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Making Education Affordable

My freshman year in college was a struggle for me. Not only was I getting adjusted to a full load of college-level classes, but I was also trying to figure out how I was going to afford staying at Southern Adventist University. The combination was stressful, and at times I tried to ignore dealing with the subject of finances. Soon I realized just how unwise this lack of proactive assertiveness was, and I started making appointments to see my financial counselor for advice and assistance.

Like all of the counselors, mine was welcoming and more than happy to help me figure out what I needed to do. Through meetings with my counselor, we were able to work through a plan that enabled me to continue studying at Southern. After our meetings, I was able to see that Southern truly is an affordable option even for students who are initially unsure of their financial standing.

If your family is in the same situation mine was—wondering how you can afford to keep your student at Southern—don't give up hope. Try these tips to take advantage of all the financial resources available.

Get to know your family's student finance counselor.

"Make your student finance counselor one of your best friends," says Jason Meryman, director of Enrollment Services/Student Finance. "These experts are here to help you and know where to find scholarships and financial aid that can help your student receive the funds they are eligible for."

Apply for scholarships.

There are several websites devoted to helping your student find scholarships. These include www.fastweb.com, www.finaid.org, www.studentaid2.ed.gov, and www.scholarships.com.

Hundreds of Southern students have discovered additional funding from these sources.

Take part in work and work study.

Filing the FAFSA can help a student take part in the work-study program. But all students are eligible to work on or off campus and help defray their costs. Most students are able to contribute up to \$3,000 during the school year from working 14-16 hours per week, and up to \$3,000 during the summer from working 30-32 hours a week.

File the FAFSA early.

The best way to ensure that your student has a strong financial base is to file the FAFSA before the priority deadline of March 31. (To make this deadline, have your taxes and FAFSA completed at least one week prior to the deadline.) Southern needs the FAFSA in order to determine how much need-based funding a student qualifies for.

Filing early means that students are able to receive all of the funds they are eligible for, because Southern promises that students who file their FAFSA before this deadline will receive the full amount of need-based scholarship funds they qualify for.

Missing this deadline means that your student could miss out on literally thousands of dollars.

~By Suzanne Ocsai, editor



Q&A

with President
Gordon Bietz

ASK THE PRESIDENT

What kind of scholarships might my student qualify for when returning to Southern next year?

Southern offers a range of scholarships to encourage students to perform well academically and get involved with campus life. Here is an overview of some of the scholarships for returning students.

Student Transferring and Returning scholarship (STAR) GPA requirements: 3.4-3.59 \$1,500; 3.6-3.79 \$2,000; 3.8-4.0 \$2,500.

- Summer Ministries Leadership Scholarships: Students who work at an Adventist conference-sponsored summer camp or in literature evangelism over the summer are eligible.

- Endowment Fund and Other Grants: Eligibility for the scholarship from the Southern endowment fund is determined by filling out the FAFSA.

- Student Missionary/Task Force Scholarships: Returning students who have just spent nine months or more serving as student missionaries/task force workers are eligible.

- Performance Scholarships: Students participating in select performance groups—such as music groups, Gym-Masters, and Destiny Drama Company—qualify for performance scholarships for as long as their participation in the group continues.

- Southern Scholars Honors Program Scholarships: After completing one year in Southern Scholars, students are eligible for \$1,500. The amounts increase to \$2,500 and \$3,500 for the third and fourth years in the program.

- Departmental Scholarships: The department of your student’s major may offer scholarships that meet that department’s select criteria.

Did You Know?

FAFSA Deadline Reminder

Even though we’re still in second semester, it’s time to start thinking about getting your student ready for the next academic year. One of the most important things to remember regarding student aid is to fill out your FAFSA.

FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid, and according to Marc Grundy, associate vice president for Marketing and Enrollment Services, FAFSA is the key that unlocks Southern’s ability to assist students with various kinds of financial aid. “The purpose of the FAFSA,” says Grundy, “is to give everyone a chance to get an education, even if their family’s financial situation is not very good.”

