

the magazine of Southern Adventist University

spring 2022

columns

Caring and Dignity

Southern Alumni
Provide the Many Sides
of Elder Care | page 12

Voices Lifted in Praise

Singers Triniti Evans, junior theology major (left); Josh Callwood, sophomore theology major; Nathanya Vidal, senior nursing major; and Giancarlo "Carlo" Leonor, freshman allied health major, are just a few of the talented praise musicians who lead out in Merge Worship. Held in Lynn Wood Hall Chapel, Merge is a multicultural worship service founded in 2015 by Southern students and employees on the concept of community. What started as a once-a-month meeting with an attendance of about 50 students is now a thriving, weekly Sabbath service. Under the canopy of the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists, it brings together students, employees, alumni, and community members.



Photo: Elias Zabala

contents



features

12 | Caring and Dignity

Elder care done well means offering dignity to some of society's most vulnerable and providing quality of life until the very end. Many Southern graduates dedicate their careers to meeting the needs of senior citizens every day.

16 | Shades of Green

Biology professor Ben Thornton, PhD, dreamed of creating an arboretum at Southern, and through his hard work and dedication, that vision has become a reality.

18 | Internships: Connecting the Dots

For most college students, the goal of higher education is not simply to gain more knowledge, but to prepare for a fulfilling career. Internships are one tool that students can utilize to gain skills while exploring potential fields.

22 | Marking Major Milestones

From a one-room school with only 23 students to a 1,300-acre campus with approximately 2,700 students, Southern has come a long way. The university celebrated several notable milestones during the 2021-2022 school year.

departments

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

Cover caption: Southern alumni offer a personalized approach in all areas of senior care.

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Around the World in Three Nights

Photos by Elias Zabala, freshman business administration major

Every school year at Southern is anchored by three special Saturday nights hosted by Asian Club, Black Christian Union (BCU), and Latin American Club (LAC). These student-led organizations welcome all of campus to join together in celebrating the diverse cultures represented by students and employees.

1: Performers throughout LAC Night celebrated various Latin American cultures through music, including this traditional Cuban dance; Saiuri Felix, '21, and Judah Brass, junior English major, are pictured at front.

2: Musicians representing a mix of different countries kicked off LAC Night. Pictured from left: Eldric Hernandez, freshman theology major; Branyi Javier-Pimentel, sophomore animation major; Dante Godeau, freshman marketing and business administration double major; and Nestor Amparo, sophomore information technology major.

3: An original play during BCU Night included a wedding reception blending East and West African cultures. The groom and bride (center) were played by real-life couple Tahkai Martin, senior psychology major and BCU president, and Angelica "Mango" Woodard, junior accounting major.

4: Frequently seen performing together on campus, Joshua Callwood, sophomore theology major (left); Ariel Lantigua, junior psychology major; Nestor Amparo, sophomore information technology major; and Roger Lantigua, senior mass communication major, shared their quartet rendition of "My Girl" by the Temptations during BCU Night.

5: Representing India during Asian Night, a group that included Shanthi Filinovich, sophomore nursing major (left); Jessica Chavan, sophomore graphic design major; Shirali Pathak, '20, pursuing her master's degree in counseling; Abby Vega, sophomore nursing major; and Anjali Filinovich, junior biophysics major, performed a graceful cultural dance.

6: With an entertaining Mariachi performance, Simon Sierra, sophomore computer science major (left); Jonathan Pinero, senior psychology major; and Ethan David, sophomore biology major, celebrated Mexican heritage during LAC Night.

7: Kazaria Ackerman, freshman psychology major, represented Pacific Islanders during Asian Night with the gift of music, singing in Samoan and Fujian.

8: BCU sponsor Teshia Price, who serves as graduate studies counselor for the School of Business, joined in the BCU Night fun as a character in the main play.

9: Through drama, song, and choreography, Asian Night celebrated the diverse cultures under its umbrella, including this group representing Japan.



Donated Cameras Enhance Photography Training

Students can develop a strong foundation in photography at Southern, thanks in part to generous community members. The School of Journalism and Communication's Intro to Photography course utilizes 35mm manual film cameras, which can be hard to come by in today's digital world. Associate Professor Stephen Ruf is grateful for alumni, employees, and community members who donate manual film cameras that he can refurbish and loan to his students.

"These cameras are older than the students, but students are getting a lot of use out of them," Ruf said. "I think it's neat that instead of collecting dust on the shelf, the cameras get new lives as tools for our photography classes."

By using film cameras, students are motivated to quickly learn the devices' inner workings because the photographer does not receive immediate feedback after taking a photo. To get a good shot, students must know how to properly change settings such as aperture and shutter speed.

Jim Marlowe, '75, an accomplished photographer, has donated multiple manual film cameras to Ruf's class and fervently agrees with his method. Although Marlowe now uses digital cameras, he still shoots with a film mentality to ensure that he gets high-quality photos. He says students who



Kenneth Salmon, sophomore mass communication major, practices photography with a manual film camera.

gain experience with film will become better photojournalists in the highly competitive field.

"In the film days, you had to know in your soul, 'I nailed it,' because you only got one shot," Marlowe said. "That's why I think Ruf is doing a favor to his students. Film photography teaches them to slow down and evaluate the scene in order to tell a story."

Estefania Sanchez-Mayorquin, senior journalism major, works as a lab assistant

in the university's photo darkroom and had no experience with film cameras prior to enrolling in the class her sophomore year. Taking the class inspired her to minor in photography, and she recently purchased a film camera of her own.

"Film photography is a window into the world of digital photography," Sanchez-Mayorquin said. "It allows us to appreciate the art of what makes a good photo, because it's so much more than just hitting the shutter button."

— by Amanda Blake

» by the numbers

160

Students belong to School of Music ensembles at Southern, continuing a long tradition of excellence.

1,234

Alumni, employees, students, and friends contributed more than \$448,000 to fund 34 projects this Giving Day.

423

Biscuits are made each week for Sunday brunch at the Village Market Deli. Read more about the VM's history on page 22.

Former Presidents Bietz and Smith Honored

Southern's Board of Trustees designated former presidents Gordon Bietz, DMin, and David Smith, PhD, as presidents emeriti during its February 27 meeting in recognition of their dedication and service to the university.

Bietz served as Southern president from 1997-2016. During his 19-year tenure, the university's enrollment nearly doubled, campus facilities expanded to meet that growth, and the Vision 20/20 Strategic Plan that he spearheaded set a strong foundation for the institution's ongoing success. Previously, he served as senior pastor of the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists on campus for 13 years.

"As Southern's longest-serving president, Dr. Bietz played a huge part in shaping Southern as we know it today,"

said Ken Shaw, '80, EdD, Southern's current president. "We are pleased to recognize and honor Gordon for his Christ-centered leadership, commitment to Adventist education, and rich legacy of service to the Southern community."

Smith also has a long relationship with the institution, beginning in 1981 and serving 17 years as English professor and then department chair. After leaving the area to serve as president of Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 2011 Smith returned as senior pastor of the Collegedale Church—a position he held for five years. During that time, he served on Southern's board, gaining an intimate understanding of the institution's finances, operations, and mission. In 2016, Smith was unanimously elected as Southern's 26th president and served until his

retirement in 2021.

"It is our pleasure to honor President Smith, who dedicated nearly 30 years of his career to the Southern community," Shaw said. "In every role, Dave's love for Jesus, as well as the students, employees, and church members he interacted with, made a significant impact and leaves a lasting legacy."

— by Staff Writer



Pictured from left: David Smith, former president; Ken Shaw, president; and Gordon Bietz, former president

Knowledge Exchange Surpasses 1 Million Downloads

Southern's Knowledge Exchange, an online institutional repository that includes scholarly work by students and faculty members, recently passed the milestone of 1 million downloads. Provided by McKee Library as a free service since 2013, Knowledge Exchange houses more than 5,000 documents, which have been accessed by people in 226 different countries. For Southern students, it is a resource for sharing their academic work with a broad audience.

