

the magazine of Southern Adventist University

fall 2020

columns

Words to Live By

The university's guiding statements influence every aspect of campus life | page 12



Going Up!

The new Wright Hall elevator, which connects the second, third, and fourth floors, is now operational. It even has the presidential wave of approval! This project, funded by the recently completed Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning, offers much improved accessibility to one of the main campus buildings—especially for the elderly and others for whom steps can be an obstacle.



Photo: Ryan Pierce

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As a result of your generous corporate and individual support, Southern successfully completed its Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning.

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Cover caption: Wright Hall is the heart of Southern's campus, but our mission, vision, and values are the university's soul.

Photo by Ryan Pierce

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Campus Life, Pandemic Style

The Fall 2020 semester has been unlike anything Southern has experienced before. Thanks to rigorous safety precautions, campus-wide cooperation, and God's blessings, COVID-19 case numbers remained low even while classes and campus life continued primarily in person. As face masks, physical distancing, daily health assessments, and good hand hygiene quickly became the norm, students and employees continued to find safe ways to connect, learn, worship, and have fun.

1: Masks, air purification, and reduced classroom capacity promote safety as Daniela Morales, junior chemistry major, takes notes during a precalculus algebra class. **2:** The painting studio in Brock Hall provides plenty of space for Daniel Morton, freshman animation major, and his fellow students to spread out while honing their creative skills in Drawing II under the expertise of Donald Keefe, associate professor in the School of Visual Art and Design. **3:** Elennie Ramirez, sophomore animation major, shares praise music during vespers, held in a large tent erected on campus to allow students to participate while distanced. **4:** This year marks the 50th anniversary of McKee Library enhancing students' academic experiences through expanding access to materials, ongoing transformations of space and technology, and resourceful staff members. **5:** Johnny Cerino, sophomore psychology major, hands out name tags during the Main Event, which welcomes new and transfer students to campus each fall. **6:** The Symphony Orchestra, including violinist Dexter Smith, sophomore music performance major, held this year's first concert outdoors at the Goliath Wall. **7:** Professor Faith Laughlin, EDD, and the School of Education and Psychology honored the women's suffrage

movement as they joined departments across campus in hosting welcome-back parties during the first week of the semester. **8:** Pictured left to right, sophomore theology major Thang Lian, junior nursing major Evelyn Roman, and sophomore marketing major Zariah Carrillo invited students to explore opportunities for spiritual involvement at the Ministry Market, held in the parking lot of Hulsey Wellness Center. **9:** After months of distance learning, Southern's campus came to life as parents and volunteers helped students move into the residence halls in August. **10:** The Promenade remains a popular place for students to grab a bite to eat from the new outdoor kitchen, relax under the lighted canopy, or walk to class with friends. **11:** With safety measures in place, intramurals remain a popular evening activity for both players and spectators including Britney Dixon (left), freshman business-public relations major, and Alex Thompson, junior computer science major. **12:** Southern's abundant green spaces offer ideal study spots, such as the shaded front lawn of Thatcher Hall. **13:** Employees and students gather around the Taylor Circle flagpole in front of Wright Hall at 8:15 each weekday morning to pray for unity within our university and throughout the nation.



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12



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11



13

Letter From the President: Southern in God's Hands as Smith Retires

As COVID-19 takes its toll on our country, one does not need to be an astute observer to see that life is far from our previous normal. As a nation, other forces are complicating life, as well, from fires burning out of control in the West and a record-breaking hurricane season to racial unrest, political turmoil, and a sense of growing division throughout the country. All this can make life seem very dark right now. However, rather than focusing on the darkness that surrounds us, I would like to share the good news expressed in Psalm 18:28: "My God turns my darkness into light."

On the campus of Southern Adventist University, the light shines above the darkness. While students adjust to COVID-19 inconveniences such as wearing face masks and not being able to play every sport or have every event they would normally enjoy, their spirits remain strong. Likewise, as our employees face

numerous challenges caused by the pandemic, they choose to focus on mission rather than current circumstances. Many students and employees alike look to Jesus, the source of light in the midst of the darkness.

In these unsettled times, I find myself thinking of the disciples, tossed about in a boat one dark and stormy night. Though experienced fishermen, they suddenly found themselves fearing for their lives. They cried to Jesus for help, but He was asleep in the boat. They had to awaken Him to plead for their lives. Jesus, remaining calm and unconcerned, called out for the storm to

stop, and it did. Instant calm. Perfect peace. Safety in the boat with Jesus. What a change in outlook and experience!

Ellen White observes that the intense darkness during the storm hid Jesus from the disciples (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 334). The darkness in the world today can do the same to us.

"When the tempests of temptation gather, and the fierce lightnings flash, and the waves sweep over us, we battle with the storm alone, forgetting that there is One who can help us. We trust to our own strength till our hope is lost, and we are ready to perish. Then we remember Jesus, and if we call upon Him to save us, we shall not cry in vain. ... He never fails to give us the help we need" (p. 336).

Praise God that Jesus is the light in our darkness. John 1:4-5 declares of Jesus: "In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

In the past five years, as I have served as president of Southern, I have seen our university face many overwhelming challenges. Time after time, however, I have seen God intervene, delivering our school from anything that has threatened it. He has been faithful.

These observations give me peace as I approach retirement at the end of the current school year. As I think of the future for this special school, I am not concerned. After all, Southern is not my school nor anyone else's school. It is God's school. He has seen it through to the place where it is, and God will see it through to whatever plan He has for it in the future. Our campus is in God's hands as we face the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic, and as we choose to trust God in the future, our campus will remain safe in His hands. Whatever darkness we face, God's light will shine through to rescue and redeem us.

— by David Smith



Photo: Ryan Pierce

Alum Hired as New Vice President for Enrollment Management

This summer, Southern welcomed Jason Merryman, '99, as the new vice president for Enrollment Management. Merryman is no stranger to Southern, having graduated from the university with a bachelor's degree in business. He also served as director of Student Finance under Enrollment Services from 2005 to 2012. Merryman holds a master's degree in organizational management and brings more than 10 years of higher education leadership experience to this position.

"I am delighted that Jason has joined our Enrollment Management team and is serving as a key member of Southern's administration," said President David Smith, PhD. "He brings to us significant

experience, and his positive attitude, great relational skills, and willingness to creatively face challenges will help guide us as we face the future."

Merryman met his wife, Shelly (Spencer), '98, at Southern, where she earned a bachelor's degree in social work. The couple maintains that deciding

to invest in a Seventh-day Adventist college education, specifically at Southern, was the best decision they've ever made. Merryman pledges to work tirelessly for prospective and current students, providing an experience that is unique to Southern's campus.

— by Staff Writer

In-Person Instruction Continues in Winter 2021

Following the successful results of Southern's in-person plan for Fall 2020, the university anticipates maintaining a similar approach for the Winter 2021 semester. In addition to following the policies and procedures found at southern.edu/covid19policies, Southern has adjusted the academic calendar in hopes of getting the semester off to a safe and healthy start.

While classes were previously scheduled to begin on January 11, the start date has been postponed until January 19, allowing a full 14-days to elapse between the New Year's holiday and the return to campus. In order to maintain the original graduation date of May 9 and keep the summer sessions on track, the midterm break will be reduced by several days as well. The goal

is to continue face-to-face instruction, which students have expressed is their preference over distance learning.

"Thank you for the part you are playing in keeping our campus family safe and healthy, allowing us all to continue in-person campus life!" said Robert Young, PhD, senior vice president for Academic Administration, in an email to campus. "God has certainly blessed everyone's efforts, and we praise Him for that. We also invite you to continue joining us in prayer for His ongoing protection."

The administration will carefully monitor the situation and make any adjustments needed to ensure that students and employees remain as safe as possible. For the latest information, visit southern.edu/coronavirus.

— by Staff Writer



Photo: Contributed

Jason Merryman has assumed the leadership of Enrollment Management.

» by the numbers

319,000

Books, including 140,000 eBooks, are available from McKee Library, which celebrated its 50th anniversary this fall.

819

Panes of glass allow generous light into the new Bietz Center for Student Life, set to open in 2021.

1,163

Plants on campus have been identified as part of Southern's recently accredited arboretum. Visit southern.edu/columns to learn more.

