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## Panorama April 2008

Southern Adventist University

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### Recommended Citation

Southern Adventist University, "Panorama April 2008" (2008). *Panorama Parent Newsletter*. 12.  
[https://knowledge.e.southern.edu/parent\\_newsletter/12](https://knowledge.e.southern.edu/parent_newsletter/12)

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**SOUTHERN  
ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY**

Power for Mind & Soul

# Panorama

Southern Adventist University's Parent Newsletter | April 2008



## When Students Make Mistakes

*"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven."*  
Luke 6:37 (NIV)

**Y**our student will mess up. Students make mistakes, and those mistakes are issues that parents must deal with very carefully.

Let's imagine that, like every Christian, your student has figuratively fallen down and scraped a knee. Now what? Give up your hurt feelings and disappointed expectations. Remember our Heavenly Father's example. Whether a mistake has long-term consequences or can be resolved in a few hours, your response should be the same: listen, forgive, and guide. The way you respond after your child messes up can have significant repercussions on your relationship later on.

### Listen

*"...God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer."*  
Psalm 66:19 (NIV)

No matter what mistake your student makes, he or she should feel comfortable talking to you about it. Nobody likes to talk about personal failings, but sometimes a shoulder to cry on, a sympathetic ear, and a warm hug can make coping with the consequences a little easier to bear. Never allow judgmental overtones to taint your relationship with your student.

### Forgive

*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."*  
1 John 1:9 (NIV)

When you have heard your student's story of woe, whether the wrong has been committed against you or another student, be sure you tell your student that you forgive him or her. Knowing that you will not be hanging every mistake over your student's head will take a big weight off his or her shoulders!

### Guide

*"Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently."*  
Galatians 6:1 (NIV)  
*"He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way."*  
Psalm 25:9 (NIV)

Let's say your student is not really sorry for his or her mistake. In this case, you should prayerfully and lovingly remind him or her of God's moral standards and encourage your student in genuine scripture and heart searching, asking God to reveal His will in that situation. If your student has expressed sorrow over the mistake, you have the privilege of helping your child through the tough road of consequences and on to the renewal that lies ahead.

~Rebekah Bissell, editor  
Source: Letting Them Go, by Dave Veerman,  
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# Q & A

with President  
Gordon Bietz



ASK THE PRESIDENT

## What is Southern's response to the February 15 vespers that made some students and parents uncomfortable?

It was with the best of intentions that we invited Jillian Englund to speak. Unfortunately we did not have a clear understanding of the nature of the program when it was arranged. It did not represent a typical Friday evening vespers on Southern's campus.

One lesson we can all learn from this is that administration does make mistakes.

I'm sorry that the medium used to convey the message overwhelmed its vital importance. The sense of not being loved isn't just something experienced by someone abandoned on a street in Los Angeles at 2 years old. It is an experience that occasionally touches all of us, and for some, it is a great burden to bear. We can learn from this experience. We can learn how we should respond to something we don't believe is uplifting. A respectful, quiet departure from the program is one way. Another way is to use the opportunity for prayer—prayer for the speaker as well as the audience.

As a university, we need to try to make everything a learning experience. As an administrator, I can learn to more carefully examine and regulate the program content that is presented to our campus. As a community, we can learn to be tolerant of a style of presentation that might move others but is not uplifting to us.

We are on a journey, a spiritual journey. My goal is for our university to live up to the confidence you have placed in us. Let us provide support to each other through prayer, and I thank you for the prayers you already offer on Southern's behalf.

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## Nursing Program to Expand to New Building

Florida Hospital Hall, Southern Adventist University's new nursing center, is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2009, and it already has a lot of people talking.

"I think that the new nursing building...would be a great addition at the university," says Eric Rose, sophomore nursing major from California. "I have to go to at least three buildings just for nursing classes, and it would be great to have all of the facilities in one location."

Herin Hall, the current nursing building has been in use since the fall of 1975 and "has become inadequate to house the nursing department," says Barbara James, dean of the School of Nursing.

The new building will easily take care of this problem. With a floor plan of more than 32,000 square feet, Florida Hospital Hall will completely contain the School of Nursing. It will include five classrooms, two high-tech skills labs, seminar rooms, a learning resource center with 66 computers, and staff

*"Southern has some of the best nurses in the world, and we want to help."*

offices. In addition, it will include a new lab to simulate what the students do in their hospital clinical

experiences. With the larger facility, prospective students can also expect a higher chance of acceptance into the nursing program.