"Utilizing Knowledge Exchange is a valuable experience for students

who want to be published or get into graduate programs," said Jessica Spears, research services librarian and administrator of the repository. "Through this platform, content created on campus gets used all over the world, which creates incredible opportunities for students and faculty."

In order to participate, students must have a professor certify that their work is of high caliber and can be published. One of the top downloads on the site is a paper written by a student in 2009 titled "The Impact of Media Exposure on Self-

Esteem and Body Satisfaction in Men and Women," which has garnered nearly 70,000 downloads.

In addition to academic works, the site houses historical documents, images, and digital content for Southern, including yearbooks and student newspapers. To view and download documents, visit southern.edu/knowledgeexchange. As Spears said, "No matter what you are studying or where your interests lie, Knowledge Exchange is a wonderful resource."

— by Staff Writer

11

Academic Summer Camps this June offer high school students a chance to spend three days exploring a potential academic field.

750

Gym-Masters team members learned from Rick Schwarz during his 22 years as coach at Southern. He retired at the end of this school year.

860

Bags of popcorn were handed out during President Ken Shaw's monthly "Pop with the Prez" meet-and-greet with students.

Two New Online Master's Degrees Available

Enrollment is now open at Southern Adventist University for two online master's degree programs aimed at helping those in the workforce break into a new field and make a difference.

The School of Education and Psychology is offering a new Master of Arts in Teaching degree, taught completely online, with field experience available close to home. This innovative program allows participants to pursue their dreams of teaching, even if they did not study education at the undergraduate level.

"We believe that many people are currently in careers they don't find fulfilling, and this is an opportunity for them to do something that would fit with their personal mission to make a difference in the world," said Tammy Overstreet, '92, PhD, dean of the School of Education and Psychology. "We want students in this program to go out and be world changers, one student and one classroom at a time."

Southern will help participants arrange

field training in person at a school near them. Options are available for students to begin working as teachers while completing their practical hours. Participants can earn Seventh-day Adventist or public school certification through the program.

"Given the great demand for teachers, my hope is that this program will help fill that need," said Robert Young, PhD, senior vice president for Academic Administration. "It aligns with part of our mission, serving the needs of the church."

The School of Computing recently added a new Master of Science in Applied Computer Science, which includes a choice of three certificates: Data Analytics, Cybersecurity, and Web Development. No prior tech experience or education is required. Project-based learning is used in every course, so students can apply the new skills in their areas of interest.

"These skills are highly valuable in today's market," said Rick Halterman, PhD, dean of the School of Computing.



Photo: Staff
Teachers trained at Southern, such as Alex Staton, '21, impact the lives of many students around the world.

"Our options will provide students with skills that are immediately needed by companies."

Visit southern.edu/graduatestudies to learn more.

— by Stefanie Green

Southern Expands MLK Service Day Tradition



Photo: Gavin Serban
One group of volunteers helped repair the trail system on Southern's campus.

This year, Southern expanded a tradition it began in 1993, moving from one day of service honoring the memory of Martin Luther King Jr. on the federal holiday to spending the entire weekend putting words into action. Students and employees helped at assisted living facilities, schools, animal shelters, and much more. In fact, about 900 volunteers participated in more than 60 service projects over four days.

One project involved collecting and distributing groceries to those facing food insecurity. Over the MLK service weekend, volunteers gathered more

than 6,000 food items from community members, packed bags of groceries, and distributed the food to those in need at a drive-through location.

"The most impactful part for me was talking to people who came for groceries," said Bailey Krall, senior music major, who helped coordinate the project. "Several of them opened up about their challenges, such as job loss, health problems, and debilitating accidents. Everyone was so gracious, and their kindness left an impression on me. This experience helped me recognize our shared humanity." — by Staff Writer

Southern Benefits Area

A study looking at the 2020-2021 school year found that Southern's presence in the Chattanooga metropolitan area directly and indirectly contributed \$152 million to the local economy.

The study, conducted by a private consultant, focused on three major areas of the university's economic impact: local business volume generated by university expenditures; local full-time jobs created and sustained by Southern's presence (5,338 jobs, including the university's own 475 full-time-equivalent jobs, counted over the same period); and individual income generated by the university's expenditures.

The Chattanooga Metropolitan Statistical Area is the region most economically benefited by Southern's operations. It is estimated that approximately 57% of the university's spending occurs in that geographic area. The analysis was based on the Caffrey model, which was developed in 1968 and is considered a standard by the American Council on Education.

"Southern is blessed to be part of this thriving community, and we are proud to contribute to the area's economic well-being as well," said President Ken Shaw, '80, EdD. "In addition to the data included in the report, you can't forget the intrinsic value that Southern brings. Increased education results in improved productivity and quality of life, and our high-caliber graduates are a huge asset to local businesses and organizations. We provide many opportunities for personal growth, plus numerous services and facilities to the community, and that indirect economic impact makes a significant difference." — by Staff Writer

Students Win Seven Awards at Sonscreen Film Festival

During the Sonscreen Film Festival in April, film production students in Southern's School of Visual Art and Design were recognized for excellence in filmmaking. Seven Southern students won awards:

- Best in Fest and Best in Drama: "Like Paper," Michaela Hounslow
- Best in Documentary: "As You Are," Tyler Whitsett and Sid Ramirez
- Best in Art Experimental: "Truth Is Stranger," Michael Moyer
- Best in Comedy: "Life of Walter," Michael Moyer
- Jury Selection: "We Are People," Marcus Maynes
- Audience Choice: "Spark," Ashton Weiss and Michael Rackley

The Sonscreen Film Festival provides young filmmakers with an opportunity to showcase their purposeful, relevant productions centered on social awareness, outreach, and uplifting entertainment. This year, 23 Southern film students attended the festival, held at the Loma Linda University Church in

California. While Southern students have been attending the festival for almost 20 years, this year's group was the largest.

"Screening your work for an audience and fielding questions is such a valuable experience and reward for any filmmaker," said Nicholas Livanos, '07, associate professor of film at Southern. "I'm so thankful my students got the chance to share their hard work with peers and industry professionals; we're coaching the next generation of Christian filmmakers."

Michaela Hounslow, a senior, felt humbled to receive the highest award and credits her crew for their perseverance.

"Making films is a vulnerable, exhausting process, and when that work is rewarded, it's a special kind of encouragement," Hounslow said. "I strive to tell stories that highlight a sense of humanity in places where people don't expect to see any. Stories have preserved our thoughts, ideas, fears, and hopes for generations, and I'm honored to be a part of that tradition." — by Stefanie Green



Photo: Contributed
This year, 25 Southern students and faculty from the School of Visual Art and Design attended Sonscreen.

Transforming Fear

by Stefanie Green, junior public relations major

Biology professor Aaron Corbit, PhD, loves studying snakes. And black widow spiders. And other creatures that invoke fear for many people.

“I think the fact that others find snakes, spiders, and scorpions terrifying inspires my research,” he said. “As fallen humans, we often let fear and misunderstanding get in the way of our growth in knowledge. I find that once you start to take the time to learn about these creatures, fear transforms into respect and even fascination.”

As a graduate student at Loma Linda University in California a decade ago, Corbit’s doctoral research explored the conflict between rattlesnakes and humans in Southern California. The red diamond rattlesnake is a protected species found in that area. People struggle with the question of what to do if one of the endangered snakes shows up in their backyard. The venomous pit viper poses a real threat, but conservation of the snake remains important.

“We are finding more and more that current ecosystems are finely balanced, with organisms both depending upon and being held in check by the other organisms that surround them,” Corbit said. “For example, snakes play a role in keeping pests such as rodents in check—animals that, among other things, may negatively impact certain plant species by eating their seeds.”

A Deeper Dive

After earning his doctorate and becoming a professor, Corbit’s rattlesnake research took a back seat. During the school year, Southern professors’ days are filled to the brim with course preparation, teaching, meeting with students, and other student-focused activities aimed at providing the best Christ-centered education possible. However, in order to stay current in their field and continue offering high-quality instruction, periodically professors can take a sabbatical—paid time away from campus to focus on a specific project.



