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Staying in Touch With Your Student

Before college Debbie Beihl, senior interdisciplinary physiology major, had a tradition of going on walks with her family on Sabbath afternoon. After coming to Southern, despite a distance of more than 200 miles, those walks didn't end. They were just done a little bit differently.

With the convenience of cell phones, the Beihls would call each other on Sabbath afternoons, and using the speaker phone option, they'd talk while walking "together"—Debbie and her two brothers in Tennessee and their parents in South Carolina.

"It helped me stay connected and not feel homesick," says Debbie, "especially to my home church because my parents would tell me about what was happening."

Debbie and her mom also take advantage of the Mother/Daughter Weekend that Southern hosts every even year, opposite Parents Weekend, which is every odd year. (This academic year Parent's Weekend will be February 18-20, 2011.)

"It's something special for just the two of us," says Debbie, sharing how they dress alike for the event.

These are just a couple of the ways that the Beihls are making memories with each other while miles apart.

Southern's Assistant Chaplain Kevin Kibble also suggests that attending church with your student can be a way to stay connected and build some spiritually based memories. While this may seem impossible if you don't live in the area, modern technology has already addressed that issue. With live streaming of vesper and church

services at the Collegedale Church, parents can see and hear the same message their students do at the same time they do.

Kibble adds that you can then discuss what you both learned later over the phone using Skype, software that allows video calls to be made over the Internet.

Students typically have more time on Sabbath to just chat than they do other days, when they are worried about completing assignments and making all of their appointments on time.

Here are other quick and easy ways to stay in touch and make memories from afar.

Text messages throughout the week can also brighten a student's day. It's like the high-tech version of the lunch-box notes. It's a great way to let students know that you are thinking of them and miss them.

Facebook provides many different modes of communication for you and your student. Posting on their wall, commenting on their posts, or visiting their photos allows you to stay up-to-date with your student. With Facebook chat, you two can easily communicate during breaks in homework or classes.

"If it's late at night and I know my parents are already asleep but I still need to discuss or vent about something that occurred during waking hours, I'll send my mom a quick message on Facebook," says John Shoemaker, senior public relations and business administration major.

By finding simple ways to keep in touch, you can stay emotionally close to your student even when the miles separate you.

~by Suzanne Ocsai, Editor



Q&A

With President
Gordon Bietz

ASK THE PRESIDENT

How can my student find a job on campus?

If your student hasn't found a job yet, you may be feeling anxious. While it's essential that your student be the one to take the steps toward getting a job, your role as parent is to encourage and offer helpful hints. Here are some things you can suggest.

Check Southern's job board often. All on-campus student jobs (and many off-campus jobs) are posted on Southern's job board at southern.edu/hr. New jobs are posted all of the time, so encourage your student to check daily.

Widen the search. Your student may be hoping for an office job, but the top 12 employers on campus (hiring more than 500 students) hire students for service positions. A student who is willing to cook, clean, or mow has a greater chance of getting hired.

Schedule wisely. Blocks of time are an advantage when searching for a job. If your student's schedule for this semester made finding work difficult, encourage your student to spend some time planning next semester's schedule so that he or she has some half days available for employment.

Pay attention to presentation. Your student may not need to don a tailored suit to apply for a job in the Service Department, but changing out of that stained T-shirt does help give a more positive impression to a potential employer.

Have a positive attitude. Employers can sense if students are really interested in working for them. Want to help your student have a more positive attitude about applying for a job he or she feels overqualified for? I'll let you in on a little secret. I've cleaned toilets here on campus. If I can do that, I know your student can take pride in whatever role he or she finds.

Did You Know?

Southern's Technology Connects Parents to Campus

You don't even have to leave your house to experience what life is like for your student on Southern's campus.

Using today's technology, parents can:

- View live streaming of vespers and worship services (southern.edu/streaming)
- Dive into the lives of students, parents, and campus leaders through Southern's blogs southern.edu/blogs)
- Follow Southern's news through Facebook and Twitter (southern.edu/facebook and southern.edu/twitter)
- Download the Southern Adventist University app (southern.edu/iphone) for the iPhone or iPod, which includes a people directory, a campus map, the dining hall menu, Southern's news and events, and live streaming of Southern's radio station, WSMC Classical 90.5

Isaac James, Southern's eCommunications manager, is excited about the many opportunities that technology provides to help parents preview the Southern experience. He says, "One of our goals for the Southern website is to allow parents and prospective students to experience what life is like at Southern and see what's happening."