"We are committed to expanding," says James. "We've talked about a 20 percent increase over several years."

Southern partnered with Florida Hospital in the fall of 2007, when the hospital's executives and Southern's development board came up with a plan to continue a relationship that has lasted more than 70 years.

Southern announced the alliance with Florida Hospital at the groundbreaking ceremony on Dec. 2, 2007.

"Southern has some of the best nurses in the world," says Lars Houmann, president and CEO of Florida Hospital, "and we want to help with a facility to train them."

~Suzanne Ocsai, freshman mass communications major from Tennessee



Southern nursing students break ground for Florida Hospital Hall.

# Did You Know?

## Fees for Rescheduled Exams

**P**arents asked:

Why is there a \$65 fee for rescheduling a final exam?

Southern's professors and administrators are always willing to consider a request for rescheduling an exam. However, whether that request will be granted without a fee or not is based on several factors, most of which are listed in the catalog on page 46, also available online at [records.southern.edu/catalogs/index.html](http://records.southern.edu/catalogs/index.html).

"The main reason we charge a fee for rescheduling an exam is to deter unnecessary and trivial requests," says Volker Henning, associate vice president for Academic Administration. "We're not trying to make money off of these fees. In fact, we have taken measures to try to accommodate student's scheduling needs."

For the past three years, the exam schedule has actually been shifted so that it ends earlier by one day than it had in previous years. By beginning exams on Sunday and ending them on Wednesday, students can leave campus a full day earlier to visit their families.

"We try to make it easy for parents and students to schedule flights and vacation plans," Henning says. "The exam schedule is available from pre-registration on, allowing several months of planning time."

Another consideration: the academic calendar, of which the exam schedule is a part, is put together years in advance. Any change in the schedule creates a need for hours of extra time, usually spent outside of a professor's normal office hours, in adjusting exam content and setting up a place and time for a rescheduled exam. So, understandably, professors prefer that students make all possible efforts to take exams on the scheduled dates.

~Rebekah Bissell, editor

## Thanksgiving Break

**P**arents asked: Why are Thanksgiving breaks so short?

Changing the academic year schedule is a tricky operation. The current academic calendar extends to the year 2015, and a change would involve a vote by the Undergraduate Council, Ad Council, and then the Board of Trustees.

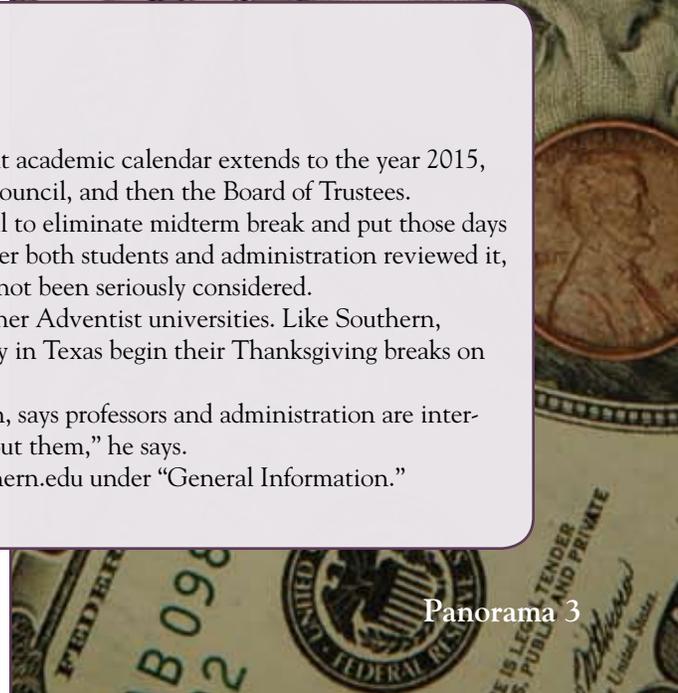
Administration has considered other Thanksgiving options. A proposal to eliminate midterm break and put those days on Thanksgiving break was brought to the table several years ago, but after both students and administration reviewed it, the ideas were voted down. Shortening Christmas or summer breaks has not been seriously considered.

