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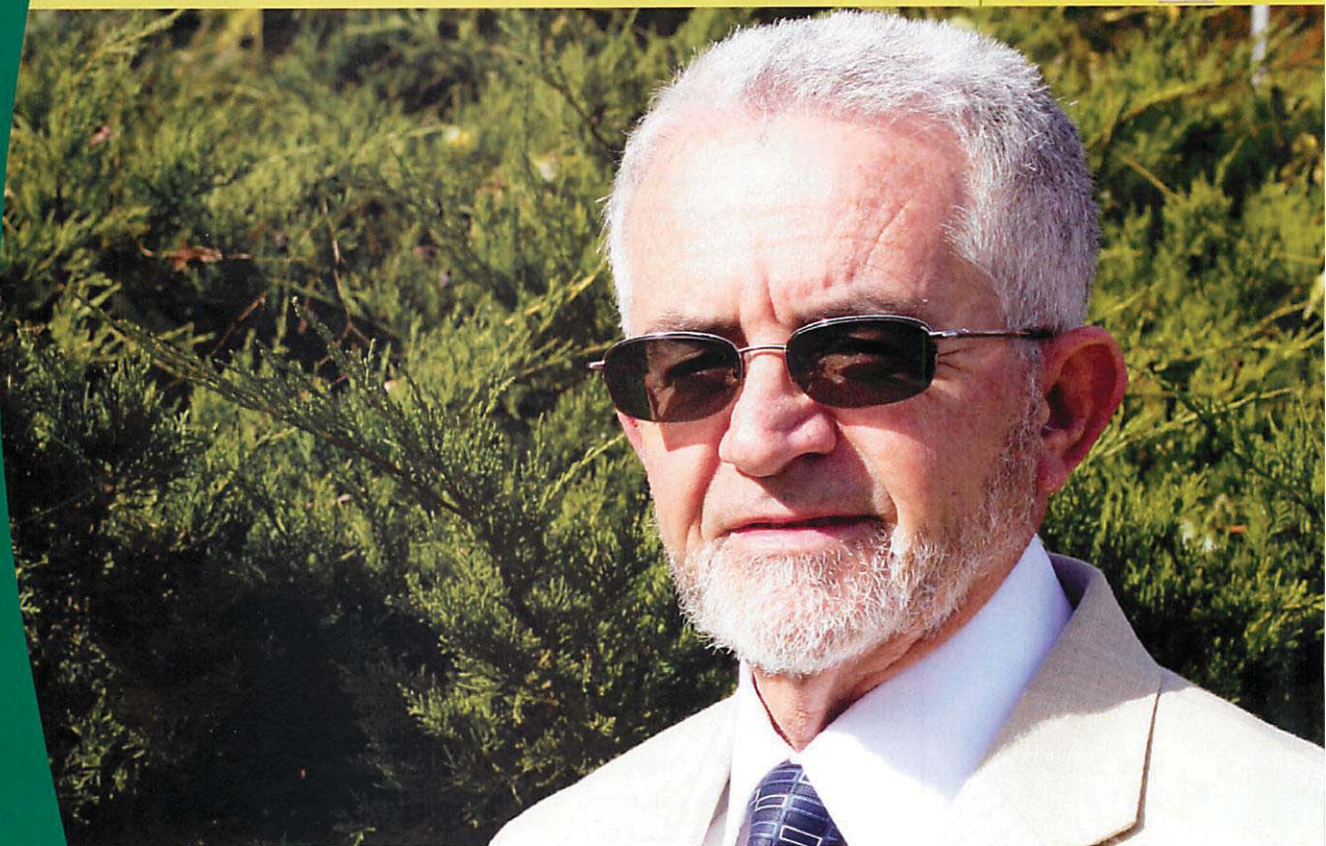


Miller Brings
Love of Outdoors
and Adventure to
Southern

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ALWAYS TEACHING

Dos Santos to retire after 14 years at Southern

From Angola to Bolivia to Costa Rica to the Dominican Republic, Alberto dos Santos's passport is an alphabetic menagerie of places he has lived in and worked as an educator, dean, and administrator.

Now in his final year of teaching at Southern Adventist University, the energetic professor will add another location—Panama—to his impressive résumé of world travel when he retires in May.

Dos Santos was born in Angola, a large nation in south-central Africa that was a Portuguese overseas territory until 1975. He attended high school in Angola and then moved to South Africa at 16, where he completed his final year of high school and learned English. Dos Santos' ability to speak five languages—English, Spanish, Portuguese, French and Swahili—has been a tremendous asset during his world travels.

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From the dean's desk

Good things are happening in the School of Education and Psychology. I am excited about recent enhancements to the academic programs and the initiatives that are being led by faculty and students. Learning also goes beyond the halls of Summerour to impact the lives of those in our communities.



