



Congratulations, May 2018 Graduates!

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Nature's Classroom

Outdoor Education Program Prepares Teachers for Forest Schools

by Davida Phillips



Professor Jean Lomino enjoying lunch with forest kindergarten students in Guangzho, China.

After just one conversation, it is clear to see that Jean Lomino, PhD, is passionate about outdoor education. When asked about the concept, she explains, "The idea of outdoor education is immersion in nature." Jean is currently the interim director of Southern's Outdoor Education program and has been an adjunct professor in the master's program since 2002. "As a classroom teacher, I instinctively knew that the best way for children to learn was to take them out of the classroom," Jean recalls. With this idea, she has taken outdoor education to a new level.

Jean is founder and director of the Wauhatchie School's Forest Kindergarten, which started in 2015 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Wauhatchie is located on a 50-acre property in the Lookout Valley community, an ideal location surrounded by lakes, streams, and meadows. Forest kindergartens allow children ages 3-6 to enjoy exploratory learning in nature for three hours each day, rain or shine.

The theory of forest schools originated in Europe and is now a growing movement worldwide. Three years ago, Professor Lomino worked as a consultant to help launch the first public school forest kindergarten program in the United States at Gilbert Elementary in

(continued on page 3)

FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

Equipping the next generation of leaders

Southern's goals for all students have long reflected a commitment to preparing graduates to be leaders committed to a life of service in their workplaces, churches, families, and social groups. That's what the School of Education and Psychology is all about. We are blessed to hear story after story about former students who are exceptional leaders in their personal and professional lives as well as in their communities and abroad.



John McCoy, EdD

As stated by Ellen White in *Education*, "True education ... is the harmonious development of the physical, mental, and spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and the higher joy of wider service in the world to come." This undertaking is at the heart of what we do here in the School of Education and Psychology and is part of our university's guiding philosophy. When professors consider this, their roles as teachers and advisers take on a whole new perspective. It's not just about the here and now. It's about the impact our graduates will make once they leave campus.

We are dedicated not only to providing our students with excellent training and instruction in their field of choice, but also to nurturing their spiritual development. We believe this, in fact, is the most valuable return on the investment of a Christian education—a vibrant relationship with Jesus Himself. Only in true communion with Him can we achieve our highest potential. "Now glory be to God, who, by His mighty power at work within us, is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of—infinity beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes." (Ephesians 3:20, TLB).

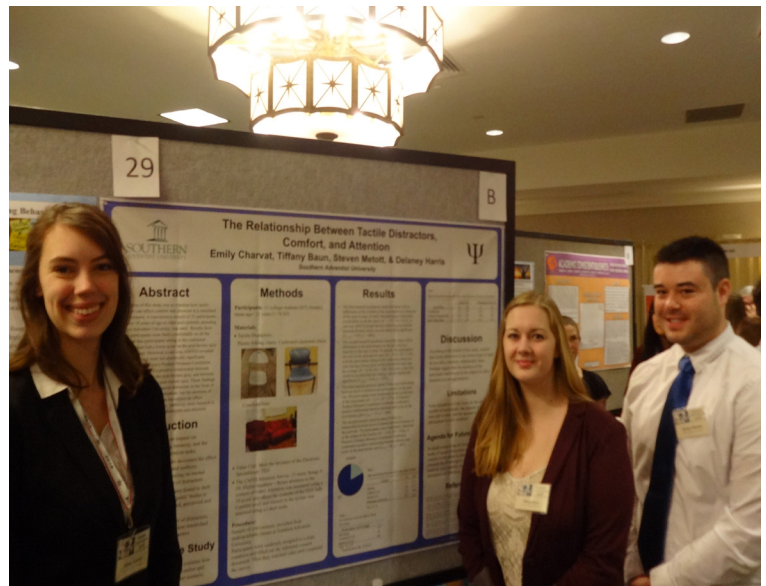
Psychology Students Attend SEPA

by Professor Matt Tolbert

One of the more valuable components of a degree in psychology from Southern is the opportunity to conduct undergraduate psychological research. Often, students that complete their research have the chance to share and be recognized for their contributions to science. During spring break, four senior psychology students were given that opportunity through a presentation of their research at the Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA) 2018 Annual Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina. By presenting their study "The Relationship Between Tactile Distractors, Comfort, and Attention," students were able to experience firsthand a part of what it means to be a professional psychologist, as well as being part of a scientific community that is changing the world.

For these students and myself, the SEPA conference provided a complex offering of ground-breaking research, workshops from experts in various psychological disciplines, and dynamic keynote speakers. The students were introduced to wide-ranging topics, such as how to engage in uncomfortable conversations (some even helped to demonstrate) and the psychological study of religion through the serpent-handlers of Appalachia.