The length of Thanksgiving break at Southern is similar to those at other Adventist universities. Like Southern, Andrews University in Michigan and Southwestern Adventist University in Texas begin their Thanksgiving breaks on Tuesday night or Wednesday and end on Sunday.

Volker Henning, associate vice president for Academic Administration, says professors and administration are interested in student and parent suggestions. "We're always willing to talk about them," he says.

Southern's academic calendar can be viewed online at [academics.southern.edu](http://academics.southern.edu) under "General Information."

~Melissa Maracle, assistant editor



# Mother-Daughter Brunch 2008



Clockwise from top: Speaker Jillian Englund; harpist Rachel Lodenkamp; tables decorated with roses and punch.



## Daughters Say

"I really enjoyed it. It was well thought out and planned. The R.A.s did a good job, and the speaker was inspiring and touching.

~Antonia Corbin, junior business administration major from New York

"I thought it was very well planned. The speaker was very good. I think it was a great experience, and I definitely want to do it again."

~Amanda Worrell, freshman accounting major from Virginia

"I thought it was really touching and sincere. It brought mothers and daughters closer together."

~Sarah Milliner, freshman physical therapy major from Florida

"I think it's a good event for mothers and daughters. It's a good excuse to have my mom come over and spend time with me."

~Christie Aguirre, senior biology major from California



Zennie and Christie Aguirre

## Mothers Say

"It was beautifully decorated. I thought it was nice. She was a very moving speaker. I enjoyed it very much, and I enjoyed being here with Sarah."

~Beth Milliner, mother of Sarah

"I thought the food and company were excellent."

~Linda Crumley, standing in for the mother of Amanda Worrell

## A Princess Morning

*"Every girl is a princess, the daughter of a King...the greatest King who created and rules over everything!"*

~Sheila Walsh

"It was very nice and inspirational—uplifting. It was worth the work."

~Zennie Aguirre, mother of Christie

"It was very inspiring, very touching. It was beautiful. I did not expect the array of food and decorations. It was like a wedding reception. I don't think I'll forget this."

~Anna Corbin, mother of Antonia



Antonia and Anna Corbin

## Favorite Bible Text

*John, chapter 4*

"I like the whole chapter of John 4 because it teaches me many things. I can't choose just one verse out of it."

~Jay Zhuang, freshman computer science major from China



## VERLYNE STARR: INTEGRATING FAITH AND LEARNING

Verlyne Starr, associate professor of business at Southern Adventist University, treasures the time at the beginning of class when she can share a devotional thought with her students. For her, being able to integrate faith and learning in the classroom is a privilege.

“Any university can deliver content, but at Southern we want to view the content through the lens of faith,” Starr says. “Knowledge prepares you for life, for service. The exciting thing is that you don’t know how, when, or where you will be called to use the knowledge you have.”

Starr has been teaching at Southern since 2002. Her classes include Business Software, Business Communication, Service Marketing, and Promotional Strategies. Starr was also a part of the team that planned and implemented Southern’s biannual “Meet the Firms,” an event where students are able to meet and network with real businesses.

However, Starr is quick to note that there’s something more important for students to learn than any business information or ability. “If every student could know the power of a personal relationship with our Creator...if they could understand the God of James 1:5 who asks us to come to Him for wisdom...then I would feel successful,” she says.

Starr earned a bachelor’s degree in 1971 from Andrews University, a master’s degree from Oakland University in 1977, and a second master’s degree from Southern Adventist University in 2004.

*~Rebekah Bissell, editor*

## Food Minimum Reduction Approved for 2008-2009

Last fall, a task force of administrators and student leaders studied Southern’s meal plan in comparison with meal plans at other colleges, and new changes for 2008-2009 were voted. Instead of a minimum semester fee of \$1,000 for residence hall students, the new minimum semester fee for the meal plan will be \$925.

In addition, the \$200 allotment for purchasing at the Village Market, which was part of the current \$1,000 semester meal plan, will be removed. The \$925 minimum is to be used only at the cafeteria, KR’s Place, and/or the Campus Kitchen.

Students will still be able to purchase at the Village Market and charge deli and grocery items to their statement, but not through the new meal plan. Instead, both residence hall and community students can purchase up to \$100 a month at the Village Market and/or the Campus Shop beginning next fall. Photocopying and printing can also be charged as part of the \$100-a-month limit.