John Wesley Taylor V

Alberto dos Santos has been a professional example and leader in the School of Education and Psychology for 14 years. We are thankful for his many contributions. His story starts on the cover and continues inside.

The addition of new faculty is inspiring, as we welcomed three new professors this year: Risper Awour, Faith Laughlin, and Marty Miller. Read about how their life journeys brought them to Southern on pages 4 and 5.

One of the innovative degrees we offer is outdoor leadership. This major emphasizes the connection between faith and learning, set in the context of nature and adventure. More information is available in the educational feature on page 6.

Our programs must equip students with the necessary skills for a contemporary job market. Jessica Harrington graduated from the elementary education program at Southern and now uses her talents in the classroom. Learn more about her experiences on page 7.

Finally, we are enthusiastic about the research transpiring in our departments. The groundbreaking *Journal of Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Research*, published by our School of Education and Psychology, highlights such academic efforts.

Thank you for reading *Unraveled*. We hope you find this issue to be engaging and informative.

Southern Produces Academic Journal

Four Southern students were published in the first academic journal generated by the university.

The research findings of Michael Hermann, Kahlilia Morris, Matthew Marlin, and Salenna Russello were included in the initial volume of the *Journal of Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Research (JIUR)*.

Research topics in the *JIUR* included media exposure on self-esteem, the effect of spirituality on well-being, behavioral indicators of sugar dependence, and intimate partner violence cycles.

"We are seeking to demonstrate the strength of undergraduate learning at Southern and continue to

focus on academic excellence," says Rob Coombs, professor of psychology and editor-in-chief of the *JIUR*.

The journal was produced by the School of Education and Psychology, but students from other academic schools and departments are encouraged to submit their research papers for publication.



The School of Education and Psychology provides a graduate assistant with the opportunity to manage the production of the journal. The second volume of the *JIUR* will be available in May 2010.

To learn more, contact the School of Education and Psychology at 423.236.2765 or email jiur@southern.edu.

Study: Persisting in Prayer

Ruth WilliamsMorris, professor of psychology, has been conducting a double-blind experiment on the effects of intercessory prayer for two years. The results were presented at the Southeastern Psychological Association.

"We concluded that prayer as an independent variable is difficult to manipulate," WilliamsMorris says. "The

students who were prayed for did increase their scores by 4 percent but the increase was not statistically significant."

WilliamsMorris is doing a correlation study now with the help of graduate student Edely Yopez. The new non-experimental design looks at how prayer is related to life outcomes, such as life satisfaction and world views.

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Always Teaching: Dos Santos

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Dos Santos attended college at the University of South Africa and Helderberg College, where he obtained degrees in theology and clinical psychology. He also met his wife, Joan, in South Africa in 1962, and they married two years later. After graduation, the couple moved to the Democratic Republic of Congo, the third largest African nation. Dos Santos served as a principal for 10 years—first at a school and then at a teacher training college.

“Teaching has always been my preferred profession,” dos Santos says. “Even when I worked in administration, I always taught one or two subjects.”

During a furlough, dos Santos came to the United States to complete his master’s degree. Three years later, he returned to the United States to complete a

doctoral program in educational psychology at Andrews University.

Armed with a terminal degree, dos Santos worked at different institutions in

Central America. His stops included seven years as president of Haitian Adventist University in Haiti; four years as vice president of academic affairs at Dominican Adventist University in the Dominican Republic; seven years as dean of the school of education at Central American Adventist University in Costa Rica; and two years as a professor of education and psychology at Antillian Adventist University in Puerto Rico.

While dos Santos stayed occupied with school management, he never



Alberto dos Santos, professor of psychology, has taught in many countries and has spent the last 14 years at Southern. Dos Santos will retire in May and move to Panama with Joan, his wife of 45 years.

“Teaching has always been my preferred profession ... I enjoy the interaction with the students.”

— Alberto dos Santos

neglected his love for the classroom. His passion for teaching led him to teach a class for La Sierra University’s graduate program on the campus of Southern Adventist University in 1995.

“The chair of Southern’s School of Education and Psychology contacted me after I taught that class,” dos Santos says. “The students said that I should be teaching at Southern.”

Dos Santos was hired by Southern as a professor. A year later, he was promoted to dean of School of Education and Psychology.

During his 14 years at Southern, dos Santos supervised several milestones, including the introduction of graduate programs in education and counseling.

“Starting the master’s program at Southern was very special,” says dos Santos, who was also influential in getting the education program to achieve full accreditation during his

term as dean.

As he approaches retirement, the multilingual professor keeps his physical capabilities in top shape. While dos Santos doesn’t participate in competitive soccer anymore as he did while a youth in Africa, he still walks four miles every day and incorporates weight lifting into his fitness routine.

He also still appreciates the mental calisthenics that take place in the classroom.