Along with the opportunity to explore a city they had never seen, students also enjoyed getting to know each other, and themselves, better. The trip informed and inspired these future psychology professionals to continue striving for a better understanding of God's greatest creation—us.



Psychology students Emily Charvat, Tiffany Baun, and Steven Metott presenting their research at SEPA.

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Nature's Classroom *(continued from page 1)*

LaFayette, Georgia. Last year, she traveled abroad to participate in a two-month teacher training for a forest kindergarten in Guangzho, China.

Forest kindergarten teachers supervise and guide students while they play and learn. "As facilitators using teachable moments, we aren't there to tell students things but rather to listen to their questions and guide them in finding the answers themselves," Lomino says. For example, if a child sees a salamander and asks what it is, the teacher might respond, "What do you think it is?" These child-initiated and child-led activities include painting, drawing, music, dance, and writing/story-telling, all through daily outdoor discoveries.

"The joy of learning is what sparks lifelong learning," Lomino says. "So when children embrace learning at a very young age, they can carry that excitement all the way through school."

The philosophy of forest schools requires teachers to step outside of their traditional roles as lesson planners in structured classrooms. To help teachers develop these new skills for initiating and teaching forest school programming, Jean has created two courses that are taught during the summer as part of Southern's Master of Science in Education degree with an emphasis in outdoor education.

"History and Philosophy of Forest Kindergarten" discusses the origins and theories of forest schools. Activities include on-site observations of children currently in forest sessions. "Developing Forest Kindergarten Curriculum" provides teaching strategies and a process for creating a program, including how to find a school site, preparing the land, and presenting proposals to school boards.

Through these classes, graduate students also learn about exploratory play, naturalist skills, emergent curriculum, flow learning, student evaluation, and nature art through hands-on, experiential activities. "Not only are teachers discovering what forest schools are all about, but they also have opportunities to develop a program at a local school," Lomino says.

Forest school teachers can access a plethora of research studies supporting the benefits of early childhood, nature-based education when responding to concerns, such as "How is this education?" and "Anyone can go outside and play!" Studies have concluded that forest kindergarten students are more successful academically, socially, emotionally, and physically than students in traditional classroom settings. "Our forest school parents tell us their children are much more independent, adaptable, and resilient as well as more successful socially," Professor Lomino reports.

Through the work done in the MEd Outdoor Education program, teachers are able to guide children to be self-motivated, cooperative, respectful, grateful, and aware of their impact on the earth.

For more information about forest school classes, contact the School of Education and Psychology. Learn more about Wauhatchie School Forest Kindergarten at wauhatchie.com.



Wauhatchie Forest Kindergarten students exploring.



Professor Lomino journaling with a forest kindergarten teacher in training in China.

If you would like to receive future *Unraveled* newsletters electronically, please email uas@southern.edu and request to be added to the list.

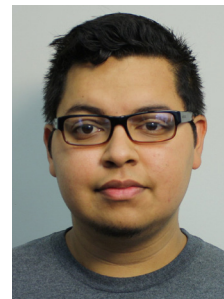
CONGRATULATIONS, MAY 2018 GRADUATES!



Kaylie Ackerman
Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: Galt, CA
Future Plans: Become an elementary teacher



Karla Aponte
Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: Suwanee, GA
Future Plans: Graduate school



Emmanuel Aragon
Major: MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Hometown: San Francisco, CA
Future Plans: Apply to a doctoral program in psychology



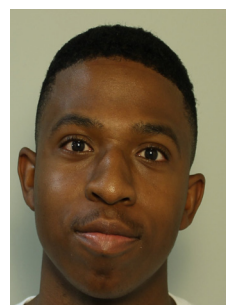
Amber Ballesteros
Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: Tampa, FL
Future Plans: Teach K-2 and eventually get my master's degree



Jessica Barnett
Major: Psychology
Hometown: LaGrange, KY
Future Plans: Work as a speech language pathologist who researches premature babies in a hospital's NICU



Avonlea Bodi
Major: Industrial and Organizational Psychology
Hometown: Miami, FL
Future Plans: Take a gap year to start working



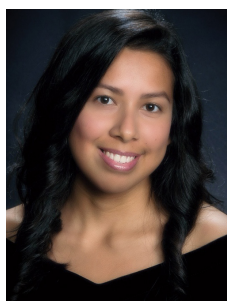
Jordyn Butts
Major: MS School Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Hometown: Atlanta, GA
Future Plans: Work as a school counselor and eventually in private practice



Jennifer Rosie Caceres
Major: Religious Education
Hometown: Glendale, CA
Future Plans: Teach high school Bible as a student missionary



Gina Campos
Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: Atlanta, GA
Future Plans: Teach at an elementary school



Steffani Carrion
Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: Danbury, CT
Future Plans: Teach elementary school and get master's degree in school counseling