In addition to his fascination with rattlesnakes, Aaron Corbit enjoys his pet Pueblan milk snake named Rex.

“Sabbaticals allow professors time to dig deeper into their specialty,” said Keith Snyder, PhD, chair of the Biology Department. “This enriches the courses they teach and provides a strong role model for our students.”

During Fall 2021, Corbit was able to return to his rattlesnake project while on sabbatical, with a focus on analyzing data he had previously gathered and sharing his findings. His research looked at how to minimize conflict with the rattlesnakes and what a person who encounters one of them should do. He also studied how moving a snake to a new location would impact the creature.

Although other studies had indicated that relocating the rattlesnakes increased their mortality, Corbit’s research concluded that the snakes he studied were able to acclimate to their new environment and that translocation could be a good option when a snake finds its way onto someone’s property. This research will help residents make informed decisions when encountering red diamond rattlesnakes.

During his sabbatical, Corbit worked with a collaborator at Loma Linda University, digging deep into the data and publishing a paper based on this research in the scientific journal *Diversity*.

“I am very grateful to the university for the opportunity to take a sabbatical, which definitely made this possible,” Corbit said. “I learned a lot about statistics and using specialized software. One of my biggest take-aways was gaining more insight on how to turn scientific data into scientific knowledge.”

Seeing God in the Natural World

Now back in the classroom, Corbit aims to not only share valuable knowledge with his students, but also inspire them with his curiosity and love for God’s creatures.

“Despite the current world not reflecting what God intended in His original creation, the natural world still bears the mark of His design,” he said. “I want my students to know that they can get a glimpse into the mind of God by studying the natural world.” ■

Professor Aaron Corbit received Southern’s 2022 President’s Award for Excellence in Scholarship. Corbit is one of many subject-matter experts who are available through Southern’s Resource Guide. For more information, visit southern.edu/resourceguide.



Knocking It Out of the Park

As another school year drew to a close, 394 undergraduate and graduate students received their degrees from Southern on Sunday, May 8. Avery Kroll (left) graduated cum laude with her bachelor’s degree in animation. Earlier this year, she and two classmates, Mugi Kinoshita and Ruth Perez, were recognized for their animation work, receiving the Best Undergraduate Student Film Award during the Windrider Summit & the Sundance Film Festival Experience 2022. To watch their award-winning animated short film “Knock Knock” and other student projects, visit southern.edu/animationshowcase.

Caring and Dignity

Southern Alumni Provide the Many Sides of Elder Care

by Angela Baerg, '06



Elder care done well means offering dignity to some of society's most vulnerable and providing quality of life until the very end. Many Southern graduates dedicate their careers to meeting the needs of senior citizens every day. Some are graduates of the Health Services and Senior Living Administration program in the School of Business, and others come from the School of Nursing, which offers a graduate studies emphasis in gerontology. These programs prepare students to improve and enrich seniors' lives.

Samuel was a widowed veteran whose only son lived 2,000 miles away. He had been living alone for some time when he moved into a Brookdale Senior Living community. Tresa (Titus) Vaudreuil, '93, divisional dementia care manager, was amazed at the transformation she saw as Samuel began to connect with the Brookdale associates and residents.

"He brought so much to the community," Vaudreuil remembers. "Everyone admired and supported him. We loved watching him open up, smile, and enjoy new friendships. We became his family."

When Samuel passed away several years later, they mourned him as a community. They carefully planned and held a service to honor his life. In recognition of his sacrifices for his country, the program included a color guard and military honors, such as "Taps" and the folding and presentation of the United States flag.

Finding Moments of Joy

Vaudreuil's first foray into healthcare was in her teens, working part-time as a certified nursing assistant (CNA) at a nursing home. There she discovered how much she enjoyed working with seniors. Later, she decided to major in long term care administration and business administration at Southern, where she received a foundation in leadership and management. As a student, she interned at Alexian Village, which provided hands-on experience that brought her

classroom knowledge to life.

For the last 13 years, Vaudreuil has worked at Brookdale, where she supports multiple memory care communities across the country. With a passion for dementia care, she emphasizes the importance of finding moments of joy and love amidst the challenges for those who live with dementia.

Vaudreuil believes that while many people focus on what dementia takes away, it's important to focus more on what the person can still do and enjoy, emphasizing that dementia doesn't remove his or her personhood. The communities that she supports strive to provide enrichment that follows individual interests and promotes overall well-being, including physical and mind-stimulating exercises, music, creative engagement, and purposeful projects that allow participants to give back to the community.

"Individuals living with dementia are often given a stigma and misunderstood," Vaudreuil says, "but what they truly need is a voice and advocates who understand who they are as people, as well as how to support them and their families."

Integrating Faith in Nursing

Originally from Guam, Sarita Stovall, '18 (MSN), got her first taste of caregiving as a nurse's aide working with school-aged children. She loved assisting her supervisor, Marcia, and observing her warm, patient manner of interacting with students, staff, and parents. Marcia's unflagging dedication and kindness showed Stovall exactly what kind of nurse she wanted to become. After earning her bachelor's degree from the University of Guam, Stovall



Tresa Vaudreuil, '93

Preparing Leaders in Senior Care

In 1978, Forrest Preston and Dan Rozell, '61, had a vision to create a new Long Term Care Administration program at Southern. Preston had founded Life Care Centers of America in Cleveland, Tennessee, a few years before, and he could see a growing need for educated and well-trained nursing home administrators. He suggested that a program preparing future long term care administrators would dovetail well with Southern's mission. That same year, Rozell had joined Southern's business faculty, bringing with him experience from a long term care administration program that he had managed in Texas. After working with Southern's administration and faculty to build the new program, Rozell served as program director until 1996.

From the beginning, Life Care partnered with Southern's School of Business to help shape the curriculum and provide scholarships, hands-on internships, and expertise. Over the years, the curriculum has evolved to keep up with industry standards, and in 2019 the program was renamed Health Services and Senior Living Administration. Since its inception, more than 400 graduates have successfully completed the program at Southern.

"I love when our students take part in their first internship of the program and truly understand how important this field is and what a difference they can make in it," says Lisa Kuhlman, '10 (MBA), current Health Services and Senior Living Administration program director. "To thrive in this field, you need a mind for business and a heart for serving others."

decided to pursue her master's degree in nursing with a gerontology emphasis. She chose Southern's program because she was impressed with the university's strong values and focus on faith as an integral part of nursing.

"Not only did it help me achieve another level of education, but also another level in my faith," Stovall says. "I learned that faith can play a big role in how you care for your patients."

A difficult part of being a medical provider to an elderly population is losing patients. Stovall's time at Southern helped her understand that regardless of the outcome, God is

Sarita Stovall, '18

still in control. She loved how her professors prayed during every class, and the environment of faith helped her get through the hard work and stress of training.

Stovall currently works as a nurse practitioner at Blount Senior Care Partners in Maryville, Tennessee. This network of facilities provides patients with individualized geriatric care in a clinic setting and continuity of care in a nursing home, assisted living, long-term facility, or independent-living setting. Stovall loves that even on the busiest days, she gets to make an impact on her patients' lives.

Many of her patients have diabetes, and one of their greatest needs is toenail care. One day Stovall had a patient come in with his nails in horrible condition. He was in so much pain that he could not wear shoes and was very embarrassed. Throughout the appointment, he continuously apologized for the condition of his feet. As Stovall worked with him, she chatted and did her best to set him at ease. At the end, she emphasized how nice his nails looked—nice enough that he could wear shoes again! On every subsequent visit, he talked about how light and comfortable his feet felt and how much better he could walk.

"I see so many patients, but it's incredible how just 12 or 15 minutes can make an impact on their lives," she says. "Sometimes it brings me to tears. It's a good reminder for me to stop and slow down."

Balancing Knowledge With Compassion

For Barbara Keltch, '17, healthcare was woven into the fabric of her life since childhood. Her mother worked as a CNA, and her aunt did private-duty nursing. Keltch assisted her aunt and later became a CNA herself. She loves being able to make a big impact on people's lives through even small actions.

