Unraveled - Departmental Newsletter

School of Education and Psychology

Fall 2018

Unraveled Fall 2018

Southern Adventist University

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The students and faculty of the School of Education and Psychology are consistently engaged in research. Specifically, Ruth Williams, PhD, in the psychology department has been presenting her research from a racism study done last year. Titled “We Asked and They Answered: Perceptions of Racism at Southern Adventist University”, her study focused on the question: “Is Southern Racist?” This quantitative study was based on the apology video following a racial incident at Black Christian Union Night, where University President, David Smith posed that question. Professor Williams wanted to focus on students’ perception of racism and their beliefs of its impact on equal opportunities. The results varied by reported ethnicity, showing that although we may live in the same world, we each have different experiences. The study also highlighted students’ honesty and eagerness to voice their concerns. Williams and her team plan to submit this racism study for publication in the near future, and they also hope to start a new study focused on student responses for why they believe Southern is or is not racist.

Tron Wilder PhD, is also busy with research projects as the lead researcher in a study titled “Vocabulary of Calling on the Campus of Southern University”. This qualitative study aimed to develop a definition of “calling” on our campus.  

(continued from page 3)
FROM THE DEAN’S DESK

Fall changes are in the air, with signs of leaves changing colors, a bit cooler weather, and all things pumpkin appearing everywhere we look. Changes have also come to the School of Education and Psychology (SEP) John McCoy, EdD, retired from the dean position on May 31, 2018. In addition to his dean responsibilities, Professor McCoy taught courses in the psychology and graduate education areas. We are sure that his biking buddies will miss seeing him on the trails around Chattanooga, because he and his wife, Jan, have relocated to Maryland. We wish them well in their retirement and many happy years with their grandchildren.

I am serving as interim dean for the 2018-2019 school year, and Professor Carol Raney, who joined us last year, is teaching some of the same classes along with several new courses. Gary Bradley, PhD, coming from the University of South Carolina Upstate, has joined our education team. A graduate of Southern Adventist University, he comes with a wide range of experience with a focus on math and other general education courses. Ronda Stone, MA, is the field experience coordinator, and she works for both education and school counseling to place students in their field experiences. Monty Murdoch, PhD, is the new director of the MSEd Outdoor Education program. He has just finished his first Outdoor Education intensive, leading out in the annual trip to the Boundary Waters of Northern Minnesota. Professor Murdoch was most recently a teacher at Forest Lake Academy in Florida.

Despite our varying experiences and roles, the professors and staff here in the SEP shares something in common: we are committed to serving God and helping our students make lifelong decisions for Him. We welcome this opportunity and we welcome our students-past, present and future-to join us as we grow together in Christ.

Bonnie Eder, EdD
Interim Dean

2018 Adventist Education Teacher’s Convention
by Kara Wait and Sergio Monterroso

Southern Adventist University’s education department aims to turn professionalism into a lifestyle for their students and enhance growth in all aspects of their lives. As part of reaching this goal, Southern sponsored us both to attend the 2018 North American Division (NAD) Teacher’s Convention in Chicago, Illinois on August 6-9. The NAD holds this convention only once every six years, making a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to attend as students.

Six thousand Adventist teachers, principals, superintendents, and other affiliates of Adventist education attended this three-day convention, including educational experts and motivational speakers such as Leisa Morton-Standish (NAD director of elementary education) and Manny Scott (author and motivational speaker). It is not often that one finds such a broad array of knowledge and resources in the form of expert presentations, resource-stocked booths, and unlimited networking opportunities within one of the largest gathering of Adventist educators on the continent.

The convention’s theme was “Encounter Jesus, Experience Excellence” As future educators, being surrounded by thousands of professionals who share the same faith and calling was truly an inspirational experience of excellence.

Senior Kara Wait reunited with her elementary teacher, Travis Johnson, who inspired her to teach.

