

Summer 2009

## Columns Summer 2009

Southern Adventist University

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The Magazine of Southern Adventist University

# COLUMNS



IN GOD WE  
TRUST

**Bad Economy =  
Good News** p. 12

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Great Depression

**16** | Pockets of  
Prayer

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Docs

Summer  
2009

# Responsibility

With the economy crashing around us, one feeling stands out amongst the jumble of daily emotions the news brings—a sense of responsibility.

I just can't shake the feeling that God had prepared me to, in a small way, be a blessing to those around me in this time of crisis.

You see, over the last decade, my family faced our own financial crisis. Circumstances largely beyond our control had led to overwhelming debt.

But in mid-September, I sat down to crunch some numbers and determined that we could be free of credit card debt by the summer of 2010.

Providential events that led up to our family being nearly free of debt made me certain that God lightened our financial burden just in time to share our blessings.

With this in mind, we invested a large chunk of our time and money into preparing to grow and store food. This isn't because I fear my income becoming unstable in the near future but because I want to be prepared to share food with those close to me as the effects of the economy hit home.

As an editor, this sense of responsibility led me to select articles for this issue that I felt would be particularly useful to Southern's alumni and friends who are also caught up in the economic drama of today.

Knowing how important it is to reflect on our history in order to apply its lessons to the present, I asked Lynn Sauls, '56, to look into how the Great Depression affected Southern and its students. You'll find his resulting article, based on the investigation of history books and interviews with living alumni from that era, on page 8.

I learned that one of our alumni, David Beckworth, '94, is an economist who has done research (which caught the attention of CNN) on how economic climate affects church involvement. The information he presents in his article on page 12 may be of particular interest to pastors and laypeople seeking to meet the needs of their congregations in response to the economic downturn.

And of course, I couldn't let this issue go to press without some advice from some of our own employees and alumni shared on pages 14 and 15.

Whether you're like me (seeking a way to help those around you in the midst of the financial crisis) or like the many who are still drowning in the stress caused by the crashing economy, it's my prayer that you will find something in this issue to help you face today's challenges with wisdom.



Robert Futcher

Lori Futcher hopes her garden will produce enough food to share with out-of-work friends.



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COVER: Less coin could lead to more faith, according to research by economist David Beckwith, '94.

### Blessed are the Friends

I normally skim through COLUMNS magazine, but this time [winter 2009] for whatever reason, I read through most of the articles.

I enjoyed all the write-ups from Vivienne, Chris, and Adrienne, but I particularly liked "Friends in the Divide." This article reinforces how important it is to be a friend when people hurt—and we have a hurting world all around us.

Thank you, Vivienne, for sharing that. I was blessed reading your article. Your parents and you will be in my prayers. Your story gives me one more reason to look forward to heaven where there will be no more pain.

God bless you all at Southern.

Chris (no last name given)

### Feasting on Photos

I wasn't able to make it to Southern's homecoming last fall, so it was fun experiencing a taste of it through the pictures in COLUMNS [winter 2009].

I also enjoyed the travel memories photos, which brought me back to a cold Thanksgiving trip to New York City with my Art Appreciation class. How much we packed into a short amount of time!

Reading COLUMNS reminds me of why I'm proud to be an alum of Southern Adventist University.

Lori (Cadavero) Johns, '94



### Presidential Stunt

Tell Gordon to keep sliding down that rope [as pictured in the winter 2009 COLUMNS]. It will keep him young!

I would have given anything to have seen H. J. Klooster do a stunt like that when I was at Southern Junior College.

Harry Bennett, '36

**InBox** is a forum for reader feedback. Questions, concerns, compliments, criticisms, and even discussions—all are welcome and encouraged. Letters may be edited for length or clarity. Please send InBox letters to: COLUMNS Editor, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370 or email [columns@southern.edu](mailto:columns@southern.edu).

# COLUMNS

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# “You Are Here for Me”

by Terrie Long, Social Work and Family Studies Department

The holidays were fast approaching, and there was a buzz of activity and energy in Daniells Hall. I was exhausted and in serious need of a vacation. The semester had been one of the busiest and most stressful ones I had experienced since returning to Southern as a professor.

As I began the work of preparing for exams, updating grades, and scheduling appointments, I wondered how I was going to fit it all in. I needed more hours in my day! My desk was covered with papers (“organized confusion,” I like to call it), sticky notes covered the frame of my computer, and my phone indicated that there were several messages waiting for my reply.

Tackling the tasks before me, my mind turned to the semester’s activities. There were highs and lows, good times and bad, but the negative thoughts seemed to dominate my mind. The critical evaluation of a student, a mistake made in grading an exam, an unclear assignment, student complaints....

I took a deep breath and pulled myself together, trying to focus on the positive aspects of the semester. There had been great guest speakers, successful field education matches, and powerful prayers before each class. Yet instead of peace, my mind was filled with questions. “*Why am I here?*”

Even as I looked at the degrees neatly framed on my office wall, I didn’t feel like much of a professor. Doubt clouded my mind, and I again asked God, this time with a trembling voice and tear-filled eyes. “Why?” But God was silent. He seemed to be distant, almost unconcerned with my situation.

I quickly rehearsed the scriptures found in Jeremiah 29:11: “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’” (NIV) and Romans 8:28: “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” I repeated those promises over and over, but even they didn’t bring the quick relief I sought.

## A Student’s Voice

A knock at the door and the ringing phone brought me back to the reality of my hectic schedule. Appointments, meetings, class preparations, and grading a stack of papers that were overdue called for my immediate attention—and I had a class in 15 minutes. I attended to the student at the door, returned the call,

then gathered class materials and began to walk the short distance down the hallway to the classroom.

I put on my “game face” and kept rehearsing God’s promises, but I still had the same question, “God, why am I here?” God was still silent.

As I entered the classroom, a familiar energy and joy returned. I went about my responsibilities of teaching and working with students.

The class went well, yet as I began to gather my things the question returned, “God, why am I here?” I looked at the emptying room and critiqued my presentation. Was I clear? Did I make a difference?

My mental assessment was interrupted by a student who approached me with a boldness I had not seen in her before. Qiana Millro, a junior family studies major, transferred to Southern from Chattanooga State because she wanted to complete her bachelor’s degree on a Christian

campus. As a single mother, she was determined to become a social worker so she could make a difference in the lives of hurting people like so many people had done for her.

Quietly but boldly, Qiana took my hands in hers, then looked deeply into my eyes and began to cry. I wasn’t quite sure what was going on with her but felt impressed to remain silent.

As she wept, she spoke sincerely from her heart: “Mrs. Long, I’m so glad you’re here. You are my inspiration. What would I do without you? You are here for me.”

## God’s Answer

The words continued in my mind: “You are here for me.” I reviewed my question, “God, why am I here?” then her words “You are here for me.”

Through the powerful words of Qiana, God had answered my prayer. God had confirmed my purpose and renewed my faith. My heart was about to burst; I was so filled with

the joy and peace of God’s love for me. He was listening, He was concerned about my situation, and at just the right time, He stilled the waves of my questioning and gave me peace. It still amazes me. Qiana thought I was there for her—but in reality, she was there for me. ✨



Terrie Long heard God’s answer to her troubling question through the voice of a student.

## Chester Jordan Heartfelt Hospitality

The doorbell rang at the home of Chester Jordan, '53. "I know you said not to come at this time, but I'm hungry," said the soldier. "I'll just go back to the kitchen."

Chester's guest from the General Conference sat in the living room absorbing what had just transpired. He was there to interview Chester for the director position at the church's servicemen's center in San Antonio, Texas.

The doorbell rang again, and Chester found yet another soldier on his doorstep. "I'm here for my Bible study, Pastor," the soldier said. "I just remembered that I shouldn't stop by today, but here are my Bible lessons for next time."

Apologizing for the interruptions, Chester resumed his interview. After a few weeks, Chester was notified that he had been selected for the position. Knowing there had been three others more qualified, Chester asked why he had been chosen. The interviewer explained that it was the hospitality Chester showed to

the soldiers during the interview. "If they liked you that much," he said, "then we want you."

Following this, Chester served at serviceman's centers in Texas, Korea, and Germany. There he used his gift of warm hospitality and acceptance as he provided a "home away from home" for draftees, single young people, and military families. He facilitated meals and worship services among other nurturing activities.

After retirement, Chester felt drawn to the witnessing opportunities of the Adventist Heritage Ministry. He started at the William Miller Farm and then moved on to Joseph Bates' boyhood home. Once again opening up doors and inviting others in, he served as caretaker and tour guide, telling others about the growth of Adventism.

"I was able to help Adventists learn more about our history and talk to nonbelievers about God," he says. "There is so much to learn by walking in the footsteps of Adventist pioneers."

To this day, Chester still welcomes others into his home and church. Working in the personal ministry and communications departments at the new North Lake Church in Florida, Chester has

Lee Bennett



witnessed and aided the growth of the church from 17 members to 96—and still growing.

"My passion for service came from reading about Jesus, who came as a servant to save His



## Leslie Ann Schwarzer The Aroma of Christ

Advancement Administrative Assistant Leslie Ann Schwarzer desires to be the aroma of Christ. She got the idea while reading 2 Corinthians 2:15, which says, "For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing" (NIV).