12,616

Square feet of outdoor meeting area are provided by Southern's large tent, allowing for safer, physically distanced Friday vespers and other gatherings.

5,500

Reusable cloth face masks were distributed to students and employees at the beginning of the fall semester. Visit southern.edu/coronavirus for more university safety precautions.

60

Students are currently embracing the academic rigors of Southern Scholars, Southern's honors program.

Social Work Engages With Eviction Prevention

Southern's School of Social Work is partnering with the Chattanooga Eviction Prevention Program to provide free legal assistance to those in the local community who are facing eviction.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it increasingly difficult for people to afford housing costs due to loss of work

or unexpected expenses. This advisory service, funded by the 2020 CARES Act and spearheaded by the Chattanooga Community Foundation, helps individuals and families obtain financial resources to stay in their current residences or find new places to live if they have already been evicted.

In May, the program reached out to the School of Social Work for help with

social services and case management. Graduate students Elizabeth Riley, '20, and Susan Yates, '20, became case manager interns for the nonprofit project.

"One of the first clients I worked with had a daughter on hospice with a prognosis of six months," Riley said. "When they were evicted, they had to live at an extended-stay hotel. Walking through that process with this mom and seeing the struggles that she faced was eye-opening and heartbreaking. These cases serve as a reminder of how far we have to go in reforming issues in the system. I love working for these families, and I am amazed by their tenacity, perseverance, and grit."

In addition to providing interns, the School of Social Work is tracking the program's effectiveness and experiences through a research project. Professor Kristie (Young) Wilder, '03, JD, is working

with Riley to conduct and analyze qualitative interviews with tenants, landlords, and court watchers who take notes during the cases. Goals include a better understanding of the barriers to gaining housing security and the difference it makes when someone has both an attorney and a social worker on the case. Ultimately, Wilder and her team will make policy recommendations for better housing both locally and statewide.

"The program is a tangible way for Southern to spread the gospel in the community and live out our values," Wilder said. "This is changing the court experience for people and allowing their voices to be heard. It is important for our university to continue building these positive relationships with the greater Chattanooga community so that we can demonstrate how a faith-based institution cares deeply about the lives of others."

— by Madison Reinschmidt

New Fund Provides Pandemic Relief to Southern Students

Along with the COVID-19 pandemic came a financial struggle for some students who worried they would not be able to return to Southern for the fall semester. In response, the university created the COVID-19 Student Relief Fund, which has received more than \$445,000 in gifts from Southern alumni and friends. From this fund, scholarships averaging \$3,000 have been awarded to nearly 175 students.

One recipient, a biology major from New York, described seeing the email detailing her award from the fund: "I was

overjoyed and grateful that God is making a way."

"The scholarship was huge for me," said another student from California, who was unable to travel home in the spring and has remained in the Chattanooga area. "Without it, I don't know if I would have been able to continue at Southern."

Additional contributions to the COVID-19 Student Relief Fund will help continue providing aid to students during these challenging times. Visit southern.edu/studentrelief for more information. — by Olivia Fisher



Photo: Calvin Serban

Constitution Week Events Celebrate Five Freedoms

Southern celebrated national Constitution Week, September 17-23, through events that recognized the five freedoms of the First Amendment to the Constitution: religion, speech, press, petition, and assembly.

The School of Social Work and the School of Journalism and Communication collaborated with Stephanie Guster, senior advisor for diversity, to encourage voter registration, civic engagement, and meaningful dialogue on campus. The week included a march to commemorate 100 years of women's right to vote, as well as a virtual town hall meeting and a spoken-word contest highlighting these five individual and collective constitutional freedoms.

"These events gave me a personal

appreciation for how interconnected the five freedoms are in the First Amendment," Guster said. "I believe that one of the things that college students almost unanimously appreciate is the exhilaration of freedom! There's nothing like the prerogative as a citizen to make your own choices and decide what is important to you and why. But if college students aren't aware of their freedoms, they may not recognize the power they hold to impact change all around them."

Southern Votes, a student-led, nonpartisan voter engagement program, set up booths to provide students with information about how to register and vote in their individual states.

"College students are becoming more and more vocal about what they



Photo: Contributed

believe and outspoken about who they support or don't support," said Xavier Snyder, junior history major and director of Southern Votes. "It's important that they have the information they need to vote and express their opinions in one of America's most powerful ways—at the ballot box."

— by Madison Reinschmidt

Six Baptized During Week of Prayer



Photo: Ryan Pierce

On the last night of Fall Week of Prayer, Addison Garcia, senior nursing major (right) was baptized by Joseph Khabbaz, vice president for Spiritual Life.

This November, Southern's Fall Week of Prayer culminated in the baptism of six students, with several others committing to be baptized or rebaptized at a later time. This joyous event was a fitting conclusion to the week of presentations by MyRon Edmonds, pastor of Grace Community Seventh-day Adventist Church, in Euclid, Ohio, who brought to life the theme "Revival."

"This theme was based on our desire to see an increased spiritual interest and renewal in the lives of students and employees across our campus," said Anna Bennett, associate chaplain.

"While revival is something we experience

corporately, it always begins within each person individually."

Edmonds' authentic, Christ-focused approach resonated with students, and attendance increased each night of the week. Ultimately, students were given the opportunity to make a public declaration of their commitment to Christ in the form of baptism.

"There is revival when we encounter God's love and grace," said Addison Garcia, senior nursing major and one of the students who was baptized. "I am enthused to call Jesus my best friend."

— by Trisney Bocala

All Things Are Possible With God

by Madison Reinschmidt, sophomore mass communication major

What began as an opportunity to refocus his life and take a break from classes has become much more for Joshua Draget, senior business administration major at Southern. He initially traveled to Zambia in 2019 to serve as a student missionary and business intern at Riverside Farm Institute.

One of his early responsibilities was helping to build One-Day Churches in rural Zambia. At one village, he noticed a song the local women were singing in which they repeated one specific phrase: “Akuna Sesipala.” Draget asked what it meant.

“Nothing is impossible. With God, all things are possible,” a Bible worker explained.

The women of the village were expressing their gratitude to God for providing a church building. This song of their gratefulness left a strong impression on Draget.

An Industry is Born

Riverside Farm is a multifaceted ministry that includes agriculture, evangelism training, a lifestyle center, a health clinic, and much more. In addition to building churches, Draget’s responsibilities included researching and making business recommendations. When COVID-19 was declared a pandemic and the institution entered lockdown, he recognized a need for quality, affordable bar soap, as well as a means for young people to support themselves. He studied up on soapmaking and established Akuna Soap Industry—named as a reminder that with God, nothing is impossible.

“In Zambia, the rate of unemployment among young people is almost 22%,” said Craig Harding, director of Riverside Farm. “Making or selling soap with Akuna Soap Industry is something that anyone can do, and it empowers an underserved population. It’s a healthy, local product in a time when hand cleanliness is so important, due to COVID-19.”

Through experimentation, Draget perfected a soap recipe and began training local young people in the soapmaking process. He also collaborated



Joshua Draget (center, front) and a group of enthusiastic Zambian church members wrap up a training session for Akuna Soap Industry.

with local Seventh-day Adventist Church conferences to conduct training sessions, equipping young people and women to become soap salespeople. So far, he has trained more than 400 church members in this role, including Dillen Hamaimbo.

“I am glad to be part of Akuna Soap Industry, because I can raise money while spreading the Word of God at the same time,” Hamaimbo said.

In addition to equipping salespeople, the business has hired and trained nine production workers.

“Many young men and women in Zambia are willing to work but are struggling to find stable employment to support themselves,” Draget said. “Akuna Soap Industry is perfectly poised to teach them the skill of either soapmaking or sales to help them support themselves as they get an education or pursue whatever goal they hope to achieve.”

Still in its infancy, the business currently offers four options of bar soap: Charcoal Cleanser, Oatmeal Honey, Peppermint Moisturizer, and Tea Tree Antiseptic. Draget hopes to add more products, such as liquid soaps, shampoos, and lotion. He expects that the production and distribution system will also continue to expand and become more streamlined.

Where Passion and Purpose Meet

“My dream is to see more business majors like Josh go as student missionaries and use their skills in innovative ways to improve people’s lives and livelihoods,” said Michelle Doucoumes, assistant professor in the School of Business at Southern. “I love the Akuna Soap Industry project and how Josh is meeting real needs in tangible and entrepreneurial ways.”

