

Winter 2009

Unraveled Winter 2009

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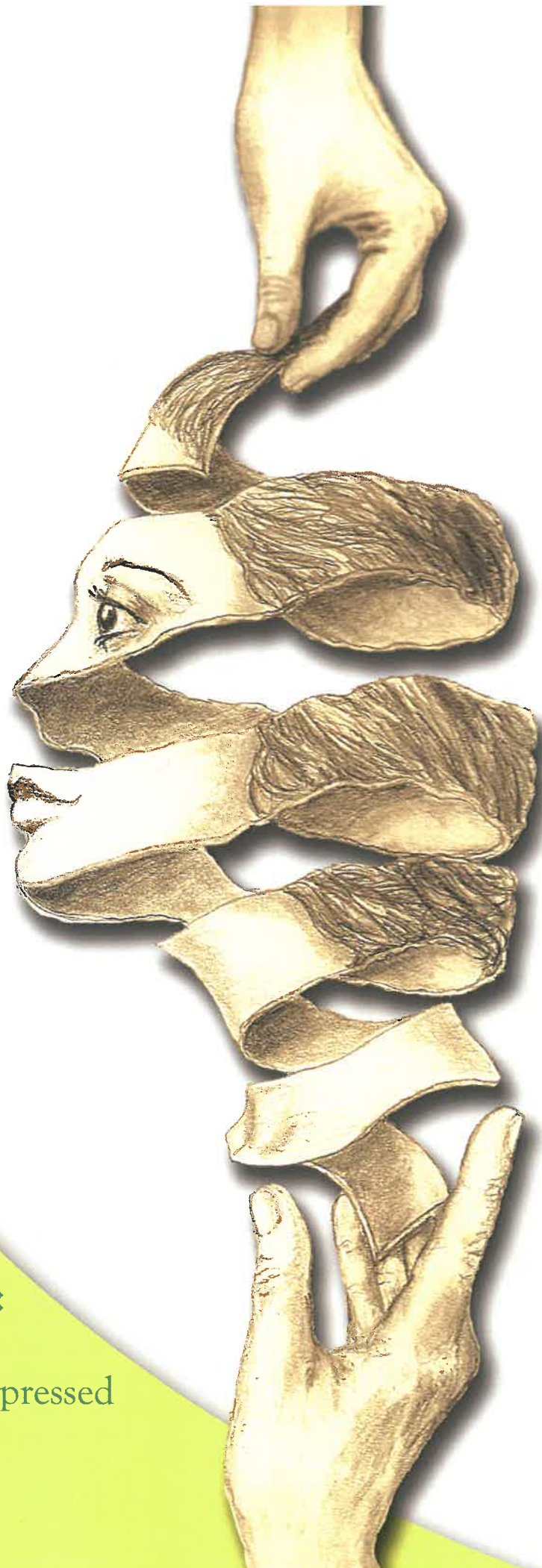
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SOUTHERN
ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

School of
Education and Psychology

Dean's Noteworthy

John Wesley Taylor V



As dean of the School of Education and Psychology, I am proud of our faculty and students. They are outstanding. I am also delighted that we have strong undergraduate programs in teacher education, psychology, and outdoor leadership, and quality graduate programs in counseling and outdoor education, as well as in areas of specialization within education. In all of these areas, I am indebted to the vision and dedication of those who have provided effective leadership through the years, laying a solid foundation of excellence.

As dean, I have four priorities for the school. What we do must be (1) excellent, (2) distinctive, (3) connected and (4) forward-looking. This means that each of our courses must be exceptional and that we document that excellence throughout the curriculum. It also suggests that our graduates must be stellar, making significant contributions to their professions and communities.

Our programs and courses should be distinctive—authentically Christian, integrating faith and learning, and clearly Adventist in content and focus. We must also ensure that our programs are uniquely positioned within higher education and that our graduates find a good fit in a contemporary job market.

Connections are important. We must be attuned to our constituencies. We should continue to build professional networks. We should seek avenues through which we can serve our community in creative and meaningful ways.