“I love teaching and enjoy the interaction with students,” dos Santos says. “Plus, I like to review material so I don’t forget it.”

While dos Santos and his wife are moving to Panama next year, the experienced educator won’t be idle. In addition to working on his house, dos Santos plans to open his own clinic and do part-time pro bono counseling work. He also plans to preach, give seminars, and lecture.

“I’m also going to take care of my fruit trees and garden,” dos Santos said. “I won’t sit in a rocking chair just because I’m retired. I don’t know how to do that.”



Risper Awuor

Risper Awuor has come a long way—from being raised in a polygamous family in Kenya to teaching applied statistics and research at Southern.

Awuor's father had two wives, and Awuor was one of 17 children in the home. But she emerged as one of the family's "favorites" and attended a girls' boarding school, thanks to her father's love for education.

"My motivation and success were due to the mentoring of my uncle," Awuor said. "I knew as a young girl that I wanted to be a teacher as my uncle was."

Awuor didn't get married at 16, as is the norm for women in Kenya. Instead, she was the first girl in her family to attend high school. She got married at 21 and had four children, but she didn't cease her education. She studied home economics, education and religion at the University of Eastern Africa Baraton, and she obtained her master's in home economics from Andrews University.

She then returned to Africa and taught at universities for nine years. During this time, she visited Sweden

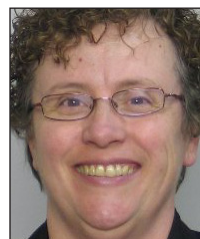
Risper Awuor got her doctorate from Virginia Tech. Now she teaches educational research and statistics classes at Southern.

Faith Laughlin

If you peek in the office of Faith Laughlin, you will notice multicolored toys scattered about the education professor's workplace. From children's books to stuffed animals to an international doll collection, Laughlin's surroundings proclaim the education professor's

proclivity toward mixing fun and knowledge.

"I like to facilitate learning with the educators of today and tomorrow by using love and



laughter," Laughlin says.

Laughlin was born in Michigan and grew up attending a one-room school. As a child, Laughlin knew she wanted



Faith Laughlin seeks to incorporate play and fun into the classroom learning experience for students. Her office is a menagerie of colorful books and toys, including an international doll collection.

to teach. After completing high school, Laughlin attended Andrews University, where she majored in Spanish and

elementary education.

Laughlin also got married in college, and after graduation, she and her

to participate in a research project and then taught at the University of Gothenburg. In order to work on her doctorate, Awuor moved to the United States in 2002 and attended Virginia Tech. Her research examined the statistical power of the procedures



used to detect bias in high-stakes tests. Awuor taught at Virginia Tech during her final year as a doctoral candidate and continued as an adjunct professor for

a semester after graduating. She then applied to teach at Southern.

Awuor loves being in Tennessee, but part of her heart is overseas. Her husband, Mordoch, returned to Kenya to direct operations for a school the Awuors started for local orphans and will return to the United States soon.

In her spare time, Awuor enjoys traveling, participating in community projects, cooking, reading about world events, and watching tennis and soccer.

husband, Ken, served as missionaries in Korea for two years teaching English to adults. They returned to California after their stint overseas, and Laughlin obtained her master's from Pacific Union College. Amid her studies, Laughlin had two children, Ken and Kaiti. After 14 years in California, the couple opted for a change of scenery.

"I didn't want to raise my kids so far from family," she says, so the Laughlins moved east. In 2000, Laughlin took a position in Pennsylvania, teaching at a one-room school with 10 students. Laughlin embraced the small school setting—she incorporated "lots of singing and playing" into classroom projects.

"I want college students to know that a one-room school is nothing to be afraid of," she says.

Earlier this year, a former adviser encouraged Laughlin to send her résumé to Southern.

"I think it was a God thing," says Laughlin, who plans to complete her doctorate in May. "The job found me. God opens doors, and sometimes He has to push us through them."



In 2004, Marty Miller led a group of academy students to an exhilarating and successful summit ascent of Mt. Rainier in Washington State.

Marty Miller

Marty Miller's enthusiasm for the outdoors commenced as a child in Florida.

"My favorite pastime was to visit the swamps," says Miller, an outdoor education professor. "We use to catch tortoises, snakes, and lizards and bring them back in my red wagon."

Miller's family moved to Collegedale when he was in seventh grade, and Miller discovered mountains for the first time.

"I was drawn to the mountains and have followed a lifelong passion for backpacking and mountaineering," Miller says. He has ascended notable national peaks such as Grand Teton in Wyoming and Mount Rainier in Washington.

In 1983, Miller graduated from Southern with his bachelor's in biology. He also married Gale, who is a registered nurse.

The couple moved west, and during the next 11 years, Miller taught junior high and academy science in California. Miller was also active in

working with the local youth, as he led trips in camping and backpacking.