"Many patients I work with can't do anything for themselves and need assistance to change and clean themselves," Keltch says. "You can see how thankful they are for the help."

Keltch was working as a secretary at Memorial Hospital in Chattanooga, Tennessee, when her nurse friend Tony VanBeukering, '91, began urging her to pursue a degree at Southern. He would talk about the good professors and how much he had learned. He told her that the faculty members were caring, supportive, and prayed with students before tests;



he also assured her that she would have an adviser who would help her through the process.

Although nervous about taking the leap, Keltch eventually followed VanBeukering's advice and enrolled. She wanted to balance being knowledgeable with being compassionate, and Southern was a perfect match for her. When Keltch was overwhelmed with the volume of new information she had to digest, review classes offered by Professor Bonnie Hunt, '53, were a great help. In 2017, Keltch graduated with her associate degree in nursing and currently works at nearby Adoration Home Health.

"I often have patients say they can tell I went to Southern by the way I take care of them," Keltch says. "I like to educate, and I take my time. I talk to them and treat them like I would want my own family to be treated."

She works hard to help her patients understand their illnesses and prescriptions, explaining how certain medications can adversely interact, while providing additional training. When a diabetic patient didn't know she was supposed to wash her feet daily and check for sores and lesions, Keltch patiently taught her what to do. She shares with her clients the dangers of hypertension and excessive salt, and some have changed their eating habits as a result. For patients experiencing dementia, she always offers a paper with printed directions to help them remember their medication schedule.

"To be a good nurse, you have to truly care for your patients," she says. "I love my job. My mission is to do my best for my patients and make their lives as easy as possible."

Creating a Better Life for Seniors

Franklin Farrow, '93, fondly remembers his days as a student at Southern; two favorite memories are meeting his wife, Tamatha (Collson), '93, on the promenade and seeing the whole Collegedale area shut down for a solid week during the blizzard of 1993. As a student in Southern's Business Administration program, he knew that he wanted to do something in the world of business but wasn't sure what.

"Our Southern professors gave us more than academic knowledge; they engaged us with life principles as well," Farrow says. "The care and attention from my professors, the Christian atmosphere, and the network for job connections proved invaluable for me."

It was when Farrow became a marketing intern at Life Care Centers of America during his senior year that he began to see his future path more clearly. He continued with Life Care for several years after graduation. Then, in 1996, he and business partner Greg Vital, '14, decided to take a big risk and started their own business, Morning Pointe Senior Living.

"We had absolutely nothing—no letterhead, no pencils," Vital recalls. "All we had was a business plan and our last paychecks from our former employer."

At first, the plan was only to develop senior housing; however, after the six initial buildings were finished, the two men decided to use their business knowledge to run their communities as well. By building their own management teams and overseeing operations, they could ensure premium service for their residents.

This year, Morning Pointe Senior Living celebrates its 25th anniversary and now includes more than 35 locations with 3,000 residents and associates. In 2017, Farrow and Vital gave back to Southern by investing in the students of the future, creating a Morning Pointe Endowment of \$500,000 for the Health Services and Senior Living Administration program at Southern.

"I feel called to serve people, make them happy, solve their problems, and hopefully show them Christ in how I go about my day," Farrow says. His goal is that everyone who comes into contact with Morning Pointe has an uplifting experience, whether they are employees, residents, family members, volunteers, or vendors.

Vital attended Southern in the 1970s, then completed his degree in 2014, serving as the commencement speaker at his own graduation. In 2021, Vital was elected as a Tennessee State Representative. Although Farrow and Vital are deeply engaged in the community in many ways, their senior care residents remain their priority.

"Every year is the year of the resident," Vital says. "We remain dedicated to our mission of creating a better life for aging seniors and their families." ■



Greg Vital, '14 (left), and Franklin Farrow, '93

SHADES of GREEN

by Stefanie Green, junior public relations major

One of the first things visitors to Southern's campus notice is its abundance of nature. Throughout the year, during every season, God's handiwork shines through in the 500 acres of carefully cultivated landscaping and 800 acres of natural forest on campus. Biology professor Ben Thornton, PhD, dreamed of creating an arboretum at Southern, and through his hard work and dedication, that vision has become a reality.

A GIFT TO THE UNIVERSITY

For many years, one of Professor Thornton's interests has been ecology, the branch of biology that deals with the interrelationships between organisms and their environment. When he joined Southern's faculty in 2010, he brought that love for God's creation with him.

As time went by, Thornton noticed a number of unmarked memorial trees planted across campus. It bothered him that people would walk by and not know of the trees' importance. This situation, combined with his passion for ecology, contributed to his decision to draw up a proposal for a campus arboretum. Administration welcomed his plan, and a generous donor stepped forward to fully fund it. For the last six years, Thornton has volunteered his time to make the project happen.

"I look at the arboretum as being a gift to the university," Thornton said. "I don't get paid to do this. Each faculty member contributes to Southern in different ways; we don't just come here to teach—we contribute to the life of the university and its continued development."

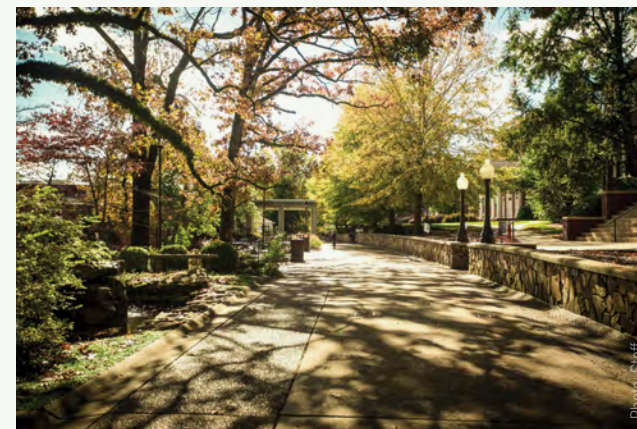
THE ARBORETUM

The Southern Adventist University Arboretum is composed of trees and woody plants scattered throughout the populated part of campus. Each plant that is included in the arboretum has been marked with a QR code so that curious passersby can view more information online. A stroll down the promenade between Hickman Science Center and Brock Hall provides an opportunity to enjoy many of the identified trees, including large oak and maple trees shading the walkway, as well as flowering trees, such as dogwood and cherry.

In March 2020, Southern's arboretum was awarded a Level One Accreditation by the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and the Morton Arboretum. Additionally, Southern is now recognized as an accredited arboretum in the Morton Register of Arboreta, a database of the world's arboreta and gardens dedicated to woody plants.

STUDENT CONTRIBUTION

In 2016, Thornton invited his Biology II students to participate in bringing his dream of an arboretum to fruition. In particular, he asked for freshmen who were interested in working with him, hoping that



they might continue with the project for four years. Five freshmen raised their hands.

"I remember the day we tagged the first tree," Thornton said. "That was a special moment."

The team of students methodically worked their way around campus, identifying and labeling every tree in the designated area. The information they collected was then uploaded to a special website, including photos for many of the trees. The students also were responsible for completing the application process with Arbnet to gain official arboretum status.

"Many of us see nature and do not pay attention to how varied and diverse it is," said Pedro Aragon Vega, a freshman marketing major who works on the arboretum. "Through the arboretum, we learn to identify details that we do not always stop to see."

The four students currently working for the arboretum are in the process of uploading 2,000 photos of the trees displaying fall colors, and they continue to update the website as new trees are planted.

REMEMBERING

Spread out across campus are 12 special trees, planted in memory of loved ones who had a significant connection with Southern. One such tree, a Willow Oak, stands proud and tall on the promenade, its bright green leaves offering shade, while its acorns feed the squirrels and birds. This particular tree was planted in honor of Niel Jørgen Sorensen.