Junior Sergio Monterroso with one of the session speakers, Jasmine Johnson.
Summerour Hall Abuzz with Research Projects (continued from page 1)

This research was promoted by the importance of helping students discover what God is calling them to do in their lives and developing a common language for this goal. The results of the study are still pending, but Professor Wilder and his team hope to inform practices at Southern and influence other Adventist campuses with this research in the future.

The counseling department is involved in research directed by Liane de Souza, PhD, Illeanna Freeman, PhD, and counseling graduate assistants. The counseling department is currently researching academic entitlement and spirituality in counseling. The academic entitlement research is focused on graduate program satisfaction and the coping strategies of students, whereas the spirituality in counseling research is focused on spiritual well-being and counselor competencies.

Outdoor Education faculty members Carl Swafford and Jean Lomino, visiting professor Jiyoun Shin, and graduate assistant Amanda Simmons studied the development of character strengths in Forest Kindergarten (FK) students aged 3 to 6 in Tennessee and Georgia. Soon to be published, the hypothesis of this study is that certain character strengths can be developed in FK taught in a natural environment. The study examined virtues such as justice, courage, and humanity, and character traits such as cooperation, perseverance, gratitude, and creativity. The results showed that character strengths can be developed in FK programs with key features such as frequent play opportunities and child-centered learning.

Summerour Hall takes pride in being able to use research to ask questions, better understand each other individually, and come to conclusions that encompass our many voices and stories collectively. If you are interested in joining a research team, please contact Ruth Williams in the psychology department or Zakeya Sisco at zakeyas@southern.edu.

Eliseo and Hayley Sanchez met at Southern their freshman year in 2010. Both clinical psychology majors, the couple attended every class together their junior year and began to date. Eliseo and Hayley graduated in 2014 with BS degrees in Clinical Psychology, Hayley with an additional BA in International Studies. After graduation, Hayley and Eliseo stayed to complete their master's degrees in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. They then got married in December of 2016.

They have since relocated from Chattanooga to Hamburg, Pennsylvania, where Hayley is currently working as a head dean of women at Blue Mountain Academy. The couple previously worked at a community mental health agency, with individuals from 3 years old and up. Their main responsibilities included individual counseling, advocacy, and maintaining strong communication with their clients’ additional team members.

In their spare time, Eliseo and Hayley enjoy hiking, camping, trying out new restaurants and spending quality time together.

How did the psychology program at Southern prepare you for your work?

It offered a strong emphasis on self-care and keeping spirituality in the center of our lives. Even where certain clients did not have a religious affiliation or belief, we had the ability as individuals to pray and find peace and guidance from God. That is a great resource to hold onto in any career.

What do you miss most about being at Southern?

We miss the feeling of community with students and professors who offered great support and advice in academics and beyond, as well as the opportunities that Southern offered to participate in extracurricular activities and Adventist Colleges Abroad. We also greatly miss our church family at The Well in Chattanooga.

What do you find most fulfilling in your current roles?

One of the most fulfilling aspects of being a therapist is the sacred privilege of sitting with someone through their most vulnerable and honest moments. To be included in what could be a turning point for someone is a beautiful gift. We also greatly appreciated the fact that our psychology degrees are a jumping-off point for many other fields or career opportunities. It's great to hear from professors or other alumni to see where their degrees took them and to realize that there is not one set path to follow.

Eliseo and Hayley Sanchez enjoy the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina

If you would like to receive future Unraveled newsletters electronically, please email uas@southern.edu and request to be added to the list.
CONGRATULATIONS, DECEMBER 2018 GRADUATES!

