger Now is an international relief organization distributing meals abroad to one of the 74 different countries with whom they partner.

Attendees volunteered for one of many compassion projects during the convention. The Stop Hunger Now event saw more than 150 attendees help put weighed dry foods into bags to create the meals that Stop Hunger Now distributes to countries/

organization to help clean up and refurbish the schools.

At the Elvira Elementary School project volunteers painted approximately 700 sq. ft. of brick wall (to prep for future mural); added fresh paint to an existing desert scene mural; swept walk ways; raked leaves from playgrounds; and assisted with a door-cutting project from the kindergarten.

“Separation of church and state’ doesn’t mean what we think it does, and nowhere is that difference more evident than in public education in Tucson, Arizona,” shared NAD AMC organizers. “By saying to schools, ‘How can we pray for you and how can we help?’ and then actually following through with both, churches have been welcomed by the public schools to come alongside and serve. Our attendees fit right in with the service they provided.”

Santa Clara Elementary School has a

fresh new look as NAD AMC volunteers painted the entire cafeteria. Organizers said, “We set aside time to be salt and light in Tucson in ways that make an immediate, tangible impact, but that also are having ripple effects throughout the entire city.” Bryant Taylor, Southeastern Conference Communication/IT director in Florida, coordinated the NAD Compassion Movement outreach project at Elvira school. Taylor said that the principal was appreciative that “we were willing to give of our time to come out on a Sunday morning to paint their school.” Taylor explained that many of the students come from the reservation that is less than five miles away, and the school is in the poorest area of the city.

“The principal mentioned that he, along with one or two others, have been painting the school on weekends for weeks. He was ecstatic that we were able to complete 1/3 of their total project in one day. He invited us to like the school’s Facebook page, his primary communication tool with parents and the community, so we could follow the activities at the school.” Taylor added, “We had prayer with him and prayed a blessing on the school.”

Kimberly Luste Maran is the assistant director of communication for the North American Division.



peoples in need.

The Tucson Serve the City project was held at two under-resourced schools in the city. This outreach partnered NAD AMC attendees with the local Serve the City or-

NAD AMC 2017 attendees stop for a group photo and pack bagged meals for a Stop Hunger Now project.



Classified Ads

REAL ESTATE/HOUSING

Summit Ridge Retirement Village is an Adventist community in a rural setting but close to Oklahoma City medical facilities and shopping. Made up of mostly individual homes, the village has fellowship you'll enjoy. On-site church, independent living, nursing home and transportation as needed. Website: <http://www.summitridgevillage.org> or call Bill Norman 405.208.1289.

EMPLOYMENT

Southwestern Adventist University's English Department is seeking applications for a full-time faculty member specializing in British literature of the 18th or 19th century. Preferred can-

didates will have a Ph.D.; a creative writing background is a plus. Send CV with cover letter to Dr. Judy Myers Laue (lauej@swau.edu).

Walla Walla University has faculty openings in the School of Education and Psychology, the Department of Computer Science and the Department of Chemistry. For details and to apply, please visit: <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>. We invite you to share this announcement. To learn more about Walla Walla University, please visit: <https://wallawalla.edu/>.