Having already extended his stay in Zambia by several months, this fall Draget decided to remain in Zambia until July 2021. Ideally, he would like to make sure the industry is fully self-sustaining by the time he leaves, so that it can continue empowering young people.

“I believe I am called to use my God-given talents wherever I am to leave a lasting impact,” Draget said. “God has called me here for this purpose, and I have seen His leading along the way in challenges that I have overcome and doors that have been opened. I have been praying to find my passion and God’s purpose for my life, and I have come much closer to finding it here.” ■

You can learn more about Akuna Soap Industry by visiting akunasoap.org.



Photo: Ryan Pierce

Postponed But Not Forgotten

After an unexpected ending to her senior year—finishing classes online because of the pandemic and having graduation services postponed—Jo (Ashton) Menzmer, an archaeology major, returned to campus for the special August 9 Commencement. Held as three separate ceremonies to keep gathering sizes small, and following other safety measures, the event celebrated the 371 undergraduate and 114 graduate students who persevered and made up the Class of 2020.

Words to Live By

During the fall of 2017, Southern's administration began the important work of evaluating and rewriting the university's mission, vision, and value statements. Through an inclusive process that encouraged involvement from students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the university, the most important concepts were identified and crafted into new statements, which have been voted and approved by the Board of Trustees. In the pages that follow, Southern faculty, staff, and administrators share their insights into these statements.

Compiled by Janell Hullquist, '05 / Photos by Ryan Pierce



David Smith, PhD, president of Southern Adventist University

When asked about the greatest commandment, Jesus Christ prioritized love: love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. At Southern, our goal is to follow Jesus' lead, allowing His love to influence every aspect of campus life; this contributes to the quality of education our students receive. As we prepare graduates to excel in their callings and succeed in a fluid job market, we also aim to cultivate a passion for serving God, the church, and others.

Our Mission

Grounded in Jesus Christ and dedicated to the beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, we equip students to embrace biblical truth, embody academic and professional excellence, and pursue Spirit-filled lives of service.

Our Vision

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S VISION IS TO:

- Model the love of Jesus in every interaction.
- Invite each student into a saving relationship with Jesus.
- Inspire each student to engage with God's Church and the world through service and witness.
- Provide each student with an exceptional learning experience that equips them to thrive in a fluid, global job market.

Joseph Khabbaz, vice president for Spiritual Life

What is significant about Southern's mission is its connection of educational excellence with Jesus Christ and our distinctive Adventist identity. This abiding connection aims higher than simply preparing our students mentally, socially, and vocationally. Our mission also seeks to inspire every student to pursue a saving relationship with Jesus and trust in God's power to live faithfully in the public arena. As a result, the mission extends Southern's plan to be more than just an alternative to other systems of education; rather, it's a place where students prepare for life now, as well as the life to come. This mission is one reason I look forward to being on campus each day.

It is exciting to work alongside others who are passionate about seeing the love of Jesus Christ exemplified in Spirit-filled lives of service. This can be seen through the love faculty and staff have for the campus and our students. I am inspired when I hear the stories of sacrifices employees have made to support students on campus, whether financially or emotionally. It is these kinds of stories that create an atmosphere where Southern feels more like a family than a place to work.



Our Core Values

AS SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES, WE:

1: Embrace the Seventh-day Adventist Church's Worldview and Fundamental Beliefs

The Bible is the source of our beliefs, shaping every aspect of campus life. Through our Adventist worldview, we recognize ourselves as fallen beings, called to engage in God's redemptive process of restoring us to His image, involved in the Great Controversy, and looking forward to the return of Jesus. We offer those who attend our university an exceptional Christian experience through academics, programs, and policies that represent the values of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

2: Love Others as God Loves Them

We care deeply for every individual, treating them with the kindness, love, grace, and respect that Jesus modeled. We offer others the acceptance and support that God has offered us.

3: Act With Integrity

We are compelled to do what is biblically and ethically right, even when the results might not favor us. Honesty, fidelity, and fairness define our interactions.

5: Serve Others Generously

Just as God does more for us than we can imagine, we are committed to providing exceptional service to others. We look for opportunities to serve, prioritizing other people's needs and going out of our way to help.

4: Live Prayerfully

We are a praying community. We rely on God to meet each need, seeking His help, praising Him, and trusting His Spirit to guide us. We depend on His life-transforming power.

6: Follow God's Calling

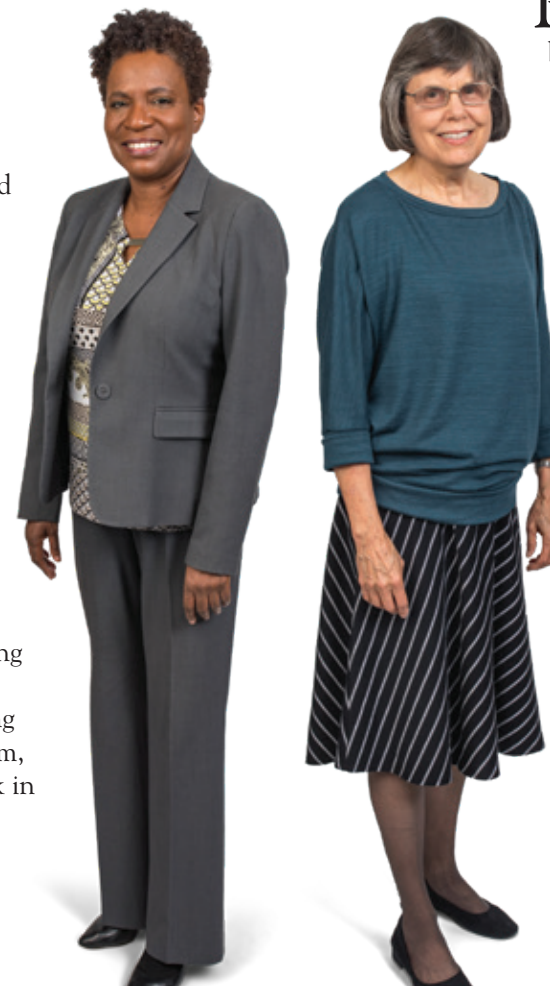
To honor God, we seek to carry out His calling in our lives and commit to helping students discover and pursue God's calling for their lives.

Alva James-Johnson, assistant professor in the School of Journalism and Communication

Loving others as God loves them means seeing the good in people regardless of who they are. Many times, that can be difficult due to our human nature, which prioritizes self-preservation over self-sacrifice. It is easy for us to demonize others based on their political views, their racial or ethnic backgrounds, their socioeconomic circumstances, or their religious ideology. Labeling individuals as "other" blinds us from our shared humanity. However, when we view people from God's perspective, love is the inevitable result.

Here at Southern, the university draws students from a wide range of backgrounds. Diversity and inclusion can be a challenge, and we don't always get it right. But since joining the faculty, I have seen many administrators, faculty members, students, and staff rise to the occasion, embracing each individual as a child of God. Professors contributing to a food bank for financially strapped students. Friends prayerfully interceding on behalf of their cancer-stricken classmates. A dean driving off campus to pick up a student who needs transportation. Students launching a support group for those struggling with mental illness. All are examples of this core value in practice.

Each day, I walk into the classroom knowing I have a job to do, and it is not just to teach writing and public speaking. It is about helping students see themselves the way God sees them, full of unbridled potential. I am proud to work in an environment where people are respected, valued, and loved.



Elaine Hayden, unit assessment system manager in the School of Education and Psychology

Prayer has a welcome presence at Southern. Not only do classes and committee meetings typically begin with prayer, but I see it occur naturally in all areas of campus life. I have observed students pausing on the sidewalk to share a prayer together, and in individual interactions, faculty often lead students to the throne of God in humble petition. At the beginning of this fall semester, a group of employees spent a Friday evening participating in a campus Prayer Walk, stopping at each building to ask for God's blessing and protection. And throughout this semester, every weekday morning has begun with a group gathering at the flagpole to pray for peace and unity.

The value of living prayerfully is significant, because without a constant connection with Heaven, we will often be misled by our preconceived opinions, human misunderstandings, persistent misperceptions, or inherent selfishness. Every day presents new opportunities to interact with students, with parents, and with fellow faculty and staff. If we are to respond consistently in the spirit and wisdom of Christ, we must have a connection with Him.