Brandi Batten  
Major: MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling  
Hometown: Murfreesboro, TN  
Future Plans: Open a private practice/non-profit organization for inner-city families

Tiffany Baun  
Major: Psychology  
Hometown: Gurnee, IL  
Future Plans: Graduate school in TX for School Psychology and travel with husband

Hope Behnke  
Major: Elementary Education  
Hometown: Ormond Beach, FL  
Future Plans: Teach at a local elementary school

Brandon Beneche  
Major: English Education  
Hometown: Stow, MA  
Future Plans: Becoming an English teacher and graduate school

Daniella Clemons  
Major: Elementary Education  
Hometown: Calhoun, GA  
Future Plans: Begin teaching or begin a Masters, eventually returning to overseas mission field

Colton Eldred  
Major: History Education  
Hometown: Nashville, TN  
Future Plans: Teach high school history

Amy Flores  
Major: Elementary Education  
Hometown: Los Angeles, CA  
Future Plans: Work in a low-income area

Seth Fogg  
Major: Health and Physical Education  
Hometown: Noblesville, IN  
Future Plans: Become an athletic director and find time to travel the world

Samantha Francois  
Major: Elementary Education  
Hometown: Columbia, MD  
Future Plans: Teach third grade at an elementary school

Ariana Guptill  
Major: English Education  
Hometown: Mankato, MN  
Future Plans: Become a Christ-centered, successful English and History teacher

Seth Fogg  
Major: Health and Physical Education  
Hometown: Noblesville, IN  
Future Plans: Become an athletic director and find time to travel the world

Nicole Hanson  
Major: Industrial Organizational Psychology  
Hometown: Houston, TX  
Future Plans: Start in Human Resources and attend graduate school

Vannida Kim  
Major: Elementary Education  
Hometown: Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
Future Plans: Teach any grades on elementary level and attend graduate school

Hunter Lindberg  
Major: MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling  
Hometown: Ooltewah, TN  
Future Plans: Start PhD program in Clinical Psychology

Adam Littell  
Major: MEd Instructional Leadership  
Hometown: Candler, NC  
Future Plans: Continue work at Mount Pisgah Academy as VP of Academics
Gaby Martinez Lugo
Major: Psychology
Hometown: San Juan, Puerto Rico
Future Plans: Become a clinical mental health counselor

Jessica Malloch
Major: Psychology
Hometown: Chattanooga, TN
Future Plans: Graduate school and become an ER Physicians Assistant

Katherine Melgar
Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: Boston, MA
Future Plans: Graduate school and become a school counselor

Carlos Montes
Major: Clinical Psychology
Hometown: Woodbridge, VA
Future Plans: Graduate school for PsyD in Clinical Psychology and specialization in neuropsychology

Annie Morris
Major: MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Hometown: Cleveland, TN
Future Plans: Open private practice as a counselor for adults and adolescents

Clayton Neil
Major: History Education
Hometown: Macon, GA
Future Plans: Become an amazing history teacher and go to graduate school

Melany Orellana
Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: Orlando, FL
Future Plans: Become an elementary teacher in Georgia

Amanda Perez
Major: Psychology
Hometown: Cornwall, NY
Future Plans: Serve as a student missionary somewhere in the islands and graduate school for occupational therapy

Maggie Pickens
Major: Health and Physical Education
Hometown: Cleveland, GA
Future Plans: Become a PE teacher, fitness trainer and missionary worker

Dale Pickett
Major: MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Crystal St. Pierre
Major: MSEd Outdoor Education
Hometown: LaFayette, GA
Future Plans: Impact the world with one kind act at a time

Ryan Roberts
Major: MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Hometown: Montgomery, VT
Future Plans: Moving to Vermont with my wife and practice counseling part-time

Chase Shireman
Major: MSEd Outdoor Education
Hometown: Centralia, MO
Future Plans: Keep teaching and become a boy’s dean

Zakeya Sisco
Major: MS Clinical Mental Health and School Counseling
Hometown: Miami, FL
Future Plans: Work in the Clinical Mental Health field, then become a School Counselor

Photos courtesy of Southern’s website
DECEMBER 2018 GRADUATES

Brooklynn Springs
Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: Chattanooga, TN
Future Plans: Teach at an elementary school

Kaitlyn Warman
Major: Clinical Psychology
Hometown: Newport, VT
Future Plans: Take a year off to work, then graduate school to pursue MS in Counseling