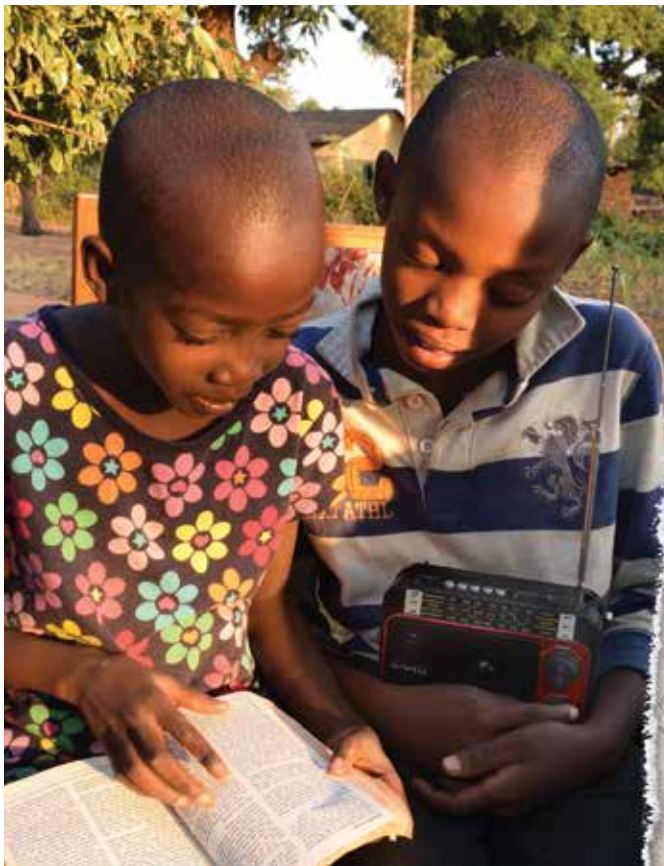
Southern Adventist University seeks professor for Clinical Mental Health Counseling/School Counseling program, teaching graduate/undergraduate courses. Qualifications: Doctoral in counselor education

with supervision experience from CACREP program OR doctoral in clinical/counseling psychology from APA program and experience teaching in counselor education program for full academic year before July 1, 2013. Licensed/eligible for licensure in Tennessee as LPC or LSC; 2 years in clinical mental health or school counseling settings. Cover letter, CV, unofficial transcripts, and reference letters to Ileana Freeman, ileana@southern.edu.

Dean - School of Business at Southern Adventist University. Doctoral degree in a field of business, commitment to holistic student development, relating successfully with School of Business colleagues, and oversight of undergraduate and graduate programs in business

and technology. Submit curriculum vitae along with cover letter and statement of administrative teaching philosophy to: Dr. Robert Young, ryoung@southern.edu visit: www.southern.edu/hr for more information.

Mid-Level Practitioner at Southern Adventist University to assess patients, diagnose, and prescribe treatment and/or medication to university students and employees, as per mid-level/physician protocol. Medical oversight provided by supervising physician both remotely and on-site. Qualifications: Five years of experience in ED/Urgent care and/or General Family Practice; successful completion of an accredited Mid-Level Practitioner Program with certification; and BLS and ACLS certification. Competencies in



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laceration repair, burn care, and wound management. Submit resumes to Sarah Shelburne: sarahshelburne@southern.edu. For more information, visit: www.southern.edu/hr.

Professor for School of Business at Southern Adventist University beginning June 1, 2017 to teach undergraduate level management courses, directing student projects, advising management majors, and teaching in subject areas: business administration, healthcare administration, and human resources management. Qualifications: Doctorate degree in Management, Human Resources Management, Healthcare Administration or related field, with related business experience. Teaching experience and extensive scholar activity is preferred. A master's degree and 18 graduate hours in management may be considered. Send curriculum vita to markhyder@southern.edu.

Union College seeks an Art and Graphic Design professor, beginning June 2017. Master's degree in art or graphic design required; MFA preferred. Responsibilities include teaching art and graphic design courses, academic advising, recruiting, and program development. Further information, www.ucollege.edu/faculty-openings. Submit C.V. to Bruce Forbes, Fine Arts Division Chair, at b2forbes@ucollege.edu.

Professor (Assistant/Associate/Full), Loma Linda University School of Religion is seeking a tenure-track professor to begin in 2017. The

candidates should possess Ethics training and a completed Ph.D. (ABD accepted). Please e-mail a cover letter, curriculum vitae, writing sample, and three professional references to Ethics Area Chair: Dr. Zack Plantak (zplantak@llu.edu).