By filling out the FAFSA, students can receive the federal Pell Grants, Stafford loans, Southern’s endowment grants, and other state grants and scholarships. FAFSA only takes about an hour to fill out, and it needs to be done each year. It is best to fill out the FAFSA as soon as possible in order to maximize the amount of aid that your student can receive.

Deadlines differ from state to state, and Southern’s endowment grants are on a first-come, first-served basis until the funds run out, so Southern suggests that you fill out your FAFSA no later than March 31 to get the maximum amount of aid your student qualifies for. To fill out the FAFSA or to get more information, visit www.fafsa.ed.gov.

~by Brittany Russell

Calendar of Events

March	13 Student Association Talent Show	26 Last day to order May graduation regalia online
	14 Adventist Robotics League Southern Challenge	27 Gym-Masters Home Show
	19 Star Watch Hickman Hall parking lot	28 Gym-Masters Home Show Matinee
	21 Symphony Orchestra Concert	29 Fall registration for returning sophomores and above
	23 Fall registration for returning seniors	31 Fall registration for returning freshmen and above
	25 Fall registration for returning juniors and above	
April	3 SonRise	4 I Cantori Spring Concert
	4 th Annual Community Health Walk	6 Adventist Intercollegiate Association (AIA) meetings (6-10)

Favorite Bible Verse

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek”
(Romans 1:16).

~Submitted by Austin Cole, junior theology major

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Andy Nash: Telling Stories



Andy Nash is teaching four classes this semester, including the new *Literary Journalism* class.

Andy Nash, '94, was first drawn to the written word at the age of eight, when he would frequently pick up the newspaper lying on the table and begin reading. Later, while a student at Southern, Nash learned the principles behind writing the news stories that always attracted him, discovering that the best writing is the clearest and simplest. This knowledge took him on a career that included working for the *Adventist Review* and starting his own magazine before returning to his alma mater as an associate professor.

Nash's eagerness for telling true stories resulted in the obtaining of his recent doctorate degree in creative nonfiction. As a result of research connected to his doctoral studies, two projects were born. The first is his memoir, titled *Paper God*, which is published by Pacific Press. The second endeavor is a new *Literary Journalism* class Nash is teaching for the first time this semester in the School of Journalism and Communication.

"The class is a subset of nonfiction," says Nash. "It's about telling true stories in an engaging but still accurate fashion."

The students enrolled in the class will write a single project during the semester. For some students it will be the beginning of a book.

"Dr. Nash is a formidable writer," says Angela McPherson, a junior mass communication major who plans to finish a book she has already started. "Under his teaching, I am consistently improving in my writing."

While Nash requires students to work hard and achieve their best, he also provides a creatively freeing environment in his classes that allows students to express themselves.

"I most enjoy the banter with the students in the classroom," says Nash. "I look for those personal connections that the whole class will enjoy."

~by Manuela Asaftei

The Garden Club: Growing Food and Friendship

Few things can compare to the simple pleasure of eating a freshly picked salad that you and your friends grew together. Through Southern Adventist University's Garden Club, students now have the opportunity to enjoy such a pleasure. The club provides a way for students to learn how to grow their own vegetables from the cultivation of the earth to the harvesting of the produce.

Even before the club's official organization date of March 2009, students were meeting regularly. Members tilled a portion of land between Southern Village and the Stateside Apartments, built a small greenhouse, and grew squash, tomatoes, cilantro, basil, carrots, and much more.

"The club started as a way to provide students with the opportunity to get outside and learn something incredibly practical and fulfilling," says John Howe, junior biology major and president of the club.

The Garden Club seems to be accomplishing this goal.

"As part of the Garden Club, students get to see the fruit of their labors in the food that they grow," says club treasurer Joel Kurtz, senior business administration and history major. "It's a great way to spend time

in the sun with friends, and it's economical and honest work."