Nuvia Saucedo, PhD, assistant professor in the Chemistry Department

I believe it was God's divine leading that brought me to Southern to teach. The university's mission aligns so well with what I believe is my life's mission: seeking God and, with His help, living life according to His truth as presented in the Bible and other inspired texts. This includes being in His service and bringing others to pursue a meaningful relationship with Him.

The analogy in Luke 15 of the sheep and Shepherd comes to mind. We can walk closely with God and still stray far enough to slip. God, our Shepherd, will bring us back to the path. In my path to arriving here at Southern, I had times when I didn't listen to all of God's direction—ignoring parts of it, not giving it importance—or couldn't decipher it because I let the circumstances overwhelm me. Regardless, God lovingly brought me back to the path, no blessings withheld, no change in my mission. Still He reserved big plans for my life. And now that I can see and understand that part of my mission is to be a professor, I strive with all my heart to serve Him well in that capacity.



Greg King, '81, PhD, dean of the School of Religion

I want my relationship with Jesus Christ to be at the center of my life. I appreciate that at Southern we have mission, vision, and values statements that focus on this relationship, that aim to place Jesus at the center of our lives.

"Embrace the Seventh-day Adventist Church's worldview and fundamental beliefs" touches on God's desire to restore the relationship that existed at creation. The Adventist worldview portrays what we might call salvation history, where God created us in the first place, then after humans fell into sin, God sent His Son to redeem us, and He has promised to restore that relationship.

Part of the Adventist worldview includes believing that we have a mission to take the gospel to the world, and it is encouraging to see students actively committed to fulfilling that mission. Most summers, for instance, our Evangelistic Resource Center sends students to Peru, Argentina, Zimbabwe—all over the world—to preach, winning hearts for Christ. It's a privilege to help motivate, inspire, and encourage students to fulfill this part of the Adventist worldview and the mission that God has given us, to take the gospel to the world.



7: Pursue Excellence

Called to do everything to God's glory, we strive for excellence in all we do, not settling for mediocrity. We commit to offering a high-quality experience to our students, encouraging them to succeed in their studies and mentoring them to excel in life.

8: Exercise Responsible Stewardship

We are dedicated to improving the availability and affordability of Adventist education by carefully managing personnel, finances, and daily operations.

9: Offer an Exceptional, Wholistic Learning Experience

Through spiritual growth opportunities, comprehensive programs, and dedicated professors, we equip the whole person to thrive, training our students to be lifelong learners.

Donald Lighthall, '00, director of the Service Department

I think that exercising "responsible stewardship" has a lot to do with placing others first. It's about listening, praying, and helping. Everyone needs to know that they are part of something. In the Service Department, we have about 60 student workers, and others might look down on them for doing the "dirty" janitorial jobs. But I point out to my students that while some people could be gone from their jobs for weeks without anyone noticing, the work these students do would be missed after only a day.

One day a vendor visited my office, and the topic of graffiti came up. I told him that we don't have a graffiti problem on campus, and he didn't believe me. I said, "We have students who clean, and when they see other students making a mess, they say, 'Hey, I have to clean that.'" Being part of something creates accountability.

Stewardship is also about taking care of each other. When a student has car trouble, we'll see if we can help them fix it. Our guys will get grease all over themselves in the process, but the student ends up knowing that they're taken care of. Sometimes a student comes to work hungry. I'll take them down to the Village Market and buy them lunch. We'll sit and talk, and I'll make sure they know that they are wanted and not just a number.

At Southern, we're a family, and anyone who works here will tell you that we're all here for the students. Helping everyone, including students, feel like they are part of the bigger picture, part of the solution, is an important aspect of stewardship.

Living It Out

How do we as a campus family integrate Southern's mission, vision, and values into our daily lives?

Put God first. Trust that God has your best interest at heart and follow His guidance, even if it is hard. By doing this, everything else will fall into place.

Be consistent. In all interactions, treat others with respect.

Serve others. Before seeking to meet your own needs, consider the needs of those around you.

Encourage one another. Notice and ask about others' successes and struggles. Support them through words, actions, and prayer.

Be curious about new things. Curiosity is about expressing interest in something outside of yourself. Ask meaningful questions about life and faith. Read a book. Have a conversation. Wrestle with new ideas, even if you don't immediately connect with them.

Be curious about other people. Form a friendship with someone from a different academic discipline, work team, or cultural background.

Listen. Before imposing your own opinions, listen deeply to those around you.

Welcome improvement. Change and growth can be challenging but offer great rewards, so seek accountability. Stretch beyond the status quo.

Embrace Sabbath. Knowing that rest and play are important parts of our lives, God gave us the gift of the Sabbath so we can stop working and rest in His goodness.

Ethics We Live By

Seeking to do what is right in the sight of the Lord, and wanting to honor our pledge to revere God and love our neighbors wholeheartedly, Southern's employees and students commit to exemplifying these ethical characteristics, values, and behaviors.

Honesty. Be truthful, sincere, forthright, and tactfully candid, and avoid all deceptive practices.

Integrity. Keep your conscience clear; be principled, graciously courageous, honorable, and upright. Do not place expediency over principle.

Promise-Keeping. Be trustworthy, fulfilling commitments and abiding by the spirit as well as the letter of your agreements.

Fidelity. Do not break confidences or tell secrets unless other ethical duties require disclosure. Be loyal and avoid undue conflicts of interest.

Fairness. Be impartial, open-minded, willing to admit error and (when appropriate) change positions. Demonstrate a commitment to justice and acceptance of diversity. Do not take advantage of another's mistakes or adversities.

Be present. Building a strong community is about showing up. Make it a point to be an active participant in community activities such as worship, social events, and games.

Express gratitude. Gratitude is a practice. Make a habit of giving thanks for something every day.

Practice moderation. Avoid extremes. Do your best in study and work, but take care of yourself, too. Explore nature. Get enough sleep. Eat right. Have fun. Spend regular time with God.

Caring for Others. Treat others as you would want to be treated. Rather than acting from selfishness or greed, be benevolent, kind, compassionate, forgiving, and helpful.

Respect for Individuals. Be courteous, gracious, and decent. Respect human dignity, privacy, and the moral right of others to self-determination. Do not patronize, bully, embarrass, or demean others.

Responsible Citizenship. Support and obey just laws and oppose unjust ones. Responsibly exercise your civic rights and privileges such as voting, expressing informed views, and performing public service. Do not initiate, support, or tolerate anything immoral, illegal, antisocial, or uncivil.

Pursuit of Excellence. Be diligent, reliable, industrious, and committed. Work at being well-informed and well-prepared and at maintaining a high degree of competence. Strive to meet personal and professional responsibilities. Perform tasks to the best of your abilities, making excellence your goal. Do not accede to mediocrity.

Accountability. Accept responsibility for decisions and for setting an example for others. Protect and enhance the reputations of organizations and individuals within your influence. Avoid even the appearance of impropriety, and take whatever appropriate actions you can to correct or prevent the inappropriate conduct of others. Do not hide from duty; do not remain silent or inactive in the face of wrong.

Adapted from Southern's Code of Ethics, which can be found in the university's handbook.

Do justice. Combat injustice by acting in ways that reflect God's Kingdom, seeking justice for all.

Love kindness. Praise and emulate acts of kindness and mercy instead of acts of coarseness and power.

Walk humbly. Practice all these things with humility, not seeking praise from others.

HARNESSING THE DIGITAL WORLD

by Rachel Beaver, '19

As society has shifted toward online forms of communication, many members of the Southern community are utilizing technology to connect with a wide audience. Whether through podcasts, YouTube channels, or social media content, these Southern alumni and students are making a positive impact by harnessing the power of digital media.

Looking Back to Move Forward

Shortly after graduating with a theology degree from Southern, Matthew Lucio, '07, began listening to Mike Duncan's *The History of Rome* podcast, and it lit a spark. While Lucio now serves as a pastor in Illinois, outside of his church he's best known for his own podcast, *Adventist History*.

Like Rome, his podcast was not built in a day. Inspired by Duncan's work, Lucio wanted to create something similar for the history of Adventism and wrote a few episodes in 2011. However, Lucio suffered from imposter syndrome: the feeling that he was underqualified for the project, as if at any moment the proverbial curtain would be pulled back and reveal that he was faking it. Lucio felt that an Adventist historian would be better qualified to tackle this type of content.