Emily Charvat
Major: Clinical Psychology
Hometown: Cleveland, OH
Future Plans: Graduate school



Sara Collson
Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: Ooltewah, TN
Future Plans: Teach elementary students



Michelle Comstock
Major: MEd
 Instructional
 Leadership



Rebecca Davis
Major: History
 Education
Hometown:
 Hendersonville, NC
Future Plans:
 Teach high school
 history



Sarah Davis
Major: Clinical
 Psychology
Hometown:
 Martinsville, VA
Future Plans:
 Graduate school



Andrea De la Cruz
Major: Psychobiology
Hometown:
 Weslaco, TX
Future Plans:
 Medical school



Wendy De La Cruz
Major: MEd
 Outdoor Education
Hometown:
 Perth Amboy, NJ
Future Plans:
 Be a science teacher
 with an emphasis
 on nature-based
 curriculum



Diadem De Guzman
Major: Elementary
 Education
Hometown:
 Bowie, MD
Future Plans: Teach
 at an elementary
 school



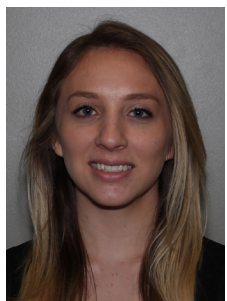
Jeffrey Dean
Major: Music
 Education
Hometown:
 Ooltewah, TN
Future Plans:
 Graduate school



Liesel Ervin
Major: Psychology
Hometown:
 Ketchikan, AK
Future Plans:
 Doctorate in
 occupational therapy



Brianna Fernandez
Major: Elementary
 Education
Hometown:
 Orlando, FL
Future Plans:
 Teach elementary
 school



Victoria Fider
Major: MS Clinical
 Mental Health
 Counseling
Hometown:
 Livonia, MI
Future Plans:
 Open a private
 practice providing
 distance services



Fallon Fields
Major: Family
 Systems
Hometown:
 New Windsor, NY
Future Plans:
 Become a military
 psychologist



Jacob Guptill
Major: MS School
 Counseling
Hometown:
 Minnesota
Future Plans:
 Wherever the
 Lord leads!

MAY 2018 GRADUATES



Jamil Hairston
Major: Clinical Psychology
Hometown: Apopka, FL
Future Plans: Serve as a discipleship pastor



Vanessa Hairston
Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: Atlanta, GA
Future Plans: Become an elementary school teacher



Alexis Hartline
Major: English Education
Hometown: Louisville, KY
Future Plans: Teaching high school English in the islands of Micronesia



Michael Hastilow
Major: Clinical Psychology
Hometown: Sunbury, OH
Future Plans: Work with suicidal adolescence and domestic abuse treatment



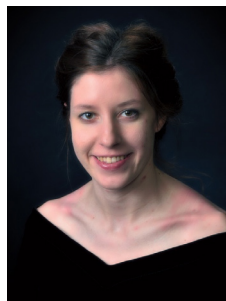
Tyler Hodges
Major: Religious Education
Hometown: Hendersonville, NC
Future Plans: Teach in an Adventist high school as a Bible teacher and chaplain



Paul Hoxie
Major: History Education
Hometown: Loma Linda, CA
Future Plans: Teach high school history



Camaren Humphrey-Davis
Major: Industrial and Organizational Psychology
Hometown: Brentwood, TN
Future Plans: Graduate school



Sarah Hunt
Major: History Education
Hometown: McDonald, TN
Future Plans: Teach high school English or history



Silvana de Jesus
Major: Industrial and Organizational Psychology
Hometown: Florida
Future Plans: Continue with my small business Little Monsters



Hannah Kesley
Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: St. Louis, MO
Future Plans: Become an elementary school teacher



David Knapp
Major: MSED Outdoor Education
Hometown: Crossville, TN
Future Plans: Follow wherever God may lead and grow my fly fishing guide business



Katie Lawrence
Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: Wilmington, OH
Future Plans: Teach elementary students



Chyniece Lewis
Major: Psychology
Hometown: Merced, CA
Future Plans: Graduate school at Southern



Marissa Lian
Major: Industrial and Organizational Psychology
Hometown: Mountain View, CA
Future Plans: Find a job in human resources or go to graduate school



Matt Melton
Major: Biology Education
Hometown: Aurora, IL
Future Plans: Teach high school biology



Steven Metott
Major: Clinical Psychology
Hometown: Ooltewah, TN
Future Plans: Pursue a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling at Southern



Joe Mixon
Major: History Education
Hometown: Collegedale, TN
Future Plans: Teach high school history



Tracy Ritter
Major: Psychology-Family Systems
Hometown: Westminster, SC
Future Plans: Get a master's degree in school counseling



Kimberly Robinson
Major: Liberal Arts Education
Hometown: Coconut Creek, FL
Future Plans: Coordinator/director of special needs at my local YMCA



Miguel Scavella
Major: Clinical Psychology
Hometown: Nassau, Bahamas
Future Plans: Healthcare administration in graduate school



Darian Seals
Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: Keene, TX
Future Plans: Get my master's degree in school counseling



Hilary Sumner
Major: Education
Hometown: Canaan, ME
Future Plans: It will be a surprise!