Economical is a key word in today's society, where many people are looking for farm-fresh produce that's inexpensive and locally grown. Students who express an interest are able to pick fresh produce for free at the student garden. The club also sells a portion of their harvests to the Village Market, Southern's grocery store. Proceeds from the club's sales are donated to various charitable organizations including Invisible Children,

an organization dedicated to helping children affected by the war in Uganda.

"I see gardening as a return to the simple life," says John, "the essence of which is a joy that most of us no longer know. Yet, we in the Garden Club are passionate about gardening, and we hope that others will stop by and catch the vision we have for our campus and community."

~By Suzanne Ocsai



John Howe, far right, and club members (L-R) Sarah Holloway, Kristin Thomas, Danielle Karppala, and Ricky Irizarry enjoy the spring harvest in the student garden.

We Serve Because He Served



Clad in matching shirts of turquoise and gold, Southern Adventist University students left the gymnasium on the morning of January 18 with one purpose: to serve the greater Chattanooga area through Christ's example of service to others. More than 700 students signed up to serve at one of 54 sites across the city of Chattanooga and surrounding Hamilton County. "Our theme this year, 'We Serve Because He Served' demonstrates the quintessential reason to serve," says Crystal James, senior liberal arts education major and SA community service director. "Had it not been for Jesus, who so willingly served us by dying on the cross, we would not have the ability to serve others. By serving, we learn to become more like Christ."



Emily Fisher, junior nursing major, and Kristen Thomas, senior nursing major, had a good time washing out planters in the outdoor sink at Crabtree Farms.



Laurel Guthrie, senior nursing and music major, and Marjorie Kendall, junior nursing major, harvest daikon radishes, which were later served at the annual Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group banquet.



Southern student Caleb Fisher '08, works with community members on 8th Street to remove leaves from the neighborhood.



Southern's PRSSA (Public Relations Student Society of America) cleaned out linen closets at Bridge Refugee Services and helped move furniture into a refugee's new home.



Kamilah Brathwaite, freshman mathematics major, sorted dishes at Bridge Refugee Services.



Johnathon Santucci, sophomore psychology major, served the Chattanooga Zoo spreading mulch for the animals.



Students gathered in the gym for breakfast and worship before heading out to their various sites to serve.



Crystal James, senior liberal arts education major and SA community service director, paints a kitchen wall.



Students prepare for a day of beautifying the 8th Street neighborhood. They raked, cleared leaves, and helped with other landscaping projects.

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Students Say

When helping your student pick classes, do you ever wonder which classes rate the highest? We asked some students to tell us about their favorite classes at Southern, and here are their answers:

“I like my Basic Rock Climbing class. It’s the most fun I have had in classes, and it’s hands-on.”

~Priya Ratteray, sophomore general studies major

“Publication Tools and Techniques allowed me to do some more creative design stuff that I didn’t know I would enjoy and be good at. I have tapped into a different set of skills that I didn’t use before. It’s been really fun.”

~Audrey Cooper, senior public relations major

“I learned a lot about Christ’s life in a personal way in Life and Teachings of Jesus with Dr. Tilstra. He is very gentle and insightful. He is also very personal and relational.”

~Vanessa Cutz, junior English major

“I liked Music History. The teacher was interesting and very knowledgeable. In that class, I was able to make a connection between music and what was happening at the time in society.”

~Brian Gonzalez, senior music major

“I really liked Design Studio 2. It was stressful but educational for me as a designer. I learned different design styles through the history of design. By being influenced by previous styles, it helped me develop my own.”

~Kristopher Haughton, senior graphic design major

“Public Speaking is like therapy. There are a lot of people who are shy, but the class size is like a family and you can learn to develop.”

~Jianna Acosta, freshman biology major

“Interpersonal Ministries was my favorite. You learn a lot of practical skills of communication in that class. You also learn listening skills and how to apply them. I have been able to apply what I have learned, such as reading body language. Communication is a big instrument in keeping healthy relationships.”

~Ruth Bonet, sophomore theology major