In 1997, the Millers returned to Tennessee with two children, Jonathan and Julie. Marty taught ecology and biology at Collegedale Academy for 10 years. While teaching, Miller also completed his master's

in outdoor education at Southern.

With his experience, Miller was an excellent choice to fill a vacancy in Southern's outdoor leadership programs this year. Michael Hills has been working with Southern's outdoor leadership programs

for seven years, but he decided this year to take a sabbatical from Southern to complete his doctorate.

With the help of graduate assistants, Miller now coordinates the program, which includes teaching classes and managing trips.

"I love teaching and working with young people," Miller says. "I am excited about the new challenges with the dynamic outdoor leadership program at Southern."





Eleni Tesch, an outdoor leadership major, climbs at Starr Mountain in southwest Tennessee during a four-day practicum for her Outdoor Basics class. Tesch says she is passionate about the outdoor programs at Southern.

IN THE OUTDOORS

Students Learn to Connect Love of Nature, People

For senior Edwin Davidson, the outdoor emergency services degree at Southern provides the groundwork for him to pursue his interests in aviation, nursing, and the outdoors while guiding him toward his occupational ambition.

"I want to do missionary work after graduation, and this major provides a nice foundation for that," says Davidson, a certified private pilot and nurse.

Davidson plans to move to Bolivia next year and work with a medical aviation program that provides people with emergency medical assistance.

"The outdoor leadership programs provide an incredible diversity of options to students who like to think and function outside the box," says Marty Miller, associate professor of outdoor leadership. "In a world that is increasingly separated from God's creation, these programs provide an academic response to a societal problem."

OUTDOOR DEGREE OPTIONS

B.S Outdoor Leadership
B.S. Outdoor Emergency Services
Minor: Outdoor Leadership
Minor: Relief Medic
M.S.Ed. Outdoor Education

Students pursue the outdoor leadership major for different reasons, but most students want to combine their love of nature with service to mankind.

"I want to use the outdoors to help people with counseling," said senior outdoor leadership major Wyntre Robinson. "Outdoor leadership helps to connect people with God and nature."

Senior Caitlyn McCrain feels similarly.

"I plan to get my master's in counseling or social work, and I want to incorporate the outdoors into my therapy," says McCrain, an outdoor education major.

The outdoor leadership degree program presents students with choices—a bachelor's in outdoor emergency services is available, and the bachelor's in outdoor leadership offers a concentration in eight different areas, including adventure therapy, naturalist, and outdoor ministry. The bachelor's in outdoor emergency services degree combines the sciences, outdoor leadership education, and an associate's degree in nursing.

"I believe leadership is essential for today's youth, and this major provides the leadership skills to accomplish such tasks," says Alfredo Fuentes, a senior outdoor leadership major, who plans to use adventure therapy to help guide troubled youth.

Graduates may seek employment in a variety of venues, including national parks, camps, outdoor schools, rescue and relief services, nature centers, therapeutic outdoor programs, and mission organizations.

CULTURAL CONNECTION

Harrington Works to Excite Students in the Classroom

During her pursuit of a liberal arts education degree at Southern, Jessica (Johnston) Harrington never learned to rap.

But the 2008 graduate is including hip-hop rhythms as part of her inspiring lesson plans for the 20 black students in her classroom.

"It's a challenge for me to keep learning exciting for them," says Harrington, who is a fourth-grade homeroom teacher at Woodmore Elementary in Chattanooga, Tennessee. "Fortunately, the school has a lot of resources, and the staff are very supportive."

In addition to incorporating musical mathematics, Harrington seeks to use literature from African-American culture whenever possible and focus on the contributions of black historical figures.

"The students need to feel proud of their culture and connect with it," Harrington says.

Harrington's education at Southern and her experience as a student missionary helped prepare her for teaching in a workplace environment where she is a cultural minority. Harrington served for a year as a student missionary in Palau, an island in the South Pacific. She also recalls visiting an intercity school during one of her education classes.

"Southern does a lot to put us in classrooms and get us experience," Harrington says.

Krystal Bishop, professor of education, served as Harrington's academic adviser and relates to her experience.

"When working in an urban



A graduate of Southern, Jessica Harrington works as a fourth-grade teacher at the Woodmore Elementary School in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Above, she works with Egertis Butchee at the computer. At left, she assists two students at the guided reading table.

school, there are barriers that can cause discouragement," Bishop says. "Students need to know that just because they have the disposition for effective teaching doesn't mean it will be easy in the real world."

Harrington works hard to connect with her students. The first-year teacher attends after-school functions to get to know her students and their parents.

She talks with the fourth-graders about their families. And Harrington also spends time interacting with the students during lunch.

"The experience is really rewarding, and the students seem thankful to have a teacher who cares about them," Harrington says. "I'm at this school for a reason, and I'm learning and growing every day."



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