He waited for three years but eventually released his first episode on October 22, 2014—yes, the date was intentional. That first episode had 14 downloads initially, but Lucio didn't give up. Now with at least 70 episodes under his belt, the podcast has been downloaded more than 250,000 times and is described by Lisa (Clark) Diller, '96, PhD, chair of the History Department at Southern, as "outstanding." This project has given Lucio opportunities to speak in Australia and at the Society of Adventist Communicators convention, as well as for other events and conference meetings.

As Lucio sees it, using technology is an integral part of the way Adventists share the message of Christ.

"You cannot tell the story of Seventh-day Adventists without telling the story of technology," he said. "From printed charts to newspapers to radio to TV to podcasting, we are a tool-using people. New technologies present new creative opportunities, which simply have to be taken."



Pastor Matthew Lucio, '07, brings the past to life through his podcast, *Adventist History*.

Adapting and Growing

With an eye for photography and a passion to create meaningful video content, Tanya Musgrave, '11, agrees with Lucio. She wants to strengthen Christian media, bolstering creative skills within the church.

"The founders of our church were in their 20s and used the most cutting-edge technology there was in print media," she said. "Technology isn't going away; if we're not going to use it, we're being poor stewards of what we've been given."

After completing a bachelor's degree in film production with a minor in youth ministry at Southern, Musgrave worked in her field for several years before diving into her current job. She now serves as the creative director for CoLab Inc, which helps entrepreneurs, nonprofit founders, and filmmakers bring their ideas to life. This normally involves educational seminars, workshops, and one-on-one coaching, but COVID-19 put a kink in things.



Podcasting provides Tanya Musgrave, '11, a platform to share educational and entertaining content during the pandemic.

"I head up the film and media side of things, and since all of our events got cancelled, we had to pivot quite quickly and figure out how to get the educational content out there," she said.

Thus, the podcast *There to Here: Film & Media* was born, with Musgrave as host.

"It's an educational podcast where we chat with industry professionals on nuts and bolts and how they got from 'there' to 'here,'" she said. "Our aim is to learn from the best and bring it to those who are starting out; most of our audience consists of students, post-grads, and those who have been in the industry less than 10 years."

Musgrave says that the podcast has opened doors for even better content in the future by building connections

and finding presenters for future live events when it's safe to gather together again. It has also broadened her audience.

"For me personally, the podcast really shifted my perspective of being involved with education," Musgrave said. "I always wanted to be a professor, and that's still a possibility one day, but through this opportunity, I realized that I absolutely love the position I'm in right now, getting to know these professionals, connecting them with others, and still being in a mentorship position to help students. It's just education in a different way."

Anyone Can Make It

Rubén Harris, '10, is also driven by the desire to help others succeed. He believes that everyone can accomplish their goals if provided with the right opportunities and resources. His own story backs him up.

While earning his bachelor's degree in business administration at Southern, Harris took a graduate course in finance that ignited his interest in investment banking. He had to overcome a few obstacles: he had not attended an Ivy League school, his GPA was closer to 3.0 than 4.0, he had no internships on his record, and investment bankers are selected exclusively while still in their junior year of college. Undeterred, he set off on an unorthodox, yearlong journey that he chronicled in a series of blog posts that went viral.

After several years as an investment banker, Harris realized his true calling was entrepreneurship in technology—another long shot. Despite all odds, in 2016, Harris launched the *Breaking Into Startups* podcast with some friends. Featuring stories about people who broke into tech from nontraditional backgrounds, the podcast has reached millions of people



In 2018, Rubén Harris, '10 (left), received Southern's Young Alumnus of the Year Award, presented by Professor Braam Oberholster, DBA.



Harris aims to provide inspiration and resources to help other young entrepreneurs succeed in the technology industry.

and has been featured in such publications as *Forbes*, *Black Enterprise*, and *Entrepreneur Magazine*.

"A lot of people listen to the podcast to stay motivated," he said. "We need more content that can teach people how to take care of themselves."

Harris is now the CEO and co-founder of Career Karma, a resource for individuals looking for advice and education about getting into the technology industry. He believes that there's power in storytelling and having genuine and relatable people sharing how they achieved their success.

"People told me I wouldn't be able to make it, but I take pride in being underestimated," said Harris. "I had professors at Southern who believed in me, like Dr. Oberholster."

Braam Oberholster, DBA, professor in the School of Business, recalls Harris's drive to succeed.

"He was eager to learn, asked insightful questions seeking deeper understanding, and worked hard to do more than the basic requirements for assignments," Oberholster said. "We are very proud of Rubén! And I'm impressed by his willingness to continue giving back to Southern and to others; he has worked with a number of our business students after they graduated."

Harris is committed to the idea of technology as a ministry and actively reaches out to Adventist pastors and educators to help bring opportunities to their local churches and communities.



Bryan Arvelo, senior theology major, provides spiritual encouragement on YouTube, including a video sharing seven pointers for a stronger relationship with Jesus.

On My Heart

While podcasts remain very popular, in recent years video content has soared in popularity. Bryan Arvelo, senior theology major, was an early adopter, making his YouTube debut at the age of 10.

His early content included clips of his friends jumping on the trampoline, and as he grew up, he created more comedic, sketch-style videos about life growing up in a Dominican household.

"My YouTube channel helped build me into the person I am today," he said. "I had a bad stutter. It forced me to practice speaking clearly and helped me develop my public speaking skills."

Arvelo began attending Southern in 2016 as a film production major, but as his relationship with God developed, he felt called to enter the theology program. His desire to create never faded, but his focus shifted to more faith-based videos, including sermons and inspirational Bible studies.

"I simply gained a new passion about who Jesus is," Arvelo said. "When it comes to content creation, I've always filmed whatever is on my heart that day. I don't really spend weeks planning and anticipating what I'll film or say unless it's a sermon. If there is a specific passage in Scripture, a funny joke, or a personal story on my heart on a day that I feel motivated to film, that'll be what I share on YouTube."

Now Arvelo has about 12,500 subscribers to his channel.

"I've noticed that many of my Southern classmates tune in to my sermons," he said. "I love to see that they are seeking God, and I'm honored that God is using me in this capacity to help others feel encouraged and stay connected." ■



Keep the (Digital) Presses Rolling

With its roots going back to 1929, the *Southern Accent* student newspaper has seen ups and downs through the years, but the basic concept has remained the same: a printed news publication produced by students, for students. In recent years, the paper's staff has printed roughly 20 issues every school year; however, the Winter 2020 semester at Southern introduced unprecedented challenges.

When students left campus due to the COVID-19 pandemic and finished the semester through distance learning, a core team of students continued producing the paper remotely and distributing it exclusively online via social media. As the school year wrapped up, it was clear that the summer would be unusually eventful. With the support of the Student Development office, the *Accent*, led by Paola Mora-Zepeda, junior journalism major and *Accent* editor-in-chief, continued publishing digitally throughout the summer, something unheard of in the paper's history.

"News does not stop," Mora-Zepeda said. "Even though classes stopped, there was still so much to cover."

As the Fall 2020 semester began, the *Accent* continued to be distributed primarily online to limit physical contact. Mora-Zepeda introduced the first issue of the 76th volume with an editorial stating: "We are living in a time of change. We are faced with a global pandemic, civil unrest, political tensions, and hundreds of unanswered questions. It's hard to say what the next few months will look like. But as the year continues to unfold, the *Southern Accent* is committed to keeping students informed. ... We promise to never take our jobs lightly."

Thank You, Southern Family!

As a result of your generous corporate and individual support, Southern successfully completed its Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning on May 31, 2020. This transformative, multi-year project—nearly three times the size of any previous fundraising endeavor on campus—exceeded its \$50 million goal and raised \$54 million for student-focused impact areas. These fast facts provide a snapshot of the campaign and numerous ways your gifts to it are improving the Southern Experience.

Southern is grateful for the leadership of its campaign co-chairs:



Chris McKee, '88, executive vice president of marketing and sales for McKee Foods Corporation



Terry Shaw, '84, president and CEO for AdventHealth

Additional campaign guidance was provided by the following volunteers: Gordon Bietz; Ken DeFoor, '71; Franklin Farrow, '93; Lars Houmann; Lisa McCluskey; James Ray McKinney, '55; Gordon Retzer, '68; Ron Smith (attended); and Daniel Turk, '85.