“This new credit-based system for purchasing at the university’s grocery store and bookstore allows for much more flexibil-



ity and convenience and makes shopping at these retail stores completely optional,” said Vinita Sauder, vice president for Marketing and Enrollment Services and chair of the Meal Plan Task Force.

The task force discovered that Southern’s meal plan continues to be one of the least expensive in the South, with universities on average charging 50 percent more for fewer meals per week. The changes for 2008-2009 reflect the minimum wage increases, as well as rising ingredient, transportation, and other labor costs.

For questions about the new plan, contact Vinita Sauder at [sauder@southern.edu](mailto:sauder@southern.edu).



Club members Matt Hermann, Marjorie Ellenwood, Shane Akerman, Jeremy Morell, Matt Burdette, Raymond Thompson, and Renee Weatherly.

## Southern's Democrat Club

College Democrats is not just for members of the Democratic Party.

"We welcome anybody," says Matt Hermann, senior history major from Virginia and treasurer of College Democrats. "It's more about political awareness than anything."

The club was started in 2006 by Raymond Thomson, junior international studies and archaeology major from New Jersey. Raymond saw a need for more political awareness among students.

To help foster this awareness throughout the student body as well as the Collegedale community, the club led a voter registration drive last semester that registered about 80 students and community members for the state primaries. The club plans on continuing the drive for the general election in the coming fall semester.

This semester, the club plans to host a viewing of the documentary "For the Bible Tells Me So," which deals with the

Seventh-day Adventist church's traditional stance on politics.

"The College Democrats club presents politics and political discussion within an Adventist context," says Raymond.

The club isn't just about political awareness, however. Since the club's beginning, it has worked with many different organizations committed to bringing change to the world's most heavily impoverished regions.

They began working with STAND (Students Taking Action Now: Darfur). In the spring of 2007, club members took part in a die-in on Southern's campus that emphasized awareness of the Sudanese genocide. More recently they became involved with Amnesty International and also Invisible Children, an organization that helps displaced children in Uganda.

"Students from the ground up have been influencing this movement of awareness," says Raymond. "Because of the work of these human rights organizations, awareness has been raised to a level that I really haven't seen in recent years."

~Suzanne Ocsai, freshman mass communications major from Tennessee

## Students Say

We asked students to tell us how their parents have encouraged them during this year's tough times. Here is what they said.

"A lot of times I have difficulty making decisions, so my parents have given me advice or sent me a letter or a card and a little money to go do something fun and get my mind off things."

~Trisha Moor, sophomore nursing and religious education major from Washington

"They have guided me toward Christ. They've told me to search out God for myself. That has helped me so much."

~Alex Bolanos, senior physical education major from Texas

"They provided support. They sent emails and phone calls to let me know they were there. They supported me no matter what my decisions were."

~Kristie Sullivan, junior accounting and business major from New York

"One time they sent me a package in the mail. It had food and things in it. That was really nice."

~A.J. Regester, junior pre-allied health major from Arkansas

"They would just call me and send me letters of encouragement, come visit me, and pray for me."

~Caressa Rogers, sophomore elementary education major from Georgia

"They called me up and gave me encouragement. They told me they were praying for me. That touched my heart. I love my parents."

~Elvin Edmeade, senior psychology major from New York

"They came and visited me and took me shopping. We just talked and spent time together."

~Melissa Blake, junior biochemistry major from North Carolina



# Calendar of Events

April	4	Student Missionary/Task Force Retreat (4-5)	May	2	Graduation Weekend Begins
	6	Second Annual Volksmarch, I Cantori Spring Concert		4	Commencement
	7	Online Fall Registration for Returning Students (7-11)	July	5	First Summer Session Begins
	8	Dean's Luncheon: Southern Scholars		28	Georgia-Cumberland Campmeeting
	12	Dusk 'til Dawn Challenge		August	27
	13	American Robotics League Southern Challenge, Committee of 100 Brunch, Wind Symphony Concert	28		SmartStart and 3rd Summer Session Begins
	15	Campus Research Symposium	22		SmartStart and 3rd Summer Session Ends, Student Association and Campus Ministries Retreat
	16	Student Appreciation Day, Spring Wind Symphony Tour (16-19)	24		We-Haul, Residence Halls Enrollment Activities, New-Student Orientation (24-27), Parents' Seminar, Mentor Training
	18	Student Missionary and Task Force Dedication	25		President's Prayer Breakfast
	19	Artistic Expressions	28		Classes Begin
	20	Student Association Strawberry Festival			
	26	School of Music Concert, Jazz Ensemble Concert			
	27	Semester Exams (27-30)			
28	Book Buy-back Begins (April 28-May 1), Cookies and Fruit on the Promenade, Bread Night				