"I like the word 'aroma' because it's gentle," she says. "You can impact other people's lives in little ways." Schwarzer especially enjoys ministering to students. Though she never had children, if she had, they would be college-aged now. Through her interactions with students, Schwarzer has many "adopted children."

"We have some students at Southern who are lonely and students who are hurting," she says. "You have to touch them little by little."

An interaction that was especially meaningful to Schwarzer happened when married students Josh, a sophomore biology major, and Leanne Baltzer, a sophomore psychology major, lost a dog that was like a child. Together they buried the dog in the Schwarzers' backyard and



## Myron Jenkins Stepping Out in Faith

**M**yron Jenkins was 4 years old when he first felt God calling him. Sitting next to his grandmother at a Baptist church in St. Louis, Missouri, little Myron felt prompted to walk to the front and sit in the pulpit area. The pastor halted mid-sentence and watched with amusement as Myron approached the pulpit. He allowed Myron to join him and turned to the congregation, saying that he could see God had something special planned for Myron.

Just as that pastor predicted, a special plan was being laid out for Myron. At 17, he preached his first sermon. Myron's passion for singing led to his involvement with an Adventist singing group, and soon he was bound for Oakwood College, despite his Baptist faith. While at Oakwood, Myron's friend used the Bible to prove that the seventh day is the Sabbath. Con-

founded with this simple truth that he had somehow missed, Myron was baptized into the Adventist faith.

After his baptism, Myron returned to St. Louis, where he started a mechanical contracting business. For years his business succeeded while raising a family of nine children. One day, while at work feeling the pressures of being pulled from a hundred different directions, Myron felt God calling him again.

"I felt very strongly that God was saying, 'shut the doors of your business and preach my word full time,'" Myron recalls.

Browsing the Internet for potential college options, Myron stumbled onto Southern's website.

"I had never even heard of Southern," Myron says. "As I looked on the main website, I felt serenity and peace. I knew I belonged there."

Myron moved to Collegedale, where he became a full-time student and a chaplain at Morning Point, an assisted living residence.

"Southern seems like a small glimpse of heaven," says Myron.

Attending college has not come without its price. Having given up his business to go to school full time, Myron's financial situation is not what it used to be, but his faith remains unshaken.

"When you live in faith, you see God clearer," says Myron of his needs always being met. "I felt God telling me that if I live in earnest effort, He will connect the dots."

~ Manuela Asaftei

people and set an example for all of us," says Chester. "There could be no better way to spend a lifetime than in service."

~ Manuela Asaftei

held a funeral service for him.

"I got to be a mother in a way," Schwarzer says. "To hold somebody who is sobbing uncontrollably."

Schwarzer's gentle mothering way was exactly what Leanne and Josh needed in their time of mourning.

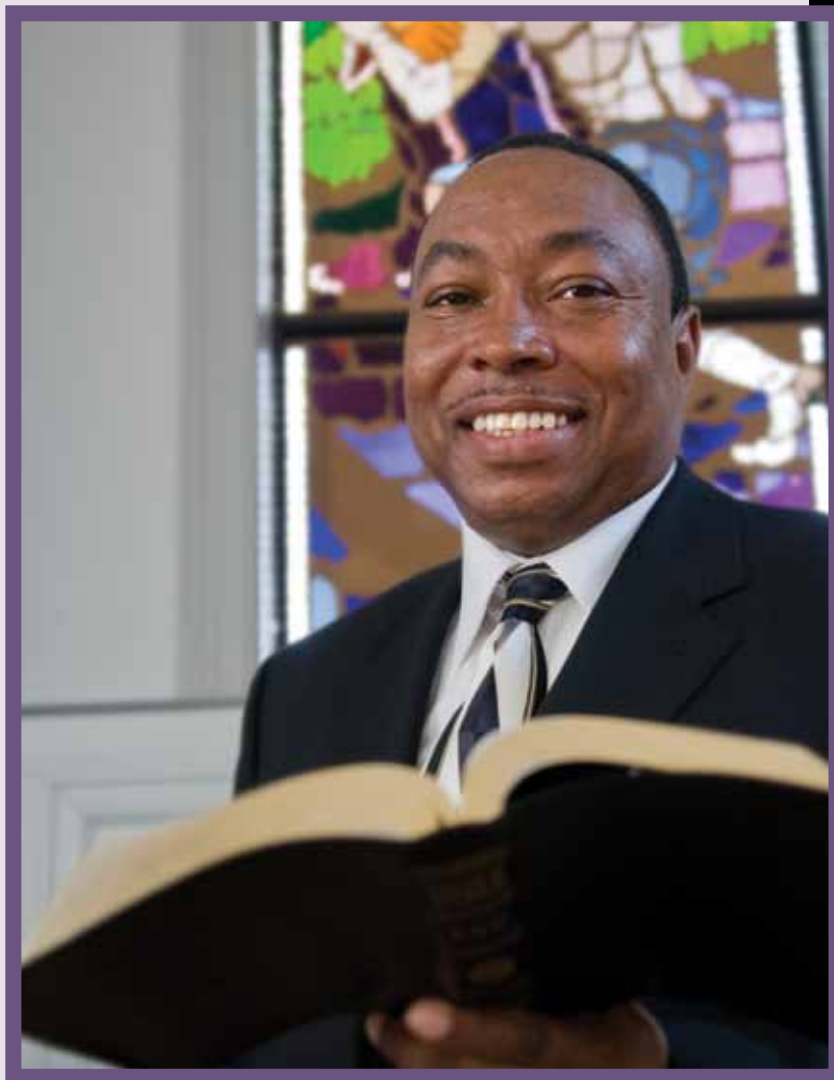
"Leslie has definitely been a like mom away from home," Leanne says. "Her presence and her understanding of our grief was very comforting."

Schwarzer is also involved in campus life. This year she started the Fiber Arts Club, which gives students an environment to learn how to knit, crochet, and do other crafts.

"It's a club where students can learn a craft and impact the community both locally and globally with projects, like knitting scarves for Mongolia," Schwarzer says.

For Schwarzer, that's what being the aroma of Christ means. It is about meeting people's needs when you see them.

~ Emily Young and Manuela Asaftei





# Southern's Survival

**Southern didn't just survive the Great Depression. It thrived. Here's the story of how administrators, faculty, and students worked together to keep the college alive.**

**S**outhern Junior College was in debt. Enrollment had plummeted. The number of faculty was below a rational operating minimum.

Before the Great Depression hit the nation, the South faced a regional depression that nearly led to the closing of the college. The faculty's response to this crisis would determine Southern's very survival.

During an emergency faculty meeting in October 1921, President Lynn Wood asked the employees to consider individually what sacrifices they could make.

Bible Professor J.H. Behrens was the first to speak up, declaring that he needed only a place to live in the residence hall, food from the dining hall, and a way to wash his clothes. Others chimed in with similar concessions—and with their sacrifices, changed Southern's fate.

New industries were established. Although they often took a financial loss, the wages they were able to provide helped the enrollment grow. Without the jobs these industries provided, many students would not have been able to afford attending Southern.

Donations from church members and generous subsidies from Southern's constituent and union conferences as well as the North American Division and the General Conference also helped keep the college open.

**Southern was able to continue preparing students for careers in education, science, and more because of industries like the furniture factory and bakery, which enabled students to earn their way through school during the Great Depression.**



By 1929 Southern was debt free. At the 1930 constituency meeting, a spokesperson announced that the school showed a profit for every year since 1927. The delegates rose to sing "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow," unaware that the difficulties of financing a Christian education during the previous 11 years were about to be eclipsed by the Great Depression that was just beginning.

### The Depression Hits Home

With the Depression came a decline in enrollment. Many parents did not see how they could afford to send their children to Southern. The enrollment of 300 in 1927-28 dropped to a low of 194 in 1932-33. Such a precipitous drop meant a big decline in the cash received from students.

The college took several actions to halt the drop in enrollment.

One action was to slash tuition rates. Tuition and room expenses were cut from \$248 to \$180 for the 1931-32 academic year. To compensate for the income loss, the college reduced teacher salaries by 10 percent in January 1932, another 10 percent six months later, and another 10 percent in July 1933.

A second action was to expand industrial employment opportunities and relieve the president and treasurer of all teaching responsibilities so that they could more closely monitor the school's industries. The broom factory was resurrected, and other industries were started—among them a nut crackery, a reed furniture factory, a cereal puffery, a book bindery, and a hosiery mill. Some of these were short lived, others operated at a loss, but all provided earning opportunities that enabled students to attend Southern. A few industries, such as the hosiery mill and the College Press, were quite profitable and by 1936 were making up for the losses of some of the other industries. With these industries, Southern enabled students to earn their way through college. One of those students was Noble Vining, '36.

In 1933, the worst year of the Great Depression, young Noble and his mother were in President H.J. Klooster's office wondering if Noble would be able to attend Southern Junior College.

"Mrs. Vining, do you know how much it costs to keep your son at home?" asked Klooster.

With some guidance from Klooster, she determined that it took \$13 a month to feed Noble at home.