Skating to God's Glory

by Trisney Bocala, junior mass communication major

The familiar lyrics of “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” accompanied the little girl on our TV as she gracefully skated across the ice in a purple dress. At 3 years old, I danced around energetically, mimicking the girl in this Cedarhurst Kids Bible Songs music video. Inspired by my joy, my parents signed me up for the Learn to Skate program at our local ice rink for my fourth birthday.

They quickly realized my level of commitment and invested in high-quality gear and numerous opportunities. I continued to take regular lessons, skating three to five times per week, and over the last 16 years passed 13 U.S. Figure Skating tests, attaining the title of a “U.S. Figure Skating Gold Medalist.”

Putting God First

In the world of figure skating, one of the challenges I faced was that many performances are held on Saturdays. At first, I was disappointed because I was missing so many shows and competitions, but I soon realized that each of those events was an opportunity to witness.

My friends would ask me, “Why won’t you be there?” Or a coach would ask me, “Can’t you just get a waiver from your church?” When I explained that taking a break on Saturdays from weekday responsibilities was a choice, most of them were surprised. Like the song that had inspired my skating passion, in short, my answer was always, “I have decided to follow Jesus!”

By the time I left home to attend Shenandoah Valley Academy, I had to pass only one more test to become a gold medalist. Unfortunately, living in the dorm meant limited access to the ice; I could only skate during the monthly home leaves. My coach, sympathetic to my lack of practice during the school year, encouraged me to set the senior test as a summer goal to get back in shape, regardless of the outcome. Somehow, despite having only two months to train for such a major milestone, I passed



Photo: Contributed

The dedication and focus honed through years of ice skating serves Trisney Bocala well as she directs her energy toward her studies.

and have always thought of it as my blessing from God for the sacrifices I made to keep His Sabbath holy.

From Skater to Scholar

When I came to Southern in 2018, I really missed skating and that athletic channel for creative expression. To fill the void, last school year I started a LifeGroup that invites students to glorify God with me through physical motion. This small group has been a blessing to me and a ministry to others with whom artistic expression resonates.

In many ways, my years on the ice continue to shape who I am today, carrying my desire for strength and elegance into all areas of my life. I often find myself applying the creativity and self-discipline I developed as a skater to my academic and professional careers.

Throughout my years of skating, my dad always advised me: “You’ll get as much out of it as you put into it.” This same philosophy is what motivated me to join the university’s honors program, Southern Scholars, where I have been able to take ownership of my education, pursue deeper growth, and surround myself with fellow high-achievers for an enriching college experience.

Further, my conscious choice to be a Sabbath-keeping skater taught me the importance of prioritizing God over all else. As I make plans to graduate, I know that I must be willing to follow God’s call wherever He may lead and to commit to glorifying the Creator, serving His creations, and accomplishing His mission. ■

Visit southern.edu/columns to watch the music video that sparked Bocala’s ice skating career.

Empowered by Knowledge

Virtual Homecoming Weekend | October 29 to November 1

Putting safety first during the COVID-19 pandemic, Homecoming Weekend went virtual for the first time since the annual alumni event began in 1957. Innovative activities provided unique opportunities for alumni to celebrate meaningful milestones and to reconnect with former classmates and professors from afar.

“Although virtual events are not the same as in-person gatherings, we looked for creative ways to help alumni connect with each other, with students, faculty, and staff, and with the campus,” said Evonne Crook, ’79, director of Alumni Relations. “We are grateful to our partners in so many departments across campus and to the volunteers who helped make this happen.”

The university typically welcomes nearly 1,000 alumni and friends of Southern to campus for Homecoming Weekend each October. This year alumni were encouraged to participate instead from the safety and comfort of their homes. Using technology to engage through livestreams, Zoom presentations, and virtual reunions, alumni were still able to connect to each other and to the university.

“The 1970 Class Reunion reunited 22 of us on Zoom after 50 years of life,” said Mary “Weasy” (Holmes) Maxson, ’70, who hosted the virtual 50-year class reunion on Sabbath evening. “We each shared about our lives, along with a Southern memory. We saw God show up as we prayed together at the end of our reunion.”

Admittedly, virtual events do not provide the same level of fellowship enjoyed by being physically together.

“We eagerly look forward to future Homecomings when our Southern family can once again

gather in Colledale!” Crook said. “In the meantime, please know that we continue to pray that you will experience good health and God’s blessings in the midst of these challenging times.” ■

Weekend Highlights

These Homecoming events are available to watch online. For more details visit southern.edu/homecoming.

- **Kick-Off Celebration** – The weekend began with welcomes, university updates, recognition of the 1970 and 1995 classes, and award presentations. These awards recognized alumni healthcare and essential workers for leadership during the pandemic and the Class of 2020 for persevering during historic challenges to achieve their goals.
- **Beyond the Fence Tour** – A live, virtual tour of the new Bietz Center for Student Life featured construction updates and a surprise guest appearance by former university president Gordon Bietz.
- **McKee Library 50th Anniversary Celebration** – During this live, online presentation, Zane Yi, ’00, PhD, reflected on how all knowledge comes from God. Yi is a Southern Scholars alum who is an associate professor in Loma Linda University’s School of Religion and a founding member of the Society of Adventist Philosophers.
- **Vespers: Our Story, His Legacy** – Alumni and current students shared their personal stories of mission and service, and participants were inspired to rediscover ways to be part of Christ’s legacy of service.
- **Sabbath Worship Services** – Gary Rustad, ’00, president of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, spoke on Sabbath morning.
- **Thatcher Farm Virtual Tour** – Seth Shaffer, ’13, and current students hosted a tour of the campus farm, which offers agriculture training to students, employees, and community members.
- **Evensong** – Bruce Ashton, PhD, former School of Music professor and 2014 honorary alum, with members of his family, performed a musical program featuring specially arranged, instrumental hymns.
- **Virtual Cooking Demonstration** – Elizabeth (Cady) Bryner, ’01, campus food services supervisor, shared how to make vegetarian “chicken” croquettes, a favorite dish for alumni who regularly attend Homecoming Weekends on campus.

Alumni Notes

'50s P. William Dysinger, '51, participated in the "Marathon in a Month" event sponsored by the University of Tennessee Extension by walking 32 miles in May at 93 years of age. As a retired physician, Bill continues to serve in the local community as the Hickman County representative for the Regional Health Council. He is also an active member of the Hickman County Health Council and has led local efforts to promote CHIP (Complete Health Improvement Program), using his expertise to educate and inspire others to pursue a healthier lifestyle through good nutritional habits and exercise.

'70s Ben, '71, and Weasy (Holmes) Maxson, '70, pastored in Paradise, California, at the Paradise Seventh-day Adventist Church, where Ben was lead pastor for 14 years and Weasy was an associate pastor for 12 years. After retirement, their lives forever changed on November 8, 2018, when they drove through the inferno of the Camp Fire in Paradise while evacuating to Modesto, California, where they relocated for 18 months. In April, they moved to Calhoun, Georgia, and say they have seen God's beauty show up in the ashes throughout their evacuation and relocation.

Terre (Donaldson) Ilardi, '72, and her husband, Vince, live in El Dorado Hills, California.

2 Ted King, III (attended), and his wife, Shirley, live in Littleton, Colorado. Ted is a certified, award-winning associate broker with Brokers Guild Real Estate.

3 Robert Fekete, '76, graduated with a theology degree, then served as a literature evangelist in Ohio and interned in the Illinois Conference before earning a Master of Divinity from Andrews University. He then pastored in Illinois, Northern Ireland, the Carolina Conference, and Maine before retiring after 40 years of denominational service. Robert and his wife, Carolynne (Butcher) Fekete, '73, live in Flat Rock, North Carolina.

Tina (DeVries), '76, and Rolland Ruf (attended) are retired and recently moved to Grand Junction, Colorado.

Phil, '76, and Debby (Howard) Worley, '75 and '77, celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary in June 2020. Phil retired from 40 years of classroom teaching and now teaches privately online. Debby and their two daughters are professional nannies.