Sorensen worked in Southern's Landscape Services department for 34 years. He was known and loved by both students and peers for his enthusiasm, passion, and ability to find solutions to seemingly impossible problems. As an agriculturalist, naturalist, and scientist, he left a lasting legacy; his impact can be seen on Southern's campus through the Garden of Prayer and other nooks and terraces developed over the years. Prior to working at Southern, Sorensen served as a missionary in Latin America, Africa, and Europe.

When he passed away in 1999, Sorensen left big shoes to fill. The Willow Oak was planted in his memory near Daniells Hall that same year. ■



FUN FACTS

Southern's official colors are evergreen and lime green, which is fitting, given the verdant landscape of campus.

Landscape Services has planted 36 new trees this school year.

At 220 years old, the oldest tree on campus—a stately White Oak—also has the largest circumference at 13 feet around.

ARBORETUM STATS

1,200

trees & woody plants

84

unique species represented

53

species native to Tennessee

To view a video and explore the arboretum virtually, visit southern.edu/columns.

INTERNSHIPS

CONNECTING THE DOTS

BY ANNALYSE (HASTY) HOWERTON, '13

For most college students, the goal of higher education is not simply to gain more knowledge, but to prepare for a fulfilling career. Internships are one tool that students can utilize to gain skills while exploring potential fields. In addition to requiring this practical experience for many degrees, Southern has reworked its Life Calling and Career Services office to better support students in this area.

Hands-on training is not a new concept. For centuries, skilled craftspeople—such as carpenters, scribes, artists, and metal workers—trained the next generation through apprenticeships. Apprentices might spend years following in the footsteps of their masters before building enough skill to launch their own careers, doing the same work.

Some trades still follow that model, but the modern internship offers a very different approach for a new era of jobs. Popularized in the '70s and '80s as office careers soared, internships provide young people with the opportunity to spend a few months embedded in a workplace. Students may even complete multiple internships, exploring different companies and skillsets to better understand their post-college options while developing skills and a network of job connections.

FINDING A LIFE CALLING

Over the years, Southern has provided prospective and current students, as well as alumni, with valuable resources—such as career counseling, interview preparation, résumé tips, and job search strategies—through its Career Services office. However, this year the department's scope expanded with the addition of an internship coordinator and a name change.

“We’ve renamed the department Life Calling and Career

Services, which puts an emphasis on looking at the God-given abilities and talents that each person has,” said Nova Munselle, '08, the department's coordinator. “We want to help identify a career that allows God to take part in the planning process to turn it into a calling. We want to challenge students to find something they are passionate about and see how they can change the world around them.”

The new internship coordinator will play a key role in this mission, helping to connect more students with openings that fit into their big-picture life goals. This will benefit not only Southern students, but also businesses that need outstanding, engaged interns. Of course, professors also will continue to play an important role in recommending opportunities to students, pairing their various industry connections with qualified candidates.

“Internships are so important for students, because most entry-level jobs require at least one year of work experience; internships are how students can get there,” Munselle said. “Besides industry experience, being immersed in a work setting also teaches students professionalism, what it means to work in a business setting, and how to successfully complete a job interview. That is transferable experience, and it's best learned firsthand, outside of the classroom.”

THE PATH TO SUCCESS

In a competitive job market, it becomes increasingly valuable for students to get a foot in the door, make connections, build a strong résumé, and gain a better understanding of the industry they hope to pursue.

“It is more important than ever to help students learn about themselves and give them the resources they need to excel as they follow God's plan for their lives,” Munselle said. “We are excited to help students navigate this journey.”



NOVA MUNSELLE, '08

Life Calling and Career Services Coordinator



INTERNS

While internships come in a variety of shapes and sizes, the right one can make all the difference on a student's career path.



ILSIA BONILLA

Senior Social Work Major

Internship | Chattanooga Regional Homeless Coalition

Isia Bonilla hopes to become a licensed clinical social worker and open her own private practice someday, helping vulnerable populations, such as immigrants and military veterans. As part of her preparation, her social work degree requires an internship, which she recently completed locally at Chattanooga Regional Homeless Coalition.

She had planned on interning with a different organization, but when that fell through, she accepted the role of helpline intern, serving as the initial contact for clients and connecting them to the appropriate resources.

"I never saw myself working with the homeless population, so it was all new to me," Bonilla said. However, she now recognizes it as the best choice for her development as a future service provider. "It fed a passion that I didn't know I had, and it helped me network with many other like-minded individuals in the community."

Bonilla is grateful for the experience and how she was able to put her classroom knowledge into action.

"Having an internship allows students like me to explore our interests and network with the community," she said. "It gives us the opportunity to learn, create change, and reassure our career paths."

“IT FED A PASSION THAT I DIDN'T KNOW I HAD, AND IT HELPED ME NETWORK WITH MANY OTHER LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS IN THE COMMUNITY.”



Photo: Calvin Serban



Photo: Contributed

CAMERON REEL, '21

Bachelor of Science in Mass Communication - Media Production

Internship | Hope Channel International

During his last semester at Southern, Cameron Reel, '21, gained valuable hands-on experience working for Hope Channel International as a freelance project manager. He landed the position based on the recommendation of his professor, Pablo Fernandez, in the School of Journalism and Communication.

Reel was able to use the skills he had learned at Southern to help get several projects off the ground for the organization during his time there. The work not only expanded his abilities, but also gave him insight into his path forward.

"The most valuable thing I took away was real-world work experience," Reel said. "I was able to recognize the things that I enjoyed doing and the things that I didn't enjoy. Once I graduated, I was able to focus on finding a job that involved the type of work I found most fulfilling."

Reel's targeted search was successful; immediately after graduation, he was hired by the Georgia-Cumberland Conference of Seventh-day Adventists to work in its Communication Department.



CHARITY OGOTI

Senior Finance Major

Internship | Fitch Ratings

As a finance major, Charity Ogoti worked hard and looked for ways to expand her relevant skills. In 2020, she joined the School of Business' SMARRT Fund, a team of students that manages a small portion of the university's endowment in order to practice profit-building investment with real funds. Additionally, Ogoti took the university's long-running Preparing to Meet the Firms course, which helped equip her to pursue her dreams.

"It's an amazing class that strengthened my business acumen and interview skills," Ogoti said. "I really started to utilize my LinkedIn account and build my public profile. When the semester ended, I saw an internship posting on LinkedIn and applied for it."

The internship was at Fitch Ratings, one of the top credit-rating agencies in the United States, and Ogoti was thrilled to land the position. For three months in 2021, she worked virtually as a summer analyst for the company headquarters in New York City.

But her story doesn't end there. Pleased with her good work, the company has offered Ogoti a full-time job as an associate analyst upon her graduation. ■



Photo: Calvin Serban

MARKING MAJOR MILESTONES

From a one-room school with only 23 students to a 1,300-acre campus with approximately 2,700 students, Southern has come a long way. Through God's guidance, the institution has continued to add resources and facilities that enhance students' experiences and bless the surrounding community. The university celebrated several notable milestones during the 2021-2022 school year.



130 YEARS

Southern Adventist University

Founded in 1892 as Graysville Academy, the school has had six name changes, one significant move (from Graysville to Collegedale), 27 presidents, and more than 44,000 students who have each made a mark on the institution. Founders Robert Kilgore and George Colcord could never have imagined what their school would face through the years, yet they would be pleased to know that Southern—now the largest undergraduate Adventist university in North America—retains its mission of providing a quality, Christ-centered education.

70 YEARS

WSMC Radio Station

Southern's radio station, now known as Classical 90.5 WSMC, aired its first broadcast on April 21, 1952. Beginning as a 25-watt AM station managed by the Student Association, the station was dedicated to campus only and extended as far as the dorms "on a good weather day." Upgraded to an FM station in December 1961, today WSMC shares classical music to listeners within a 90-mile radius with a 100,000-watt digital transmitter.



55 YEARS

Wright Hall

Built in 1967, Wright Hall quickly became an iconic Southern symbol, with its columns featured prominently on the logo and in the name of this magazine. Serving as the administration building, it was named after Kenneth Wright, president from 1943 to 1955. During his tenure, Wright transformed Southern from a junior college into a fully accredited four-year college. Now a university offering master's and doctorate degrees, Southern is still graced by Wright Hall's presence at the heart of campus.