"Send us \$13 each month, and we'll provide work for him to cover the rest," Klooster said.

In helping families like the Vinings cope with the Depression, Southern's president was also helping Southern Junior College cope, as enrollment was becoming key to the college's survival.



**"I managed to hitch a ride from Florida to Southern Junior College, then got a job in the woodworking shop to try to build up credit before the new school year began. Times were hard. I don't know whether it was because of the Depression or just my family poverty." ~ Robert J. Wieland, '35**





**“I worked at the College Press. W.C. Starkey was the manager and specialized in soliciting business from paint manufacturers. We printed what seemed to me millions of paint labels.” ~ Clyde Franz, '32**

### From Surviving to Thriving

Tuition reduction and expansion of employment opportunities had the desired effect. Enrollment rose from 194 in 1932-33 to 248 in 1933-34. By 1936-37 it was 358. The improvement in the job rate throughout the nation created by Roosevelt's New Deal also helped.

Meanwhile, as the Depression was influencing other schools to lower their standards, Klooster convinced the board and most of the faculty of the need for accreditation and led the faculty to take steps to prepare for it. He said that many Adventist young people went elsewhere because Southern wasn't accredited.

“Klooster was a dynamic speaker and had a commanding demeanor,” says Noble Vining. “One felt awed in his presence. He was a great promoter of industries, academic excellence, and Christian education. I don't believe the school would be here today if it hadn't been for President Klooster.”

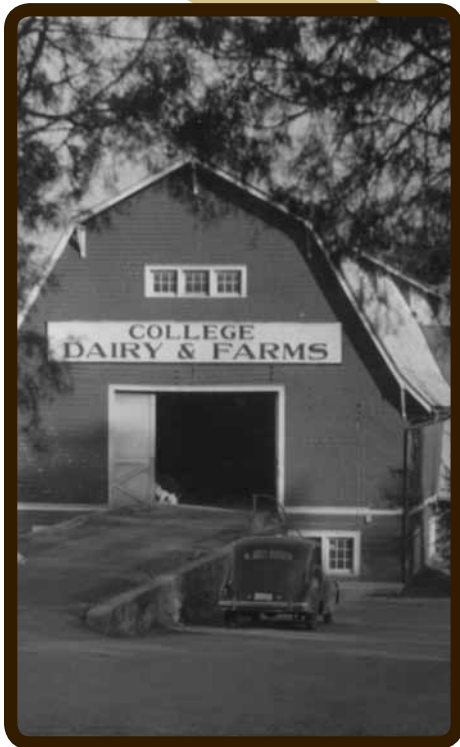
With Klooster's foresight and dynamic leadership, the generous subsidies from constituent conferences and the Southern Union, help from Florida Sanitarium and Hospital and Southern

Publishing Association, and support from alumni such as Gradye (Brook) Summerour, from the class of 1908. Southern not only survived but thrived during the Great Depression.

As the Depression wore on, the financial situation of the college stabilized. By decade's end, employee wages had been restored, and Southern was again debt-free with a collections rate of nearly 100 percent. The college had purchased adjacent real estate, made capital expenditures for agricultural and industrial plant equipment, upgraded the library and science laboratories, completed the manual arts and normal (teacher-training) buildings, constructed a new dining hall, expanded the women's residence hall, and built additional faculty housing. In addition, Klooster's dream of accreditation had come true. The secondary school program was accredited in 1930. Junior college accreditation followed in 1936.

Southern came out of the Depression stronger than ever. ✧

*The historical information in this article relies heavily on research done by History Professor Dennis Pettibone in writing A Century of Challenge: The Story of Southern College 1892-1992.*



**President H.J. Klooster (above) led the college in introducing new majors like home economics (top left). To make college affordable for those affected by the poor economy, the university slashed tuition rates but required the students to put in six hours of free labor at industries like the dairy (center left) and College Press (bottom left).**

# Poised to Thrive Again

With today's financial climate being compared to the Great Depression, Southern Adventist University administrators have the opportunity to reflect on our history as they guide Southern forward through potentially turbulent waters.

In much the same way that Southern entered the Great Depression with a financial picture that had leaders singing, today's leaders are singing praises for how the university's fiscal practices have positioned Southern to enter the economic downturn from a position of strength.

"This has been the best financial year for Southern in a long time," says President Gordon Bietz. "We have good cash reserves, good cash flow, and a conservative financial policy."

"Southern is facing the current economic crisis from a strong position," adds Thomas Verrill, senior vice president for Financial Administration. Facilities have been kept up. No deferred maintenance needs caring for.

And while the steep decline in the stock market did impact the university's endowment, this impact hasn't been felt by Southern as keenly as it has been at other universities.

While some experts say the economy will have recovered by this time next year, others say the economy will get worse before it gets better. It took 10 years for the nation to recover completely from the economic crisis that began in 1929. How will Southern meet the present challenge? First and foremost, Southern's concerns are for the families who have been affected by the downturn in the economy.

"Southern is sensitive to the challenges everyone is experiencing in these times of economic uncertainty," says Bietz, "and we are doing what we can

to help students and their families cope."

When Southern puts students' needs first, the university will succeed. That was true when the school almost closed in 1921. It was true during the Great Depression. It is true now.

After the national economy plummeted in September 2008, Bietz and his cabinet spent a lot of time examining how Southern can best respond. Here are some resulting decisions.

## Goal: Make improving programs and facilities a continuing priority.

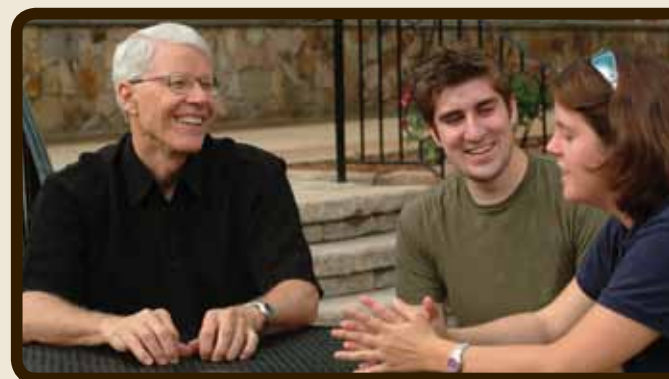
"Strong programs, Christian focus, and great environment are what draw students to Southern," says Christopher Carey, vice president for Advancement.

The wellness center, which opened this past fall, is expected to attract students. When the construction on the new nursing complex is complete, more students can be accepted into the nursing program.

"In spite of the national economic slowdown, more people are making gifts to Southern now than last year," says Carey. "This is not the time to stop improving programs and facilities."

## Goal: Keep Southern affordable by taking cost-savings measures that won't harm the quality of programs.

The President's Cabinet meets each month to consider specific cost-saving suggestions from university employees. While some universities are caring for financial reverses by increasing tuition (some as much as 10 percent), Southern was able to make a smaller increase this year than planned—only 3.49 percent. This was possible because its employees are not taking a cost-of-living pay increase this fiscal year.



## Goal: Sustain strong scholarship assistance.

The amount of scholarship dollars distributed is based on the average value of the endowment fund for the previous five years. The recent decline in the stock market, therefore, has had little effect on aid available to students now, although a continuing decline could lower distributions in future years.

"This is a time when alumni who have the resources could help students be able to afford a college education by contributing to scholarships," says Bietz.

## Goal: Adapt marketing efforts to times of economic uncertainty.

"We are letting students and their parents know that we can step in with university scholarships and other aid," says Marc Grundy, associate vice president for Marketing and Enrollment Services.

Among the information being communicated to potential students and their parents is that the Stimulus Package passed by Congress raises Pell Grants to \$5,350 and direct tax credits to \$2,500. In addition, Southern can provide 1,100 jobs to its students, and other jobs are available not far from campus at Hamilton Place Mall, the largest retail complex in Tennessee.

"A student whose parent has lost, or might lose, a job could feel that Southern is not an option," says Grundy. "Our role is to find that student and show that even with financial difficulties, Southern is still an option—and a good option." ✦

**Gordon Bietz (above) is putting student needs first in the current economy. Construction proceeds on Florida Hospital Hall (left), so more nursing students can enroll.**



by David Beckworth, '94

# The Good News in a Bad Economy

**C**an anything good come out of this current economic crisis? A number of studies over the past decade, including my own, indicate that the answer may be yes.

My research, focused on how the economy affects religious participation, revealed that what is bad for the wallet may be good for the soul. This first became apparent during the 2001 recession. I was visiting an Adventist church in Atlanta that had a time in the service when individuals could share praises or prayer requests. To my surprise, everyone who participated in the testimonials that Sabbath asked God for a job. This experience started me thinking that maybe the business cycle plays an important role in one's level of religious participation.

In a recent CNN interview, alum David Beckworth, now a professor at Texas State University, shared his expertise on how the economy affects churches.



Courtesy of CNN



# “People want certainty during these times, and through public evangelism they may just find it.”

## Growth in Evangelical Churches

As I began looking at membership data for a large number of Protestant denominations, I found that some Protestant denominations do, in fact, see significant changes in their membership during economic downturns. Evangelical Protestants, in particular, had about a 50 percent increase in their membership growth rates during recession years. Mainline Protestants, on the other hand, saw no meaningful change during such times. One reason for this difference is that evangelical Protestants (such as Adventists) tend to offer more certainty in their beliefs (see chart), something that is highly valued when there is lots of economic uncertainty.

