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E.J. Fernandez, junior nursing major, says if he hadn’t moved to Southern he would have never met the amazing life-long friends he’s made. Yet even with the joy that comes with letting these new people into his life, there is a trade off—he had to leave his family back home.

“My parents were sad about me leaving,” E.J. says. “But they are both amazingly supportive. They understand the importance of having the highest possible education in today’s world.”

While attending Southern, E.J. has learned to appreciate the sacrifices his parents made for him. Keeping that in mind, he’s successfully faced many ups and downs and now can happily say that both mom and dad trust him more than ever.

“We see many things the same way now. They’ve let me, for the most part, be my own man,” E.J. says. “I thank God for them because they’ve raised me in such a way that, although their opinions matter, they know I need to encounter God myself.”

Just like it was for E.J.’s parents, it may be hard to see your student leave for the first time. But it’s important to accept this change. In order to maintain a healthy relationship with their students, the First Year Experience team (see page 2) suggests parents do the following:

Give them appropriate space.
Students face countless responsibilities once they enter college. By giving them appropriate space, students learn the importance of following through on their commitments. Many times this is true for more than just schoolwork, especially if they have jobs or are involved in student organizations.

Let them reach their own goals.
Feeling accomplished is great—even more so when you’ve succeeded on your own. If parents constantly take over for their students, they will never become self-sufficient. Instead, parents should make a conscious effort to allow students to set and reach their own goals.

“They’ve raised me in such a way that, although their opinions matter, they know I need to encounter God myself.”

Keep their busy schedules in mind.
Students learn from the start how demanding college life can be, and that they need to manage their time in order to get everything done. Parents, don’t get offended if your students aren’t able to call on a daily basis. Instead, try using more efficient modes of communication such as text messaging or emailing.

Embrace their growing independence.
When it’s time for students to tackle their own responsibilities, they realize how much their parents have worked and sacrificed for them. At this point they will take what they’ve learned and, for the most part, fend for themselves. Embrace this change; not only will your students grow and mature in this natural stage of life, but your relationship will also evolve.

~by Ingrid Hernandez
**Favorite Bible Verse**

“He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure.”

Isaiah 33:6

~Submitted by Heather Young, junior nursing major
Youth Experiencing Salvation, better known as YES Ministries, resurfaced in the 2009-10 school year as a ministry based out of Enrollment Services.

The goal of the ministry is to allow public/private school Adventist youth the opportunity to see what Southern students are really about. The ministry also provides Southern students with a chance to minister to other youth and share their faith.

The ministry has been run by Ruben Covarrubias, an enrollment counselor here at Southern since 2009-10. “We have found that more and more Adventist youth are attending public schools and this ministry is a great way for Southern to not only reach out to them spiritually, but also to dispel any rumors they might have heard about Southern,” says Covarrubias.

The ministry is primarily a Southern Union Conference initiative, taking YES groups to 15-20 events each year in a variety of states, including Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Abner Sanchez, junior liberal arts major, is a team leader for YES Ministries. His job is to help find Southern students who want to lend their talents to YES Ministries. These gifted students help out by singing, giving worship thoughts, or playing an instrument.

“I really like being a part of YES because I look at it as being a combination of both recruiting and evangelism,” says Abner.

Enrollment Services just hired Southern alum Rick Anderson Jr. to be the new director of YES Ministries. He was formerly pastor for Worship and Creative Arts at New Hope Adventist Church in Washington, DC.

Ken Rogers, ’78, originally started YES Ministries in 1993 as a task force initiative. The goal of the ministry at the time was to give Adventist students the tools to lead small groups. The original team included also Tom Goddard, Destiny Drama Company Director here at Southern.

“I am very happy to see that this program has been brought back to reach out to our Adventist kids that aren’t in our [Adventist] schools,” says Goddard.

YES Ministries kicks off the new school year at the end of September by traveling to Alabama for a Gulf States Conference youth rally.

Those who are interested in having YES Ministries come to their church or youth event should contact Enrollment Services at 423.236.2835. ~by Charles Cammack
Students Say

We asked students what methods they use to keep their parents updated.

“We do texting and phone calls, along with the occasional email, about every other day.”
~Andy Wildaman, junior general management major

“I talk to them about every other day at the beginning of the year, but it slows down to about once a week at the end of the semester.”
~Hannah Schafer, sophomore public relations major

“I hit up each parent via cellular device at least once a day.”
~Janelle Billingy, junior social work major

“We talk on either Skype or Facetime [iPhone] every other day.”
~Wendell Thomas, freshman allied health major

“I live at home, so I get to see them every day, but I also text them during the day when I have questions.”
~Nathan Lewis, senior mass communication major

“I talk to my parents on the phone multiple times a day and play Millionaire on Facebook with my mom.”
~Camille Blackburn, sophomore nursing major

“I call my parents every other day and we try to Skype, but it always fails. My parents are too technologically challenged.”
~Marcella Archilla, junior fine arts major

“I talk to my parents every day. In fact, my mom likes to ‘spam text’ me until I text back.”
~Jennie Camps, junior nursing major