50 YEARS

E.A. Anderson Lecture Series

First held during the Winter 1972 semester, the annual E.A. Anderson Lecture Series continues to feature guest speakers who share rich elements of the business world, providing a broader understanding to students, faculty, staff, and community members alike. The series was established by Atlanta businessman and Southern supporter Eugene Anderson and is hosted by the School of Business.

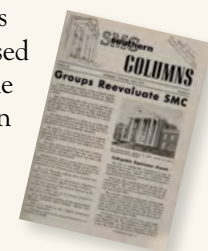
(50 YEARS Continued)

Village Market

Introducing an in-store bakery, a delicatessen, a bulk food section, and more, the Village Market officially opened on September 9, 1971. Previously known as the College Store and the College Market, the Village Market promised lower prices and more variety in its new facility. The new name also became a brand, with a half gallon of Village Market Premium Old Fashioned Style Ice Cream selling for 59¢. Today, the Village Market is a prominent vegetarian and natural foods store in the Chattanooga area.

Columns Magazine

In the April 1972 issue of this publication, William Taylor, director of College Relations at the time, wrote, "With this issue of what has been the SMC *Alumni Bulletin*, Southern Missionary College announces a revised and expanded version of the paper now to be known as *SMC Southern Columns*." The stated goal was to "keep the college's many publics informed." Bill Cash, '71 and '77, one of Taylor's student writers, proposed the name and magazine format, which has been *Columns* ever since.



40 YEARS

Southern Scholars

Through the years, the Southern Scholars honors program has graduated more than 260 students, who voluntarily pushed themselves to exceed the status quo. Started by the late English professor Wilma McClarty, EdD, in 1981, Southern Scholars celebrated its 40th anniversary this school year, with more than 90 Southern Scholars alumni and friends coming together during Homecoming Weekend. ■

1: Graysville Academy first met on the second floor of this store. **2:** During the 1964 elections, WSMC helped keep listeners informed. **3:** Olson Perry (left), then manager of WSMC, and Todd Parrish, '83, student news director at the time, show awards that the station received from the Tennessee Associated Press Broadcasters Association in 1982. **4 & 6:** Wright Hall begins to take shape. **5:** Kenneth and Clara Wright pose with the plaque naming the completed building in their honor. **7:** The new Village Market building stands ready to open in 1971. **8:** On opening day, approximately 1,200 customers and 1,000 other visitors came to the Village Market. **9:** Chief baker Ed Bowen (right) and his crew welcomed customers to the Village Market's new bakery.



Photo: Contributed

Fun With Friends

A group of students rushes down the Ocoee River, with experienced rafting guide Mike Harris, '11 and '13 (MSED), Southern's adventure programming director and an Outdoor Leadership professor, at the helm. Students go on many such adventures through Southern Outdoor Adventure Programming (SOAP), run by the School of Health and Kinesiology (formerly called the School of Physical Education, Health, and Wellness). SOAP offers activities such as caving, rock climbing, backpacking, rafting, and skiing, most of which are free to students.



Despite the uncertain process to get there, Kelsey Perez (center) has fully enjoyed connecting with her students on the island of Kosrae.

Wherever He Leads

by Stefanie Green, junior public relations major

The call to be a student missionary was clear for Kelsey Perez, senior allied health major at Southern, but where she would serve proved to be less certain. Originally invited to serve on Chuuk, an island in the Federated States of Micronesia, Perez packed her bags, got on a plane, and began her journey.

Her itinerary included a layover in Guam, and when she landed, she received news that the Micronesian islands had closed their borders due to COVID-19. Only essential workers and residents were allowed to enter, in an attempt to keep the islands free of the disease. Perez was now stranded in Guam, waiting for the islands to re-open, unsure whether they would open at all.

"During that time on Guam, I questioned everything," she said. "I thought I was meant to spend a year as a student missionary, but there I was, stranded, not knowing where I was going to go or if I would have to return home."

The Guam-Micronesian Mission graciously provided lodging for Perez and other student missionaries facing similar problems. Each day, Perez hoped to hear news that an island had opened up, but weeks passed and there was no word. She decided to make the most of her time and got involved with the local church's Vacation Bible School program, assisted in the conference office, volunteered at the local Adventist school, and explored Guam. After two months of waiting, she had almost given up hope.

Finally, Perez was presented with some options: she could stay in Guam and teach remotely for the school in Chuuk, or she could go to a different Micronesian island that had just opened up. Perez chose the latter, and preparations were made. After two and a half months of waiting, she was finally on her way to a tiny island called Kosrae, a place she had never heard of but that somehow fit into God's plan for her.

"At that point, I just felt grateful to have somewhere to go," she said.

In true pandemic fashion, however, she was not out of the weeds yet. In preparation for the trip, Perez had to quarantine in Guam for a week, plus another week in complete isolation upon arriving in Kosrae. Because the classes she was supposed to teach had already started, she began teaching remotely before getting to meet her students in person. She had no books or materials yet, so for the first week of classes, she had to figure out the lesson plans on her own.

"It was difficult at first," Perez said with a laugh. "The Wi-Fi would cut out all the time, the students were shy, and I just didn't really know what I was supposed to do."

At last, after Perez and the other student missionaries completed quarantine, the local pastor picked them up and took them to campus. Their students were excitedly waiting outside to welcome the group with songs and flowers; the warm reception was extra special after such a lonely first week.

"My time at Southern before this experience really helped strengthen my faith," Perez said. "I remember taking a class called Introduction to Faith in Society that helped me question why I believe what I believe. Being really solid on that is essential for a student missionary."

For the remainder of this school year, Perez taught English and history classes each day to approximately 35 students in grades 5-10. In no time, the children opened up to Perez, and she developed a close bond with them. Despite the difficult beginning, God worked everything out for the best.

"Once you have a clear direction and know God's will, don't hesitate; let the Lord use you," said Steven Monoukian, Student Missions director at Southern. "It's going to be a wild ride, but when God is in control, you have nothing to worry about." ■

Alumni Notes

'60s Jerry Gladson, '65, recently had his new book, *Endgame: A New Commentary on the Book of Daniel*, published by Wipf & Stock Publishers of Eugene, Oregon. This historical and exegetical study represents his 16th book, all in the field of Hebrew Bible studies. Although retired, Jerry continues to teach at Richmond Graduate University in Atlanta, Georgia. His wife, **Laura (Hayes)**, '65, is a licensed psychologist, with practices in Ringgold and Marietta. The couple lives in Kennesaw.

'00s **1** Teresa (Van Wart) Ferreira, '00, lives in New Brunswick, Canada, with her husband, Brian, and their daughter, Sophia (6).

Camile (Rivera-Merced) Mercado, '03, lives in Clifton, New Jersey, with her husband, Fausto, and their four children: Irving (16), Brandon (13), Selah (10), and Logan (2).

2 Casey (Vosen) Kepner, '05 and '10, lives in Ooltewah, Tennessee, with her husband, Michael (attended), and their three children: Logan (11) and twins Rylie and Austin (9).

3 **Branden Bruzzese**, '15 and '16, earned a master's degree in nursing with an Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner emphasis from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, on August 6, 2021. He and his wife, **Krystal (Campos)**, '15 and '16, live in Knoxville, where Branden manages care of patients in a Medical Intensive Care Unit at the University of Tennessee Medical Center.

4 **Erin (Grube) dos Santos**, '15, graduated with a doctorate in occupational therapy from the University of California on August 10, 2021. She is interested in working with the geriatric population and becoming a Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist. Erin and her husband, **Tyler**, '13, live in Ooltewah, Tennessee.

5 **Allissa (Wright) Ela**, '17, graduated from Grand Canyon University in December 2020 with a master's degree in special education. She teaches at Estabrook Christian School in Plainfield, New Hampshire, and uses her advanced education to better serve students. She also raises Golden Retriever dogs with her mother. Allissa married **Jeremy Ela** on June 27, 2021, and the couple bought a home in Bradford, Vermont. Jeremy works as a diesel mechanic for Vermeer All Roads.