A number of recent news stories indicate that this development may already be taking place. The *New York Times*, for example, reported in December 2008 that evangelical churches are growing in the New York City/Long Island area, with former hedge fund managers and investment bankers attending. Similarly, the *LA Daily News* reported in March that in the greater Los Angeles area there has been a “spiritual tidal wave” for evangelical churches and Jewish synagogues. In addition to increased attendance, the article reports that this “spiritual tidal wave” has been manifested in a heightened interest in prophecy seminars that attempt to explain the current economic crisis.

In addition to these news stories, individuals have contacted me after hearing of my research to confirm they were seeing similar developments. For example, one of my students who is in

commercial real estate said that since the beginning of the year, most of her business has been coming from churches looking to lease or purchase bigger facilities. Also, an Adventist literature evangelist told me he is finding people more receptive to his work. While these stories are anecdotal, they do suggest that the recession is in fact pushing people closer to God.

## Looking Specifically at Adventists

What does all this mean for the Seventh-day Adventist Church? First, the church may see a notable increase in the number of converts during this recession. However, my research also indicates the church can expect less financial giving. Adventist records show that while a 1 percent increase in the unemployment rate is followed by as much as an 8 percent gain in the number of converts, giving declines about 1 percent.

As monetary giving decreases, church volunteerism increases, since one’s time and money can be seen as interchangeable. If a person’s job is lost during a recession, it’s far less costly for them to give of their time rather than money. During an economic boom, however, one’s time becomes more costly (as earning opportunities increase) and thus it is less costly to give money.

Second, the heightened interest in spiritual matters may mean public evangelism (such as revelation seminars) becomes more popular, at least during the recession. Public evangelism has become less fashionable and is on the decline here in America, but the *LA Daily News* story mentioned earlier indicates its effectiveness has improved for some evangelical churches during this economic crisis. This may be because individuals find comfort in being with others who are similarly distressed and seeking for answers. People want certainty during these times, and through public evangelism they may just find it.

While I would never suggest that we pray for a recession, indeed it is true that today’s current economic climate may be an advantage for churches seeking to reach out to their communities with a message of security in the gospel. ✧

## 2 More Benefits

Although no one ever hopes for a recession, findings suggest that the current economic downturn could change our way of life for the better in some areas.

### 1. Increased Savings

While it is true that this economic crisis is currently destroying the finances of many households, it is also causing individuals to save more. In the United States, the personal saving rate had been hovering around 0 percent since 2005, but it picked up to about 2 percent as the recession took hold in 2008.

### 2. Improved Health

According to the research of economist Chris Ruhm, a recession may be just what the doctor ordered for improving your physical health. Among other things, he found that for the United States a 1 percent increase in the unemployment rate was associated with a 0.5 percent decline in mortalities and a 3.9 percent decrease in acute conditions reported.

## What’s the difference between evangelical and mainline Protestants?

The distinction isn’t always clear, but these distinguishing beliefs are how denominations\* are identified as evangelical or mainline:

### Evangelical Protestants Believe:

### Mainline Protestants Tend To:

The Bible is inerrant.

See the Bible as a historical document that needs to be interpreted in every age by individuals of that time and place.

Jesus is the only way to salvation.

Recognize Jesus is the way to salvation, but also believe that perhaps there are other ways to salvation as well.

Individuals must accept salvation for themselves and must be converted.

Be much less concerned with personal conversion. Their focus is more on a spiritual journey.

Evangelism is important.

Focus less on proselytizing. They may share their faith but not necessarily for the purpose of conversion.

\*Individuals within a denomination may hold beliefs from both the evangelical and mainline perspectives and therefore be considered “liberal evangelicals” or “evangelical mainline Protestants.” Source: PBS (Public Broadcasting Service)

# Tips for Tough Times

**A**s the effects of the economy hit home, many of us are looking at our personal finances more closely. What can we do to protect our assets? How can we continue living charitably when times are tough? How can our faith carry us through the rocky road ahead?

I recently spoke to Dennis Steele, '95, associate professor in the School of Business and Management, for answers to these questions.

"Knowing that God is in control of everything, the good and the bad, helps us control the fear and anxiety that otherwise might consume us," says Steele. "Uncertain economic situations help us get back to the basics—what's really necessary, not just the wants. That can be a blessing in disguise."

**"For many, the economic climate has served as a wake-up call to get out of debt."**

For many, the economic climate has been a wake-up call to get out of debt. Steele encourages this but warns that there are a lot of debt reduction programs out there that claim to reduce your debt, but really they are extending your debt and making a profit at the same time. "I believe in financial responsibility," he says. "If you have created the debt, you need to work to remove the debt."

As individuals have become more concerned about their own financial situations, charities have suffered, but Steele warns about becoming so self-focused that we forget our true purpose in this world. "We are here to share the gospel," he says. "We already have our mansions in heaven, so we don't need to hoard things here."

Steele suggests testing God at His word. If you're holding back your tithe so you can pay your bills, try for one month paying your tithe first and see what happens. If you're feeling called to give more even as you're trying to live on less, try one (or several) creative giving tips on the next page from Southern employees and alumni to continue being charitable on a tight budget.

"We can allow the economy to break us physically, mentally, and spiritually," says Steele, "or we can allow God to fill us physically, mentally, and spiritually and heed to His promise of Romans 8:28: 'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to his purpose' (NIV)." ✧



# Creative Ways to Give When Money Is Tight

**You needn't have an overflowing piggy bank to give abundantly. Here are some tips on how to use what you have for charity.**

"We make an effort to purchase what we can from a charitable thrift shop. This way whatever we spend supports that organization, and it helps ease our family budget. This also has a side benefit of reducing the demand for manufactured goods, which reduces the carbon footprint."

—Mitch Menzmer, Chemistry

"My husband's coworkers have a tradition of giving each other gifts at Christmas. This past year, I suggested that they instead take the money they would have spent on gifts to put together an office pool for charitable causes. Half the money went to a Cambodian orphan's education and the other half went to help a Southern student."

—Beth (Adams) Jedamski, '73

"The search engine GoodSearch ([www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com)) donates a small amount on your behalf to the designated charity of your choice for every Internet search or online purchase you do. I have set my browser to automatically open up to this site and now perform all my searches here in order to give to Southern. Every little bit helps!"

—Evonne (Kutzner) Crook, '79, Alumni Relations

"My homeschool class and I are making crocheted and knitted preemie hats and booties for our local NICU. Last semester, we made scarves for the Special Olympics to give to all the Olympians and their support staff."

—Deana (Eicher) Watson, '83

"My son and I have cut some wood, split it by hand, and sold part of it for Pathfinder fundraising. The rest we are donating to the homeless or widows. Not only does this benefit others, but I benefit from the exercise and being able to teach my son the value of hard work."

—Keith Snyder, Biology

"We have a donor who gives \$1 at a time. Over the last 11 years, his gifts have totaled \$170. Whatever the size of the gift, each is important and has a place in the success of the institution that is being supported."

—Rob Raney, Development

"I've learned that giving of my time can be just as valuable as financial giving. My sons and I are volunteering at a charity thrift store each week, putting together games for the toy store. In addition to helping a good cause, we're having a blast!"

—Gina (McIntyre) Graham, attended

"I've made a small business loan to a person in Cambodia through [www.kiva.com](http://www.kiva.com). Kiva enables users to grant loans for as little as \$25 directly to needy entrepreneurs in Third World countries. When the loan is repaid, I can withdraw the money if I need or I can relend that same money (or add more) to another Third World individual in need."

—Ingrid Skantz, '88, Marketing and University Relations

"I'm bicycling in a charity ride and asking my friends to sponsor me."

—Laura Sage, attended

"Instead of giving gifts to friends and family for special occasions, I've started giving charity gift cards through [www.tisbest.org](http://www.tisbest.org). This is money I would spend anyway, but it's going for a good cause. The recipients can choose the charity the money goes toward, so they're able to give to an organization that means something to them."

—Star Stevens, School of Religion





## Awaking the Dawn

Step outside on any crisp fall morning, as the rising sun gently shines on Wright Hall's stately white columns, and there will be a group of students by the flagpole, heads bowed in prayer, hearts lifted toward heaven. Come again in the cold of winter and share in the warmth of the group. Return in the spring, come sun, rain, or frost, and there will be students at the flagpole—praying.

"I feel like I've started the day right when I go to the prayer group at the flagpole," says Heather Glass, senior nursing major. "It helps me remember to take God with me throughout the whole day, and it gives me a sense of unity with brothers and sisters in Christ."



# Avenues of

by Suzanne Ocsai

## Paul urges believers to pray in all situations, with all kinds of prayers.

Southern students and employees apply that advice in all aspects of their lives. From an early morning class begun with a professor's prayer, to a couple praying in the Student Center at noon, to intramurals teammates praying before each game, unabashed prayer is everywhere and unmistakable.