~by Jarod Keith

Calendar of Events

October	20-24	Midterm Break	28	Organ: Sietze deVries and I Cantori
	20-25	Adventist Heritage Tour	29	Last day to request December/May graduation at Records and Advisement
	28-31	Alumni Homecoming	30	Southern Shuffle
	21	Last day for 40 percent tuition refund		
November	1-6	Student Missions Week	15-20	Student wellness week
	8-12	SA Senate spirit week	17	Online winter registration for returning students
	10-13	ACROFEST	19-21	I Cantori Tour
	11-12	Preview Southern	20-23	New York Study Tour
	12	SA Senate pancake breakfast	21	Cowboy Jubilee
	12	Star watch	24-28	Thanksgiving Break
	12	Pierson Lectureship	28	Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition finals
	13	Symphony Orchestra Concert	30	Christmas on the Promenade
	15	Online winter registration for returning sophomores, juniors, and seniors		

Favorite Bible Verse

"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31, NIV).

~Submitted by Tiffani Caldwell, freshman broadcast journalism major

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Bernelle Taitague: Dedicated Spirituality



Bernelle Taitague has been a leader on campus for many years. As a student, she served as president of Asian Club and was active in community service.

Southern Adventist University's new task force assistant chaplain for this school year is Bernelle Taitague, graduated from Southern in 2009.

As a student at Southern, she remembers walking the halls and thinking how awesome it would be to work at Southern as an events planner.

"I enjoyed my experience at Southern so much I wanted to come back," says Taitague.

As the task force assistant chaplain, Taitague is in charge of planning every detail for worship events, like vespers and week of prayer. She hopes to encourage and inspire Southern to be a more spiritual campus.

"I hope to create an atmosphere at Southern where you can feel God's presence as soon as you step on campus," says Taitague. "I want to plan worship services in a way that students will be excited to go and will see God there."

One of the big worship services that Taitague planned and organized was the lawn concert vespers. The lawn concert is held outside, and students perform spiritual pieces through song or instrument. In between musical selections, there is scripture reading.

"The lawn concert was exciting to see," says Ingrid Hernandez, a sophomore public relations and business administration major. "It was a relaxing setting with the music, lights, and everyone on their blankets. I really enjoyed it, and I liked the variety of music styles."

Not only is Taitague in charge of planning worship events, but she is also there for students with a listening ear.

"Bernelle is very dedicated and focused in whatever she does," says Jolene Shafer, a sophomore liberal arts education major who works with Taitague in Campus Ministries. "She has a spiritual mindset and encourages the rest of us."

~by Carrie Francisco

Campus Ministries Expands

In an effort to unite Southern's growing student body, three new student positions were added by Campus Ministries for the 2010-2011 academic school year.

"The larger Southern gets, the smaller it needs to become," says Brennon Kirstein, Campus Ministries chaplain. "This is one attempt at getting small and staying intimate."

Jeff Harper, a senior theology major, and

Jolene Shafer, a sophomore liberal arts education major, were hired as the Talge and Thatcher student chaplains to bring personal pastoral care to the residence hall students.

"It is wonderful to be on the front lines of campus helping others see the love that Christ has for them," says Jolene.

Jeff and Jolene are committed to strengthening the prayer and visitation ministries to residence hall students by praying with

students, providing advice, and simply listening to those who need someone to talk to.

In addition to the student chaplain positions, Campus Ministries also hired Jon Rimatera, a senior theology major, as the Sabbath School director. Under his leadership, four different Sabbath School classes have been launched based on student's personal preferences and needs.

"The Sabbath School director is a really powerful position," said Teri Reutebuch, campus ministries office manager. "It's great that students have so many Sabbath School options."

New this year are One Accord, a Sabbath School supported by the three ethnic clubs on campus; Parables, a freshmen-led Sabbath School; and High Definition, a student-requested topical Sabbath School.

~by John Shoemaker



Jeff Harper is the Talge Hall student chaplain.



Jon Rimatera serves as the new Sabbath School director.



Jolene Shafer is the Thatcher Hall student chaplain.

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Students Say

We asked students to share how their parents have impacted their spiritual lives. Here are their answers:

“My dad lives in Africa, so when I visited him last year for Thanksgiving. He encouraged me to pray every night for family worship.”

Tina Carriger, freshman theology major

“They have reached out to people from our church by inviting them over for meals.”

Ashley Goulet, senior long-term care administration major

“My parents always made sure I had a personal relationship with Christ. They always said, ‘It’s not something you inherit but something you create and continually work on.’”

Nirali Peter, junior biology/pre-med major

“I’ve noticed how my mom is more patient with my grandparents despite the difficulties that come with their aging. She has handled it in a Christian manner.”

Caitie Schwarz, sophomore nursing major

“Every Sabbath afternoon, my family sits together and has Bible study.”

Guevara Samson, sophomore business administration major

“My dad decided to go back to the ministry as a pastor. That has inspired me.”

Simone Marshall, sophomore journalism major

“My mom likes to call me and pray with me on the phone.”

Joshua Ortiz, sophomore business administration major

“They’re teachers, so I’ve seen them lead by example and I’ve applied their teachings in my own life.”

Chris Janetzko, sophomore mass communication major

“My mother started a country-living ministry, and through it I’ve realized the importance of Ellen G. White’s advice on living in the country.”

Shana Browne, sophomore business administration and math major