Finally, we need to be perceptive of developing trends and prepare our students not just for the world they will encounter on graduation, but for a changing future. Consequently, as educators, we are to be innovators of best practices, exploring emerging trends and providing cutting-edge experiences. Above all, we must prepare for eternity.

As I look forward, the future is bright.

The Motivator

Job Coombs

A perplexing problem faced a small town situated on the edge of a cliff. Because the town was rather picturesque with quaint architecture, tourists came from everywhere to sightsee. Even better than the architecture, this town had a magnificent view of the Great Smoky Mountains. It was said that on a clear day one could see for more than a hundred miles. Unfortunately, Main Street went right through the center of town and ended at the very edge of the cliff. Sadly, whenever tourists would come to visit this picturesque little town, driving through the center of town, captivated by the unique architecture, awed by the magnificent view ahead, they would drive right through the center of town and unknowingly drive to the end of Main Street and off the side of the cliff, crashing almost 5000 feet below. The effects on tourism were tragic. In fact, out of the 850 tourists during the past six months alone, only 15 had survived the crash. The city council got together and brainstormed, seeking to solve this terrible problem. After much heated discussion, the decision was made to build a hospital at the bottom of the cliff and have an ambulance waiting 24 hours a day, engine running. That way, whenever someone drove off the edge of the cliff, the ambulance crew would be there waiting to pull them from the wreckage and rush them to the hospital. Six months later the council met again in total disillusionment. Upon hitting the ground, people were broken into so many pieces and burned so badly that, despite their best

efforts, they had only managed to save 23 of the 874 tourists that had visited since the new plan was implemented. Again, the city council convened and sought a better solution. Finally, someone suggested building a fence at the top of the cliff.

Sounds ridiculous, doesn't it? The answer to the problem seems so obvious. Who wouldn't stop before driving off a cliff? The reality is that therapists spend much of their careers dealing with individuals who have driven off an emotional cliff, who are so badly broken and burned by the experience, that putting their lives back together again is little short of miraculous.



The reasons why and how individuals and families approach emotional cliffs are as varied as the individuals themselves. Whatever the reason may be for you, it demands wisdom to know when you are approaching a cliff. It demands maturity to recognize that from time to time all of us need help. It demands a strength of character to build appropriate fences that keep you safe and sound.

Frontline

Sasha Runne

The faces of the faculty are changing. Fresh recruits are joining the team while others are following God's call to serve Him elsewhere in new and extraordinary ways.

Colleen Mitchell, a practicing psychologist since 2005, is one exciting addition to the team. She began her work as assistant professor for undergraduate and graduate psychology programs for professional counseling as of August 2008. For her, the change in professional direction was undeniably God-led, and her career here is a promising one.

Freddy Fuentes has also joined the ranks as associate professor starting August 2008, with a focus on math education. He simultaneously serves as the School of Education and Psychology Accreditation and Assessment coordinator and the director for the master's program for school administration. When asked what led him here, with great humor he answered, "The ad said 'Freddy Fuentes' on it;" his previous professional experience makes him a perfect fit.

Denise Dunzweiler has dedicated thirteen years to the department, the last couple of which she served as the dean, and has now said her farewells. "But," she said, "I'll be back." She headed off to the Adventist International Institute of Advanced

Studies (AIAS) in the Philippines, where she will serve as the graduate dean for the master's and doctoral programs in education, business and health sciences.

In her place is Wesley Taylor. Our department is familiar with the quality of his work, as he has previously served six years as professor of Education, Psychology, and Research, as well as educational administrator and supervisor. Make sure to read Dean's Noteworthy to learn more about his goals for the department.

Beginning 2009 Nardia Leonce pursued a new direction as well. After two years as the accreditation coordinator for the department, God has led her to Argentina. There she hopes to gain insight into the culture, learn the language, and make new friends while ministering to the needs of those around her.

Another vital spot within the department required filling, and John Arroyo quickly stepped in November of 2008. Extensive experience in teaching and computers makes his contributions to the department invaluable. Expect great things from him.