"Students on our campus take prayer seriously," says Chaplain Brennon Kirstein.

Walk across campus and experience the atmosphere of prayer firsthand.



## Rest in the Midst

If your heart is heavy, there is a small recess for prayer that can shelter you away from life's stressors. Known as the prayer room, it's where students can go to unload their burdened souls before the Lord.

With its wooden cross inlaid with nails on which to hang prayer requests and its walls where students are welcomed to write their unspoken hopes, dreams, or needs, the prayer room's informal and creatively free atmosphere gives students the opportunity to spiritually rejuvenate themselves between classes or extensive study sessions.

"In the prayer room, I can get away from the busyness of the campus instantly and just kneel down on the pillows and have alone time with God," says Scott Cronin, junior theology major.

## Tag . . . We're It

It's getting more common to hear the words, "Hey, can I pray with you?" while being handed a card with the words "Tag...we're it" printed on the front.

The cards encourage students to take part in spontaneous prayer with others. Colton Stollenmaier, sophomore religious studies major, started the ministry after attending a prayer conference that introduced the card. When an individual "tags" somebody, they say a prayer together then the card passes to the next person to share with someone else.

A tag was just what Hilary Prandl, freshman public relations major, needed.

"There was stuff going on that I wouldn't have felt comfortable just going up to someone and asking them to pray about," she says, "but to have someone ask me if I wanted to pray was in itself an answer to prayer."

## Midweek Refocus

As students realize their need for prayer and God, more prayer groups begin to emerge.

Pop into Assistant Chaplain Donnie Keele's campus ministries office on Wednesday nights and there will likely be a group of students holding a prayer meeting. The office setting is different from what they grew up with at their churches, but the purpose is the same—to earnestly seek God on behalf of their fellow peers.

"Intercession is an important part of the Christian walk," says Roland Scalliet, senior mass communication major. "Coming to the prayer group allows me to just stop in the middle of the week and refocus on what's important."



## Professors Who Pray

It's hard to find a classroom that doesn't start with a professor's prayer. For students coming from public schools, it can be a surprise, as it was for Raz Cata-rama, senior mass communication major.

"I was just shocked," says Raz. "But prayer was a nice thing to see. I like that it opens the door for conversation about religion."

For students who've grown up with a Christian education, the response is somewhat different but just as life changing.

"Having my piano teacher pray with me had a huge impact because it's...something that you don't normally attach with a piano lesson—even at a Christian university," explains Laurel McPherson, sophomore piano performance major. "I can see the power of prayer a lot more now, and it has opened my eyes to actual changes because of prayer."

As a result of this insight, Laurel now prays with her own piano students.

"I know how stressful and hectic college life can be on a day-to-day basis," she says. "Students may try to look like they have it all together, but in reality we all need prayer."

# Prayer

## Praying for Professors

Follow John King, junior pastoral care major, around campus, and you may see the start of an answered prayer as he prays with professors about everything from family to being the best teacher they can be.

"This year, I had a very strong conviction to pray for professors and others on campus," says John. "I now have a prayer list and pray for them everyday."

John learned from Dennis Pettibone, professor of history, that Pettibone's wife had horrible knee pain. They prayed together, and that evening Pettibone asked his wife about her knee. Her response was that the pain was much better.



These are just glimpses of what prayer is like on Southern's campus and why students, faculty, and staff believe so firmly in the importance of this interceding action.

"We help one another along this path called life when we pray with each other," says Peter Cooper, professor of music. "When you pray with somebody, both of you are touched with the Spirit of God." ✧

# The Best Medicine

Three Southern Alumni Who Are at the Top of Their Medical Fields

by Angela Baerg, '06

Many children dream about becoming doctors, but only the determined succeed at turning their ambition into a career. Still fewer rise to the top of this demanding profession to earn the designation of renowned.

Jeff Kuhlman, '83; Frank Jobe, attended; and Jeff Grange, '90, have all had their fair share of time in the news, but long before they saw the spotlight, they spent time with their noses in textbooks at Southern, storing up undergraduate knowledge that would equip them for future professional success.

## Jeff Kuhlman White House Physician

Jeff Kuhlman, son of longtime Physics Professor Henry Kuhlman, declared his future profession at age 2 and never looked back.

A straight-A student, Kuhlman sailed through elementary school and academy, skipping fourth grade and soaking up knowledge like a sponge. To jump-start his career, Kuhlman enrolled at Southern as a pre-med chemistry major and zoomed through his degree in only two years, taking 18-19 hour semesters and 12-hour summer loads while also working 32 hours each week at McKee Foods Corporation.

"It was a full schedule, but I had my priorities," Kuhlman remembers. "I knew I was in college for education—it was my personal

responsibility—and I wanted to get through school and pay for it without any debt."

After Southern, Kuhlman entered Loma Linda University School of Medicine at age 19, making an agreement with the Navy that if they would cover his medical school costs, he would join up after his residency and fellowship. Little did he know where this bend in his career path would take him.

With the Navy, Kuhlman went to California, Hawaii, and London before transferring to Washington, D.C., where he became the senior flight surgeon for the

Marine Helicopter Squadron One. In 2001, he got his biggest assignment yet, a call to be a White House physician.

Only months into his new position, he spent the day in the East Wing Shelter with Vice President Cheney as the United

States went into a full-alert response to the September 11 attacks. That evening, after the senior physician returned with President Bush to the White House, Kuhlman took the subway home. "I was the only person on the metro when we rolled passed the still-smoking Pentagon," says Kuhlman.





He continues to serve his country in this capacity today, caring for the health of President Obama and Vice President Biden, their families, top cabinet officials, and visiting dignitaries. On-call for standard checkups or urgent care, Kuhlman or a member of the White House medical team always has to be close at hand and ready for action.<sup>1</sup>

“Here’s a typical day at work,” Kuhlman shares. “In the morning, I write down 10 important things I have to get done that day. At the end of the day, none of them have even been looked at. There are always more important things that take precedence throughout. You just kind of get used to it.”

Although his job can be hectic, Kuhlman refuses to allow stressful circumstances to wear him down. His faith helps keep everything in

perspective. “If you practice medicine the right way, you’re there to take care of people—not to see what you can get out of the situation for yourself,” he says. “It’s service to others above self that is most important—being there for people in their moments of need.”

### **Frank Jobe** Inventor of the “Tommy John Surgery”

When Frank Jobe graduated from Collegedale Academy in 1943, he had no idea what he wanted to study in college. But he did know one thing he

wanted to do: fight for his country with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division.

“I worked with a lot of young doctors, and we had a good time when we weren’t being shot at,” Jobe recalls.

Jobe and the physicians grew close during the war, and when it was over, they quizzed Jobe about his plans. “Why don’t you become a doctor?” they asked.

The scholarships offered by the GI Bill of Rights made this a real financial possibility for Jobe, so when the war was over, he



got right to work, enrolling at Southern.

In the 1940s, students from Collegedale Academy interacted frequently with students from Southern Junior College. As a result, Jobe's years at CA made him feel closely linked to Southern long before he ever set his feet on campus as an official college student.

"I really liked Southern," Jobe remembers. "And I especially liked Dr. Thompson's physics class. I think it prepared me well. After attending Southern and then La Sierra, I never had any trouble in med school."

It was during his second year of residency that Jobe met the man who would be his future partner in the field of sports medicine, Robert Kerlan. Kerlan had established his own practice 10 years earlier, before sports medicine was even a recognized specialty. By this point, Kerlan was well-established in the field with a bustling practice, working with the Los Angeles Dodgers and other teams.

"What are you going to do when you're done with your residency?" Kerlan asked Jobe.

"I don't know yet," Jobe replied.

Kerlan responded with the offer of a lifetime: "Why don't you come and practice with me?"

Jobe, who had always been a fan of sports, jumped at the opportunity to work with Los Angeles teams like the Dodgers and the Lakers. Together Kerlan and Jobe founded the Kerlan-Jobe Orthopaedic Clinic.

Then in 1974, he made a major advancement in the field of sports medicine.

"Tommy John was a pitcher for the Dodgers, and while he was pitching, he badly damaged his elbow," says Jobe. "Up until then, when players hurt themselves, they were sent back home to the farm, and you brought in another pitcher."

But Jobe didn't believe John's story had to end there—after all, he was only 31 years old.

"Do you think we can fix it?" the young pitcher asked Jobe.

"I don't know," Jobe responded, "but I have an idea." Jobe's idea was to use a tendon from John's right wrist to replace the damaged ligament in his left elbow. No one expected to see

Tommy John in the major league again, and he spent all of 1975 in recovery. So when he strolled back onto the field in 1976 to pitch a killer season and stay on until 1989 to become the oldest player in the major leagues, the world was astonished.

Jobe's ulnar collateral ligament reconstruction surgery, popularly known as the "Tommy John surgery," continues to impact lives today. Right now, more than 100 players in the major leagues have undergone this surgery. Through Jobe's prudent advice and revolutionary surgical technique, countless sports careers have been saved and continue to be saved. In addition to the many pitchers who have experienced the procedure, outfielder Jose Canseco underwent the "Tommy John surgery" in 1993 after injuring his arm while pitching the eighth inning of a runaway loss to the Boston Red Sox. Football players, such as Terrell Owens and Deion Sanders,

have also benefitted from Jobe's revolutionary procedure.