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

Evonne Crook Retires

For more than 33 years, **Evonne (Kutzner) Crook**, '79, has faithfully served Southern in various roles across campus. During her tenure, Evonne has served under six university presidents and seven vice presidents for Advancement. In August, Evonne will retire after 19 years as director of Alumni Relations.

In that role, Evonne has dedicated her efforts to providing services and resources that help keep alumni informed and connected to the university. Her accomplishments include leading the charge for 19 Homecoming Weekends, emphasizing reunions for special groups, reorganizing the Alumni Council, overseeing alumni-student mentoring, and implementing alumni database software.

"Evonne has built a strong program and has enriched the lives of so many alumni. As an alum of this institution, I am profoundly grateful for her service," said President **Ken Shaw**, '80. "We are committed to serving and supporting our alumni and are actively searching for a new director to lead the Alumni Association."

Alumni and friends are invited to share favorite memories, photos, and well wishes for Evonne by visiting southern.edu/retirement before July 1, 2022.



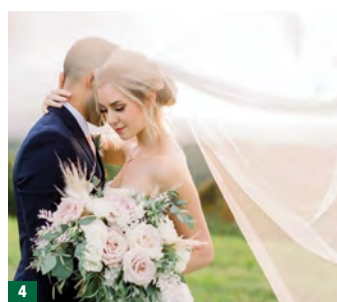
Weddings

1 **Ivi (Hernandez) Almanzar**, '12 and '13, and her husband, Anthony, were married on September 12, 2021, in the Dominican Republic. The couple lives in Silver Spring, Maryland.

2 **Randy**, '17, and **Trisney (Bocala) Wiedemann**, '21, were married on December 28, 2021, in Berryville, Virginia. The couple lives in Battle Ground, Washington.

3 **Kyusun**, '17 and '19, and **Christin (Smolinski) Lee**, '19, were married on December 30, 2021. The couple lives in Ooltewah, Tennessee. Kyusun is currently enrolled in graduate courses at Southern, while Christin works remotely as a character animator.

4 **Ricardo**, '19, and **Caitrin (Kramer) Morales**, '21, were married on August 29, 2021, in Birchwood, Tennessee. The couple lives in Chattanooga, where Ricardo works as an officer with the Chattanooga Police Department. In October, Caitrin entered the registered nurse residency program at CHI Memorial Hospital.



Family Additions

1 **Kris**, '09, and **Andrea (Issa) Orrison**, '08, welcomed their daughter, Rylie Brielle, on May 18, 2021. The family lives in Johnstown, Colorado, where Kris works as a system administrator for a local public school district, and Andrea works one day a week as a speech-language pathologist at a nonprofit clinic. After traveling extensively together, the couple says that Rylie is their biggest blessing from God and their greatest adventure. Rylie means "courageous," and Brielle means "God is my strength."

2 **Amanda (Rich) Morehead**, '16, and her husband, Stuart, welcomed their daughter, Piper, on October 25, 2021. They live in Jacksonville, Florida.

Miguel, '21, and **Jocelin (Morales Gutiérrez) Esparra**, '17, welcomed their daughter, Camila, on December 19, 2021. The family lives in Ringgold, Georgia. Miguel works as an admissions counselor at Southern.



Celebrating Southern Sweethearts

More than 3,500 married alumni couples have joined their hearts and lives! Alumni Relations invites attendees and graduates who are married to each other to participate in Southern Sweethearts, a program designed to celebrate newlywed alumni couples and their new journey together with a special gift. Visit southern.edu/sweethearts to enroll in this complimentary program.

*A Southern Sweetheart couple is defined as an attendee/graduate married to another Southern attendee/graduate.



Remembrance

1 **Burton Wright**, '51, passed away on January 16, 2022, in Apopka, Florida. He was born April 16, 1928, in Union Springs, New York, to Kenneth and Clara Wright. In 1943, the Wrights moved to Collegedale, where Kenneth became president of Southern Junior College. Burton enjoyed working on the school farm, especially tinkering on cars. He spent a year at La Sierra College before returning to Southern to graduate in 1951 with degrees in education and religion. Through mutual friends, **Tom**, '50, and **Betty (Zollinger) Ashlock** (attended), Burton met Myrna Jensen. Their friendship developed into romance, and they were married on July 29, 1951, in Takoma Park, Maryland; they had four children. Burton taught at Spencerville in Maryland and then at Forest Lake Academy in Florida as a Bible and history teacher. In 1963, he was ordained as a minister and received a call to serve as a missionary in the Trans-Africa Division. The family traveled to Cape Town, South Africa, to serve at Bethel College, and thus began their 17 years of mission service in Africa, during which they also served in Malawi and Zimbabwe. The family returned to the United States and served at Holbrook Mission School in Arizona and in Kentucky before retiring. They moved to Avon Park, Florida, and dedicated time to their community for 30 years in retirement. Burton served as a chaplain in Civil Air Patrol and Prison Ministries and volunteered for Meals on Wheels. A project dear to his heart was assisting in building the Chickamwazi church in Malawi. In 2018, the couple moved to Apopka, Florida, to be closer to family. Burton is survived by his four children and their families: **Jim Wright** (attended); Jon and Dawne Wright; **Jim**, '76, and **Judy (Wright) Clarke**, '76; **Jeannie (Wright) Bankston**, '79; grandchildren Jared and **Julie Clarke**, '04; and one great-granddaughter, Isabella Clarke.

Gerald Kenyon, '54, passed away on October 26, 2021. Gerald graduated from Southern Missionary College with degrees in business and religion. He worked for more than 40 years in treasury positions at various conferences and schools. He retired in Rutherfordton, North Carolina, and continued working in the local church, including doing some lay-preaching. He enjoyed gardening and wood-working, and he expected to hear the call of his Savior soon. He is survived by his wife, Jean; sons, Paul and Douglas; daughter, **Gayle**, '81; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

2 **John Durichek Sr.**, '58, passed away on March 9, 2022, at his home of 52 years in Collegedale, Tennessee. He was born on June 10, 1935, to Peter and Goldie Durichek in Chicago, Illinois. John graduated from Collegedale Academy in 1953 and Southern Missionary College in 1958. While in college, he met the love of his life, **Helen (Case)**, '56 and '58, of Charlotte, North Carolina, and they married in 1958. John received a master's degree in industrial education at Peabody College in Nashville. He taught at and was principal of Highland Academy in Portland, Tennessee, for eight years. During that time, Helen and John increased their family by three children. John returned to Southern, where he taught in the Industrial Arts Department. When the age of computers arrived, he retrained and taught in the new technology area. His interests included music, and his major instrument was the oboe. He directed the band and choirs and played in Southern's orchestra. He taught woodworking and created beautiful cutting boards to give as presents, and his hobbies included building and collecting model cars and airplanes. Through the years, he took Southern students to Nicaragua on mission trips to support medical and church work. John retired in 2003 after 41 years in Christian education. He and Helen were involved in their church and community, sponsoring marriage enrichment seminars and monthly activities. John is survived by his wife of 64 years as well as their children and families: James and **Deborah (Durichek) Duerksen**, '82; **Rebecca (Hartnett)**, '85, and **John Durichek Jr.** (attended); and Chris and **Betty (Durichek) Farley**, '86. Grandchildren are **Joseph Durichek** (attended); **Emily (Durichek) Ford**, '16; Evan Farley; and **Sarah Durichek**, junior mathematics major at Southern. Great-grandchildren are Anthony and Camilla Durichek.