Southwestern Adventist University seeks a director of academic support and advising. Master's degree in higher education, developmental learning or related field required; doctoral degree preferred. Must have higher education experience. Send CV and cover letter to Dr. Amy Rosenthal (arosen@swau.edu).

Walla Walla University is hiring! To see the list of available positions, go to jobs.wallawalla.edu.

MISCELLANEOUS

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The Wildwood Lifestyle Center can help you naturally treat and reverse diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, arthritis, osteoporosis, fibromyalgia, lupus, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue, cancer, substance abuse, stress, anxiety, depression and many more. Invest in your health and call 800.634.9355 for more information or visit www.

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National Family Retreat 2017 March 29 - April 2, Wewoka Woods, OK. Practical messages, breakouts, family recreation, and exhibits. Topics: Daily walk, parenting, family, marriage, youth, and young adult. Speakers: Tom & Alane Waters, Rayne family, Ritsema family, and Chris & Debbie Holland. Info: restoration-international.org/nfr. Email: NationalFamilyRetreat@gmail.com. Call: 918.827.7012.

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Medical Missionary

Seminar Join us April 5-10 at Ouachita Hills College, in Amity, Arkansas. Topics presented: Principles of Medical Missionary Work, Combating Chronic Disease Naturally, Hydrotherapy Theory and Lab. Special guest speaker Dana Upton, RD from Eureka Springs Health Center. For more information: 501-651-1798 or visit OHC.org.

Announcements

Union College Homecoming April 6-9, 2017: Honor classes are 1947, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1977, 1987, 1992, 1997, and 2007. 125th year celebration. For more information, contact the alumni office at 401-486-2503, 3800 S 48th

St, Lincoln, NE 68506, or alumni@ucollege.edu.

Academy Days at Oklahoma Academy:

If you are a student who is serious about your walk with the Lord and His mission for your life, Oklahoma Academy may be just the place for you. Come March 31–April 2, 2017, for our Academy Days Weekend and find out. Call 405.454.6211 to make your reservations today! Also, visit www.oklahomaacademy.org.

Obituaries

ALVARADO, Angelita Ramos, born January 10, 1940, and died August 30, 2016. Survivors: husband, John Alvarado; brother, Jose Ramos,

and wife, Paulina; daughter, Yolanda Jensen and husband, Jim; son, Ruben Alvarado; son, John Alvarado, and wife, Monica; daughter, Anna Jackson, and husband, Ronald; son, Joel Alvarado; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

HENNESSEE, Priscy Jane Patalinghug,

born November 8, 1955, in the Philippines, and died November 27, 2016, in Denison, Tex. She was an active member of the Denison-Sherman church and was the church's health ministries leader. Priscy loved to garden and had a green thumb. She loved making greeting cards and quilts, and loved to see and travel the world. She battled ovarian

cancer for eight years. Survivors: husband, Terry; mother Priscila Patalinghug; son Marvin Kua, and wife, Cheryl, of Manila, Philippines; seven siblings, and four grandchildren.

MACIAS, Robert, born January 22, 1930, in Aguascalientes, Mexico, and died September 5, 2016, in Amarillo, Tex. He was a member of the Amarillo church. Robert loved traveling and watching his children play sports. He was a literature evangelist when he first became an Adventist. He served God through ministry and evangelism. He will be remembered as a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Survivors: wife, Janie Macias, of Ama-

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rillo; daughter, Janie Diaz, of Amarillo; daughter, Veronica Williams, of Amarillo; son, Manuel Macias Marquez, of San Antonio, Tex.; son, Luis E. Macias, of San Antonio; son, Antonio Macias Marquez, of San Antonio; son, Raul Macias Marquez, of Guadalajara, Mexico; son, Juan Macias, of San Antonio; son, Heriberto Macias, of San Antonio; son, Fernando Macias, in Kyle, Tex.; son, Arturo Macias, San Antonio; son, Alejandro Macias, San Antonio; son, Raul Roy Soto, of Amarillo; son, Paul Anthony Soto, of Cedar Park, Tex.