'80s Debra (Parson) Hill, '82 and '83, and her husband, Glenn, have been married since 1988. Their older son, Austin (attended), is graduating from Union College in November. Their younger son, Jason, is a junior at Monterey Bay Academy. Ministry and mission work have taken the Hill family to Michigan, Illinois, California, and South Korea. Debra obtained a master's degree at Andrews University in 1993 and did post-graduate studies in clinical pastoral education with Adventist Midwest Health and Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital. Employed with HSHS St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Illinois, Debra considers it a privilege and blessing to serve while reaching others with Christ's love as a hospital chaplain.

Annabelle (Kendall) Randall, '84 and '86, completed 30 years of service at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in August and is enjoying retirement.

Stan, '85, and Barbara (Redden) Hobbs, '84, recently moved to Albany, Georgia. Stan retired from his position as vice president for education with the Gulf States Conference in May after serving in educational ministry in the Southern Union for 35 years. He has shifted careers to help in his cousin's business. Barbara worked as a floor nurse for various hospitals from the summer of 1984 to February of 2018, when she started as a clinical documentation specialist at Baptist Medical Center South in Montgomery. Their daughter, Caitlin (Hobbs) Kawamura, '13, lives in Georgia with her husband, Jason; and their son, Colton (attended), is a senior engineering major at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Dana Austin, '88, earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Emory University in 1990 and a Master of Science in Administration from Andrews University in 2014. Dana works in nursing

informatics at Wellstar Health System in Georgia and runs her business, Dana Austin Speaks, LLC. She published a book about tea culture and customs, *Tea with Strings Vignettes*, available from Amazon.com. She also keeps busy helping with the Women's Ministry Council of Georgia-Cumberland Conference and continues to connect teen girls and women by hosting virtual tea parties.

'90s Kandy (Wheeling) Carter, '92, lives with her husband, James, in Northport, Alabama.

4 Joella (Lawhead) Lundell (attended) is an elementary school teacher with the Crowley Independent School District and lives in Fort Worth, Texas.

Mark Harebottle, '93, lives with his wife, Savannah, in Canyon Lake, Texas.

5 Mozart (attended) and Heilange (Celamy) Porcena, '95, live in Plantation, Florida. Heilange is a school principal with the School Board of Broward County in Fort Lauderdale.

Joseph Choi, '95, became the music director of Sunnydale Adventist Academy in Centralia, Missouri, this fall, where he enjoys making music and praising God through concerts and church programs. His wife, Angela, works as a nurse and assists with the music program as a school pianist and piano instructor. Their son, Nathaniel, started 8th grade this year. The Chois are excited about this new opportunity to minister and help bring students closer to God.

6 Jonathan Borne, '96, is a science teacher at Midland Adventist Academy in Shawnee, Kansas. His daughter, Rebecca, graduated from Southern in August 2020 with a bachelor's degree in museum studies, becoming a second-generation graduate. Rebecca is continuing her education at Southern to complete a second minor. Jonathan's second daughter, Courtney, started her second semester at Southern in August as an art major.

Erica (Simien) Small, '97, is a supervisor for nursing practice clinics in 21 Greenville County Schools in Greenville, South Carolina. She and her husband, Jnocka, live in Greer.

'00s **7** Elisa (Brown) Blethen, '00, became the finance officer for Adventist Health St. Helena in January 2020. She oversees financial aspects of the 150-bed hospital in the Napa Valley. She is proud to serve and continue the legacy of Adventist healthcare at the oldest Seventh-day Adventist hospital.



Nathan Lindsey, '04, and his wife, Amy, live in Bay City, Oregon.

Sean Amlaner, '05, lives in Glendale, California, and works as a visual effects compositing supervisor for Technicolor VFX.

8 Caleb, '07 and '14, and Jennefer (Hiles) Robinson, '06, live in Waynesville, Virginia, with their son, Conner (9), and daughter, Lillia (7). One of their fondest Southern memories is carving their initials on a picnic table along the Biology Trail when Caleb proposed to Jennefer in 2005. Returning to the same spot in 2014, Caleb replaced the board with a new one that has Conner and Lillia's initials carved into it along with their anticipated years of graduation.

9 Joshua, '09, and Ellen (Luchak) George (attended), and their son, Elijah Asher (2), live in Hot Springs, Montana.

10 Kimberly (Smith) Shumaker, '09, lives in Greeneville, Tennessee, with her husband, James; son, Oliver (9); and daughter, Amelia (6).

'10s Samson Guevara, '14, is an enterprise risk management analyst with T-Mobile, Inc. U.S. He is part of a team responsible for the company's overall risk management program that helps T-Mobile understand how to consider, manage, and disclose to investors risks that affect the company's financial conditions. He married Micah (Neuschwanger) on June 7, 2020, and the couple lives in Renton, Washington.

Shirin (Ramzan) Noorani, '14, is a nurse practitioner at the Skin Cancer and Cosmetic Dermatology Center in Dalton, Georgia, and recently celebrated six years with the center.

11 Suma Sangma, '18, has worked as a child protection case management officer with Relief International in Bangladesh as part of the emergency response Rohingya refugee crisis program since 2018. During the COVID-19 global pandemic and lockdown, all relief agencies are working in low profile but continue to provide some support to the Rohingya refugee camp community.



A Testimony to "Southern Matrimonial College"

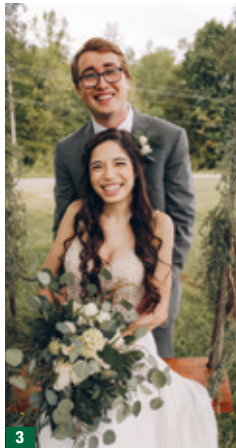
Don (attended) and Dolly (Darbo) Fillman, '53, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in June 2020. They first met at a Fourth of July picnic at Southern Missionary College in 1949 and were married 11 months later in the Lynn Wood Hall Chapel. The ceremony was delayed when Dolly's ride ran out of gas, leaving her to walk almost the whole way from her home on Prospect Church Road down the unpaved road to campus. Her bridesmaids scrambled to get her cleaned up before she walked down the aisle, all smiles, to have Horace Beckner, then pastor of the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists, tie the knot. Seventy years later, having raised six children, the Fillmans still live on the Darbo family farm a few miles from campus and stay busy with church ministries and community services for refugees.

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

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

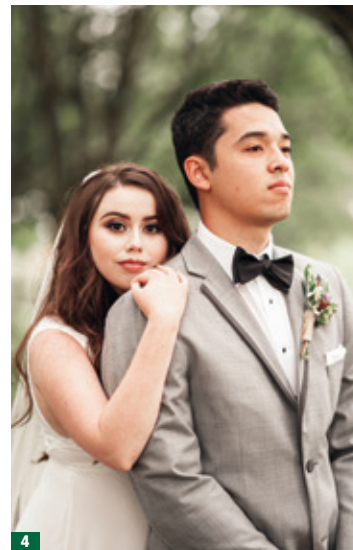
Weddings and Family Additions

1 Dennis, '83, '84, and '17, and Kathy (Campbell) Dodd, '79, '88, and '11, live in Apison, Tennessee. In 2017, they celebrated the wedding of their son, Brenden, '15, and daughter-in-law, Elani (Richards) Dodd, '13 and '14.



2 Scot, '19, and Danae (Church) Brunner, '14, were married on May 28, 2020, in Saint Joseph, Michigan. Prior to their wedding, Danae served as the head girls' dean at Fletcher Academy. The couple lives in Macon, Georgia, where Scot is attending medical school at Mercer University.

3 Jesmalis (Rosales) Sutton, '19, married Hudson Sutton on April 24, 2020. The couple lives in Littleton, Colorado.



4 James, '20, and Siera (Eklund) Chin, '19, were married on May 24, 2020 in Hagerstown, Maryland. The couple lives in Loma Linda, California, where James is attending medical school at Loma Linda University.

Zachary, '20, and Claudia (Reyes-Cepero) Hagen, '19, were married on February 7, 2020. The couple lives in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

5 Nicholas, '06, and Jeanina (Pongo Herrera) Mann, '19, welcomed their son, Nathaniel Lee, on April 12, 2020. The family lives in southern Florida, where Nicholas is a helicopter pilot.

6 Caleb, '08 and '13, and Brenda (Monchez) Fischer, '12 and '13, are proud to be Southern alumni. They welcomed their daughter, Emma Rose, on May 29, 2020, and prayerfully look forward to the future when she will also attend Southern. The family lives in Ooltewah, Tennessee.