Not pictured: Anita Bates (MSEd Instructional Leadership), Tiffany Britt (MSEd Instructional Leadership), Jim Hughes (MSEd Outdoor Education), Andrew Jamieson (MSEd Instructional Leadership), Janel Jensen (MSEd Instructional Leadership), Jerson Malaguit (MSEd Instructional Leadership), Katherine Roland (MSEd Outdoor Education), Zachary Roland (MSEd Outdoor Education), Allyssa Sharpe (MSEd Instructional Leadership), Jessica Zollinger (MSEd Outdoor Education)

Photos courtesy of Southern’s website

FACULTY UPDATE: Ronda Stone

“I have always loved Southern and hoped that someday God would lead me back here to help with the work of preparing young people to send into the work field to share the gospel.”
-Ronda Stone

Ronda Stone relaxes with her husband and two children.

Ronda Stone is a teacher with a wealth of knowledge and experience. Growing up in Florida, she attended Forest Lake Academy before coming to Southern to study elementary education. From fourth grade, she knew that she wanted to be a teacher someday. After working as an elementary teacher for a decade, she was led to the counseling field. Professor Stone decided to develop counseling skills because of the need to help students and families with the issues they shared with her. She received a M.A. in Counseling Education: Mental Health Counseling from the University of Central Florida, and became a National Certified Counselor.

Professor Stone was recently asked to present with Faith Laughlin at the NAD Teacher’s Convention in Chicago, IL on ADHD and Anxiety. Professor Stone now works as a the Field Experience Coordinator for education and school counseling in our department, and considers it a “dream” to come back and work for her alma mater.

Her passion for teaching comes from a love for helping students ignite a love of learning and pointing them to the Great Teacher, Jesus Christ. In her spare time, Professor Stone loves spending time with her family, reading, hiking, cooking and playing the French Horn with SAU students.
FACULTY UPDATE: Gary Bradley

With 28 years of teaching experience, Gary Bradley, PhD, is bringing his wealth of knowledge to our education department as an associate professor. Bradley grew up in Fletcher, North Carolina, where he realized from a very young age that he wanted to be a teacher. Working as a counselor at Camp Kalaqua and being a student missionary in Taiwan helped solidify his goal of working with young people.

After receiving his B.A. in Physics with a minor mathematics and a secondary teaching certificate from Southern, Bradley went on to receive his MA in Mathematics Education from Western Carolina University and his PhD in Curriculum and Instruction from Andrews University. He has experience in both public and Adventist schools, teaching math and science from middle school through university levels.

Professor Bradley also served as the South Carolina Association of Math Teachers president, as well as the Piedmont Region III Science Fair Institutional Review Board chairman. He was also been named 2016 Teacher of the Year at the University of South Carolina Upstate.

This new faculty member feels that God has led him to serve here at Southern and is pleased to be working with the education team. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking, motorcycles, and spending time with his family.

“Giving students the tools to learn ... and leading them to see Jesus as their source of strength and wisdom, has been my greatest joy.” -Gary Bradley

FACULTY UPDATE: Monty Murdoch

As the new director for the MSEd Outdoor Education Program, Monty Murdoch has been preparing for this position since childhood. Spending hours of his childhood in nature with his father, Murdoch knew he wanted to be a science teacher from a very young age. This sparked a passion to show people God through nature, which led him to the field of education and eventually to teach high school Biology at Highland View Academy (1993-2007) and Forest Lake Academy (2007-2018). Having no plans to teach at the college level, Professor Murdoch’s journey to joining the faculty at Southern was clearly guided by God after a prayer for the position to stay open for a full year until he was available to interview.

Professor Murdoch graduated from Southern with a BS in Biology in 1991, from Loma Linda in 1993 with a MS in Biology, and then received his PhD in Leadership in 2012 from Andrews University. As new director, he plans to link people to their Creator through nature and looks forward to being part of the team to make the program thrive and grow. In his spare time, he enjoys outdoor activities such as birdwatching and fishing.

“I do not think you can spend time in nature without seeing God’s handiwork.”

-Monty Murdoch
The counseling program at Southern Adventist University is focused on Christ, the Wonderful Counselor.

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