Recently Southern honored

his achievements by presenting him with an honorary doctor of science degree, a recognition traditionally awarded for distinguished leadership in the field of scientific research.

"I love being a doctor," Jobe says. "You get to help people and do good. When you get to do something you love, it's not work—it's fun."

**"I love being a doctor. You get to help people and do good. When you get to do something you love, it's not work—it's fun."**

Frank Jobe

## Jeff Grange Life-Saving Communication Technology Inventor

Jeff Grange was not your typical pre-med student. Although he had grown up around hospitals and other areas with rich medical heritages and always knew he wanted to become a doctor, he didn't like science. At

Southern, he majored in business and took only the bare minimum number of sciences required to qualify for medical school.

"I took biology and chemistry, but I never enjoyed them," Grange remembers. "They were a necessary evil to get me into medicine. I preferred economics."

In spite of his disdain for the sciences, Grange was determined to become a successful doctor who would use his business sense to help others and achieve medical success.

In the meantime, Grange found Southern's nickname of "Southern Matrimonial College" to ring true when he met his wife, fellow business major Janelle Lea, '90, at an all-night softball game.

"I asked her out to a movie and Taco Bell," he remembers. "I ordered a burrito that had meat on it, and she mooded at me; I stopped eating meat after that."

Three years later, the two were wed and off to California, where Grange pursued a medical degree at Loma Linda University while his wife worked toward her master's in business administration. As usual, Grange basked in the business side of medicine, claiming classes like business law and statistics as his personal favorites.

After graduating from Loma Linda and completing his internship there, Jeff joined their faculty in 1997 as the emergency medical services director. Although he enjoyed his position, he couldn't help but notice that one area of his profession had lots of room for improvement: communication between different sources of emergency assistance.

One incident in particular highlighted the reality of this problem. Grange was riding in a sheriff's rescue helicopter when they flew over an accident where a little girl had been struck by a car.

"We could have dropped down and been on the ground in 60 seconds," Grange remembers, "but the dispatch center didn't know we were there." As a result, Grange's crew flew on, and another helicopter was summoned from 60 miles away to assist the child.



After witnessing multiple similar incidents, Grange was inspired to invent AEGIS (Advanced Emergency Geographic Information System), a tool that would help integrate the resources of hospitals, public health organizations, fire departments, law enforcement, traffic patrols, meteorologists, emergency medical services, and more. His idea was to create a software that would make it easy for dispatch centers to follow in real-time, on a computer screen, which emergency resources were available and where.

Grange took his idea to Congress to gain funding for his endeavor and partnered with ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute), the largest computerized mapping company in the world, to turn it into a real-

ity. His groundbreaking software now helps Grange and others care more efficiently and effectively for 25 percent of California and is gradually spreading into other states and countries.

**“My goal with AEGIS was to prevent people from having to make important decisions in the dark.”**

Jeff Grange

decisions in the dark.” Now, emergency service professionals can use a PDA or laptop to immediately see which hospitals are accepting patients, where helicopters and ambulances are located, if traffic is clear, and what weather conditions are like.

In addition to pioneering AEGIS, Grange also works as a reserve deputy sheriff, a volunteer air medic, the medical director of the San

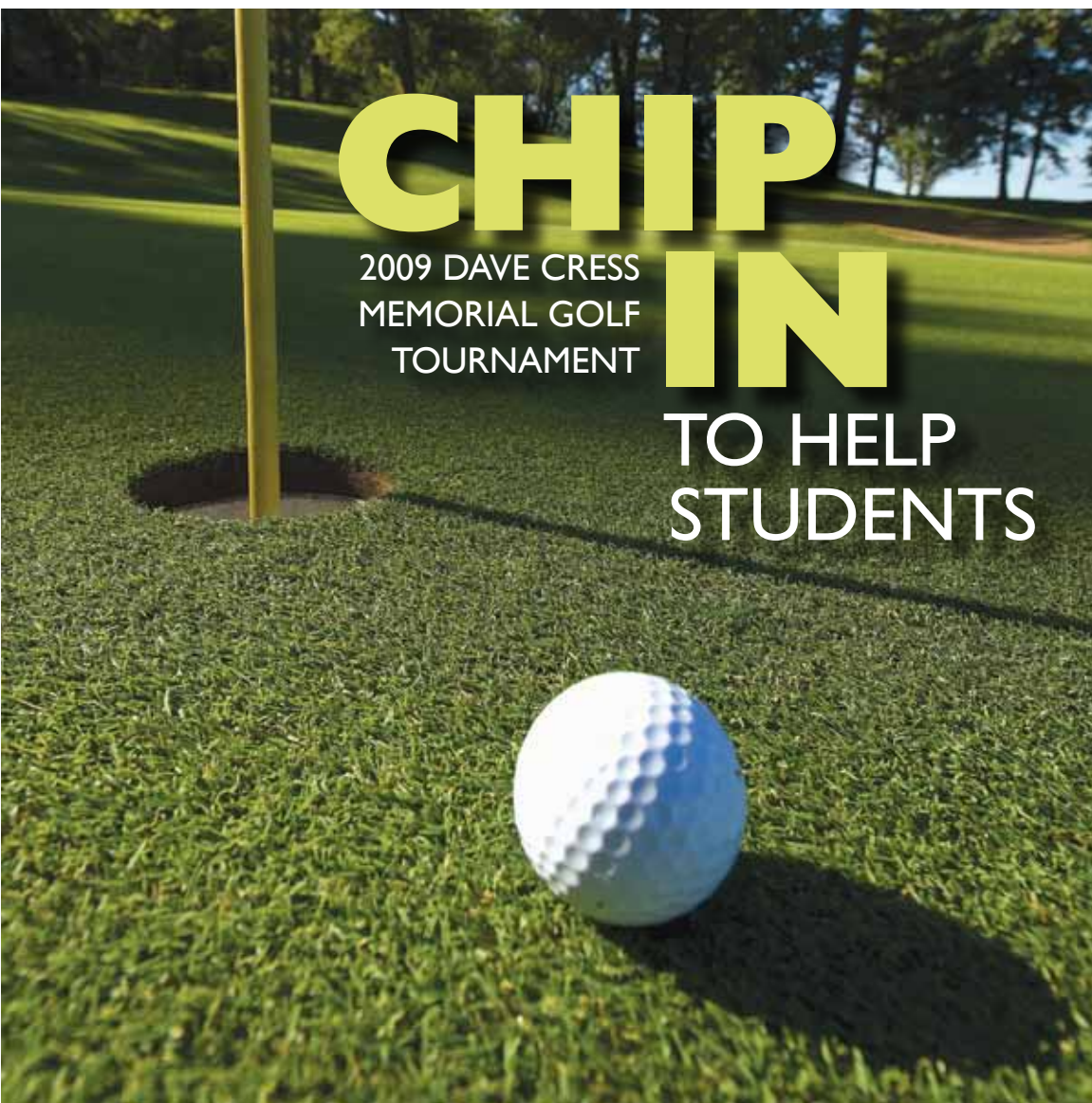
“My goal with AEGIS,” says Grange, “was to prevent people from having to make important

Bernardino County Sheriff’s Air Rescue, and the owner of three businesses that he runs side by side with his wife—one in real estate, one in ambulances, and one in large-event safety. He has even appeared on Animal Planet’s *Venom ER*, a program that features Loma Linda physicians rescuing people from venomous snake bites.

In a world where many physicians find managing a business the most challenging part of their practices, Grange thrives, using his zest for the business world to take medicine to new heights.

“I want to leverage technology to provide the best care anytime anywhere,” Grange says. “I think we can change the world that way.” ✨

<sup>1</sup> Out of respect for Kuhlman’s busy schedule, we ask that our readers not contact the physician to attempt to arrange a visit to the White House. If you wish to visit the White House, you may make arrangements through your congressman.



# CHIP IN TO HELP STUDENTS

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**Where:** Nob North Golf Course,  
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**Who:** All ages and levels of play

For player information and/or to register, visit [southern.golfreg.com](http://southern.golfreg.com) or call Alumni Relations at 423.236.2830. For information on sponsorship opportunities, contact Rob Raney at 423.236.2781.



# Scholarships for Freshmen

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**Freshman  
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homeschool after attending for at  
least two years



Did you know that 94 percent of incoming freshmen receive financial aid—and that nearly \$4 million is awarded annually through Southern's freshman scholarship program?

For complete details about Southern scholarships and other financial aid, call 1.800.SOUTHERN or visit [www.southern.edu/scholarships](http://www.southern.edu/scholarships).



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# What's Growing in the Lab?

by Rebekah Bissell, attended, and Manuela Asaftei, junior public relations major

In the last 10 years, the Chemistry Department has grown from 11 students to 62 and from two professors to five. However, it isn't just the number of students and professors that is growing.

## New Equipment

As the number of students has grown, so has the department's analytical capacity, evidenced by the new equipment purchased over the last couple of years.