3 **Lonny Liebelt**, '72, passed away at home surrounded by his family in Libby, Montana, on December 22, 2021. Services were held at the Libby Seventh-day Adventist Church on December 29. Lonny was born in Topeka, Kansas, to Ben and Ann Liebelt. He began his ministry for the Lord at age 3 as "the Little Singing Evangelist" for his pastor father. He was very musical, playing the piano, organ, trumpet, baritone, and sousaphone. He met his wife, **Gerita (Garver)** (attended), at Southern Missionary College in 1968 and they married in 1969. He was officially ordained to the ministry by the Carolina Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in 1976. From there the couple served 26 churches all across the United States. Lonny also held evangelistic meetings in Bermuda, Columbia, Venezuela, Indonesia, Peru, and Romania. He had a strong faith in God and felt that the return of Jesus is imminent. His sincerity and compassion touched many lives. He will be greatly missed by his loving family, his church

family, and friends. In addition to his wife, Lonny is survived by their daughters **Tracey Liebelt** (attended) and Mindy Liebelt; son Michael and daughter-in-law Rachel Liebelt; and grandsons Dalton Armstrong, Landon Liebelt, Tyler Liebelt, and Benjamin Liebelt.

4 **Rachel (Lowry) Meharry**, '05, passed away on January 22, 2022, in Altamonte Springs, Florida. Rachel was born in Oshawa, Ontario, Canada, on July 8, 1982, and lived in Berrien Springs, Michigan, and Orlando, Florida, before attending Southern Adventist University and Newbold College in England. After graduating, she spent a year teaching English in Monteverde, Costa Rica, and then returned to Orlando to teach 8th grade at Orlando Junior Academy, where her mother also taught. In 2007, she met **Jonathan Meharry**, '08, while he was interning at Adventist Health Systems (now AdventHealth) in Orlando. It was love at first sight, and they were married on August 31, 2008. They moved back to Tennessee, where Rachel taught at Collegedale Academy for two years. Her enthusiasm for teaching and her love for her students was apparent wherever she taught. The couple moved to Boston, Massachusetts, where Jonathan worked as a UX designer, and Rachel worked as support staff and the internal communications manager for a tech firm in the area. They found wonderful friends and a welcoming church community in Salem, Massachusetts, and were able to share their immense musical talents at the church. In 2018, they moved to Apopka, Florida, to be closer to family. The couple had two children, who, along with her husband, were Rachel's greatest treasures. Rachel joined the Boston Show Up for Racial Justice chapter and committed to changing the world around her to be more inclusive and diverse. She loved to travel and visited Europe and Australia with friends and family. She also loved to sing, learn new and challenging things, read literature and history, and share and debate with others, challenging them to learn and do that which was honorable. She lived that philosophy herself and spread joy and courage to those around her. On September 30, 2021, Rachel was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of breast cancer, which took her life less than four months later. She is survived by her husband, Jonathan; children, Joshua (7) and Lily (3); parents, Cecil and Valmae Lowry; sister, Carolyn Baltazar; and grandmother, Jean Graham; as well as countless others who will miss her greatly.

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



Remembering Mark Peach

Mark Peach, PhD, professor in the History and Political Studies Department, passed away on February 14, 2022, in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Mark received his bachelor's degree from Walla Walla College, his master's degree from Washington State University, and his doctoral degree from the University of Chicago. He later spent 1996-1997 in Berlin, Germany, on a Fulbright Research Grant. Mark dedicated more than 35 years to teaching at

Southern, including 10 years leading the Southern Scholars honors program. He cared deeply about the humanities and interdisciplinary thinking, and he is remembered for his humor, gentleness, intellectual curiosity, and love for the outdoors. He hiked much of the Appalachian Trail and created new classes on Environmental History and Appalachian History. He is survived by his son, Connor; his stepmother; and three brothers.

Remembering Bonnie Hunt

Bonnie (Eaves) Hunt, '54, associate professor emerita in the School of Nursing, passed away on March 30, 2022, at the age of 90. Bonnie began working at Southern in 1977 and retired in 1997; however, her version of retirement involved continuing to go to the office nearly every day. She did this faithfully until December 2021. A mentor and friend to students and faculty alike, she always had a bright smile, a warm laugh, and words of encouragement. Her spirit of adventure, energy, and enthusiasm for life were contagious! For 45 years,

she shared her passion for nursing through courses in medical-surgical nursing, pharmacology, and leadership. A forward thinker, she initiated and managed the ASAP program (Assisting Students to Achieve Professionally) in the School of Nursing. Through this tutorial service, Bonnie helped many students pass their nursing courses and the NCLEX-RN competency exam. Co-workers and students affectionately nicknamed her "Mrs. Methuselah," much to Bonnie's amusement. She will be missed by all who knew her.



Finding Solutions

by Stefanie Green, junior public relations major

Inquisitive, creative, and a natural problem solver, Braxton Young, '18, grew up knowing that he wanted to make a positive impact on the world in some way, although he wasn't sure how. He enrolled at Southern as a film major, knowing that filmmaking has the potential to reach many people, but it didn't take long to find his true calling.

As a child, Young enjoyed building with LEGO® bricks, figuring out how to make the pieces fit. He had a knack for noticing problems and finding solutions. At Southern, he realized that computer science engaged his skills perfectly, and he made the switch to Computer Systems Administration. Now, he examines more complex things and finds the solutions that others may not think of.

"I think everyone has a gift—something that drives them," Young said. "For me, it's always been creating things. I've always liked thinking of the way things could be, and that drives me to find a solution."

Making Connections

In 2016, Young developed his first mobile application in response to a need in his own life. As a shy person, he had found it difficult to make connections with people with whom he could enjoy doing activities. He realized that he had the ability to create software that could potentially make the process easier, so he created an app called WIM. Through it, individuals could find others with a shared interest and connect or take part in an activity together.

Although it was not his most successful work, it was a great learning experience and taught Young a lot in order to make better-functioning applications in the future. Other apps that he created while still at Southern included one designed to sync the displays on cellphones and one for placing orders at KR's Place.

When Young graduated in 2018, he partnered



Both at Southern and following graduation, Braxton Young has looked for ways to find solutions and make connections.

with friends from Southern, Kenta Ito, '19, and Ray "Riley" Boone, '18, to address a widespread problem. Young recalled how as a child, the pick up process after school was long and disorganized, and that inspired the app JoeyQueue. He and his team designed it to help schools streamline their after-school pick up process, giving parents and teachers peace of mind that their students were placed in the right vehicles.

Supporting Churches

Over the last two years, Young observed another need and again worked with his team of Southern alumni to find a solution.

"During the pandemic, we've seen many churches having to adapt by going online and livestreaming," Young said. "I wanted to create a way for people to be able to stay connected to their churches every day as opposed to just one day of the week."

Called Asamblea, the app is a church directory and engagement platform designed to help members and guests connect as a church family. Several congregations are already benefitting from the service, and Young is excited to support churches in this way so that they can be more effective in reaching people for Christ.

Many of the skills that Young learned at Southern have directly helped him in his career so far. He credits Robert Ordóñez, associate professor of computing, as one of the most influential professors, and they still stay in touch. Ordóñez is thrilled to see Young using his skills to make a difference.

"Braxton continues to seek out areas of need in the world around him and find ways to apply technology to meet those needs," said Ordóñez. "It's not just a business for him—it's a calling. He's making a difference in quiet, mostly invisible ways, whether it's by creating an app that helps keep kids safe, or a much larger, constantly growing system that connects church members with common interests. I know he will continue to serve Jesus in all he does." ■

Tasty Training

From breads and cakes to soups and entrées, Bonny Musgrave, assistant professor and chef in Southern's Vegetarian Culinary Arts program, demonstrates a wide range of techniques to her students. Those in the program learn how to make delicious vegetarian food, graduating with an associate degree and going on to work in and manage commercial kitchens across the country. One of only a few colleges or universities in the United States to offer such a program, Southern embraces Ellen White's statement: "Both physical and mental strength depend to a great degree upon the food we eat; therefore the one who prepares the food occupies an important and elevated position" (*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 312).





Save *the* Date

October 27–30, 2022

Honor Classes: 1942, '52, '62, '72, '77, '82, '92, '97, '02, '12

As the Southern community continues to grow and evolve, Homecoming Weekend is changing, too. This special weekend will still feature many of the traditional events you know and love, plus several new experiences for reconnecting with fellow alumni, professors, and current students!

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