MCCURRY, Michael David, was born July 31, 1946, and died June 19, 2016. He was a member of the Arlington church. He attended Dallas Junior Academy, graduated from Southwestern Junior College and La Sierra University, and graduated with a master's degree from the University of Southern California. Survivors: wife, Walu McCurry, of Little Elm, Tex.; daughter, Milea Menckhoff and husband, Carl, of Lakewood Village, Tex; daughter, London Reber, and husband, Todd, of Los Angeles, Calif; daughter, Elizabeth Teal McMurry, of Los Angeles; mother, Jimmie Lou McCurry, of Dallas, Tex.; sister, Sylvia Shipman, and husband, Stan, of Springtown, Tex.; sister, Patricia Perez, and husband, Gilbert, of Bristow, Okla.; and three grandchildren.

MOCK, Norman C., born June 12, 1929, in Byers, Colo., and died December 2, 2016, in Ardmore, Okla. He graduated from Byers High School in 1947 and he then attended Union College in Lincoln, Neb. Norman had a passion

for flying and he received his private pilot license in 1980. He was the supervisor of the Transportation Division for the Orange Unified School District, in Orange, Calif., for 55 years. Norman married Donna Rae Hagerman in 1967. In 1999, the couple moved to Ardmore, where Norman worked for the Plainview School System as a bus driver until 2012. He was preceded in death by his wife, Donna; sons, Reggie and Rodney Cross; and brothers, Ferman and Russell Mock. Survivors: son, Steven Allen Jennings Mock, and wife, Celeste, of Knoxville, Tenn.; daughter, Michele Cross; and brother, Roger Mock, of Helena, Mont.

NILSEN, Catherine Amacker, born in Natalbany, La., and died August 29, 2016, in Baton Rouge, La., at the age of 103. She was a member of Baton Rouge church and the church treasurer for 22 years. She enjoyed knitting, painting, and ceramics, and played piano, drums, and saxophone. She was preceded in death by her husband, Cullen M. Nilsen; daughter, Virginia McKinstry; and grandson, Danny McKinstry. Survivors: son, William A. Wilson; nine grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; 10 great-great-grandchildren.

SHANKLE, Kathryn Sue, born October 11, 1949, in Tahlequah, Okla., and died December 23, 2016, in Tulsa, Okla. She was a member of Tulsa Adventist Fellowship. Survivors: husband, Kenneth Shankle, of Broken Arrow, Okla.; daughter, Kimberly Marlow, of Broken Arrow; and son, Keith Shankle, of Broken Arrow.

STEWART, Sherman L., Sr., born May 31, 1935, in Port Hudson, La., and died November 19, 2016, in Zachary, La. He was a member of the Baton Rouge Berean church, where he had been baptized by Warner R. Rice. While at Berean he served as a deacon, head usher, and lay activities leader. He later attended the Seventh-day Family Worship Center, where he served as the head deacon until his death. He was a retiree from the Louisiana State University Agricultural and Mechanical College, where he had received a service award for 25 years of service. Dr. Stewart, as he was known, accomplished many achievements, including: Certificate in Human Relations Business from the Society of Certified Consumer Credit Executives, Certified Consumer Credit Consultant from the American Institute of Consumer Credit, Inc., Certificate of Achievement from the Horizon Financial Corporation, Award of Excellence from the Ayurvedic Enzyme Nutrition Project, along with his bachelor of science