7 Josue, '13, and Haslel (Toruno) Bahena, '12, welcomed their son, Leonel, on November 19, 2019. The family lives in Winter Park, Florida.

David, '17, and Sarah (Theus) Mancao, '16, welcomed their son, Bodhi, on April 4, 2020.

Remembrance

1 Arthur L. Watrous, '54 and '68, passed away on April 7, 2020, at the age of 89. After 10 years as an industrial chemist in the southeastern United States, he worked in the logging industry in British Columbia, Canada, and south-east Alaska, first in the woods as a faller and buckler, and later in the shop as a machinist. He retired in Washington state in 1995, and in 2016, due to illness, moved to Montana to be near his daughter Becky. Arthur is survived by his wife of 62 years, Clara Mae (Farley) Watrous, '56; daughter, Becky Watrous-Hay; two grandsons; and one great-grandchild.

David L. Coggin, '61, passed away on July 14, 2020, at home with his family in Lakeland, Florida, at the age of 80. He was born on July 21, 1939, in Corpus Christi, Texas, and graduated from Southern with a biology degree and psychology minor. In May 1963, he graduated from the University of Florida with a master's degree in vocational rehabilitation counseling. David became a licensed nursing home administrator in Florida in 1995. In retirement, he was a real estate agent and mortgage broker and managed a lawn care service. He was an active member of the Zephyrhills Seventh-day Adventist Church. David is survived by his wife of nearly 32 years, Sylvia (Fowler) Coggin, '63; son, Daniel; stepchildren, Herb Marchant, Lisa Burby, and Lori Hernandez, '91; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

2 John M. Robbins, '63, passed away on August 11, 2020, at the age of 82. After graduating from Southern with a theology degree, he completed graduate studies at Andrews University in 1964. He was ordained into ministry in 1968 and served the denomination for 48 years. He pastored in five states and conducted more than 40 seminars and evangelistic series in the United States, Canada, and Jamaica resulting in hundreds of baptisms. John wrote *You Can Win*

Souls, a book that helped many others learn from his simple, effective methods of reaching people for Christ. As a talented architect, builder, and general contractor, he helped construct six churches in Tennessee, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. He also helped renovate two other churches and rebuilt Camp Blue Ridge in Virginia, while tirelessly raising funds to complete the projects. He and Mary (Magill) Robbins (attended) met in high school and were married for 59 years before she passed away in 2015. They are survived by their three children: Linda Edwards, Sandra Greenleaf (attended), and John Robbins Jr. (attended).

3 Terry Dietrich, former art instructor, passed away on March 19, 2020, at his home in McDonald, Tennessee, at the age of 69, following his courageous struggle with cancer. Terry graduated from Rio Lindo Adventist Academy in Healdsburg, California, in 1969. He went on to earn his bachelor's degree in art education from Pacific Union College in Angwin, California, in 1973. Five years later, he earned a Master of Education from Andrews University. For more than 43 years, Terry taught art to students on the elementary, secondary, and university levels, including at Ruth Murdoch Elementary School and Andrews Academy in Berrien Springs, Michigan; Forest Lake Academy in Orlando, Florida; Brainerd High School in Chattanooga; and Southern Adventist University, where he taught for more than six years. Throughout his career, Terry remained committed to helping students see their potential. His creative outlets included woodworking and photography, and he was an active member of the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists. Terry is survived by his wife of 47 years, Pamela Dietrich (former employee); daughter, Nikki Sutton (attended); son, Mark Dietrich, '00 and '01; four grandchildren; sisters, Coleen Jenkins and Montel Dietrich; and brothers, Jon Dietrich and Charles Dietrich.



Expanding Global Printing

Rob, '95, and Angi (Ascher) Howell, '95 (left in photo), and Brad (attended) and Jennifer (Inman) Fisher (attended), associate professor of nursing, had the unique opportunity of traveling to Russia for the dedication of a four-color printing press in February 2020. As owners of the College Press, located on Southern's campus, Rob and Brad had donated the equipment to the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, where it was decided that it could best serve the Euro-Asian Division and be housed at Source of Life Publishing House. The two couples were thrilled to see the enthusiasm with which the press was received and the impact that it will have for the church.

"The gift they gave today will have ripples of impact for many years to come," said Almir Marroni, publishing director for the General Conference. "Gaining access to equipment like this is not easy in Russia. I know the publishing house is extremely appreciative."

Facing Emergencies Head-On

by Trisney Bocala, junior mass communication major

The young woman couldn't breathe on her own, and the medical staff at the University Teaching Hospital in Kigali, Rwanda, did not expect her to survive. A complete blood count showed elevated eosinophils—infection-fighting blood cells not usually heightened in “normal” infections such as pneumonia. Through careful research, Mindi (Lafever) Guptill, '97, MD, learned about eosinophilic pneumonitis and its causes. Then she discovered that the woman often cooked indoors over a charcoal fire, which had likely triggered her lung inflammation. With corticosteroid medications, the patient rapidly improved.

Mission Legacy

Inspired by her parents, who were Seventh-day Adventist missionaries in Pakistan, Niger, and Taiwan, Guptill has a passion for service. During her time at Southern, she spent a year as a student missionary in Burkina Faso with Adventist Frontier Missions and has continued to serve around the world.

After graduating from Southern, Guptill earned her doctorate in medicine in 2006 and completed a residency in emergency medicine at Loma Linda University. Shortly afterward, Guptill and her husband, Scott, '97, moved to Niger, where she served as medical director for a 140-bed hospital in the remote town of Maine-Soroa. Because of political instability, they returned to California after one year.

Back working in the Emergency Department of Loma Linda University Medical Center, Guptill and her husband welcomed a son and then twin daughters. In 2016, the family spent a year in Rwanda, where Guptill served as clinical and teaching faculty

for the country's first emergency medicine residency program. Guptill still mentors and supports the young residency program from afar, in addition to working with Rwandan residents on research projects about tuberculosis seasonality, chest trauma, and more.

“People often throw around the term ‘disparities in healthcare,’” Guptill said, “but when I hear it, I can see the faces of my African patients who were significantly affected by conditions or illnesses that we can cure or manage in the United States.”

Doing Your Best

Once again back at Loma Linda, Guptill now serves as medical director for the Adult Emergency Department. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the world has changed significantly and procedures have adjusted accordingly. For example, hospital staff are required to wear much more personal protective equipment, which Guptill said can be very uncomfortable in Southern California heat during shifts in outdoor tents. Complex decontamination procedures are also in place so that those working on the frontlines can go home safely at the end of their shifts.

“A day in the life of an emergency physician is characterized by unpredictability; we never know what is coming in the door,” Guptill said. “With the pandemic, there is palpable fear and anxiety. I see it in my patients but also in my colleagues. Trying to stay calm, work as a team, reassure patients, etc. can be mentally and emotionally exhausting.”

Guptill explained that her family's greatest challenge this year has been the additional responsibility of Zoom-schooling the three children.

“It is a fallacy that family and work



Photo: Contributed
Whether in the United States, Africa, or wherever God might lead her, Mindi Guptill is dedicated to serving others through her medical skills.

can be balanced,” she said. “You just have to do your best at both, realizing that sometimes one or the other area may be compromised temporarily.”

A Natural

Guptill continually demonstrates her ability to thrive while maintaining a demanding career, a family, and an active role in mission work. Stephen Nyirady, PhD, associate professor in Loma Linda's School of Medicine and former chair of Southern's Biology Department, served as Guptill's academic adviser at Southern.

“Not only was Mindi a very capable student academically, but she had a personality that came across as a natural for the healthcare profession—kind, compassionate, and thoughtful with good problem-solving skills,” Nyirady said. “It has been very rewarding to see her grow professionally and contribute to furthering God's work as a medical professional, not only here in the States but also abroad.” ■



“I Was Taught to Fear”

Speaking from his heart, TJ Simmons, junior religious education major, shares an original poem during the School of Journalism and Communication's spoken word contest. His creative work titled “I Was Taught to Fear” won him first place and a \$250 prize during this Constitution Week event, which focused on the five freedoms of the First Amendment: religion, speech, press, petition, and assembly. Visit southern.edu/columns to watch Simmons and the other contestants.



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