In all, the transformation of the department has been prayerfully considered, and anticipation runs high for the blessings that will come. As Dunzweiler noted, "God has a plan for Southern," and its unfolding is received gratefully because the plans are His.

Colleen Mitchell

Nardia Leonce

John Arroyo

Denise Dunzweiler

Freddy Fuentes

Yes, Be Impressed

Sasha Runne

From undergraduate to graduate, the School of Education and Psychology has students worthy of highlighting. You'll want to get to know them all, and this section is devoted to helping you do just that, a few at a time.

Christie Rennard, an undergraduate elementary education major, decided to start an after-school care program for Standifer Gap. She also regularly visits two elementary schools to have interactive read-alouds with after-care students. Her current project is researching with Professor Krystal Bishop for a presentation at an upcoming International Reading Association conference in December. Working in urban or multi-grade schools is her goal and a well-fitted one because, as she notes, "My favorite piece of teaching is behavior management." Without question, she will be an invaluable asset to any educational program.

Derek Wright is a graduate assistant for Outdoor Education. His contributions include teaching outdoor school for local elementary schools and assistant-teaching undergraduate classes such as rock climbing and outdoor ministries. His hobbies reflect his passion for the outdoors; activities such as kayaking and tennis. Combining worship with nature and sport is a unique ministry, a style of worship he intends to offer churches beyond Tennessee.



Science Bin Ruth WilliamsMorris

Well-Being of Adolescents

Professor Ruth WilliamsMorris, along with graduate counseling students Jamal Hopson, Bess Martin and Kristin-Welch Murphy, conducted a study on the well-being of adolescents in Huntsville, Alabama, Southern Adventist University, and secondary schools in Aruba and St. Lucia.

Tipping Behaviors

Psychology graduate student Cassie Jewell (graduated December 2008) did a quasi-experiment on the tipping behaviors of patrons in a Chattanooga restaurant. The results of that study were published in the Psi Chi Journal of Undergraduate Research (Spring 2008).

A Must Read

Sasha Runne

There are some truths that everyone should know. The quality of life and love depends on it. This book is one of those truths. Buy it, borrow it, read it in the bookstore aisle. But read it (or listen, because it's on CD too). Everyone experiences relationships.

The concepts developed in this book, though geared toward married couples, can be applied to any relationship. *Passionate Couples*, by David Schnarch. Be prepared for interpersonal greatness.

Applause

Rob Coombs

Special thanks to the team of students responsible for the fantastic new look of our departmental newsletter. Sasha Runne, as newsletter visionary, worked in collaboration with Rob Scott and Hyein Yoo, undergraduate graphic designers, and Joelle Williams,

undergraduate psychology student and amateur artist, to bring the newsletter to life. Keep an eye open for their creative influences on the upcoming Journal of Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Research (JIUR).

Who Needs Money?

Sasha Runne

Who needs money? While the world around you is searching for economic stability, you may find yourself slipping into the chaos. But hold on to what you know is true: God is in control. In the meantime, what do you do for personal sanity? Outdoor Education has the inexpensive solution to your social and entertainment needs. Connect with others who share in your faith, commune with God through His

natural gifts, and find yourself recharged and ready to face your current stressors, whatever they might be. Southern Adventist University has more than ten miles of backcountry trails for hiking and mountain biking, a 50-foot by 200-foot natural rock climbing wall, caves, and one of the best training ropes courses in the southeast, all waiting to be discovered by you. Need equipment? Need a guide? Need company? Visit outdoor.southern.edu.

Intercessory Prayer

Does intercessory prayer work? Professor Ruth WilliamsMorris along with psychology seniors LaNaya Allen and Julie Lubin, tested the hypothesis that praying for students reduces their stress levels and increases their test scores in a general psychology class. The results of this experiment were presented at Southeastern Psychological Association on February 18, 2009.

FORMAT Curriculum Systems

Professor Myrna Colon is conducting an extensive survey on the FORMAT curriculum systems for teachers in the Southern Union.



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Summerour Hall Entrance