degree graduating cum laude; Certificates of Distinction in Herbal Therapeutics, Award of Excellence for the Naturopathy Project, and Certificate of Distinction in Nutrition and Food Science, all from Belford University; master of science degree in Herbology and doctor of science in Naturopathy, graduating cum laude in both programs. He was preceded in death by his son Sherman (Peter) Stewart, Jr.; brothers Willie, Louis, Jr., Jessie B., Sr., David Louis, Sr., and Eddie, Sr.; sisters, Adeline and Charlotte Mae Thomas, and a great-granddaughter, Briyelle O'kia Chambers. Survivors: wife, Bertha Stewart; son, Curtis Scott, Sr., of Leesville, La.; daughter, Genette Smith and husband, Harry, of Baton Rouge; daughter, Debra Jones, of Shreveport, La.; brother, Freddie Stewart and wife, Dorothy, of Baton Rouge; two sisters-in-law, Alice Scott and Carrie Stewart, of Baton Rouge; 10 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

SABBATH SUNSET CALENDAR						
	Feb 3	Feb 10	Feb 17	Feb 24	Mar 3	Mar 10
Abilene, TX	6:13	6:20	6:26	6:32	6:37	6:43
Albuquerque, NM	5:36	5:43	5:50	5:57	6:03	6:09
Amarillo, TX	6:17	6:24	6:31	6:38	6:44	6:50
Brownsville, TX	6:14	6:19	6:24	6:28	6:32	6:36
Dallas, TX	6:01	6:07	6:14	6:20	6:25	6:31
El Paso, TX	5:41	5:47	5:53	5:59	6:05	6:10
Fort Worth/Keene, TX	6:03	6:10	6:16	6:22	6:28	6:33
Gallup, NM	5:44	5:51	5:58	6:05	6:11	6:18
Galveston/Houston, TX	6:00	6:06	6:12	6:17	6:22	6:26
Gentry, AR	5:46	5:53	6:00	6:07	6:14	6:20
Little Rock, AR	5:40	5:47	5:54	6:00	6:06	6:12
Muskogee, OK	5:50	5:57	6:04	6:11	6:18	6:24
New Orleans, LA	5:39	5:45	5:50	5:55	6:00	6:05
Oklahoma City, OK	5:59	6:07	6:13	6:20	6:27	6:33
Roswell, NM	5:31	5:38	5:44	5:50	5:56	6:02
San Antonio, TX	6:13	6:19	6:24	6:30	6:34	6:39
Shreveport, LA	5:49	5:56	6:02	6:08	6:13	6:19
Tulsa, OK	5:52	5:59	6:06	6:13	6:20	6:26



On the Record »

BY JESSICA LOZANO » COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Behind the Scenes

AS A STUDENT AT SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY, I worked in the marketing department, which was a part of the Advancement Office. I worked as a graphic designer, photographer, and writer while completing coursework for a degree in journalism. Working for the Advancement Office afforded me the opportunity to interact with alums on a regular basis and gave me a unique appreciation for the history and future of the school.

Had my relationship with Southwestern ended at graduation, I would have had a solid spiritual foundation, great memories, true friendships, and amazing experiences to carry with me throughout my life. As it happened, I was offered a position in the marketing department upon graduation, and later had the opportunity to work as the university's marketing director. The experience of working for Southwestern gave me a peek "behind the scenes" to see the true characters and desires of those who had

been my teachers and mentors.

At the first all-university staff meeting I attended, I realized something. These people *really* cared—and not just when students were around. They had passion for their work. They campaigned on behalf of their students. What they cared about differed from person to person—one professor was passionate about bringing in guest speakers for a seminar series while another told the touching testimony of one of her students. A library staff member was concerned about

students getting access to resources. A cafeteria employee requested shorter hours at the cafeteria snack shop so the student workers would have more time to study and sleep. A music instructor gushed about the amazingly talented students he got to work with.

I shouldn't have been so surprised by their genuineness, but, even now, nearly 10 years later, that meeting is vivid in my memory. Those people—caring, spiritual, and passionate—are Southwestern Adventist University. They're the same people "behind the scenes" as they are with students.

I'm blessed to have the opportunity to continue working and interacting with the university's faculty and staff, as well as its students and graduates. 📖

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