## Favorite Quote

“Know thyself.” ~Ancient Greek aphorism  
 Submitted by Kyle Cox, freshman history major from New Jersey

### FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE

Exam Time	Sunday April 27	Monday April 28	Tuesday April 29	Wednesday April 30
8 a.m. to 9:50 a.m.		8 a.m. T Th 8:30 a.m. T Th	9 a.m. MWF 9 a.m. T Th	8 a.m. MWF 8 a.m. MTWThF
10 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.		9:30 a.m. T Th 10 a.m. T Th	11 a.m. MWF	10 a.m. MWF
12 p.m. to 1:50 p.m.	12 p.m. T Th 12:30 p.m. T Th	12 p.m. MWF	1 p.m. MWF 1 p.m. MTWThF	11 a.m. T
2 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.	English Composition	2 p.m. T Th 2:30 p.m. T Th	3 p.m. MWF 3:30 p.m. MW 4 p.m. M	2 p.m. MW 2 p.m. MWF
4 p.m. to 5:50 p.m.		3 p.m. T Th 3:30 p.m. T Th	4 p.m. T Th 5 p.m. T Th 5 p.m. MW	Speech

Exams in classes that meet after 6 p.m. will be given at the regular class time during test week. It is important that students be present for their final exam. Students with circumstances that might prevent their attendance are encouraged to arrange an earlier testing date with their professor. Rescheduling a midterm or final exam is \$65 per class.



# God's Great Gentleness

It was a beautiful Sabbath afternoon. The sun was shining, the breeze was just right, and the clouds scudded giddily across the sky. If I had been home, I would have gone hiking with my family or friends on one of the many trails located near Southern's campus, but I wasn't home. I was on the USS Nimitz visiting my dear sister.

The Nimitz, a quarter-mile-long aircraft carrier that is home to about 5,000 people and 61 aircraft, spends four to six months at a time patrolling the seas and providing air support to land-based troops in the Middle East. I was on the home-bound boat for a "Tiger Cruise," along with a large group of other crew members' family and friends.

So there I was after a privileged week of top-notch treatment, trying to spend the Sabbath the way I thought God wanted me to. I am ashamed to admit that, even after singing with the praise team on Friday night, I was a coward that Sabbath day. I did not go study in the chapel. I did not seek people out and share what God has done for me. Instead, I spent my time hiding in my "rack," or bunk, asking God if He really wanted me to go out there and share Him with people who, I

thought, weren't interested anyway. Well, God had a lesson for me to learn that day.

The Sabbath had almost ended when I decided I was hungry and went in search of some food to eat. I ended up in the officer's mess, where a friend was bringing food for her father and grandfather, who had become friends of mine as well. The food was good, and we enjoyed each other's company as we ate.

I don't remember exactly how the conversation moved to religious matters, but the next thing I knew I was trying to answer my new friends' questions on the meanings of the prophecies of Daniel! They asked question after question, and after a little while I had to go get my Bible. It was amazing to see the Holy Spirit open their minds to understand the basic meanings of Nebuchadnezzar's dream (even using my stick-figure drawings) and how it relates to history, life today, and the validity of the Bible. God used me in spite of myself to share Him with people who were already searching to know Him better, and He used them to humble and gently reprove me.

As my mother says, sometimes God has to work in spite of His people. I determined that day that, with God's help, I never wanted to make Him have to work in spite of me again.

And although this is my last semester as Southern's parent communications coordinator, I know that God will guide my steps and lead me to where He wants me to be. I hope and pray that you will experience God's gentleness as He leads you, too.

~Rebekah Bissell, editor

Contact Us: We want to know what you think! If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions, please call Rebekah Bissell or Melissa Maracle at 423.236.2582 or send an email to southernparents@southern.edu.

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