A new gas chromatograph-mass spectrometer identifies substances and measures their purity and quantity. Similar machines are used in forensic labs to identify trace elements in disintegrated materials and in airports to detect substances in luggage. Organic chemistry students use it to determine, at the molecular level, what a compound is that they made in the lab.

"It's helpful in making sure you made what you were trying to make," says senior chemistry major Joseph Brannaka.

A second ultraviolet-visible spectrophotometer was added to meet the department's growing needs. Because a chemical's structure is directly related to its absorption of light, this machine helps students studying molecular structure by determining how much ultraviolet and/or visible light a sample absorbs.

"We use it all the time," says senior biochemistry major Charity Penaloza. "I like how it's really quick in finding absorbances."

The department is also purchasing an atomic absorption spectrophotometer this year. This tool will be particularly helpful in preparing students to work in environmental and forensic settings. Environmental professionals use an atomic absorption spectrophotometer to determine if there is too much metal in a water sample, and forensic professionals use this tool to look for gunshot residue.

## New Technology

New classroom technologies are also being introduced. For example, Professor Loren Barnhurst, recipient of the 2009 President's Award for Teaching Excellence, introduced the use of game-show-like "clickers" that allow students to take interactive class quizzes.

Barnhurst and Professor Mitch Menzmer are also creatively using technology to record their lectures and make them available online. Pre-recorded lectures provide core information to students before class time so that, when in the classroom, students can enjoy more hands-on types of learning exercises. The ability to have easy access to these recorded

lectures gives students the opportunity to review lectures prior to exams. The process has proven to be very popular.

## Quality Instruction

With only one area to change before certification is final, Southern's chemistry major is nearly ready for American Chemical Society (ACS) certification. "In order to be considered for ACS certification, professors need to have a maximum of 15 hours of 'face time' per week," says Rhonda Scott, department chair, explaining that this limit allows for more time to be spent in research. "In other words, the total time spent in the classroom or laboratory with students must be 15 hours or less per week, a number at least one or two of our professors exceed each semester."

A key area where the Chemistry Department has already met ACS criteria is in undergraduate research. Menzmer and Professor Brent Hamstra co-teach an Introduction to Research class for junior and senior chemistry majors in which students conduct their own original research, with the only limit being that their project should be within the realm

of either professor's area of expertise. "Professor Hamstra and I have very different research areas, which affords students a wide variety of topics to choose from," says Menzmer. "This makes the course a superb opportunity for students to get some firsthand experience." The diversity of professor backgrounds is, indeed, another of the department's key strengths, with the department's five professors covering the five major chemistry disciplines.

Instruction of professional skills is also a key area for accreditation. Starting their freshman year, students are taught

ethics in their required Connections class. Throughout the following years, students build teamwork skills and incorporate safety precautions in the labs. As upperclassmen, students practice scientific terminology by presenting speeches in front of their peers.

With this kind of instruction, it isn't just the number of students and tools used that's growing in the Chemistry Department. Students themselves are growing into professional chemists in what Scott describes as a "vibrant, friendly, scholarly environment." ✦



Professor Brent Hamstra helps Stephanie Laroche understand the science of inorganic chemistry.



## Student Creates Popular iPhone Application

If you meet senior computer science major Jason Neufeld, he may tell you that he loves to play the guitar, especially for vespers and other Southern ministries. One thing he may not tell you is that he used his loves of the guitar and technology to create an iPhone game that has



Fret Surfer Guitar Trainer is a student-created application that turns the iPhone into a virtual guitar to help players learn guitar notes.

sold more than 20,000 copies to date.

The game, Fret Surfer Guitar Trainer, was developed with the purpose of teaching the player the notes on a guitar fret. Jason, who has played guitar for eight years, saw the need for a game to help aspiring guitarists learn the notes.

"I'd seen stuff for the iPhone before where the player pretends to play guitar," Jason says. "I wanted to create a game that would be useful to actually learn how to play, not just pretend."

What he created, in a matter of several weeks, was an application that helps guitar learners practice and play on their iPhones. This application turns the iPhone into a virtual guitar where users can practice finding the right fret when a note is given or naming the right note when a fret is highlighted.

Setting his own price (\$2.99), Jason is now receiving 70 percent of game profit. "I have had people tell me that they have improved significantly from Fret Surfer," he says.

He plans on creating more games in the future, possibly with a similar guitar theme. Jason says he also wants to create less violent, more Christian-themed games for the iPhone.

"Violence and mature content are basically the norm in the gaming industry these days," remarks Jason. "There's a lot of really high-quality stuff out there, but so much of it is inappropriate. There is a great need for games that meet the quality of the mainstream games but don't share in their distorted values. I think the iPhone is a great place to tap into that market."

~ Brittany Russell

## United States Senate Chaplain Barry Black Reminds Students to Serve Passionately

Barry Black, the first Seventh-day Adventist to become United States Senate Chaplain, spoke at Southern Adventist University for the consecration of student missionaries and religion graduates on April 24 and 25.

Black's journey from low-income, inner-city teen to chaplain of the United States Senate has taught him many lessons about standing strong in his faith. Some of these he presented in his three-part series titled "Moving Beyond Lukewarmness," speaking at vespers in the Collegedale Church and in Thatcher Hall Chapel for Sabbath school and church.

"God placed the theme on my heart," says Black. "We need to be more passionate for our Lord."

As a pastor and former student missionary, Black related to the students being consecrated.

"I had an absolute wonderful time as student missionary in Peru," says Black. "I was surrounded by such magnificent nature that it led me to Christ. The Bible is not God's only revelation to us, but nature speaks as well. The heavens declare the glory of God."

During his talks on Sabbath morning, Black emphasized the importance of supersizing our faith in God and not placing limitations on what He can do for and through us.

"I keep a to-do list for God in the back flap of my Bible," said Black during the church service. "Ten years before I became the Senate

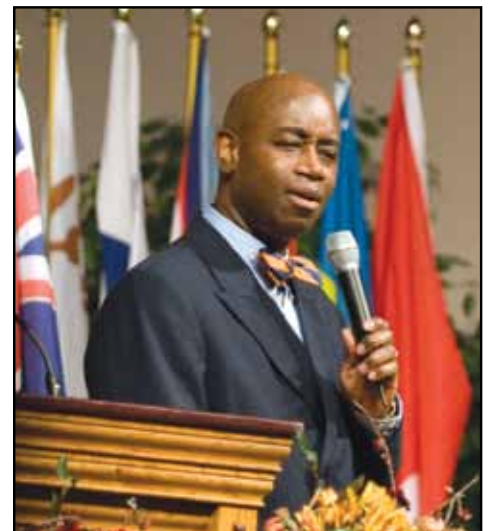
chaplain, I placed that on my list for God to accomplish."

But before God opened the door for Black to serve his country at the Senate, He had some lessons to teach him. Black told how God has taught him to be a humble servant to those around him, whether through ministry as a missionary, father and husband, or Navy chaplain.

His message resonated with many in the audience, especially the student missionaries and religion students who were being consecrated.

"He talked a lot about being a servant of God," says Jay Harod, senior long-term care administration major who is going to serve as a student missionary to Ethiopia. "It helped me to remember that I'm going over there as a servant."

~ Suzanne Ocsai



Barry Black spoke at a consecration for student missionaries and religion graduates.

### Upcoming Events

PreviewSouthern	June 11-12
Wellness Retreat	June 21-26
Recharge Pastor's Retreat	July 5-17
JumpStart	July 20-August 21
We-Haul	July 26 and August 23
SmartStart	July 26-August 21
President's Prayer Breakfast	August 24
Fall Semester Begins	August 27
Dave Cress Memorial Golf Tournament	September 11

## Outdoor Emergency Services Major Introduced

The outdoor leadership and nursing programs are working together to create a dual degree for those wanting to serve as nurses, first responders, or outdoor professionals. This outdoor emergency services degree provides outdoor emergency certification along with an associate degree in nursing and is designed to prepare students or professionals to work in wilderness emergency settings.

Junior nursing major Shama Eller plans to be one of the first students to declare this new

major, believing it will prepare her for a career in medical mission work.

"If I am in the middle of nowhere, I will not have the conveniences of the hospital," says Shama. "For me, it is important to learn all I can about wilderness survival and rescue."

Students like Shama will be able to take 34 hours of outdoor leadership classes after finishing their associate degree in nursing to earn a bachelor's in outdoor emergency services.

"We offer hard skills and certifications that

have teeth," says Mike Hills, assistant professor in the School of Education and Psychology. "These are real-world certifications."

According to Hills, Southern's campus and the greater Chattanooga area make the perfect "classroom" for outdoor learning.

"Chattanooga is the hub for places where you can offer exceptional outdoor education," he comments. "This degree is an amazing opportunity for someone who wants to lead and serve."  
~Vanessa Pham

## Strawberry Festival Celebrates 30 Years

This year, Southern held its 30<sup>th</sup> annual Strawberry Festival. For this special anniversary show, held on April 19 (the final Sunday before semester exams), several of the past festival producers and staff members, consisting of alumni and current Southern employees, joined nearly 1,000 students who attended the event.