Kamille Thompson
Major: Clinical Psychology
Hometown: Waukegan, IL
Future Plans: Argentina for a year, then graduate school for marriage and family therapy



MacKenzie Trupp
Major: Psychology
Hometown: Mississauga, Ontario
Future Plans: Graduate school, then become a psychology professor

MAY 2018 GRADUATES



Isaac Valera
Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: Clinton, MA
Future Plans: Become a middle school teacher



Rosalba Valera
Major: History Education
Hometown: Clinton, MA
Future Plans: Teaching at a high school



Steven VandeVere
Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: Minneapolis, MN
Future Plans: Teaching in an elementary school



Jonathan Vega
Major: Clinical Psychology
Hometown: Chicago, IL
Future Plans: Graduate school for mental health counseling



Guereldy Vendome
Major: History Education
Hometown: Douglasville, GA
Future Plans: Teach English in high school



Shivani Ward
Major: Psychology
Hometown: Atlanta, GA
Future Plans: Work in veteran mental healthcare, focusing on post-traumatic stress disorder



Gregory Wright
Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: Worcester, MA
Future Plans: Teach mathematics

Photos courtesy of Southern's website and yearbook

Not pictured: Jon Francis (Psychobiology), Jewell Lavalas (Family Studies), Stefani Ramon (Liberal Arts Education), Bethany Shipley (Liberal Arts Education), and Shaina Vargas Da Silva (Liberal Arts Education)

ALUMNI UPDATE: Trevor and Wynntre Stout

From Outdoor Adventures to Doctorates and Advising

The beginning of Trevor and Wynntre Stout's story unfolded at the School of Education and Psychology at Southern. As they each worked towards their undergraduate degrees in outdoor leadership, they met for the first time while taking a caving class as freshmen. They became friends while participating in events like the Southern 6 and the Cardboard Boat Race. The relationship deepened when they took Adolescent Psychology from Robert Coombs, PhD, their senior year. Trevor and Wynntre graduated in 2011; Trevor with a BS in outdoor leadership and a minor in youth ministry, and Wynntre with a BS in outdoor leadership and a BA in psychology with a minor in education. The next year, they were married by Professor Coombs while working on their graduate degrees in counseling and serving as graduate assistants.

Wynntre completed her master's degree in clinical mental health counseling in 2014. Thanks to support from the Psychology faculty at Southern, Wynntre decided to continue her graduate work in that discipline. She and Trevor moved to Allentown, Pennsylvania, so she could pursue her doctorate in developmental psychology at Lehigh University. She studied social cognition development—namely how children think about other people—and enjoyed the systematic approach of research. Upon her anticipated graduation in May 2019, she plans to pursue a career in teaching at the university level or apply her research training in the field of program evaluation.

Trevor earned his master's in school counseling in 2013 and worked as a school counselor for two years, including serving at A.W. Spalding Elementary School on Southern's campus before the couple moved north. After a year at a charter school in Pennsylvania, his position was eliminated due to budget cuts. This disappointment turned out to be a wonderful blessing in disguise: Trevor found employment as a youth career



Wynntre and Trevor Stout with their horses Savannah and Aurora and dogs Annie and Fiona.

adviser with Educational Data Systems, Inc., a company that proved to be a great fit for his vision and interests. Trevor discovered that he enjoys working with local businesses to improve opportunities for job seekers. He is excited about the position he will transition into this spring with a focus on consulting work to help companies attract and retain employees.

In their spare time, Trevor and Wynntre enjoy outdoor activities, such as biking, running, and snow skiing. They especially love spending time on their farm where their favorite pastime is to take the dogs and horses on camping and trail riding trips. They also have been working on a full renovation of the home they purchased in 2015 and are happy to have it (mostly) completed.

The Stouts look back fondly on their time enjoying the Christ-centered atmosphere, activities, and community at Southern, as well studying and working in the School of Education and Psychology. They both especially appreciate the faculty and staff who made such a positive impression on them: the perspective on life that Coombs shared; the love of research Professor Ruth Williams, PhD, fostered in Wynntre; the servant leadership modeled by former professors Doug Tilstra, PhD, and Marty Miller; and the

dedication of office staff members Astrid Conibear and Mikhaile Spence. The couple is thankful for the role the university and faculty played throughout their formative college years.



Wynntre and Trevor visiting Grey Towers in Milford, Pennsylvania.



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