Former and current Strawberry Festival staff who attended the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary show included (pictured left to right): Faculty Adviser Zach Gray, '99; Lee Bennett, attended; former Faculty Adviser Volker Henning, '77; Andy McConnell, '92; Nathan Zinner, '05; Sherrie (Platt) Williams, '93; Casey Walter, current; former Faculty Adviser Doug Walter, '84; Aric Turlington,

current; Nathan Plank, current; and Steven Dawson, current.

Strawberry Festival was started in 1979 as a 45-minute slide show put together by two students in their residence hall room. Since then, the festival has become a Student Association-sponsored, multi-media tradition that helps students reminisce about the people, events, and experiences of the academic year. It also helps relieve stress before final exams.

"I was very impressed with Strawberry Festival," remarks Bennett, who drove up from Florida for the event. "It was my understand-



Current and former Strawberry Festival staff catch up after the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary show.

ing that recent shows had become more about the music and live antics, and this year, it returned to being about the show. I was happy to see that."  
~ Hollie Eirich and Lori Fletcher

## Art Professor Presents "The Two Image Makers"

Brian Dunne, '91, assistant professor in the School of Visual Art and Design, inspired students, faculty, and community members alike with his testimony, music, and artwork at the opening of his gallery show "The Two Image Makers" on Monday, January 19.

The evening performance began in Ackerman Auditorium where Dunne shared how he came to realize the reality and depth of the contrast between Christ, the ultimate artist, and Satan, the counterfeit.

"I wanted to bring out that God is the original artist. He's made us artists, but we're not original artists," expresses Dunne. "During my conversion to Christ, I began to notice that two huge philosophies sit at the base of art and all expressive media and that many

seem naïve as to the origin of these philosophies."

During the program, Dunne, along with Assistant Professor Clint Ratliff and Loren Howard, '03, illustrated the contrast between Christ and Satan through the medium of clay. Howard attempted to create a pot, which Dunne subsequently destroyed, depicting how Satan tries to destroy God's creations, while Ratliff worked on a sculpture rendition of himself, representing God creating us in His image.

"One of the things that I wanted to show," explains Dunne, "is that even with all of our faculties and intelligence, spiritually speaking we are like the helpless lump of clay."

After the program in Ackerman, audi-

ence members entered Brock Hall's gallery to view Dunne's mixture of photography, paint, charcoal, and pencil pieces.

The message Dunne shared and the artwork on display impacted many who attended the event.

"I am so pleased the whole thing was so well put together," says Collegedale resident Byron Reynolds. "It really depicted our walk with Christ and the struggles that artists have. It's so neat to be able to tie art together with spirituality."

Julie Lechler, senior psychology and nursing major agrees. "There's a lot more of a spiritual connection than I realized there would be between his art and God. It had a really a huge impact."  
~ Suzanne Ocsai

## Professor Publishes Account of Ongoing Physics Research

Recently, the *Combinatorial Chemistry and High Throughput Screening*, a scholarly chemistry journal, printed an overview of the 33-year journey Physics Research Professor Ray Hefferlin and his students have been on



Ray Hefferlin has devoted the last 33 years to studying the properties of molecules.

in their efforts to create a classification of molecules similar to the atomic periodic table.

In this article, Hefferlin outlines the rationale for his research, explaining how astronomers want to know the number of atoms and molecules that are

in a given area on the surface of a star, but in order to do this, they need to know how much light these molecules can absorb.

Although the atomic periodic table contains absorption values data for atoms, there is currently no four-dimensional classification system that contains absorption values for molecules. This is what Hefferlin has been working on. Naturally, this system is more complicated and much more difficult to prove. Over the years, Hefferlin and his students

have exhaustively tested two-atom molecules and discovered that, like atoms, they do have predictable values data. They have now begun going through the same process with three-atom molecules.

“The kind of data we’re working with can help astronomers verify nuclear processes,” says Hefferlin. “For example, it helps them verify what we think is happening in the middle of the sun, which affects the surface of the sun.” Ultimately, Hefferlin’s research should help scientists determine more accurately how hot the sun is and how long it will burn.

The saga outlined in the 15-page scientific article begins with Hefferlin and his students measuring *f*-values for neutral atoms excited in iron, manganese, and chromium arcs and continues through to current research to determine vector indices data for a very few molecules with even more atoms. He shares with readers the successes and failures he has experienced throughout the journey and describes how much effort has been put into making predictions.

Although the myriad of possibilities of what such findings will lead to is uncertain, the main certainty Hefferlin has concluded through his research is that the orderliness of God can be seen in science.

“God built the universe in such an orderly way,” he says. “I encourage my students to see the hand of God in His creation.” ~Vanessa Pham

## Life Without Limbs Speaker Motivates Southern Students

World-renowned speaker Nick Vujicic, born without arms or legs, inspired students and community members during convocation on March 26.

Vujicic’s message to students was of hope in the midst of despair, of allowing God to guide your life, and of never giving up. He shared how at the age of 8, he contemplated suicide. He went on to share his journey of discovering God’s love and finally understanding that he is whole whether or not he has arms or legs.

Vujicic went into full-time ministry in 2003. His ministry, Life Without Limbs, has allowed him to travel to 24 countries and reach more than 3 million people with his story. He has spo-

ken approximately 1,500 times and schedules 250 speaking engagements each year.

“I think that being a servant of the most high God is the greatest calling in the world,” says Vujicic.

“Nick Vujicic is using his disabilities to do things that people with arms and legs could never do,” says Doug Baasch, senior music performance major and Student Association president. “It shows that when something seems like it’s really bad, God uses it for a lot more good than you could have thought.”

For more information about Vujicic’s ministry or where he will be speaking next, visit [www.lifewithoutlimbs.org](http://www.lifewithoutlimbs.org). ~ Suzanne Ocsai

## Southern Hosts Honors Music Workshop

The university hosted nearly 100 students from nine Southern Union academies for the Honors Music Workshop in February.

“This yearly event gives the most talented musicians in academies, high schools, and home schools the opportunity to participate in an intensive musical experience,” says Ken Parsons, Wind Symphony director.

The event alternates between choral and instrumental focus. This year’s focus was on instrumental ensembles. The honors band guest conductor was Rodney Winther, director of Wind Studies at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. The string orchestra was led by Laurie Redmer Minner, conductor of the Southern Adventist University Symphony Orchestra.

The weekend came to a culmination with performances for the worship services of the Collegedale Church and a formal concert on Saturday afternoon.

“It’s so cool how all these different schools come together to make music,” says Moses Murdock, a senior at Forest Lake Academy. “We sound like a real orchestra.”

The workshop has existed for more than 50 years. For many years, it was sponsored by the Southern Union and was held at a different academy each year with every third year held at Southern. The workshop included both instrumental and choral ensembles every year. As the workshop grew, the housing of participants became problematic for most academies. In the early ’90s Southern Adventist University took sponsorship. Since then it has been held on Southern’s campus every year.

“It has been a good experience to be here,” says Gabi Pasos, a sophomore at Georgia-Cumberland Academy, “not only to practice but to experience Southern’s campus life.” ~Manuela Asaftei



Honors band students relish the rewards of their hard work after their end-of-workshop performance.

## Proud Father Watches Graduation from Iraq

Late one afternoon in the smoldering Middle Eastern desert at a military base south of Baghdad, Tom Parsons, attended, anxiously waited at his computer. Soon, Southern's graduation ceremony would begin streaming live over the Internet. This was a bittersweet day for Tom—full of pride and joy that his son, Chris, was graduating from college but also sad that he could not physically attend the ceremony.

Tom works for Task Force Safe, doing electrical and fire inspections to make the living environment safer for the soldiers. His yearlong term wasn't over until the end of May, so work requirements prevented Tom from boarding a plane to come home early for Chris' graduation.

"Chris is not just my son; he is, in fact, one of my best friends, so it was hard to feel as though I was letting down both a son and a friend," says Tom of his absence from graduation.

The opportunity to view the graduation ceremony online gave Tom some relief and took the sting out of not being there himself.

"The video was a bit choppy, but the audio worked just fine," says Tom. "I was glad that the video worked well just as Chris' name was called."

Neither Chris nor Tom were aware that the graduation would be streaming live until Tom's mother informed them a few days before the event.

"I want to thank whoever had the foresight to stream the graduation over the Internet," wrote Tom in an email to President Gordon Bietz. "I have been dreading the fact that I would not be there on this special day for Chris."

Tom reminisced as he watched the graduation ceremony.

"I have very fond memories of my time at Southern, and as a new Christian it helped me learn a lot about the church," says Tom. "I was not able to finish college, so seeing Chris achieve this is such a joy."

During the ceremony, Tom reached out to Chris the only way he could at that time.

"During the graduation, my dad texted me and let me know how proud of me he was," says Chris.

Chris, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration, now plans to continue on to pursue a master's degree.



Though not able to leave Iraq in time for his son's graduation, Tom Parsons was still able to celebrate the milestone with his son.

"At Southern I learned how to apply myself to what I learned in class," says Chris. "I learned how important Christ and Christian friends are."

~ Manuela Asaftei

## Students and Professor Win ADDY Awards

In late February, four graphic design majors were awarded a total of three Gold ADDY awards, two Silver ADDY awards, and one Best of Show award in the student categories of the Chattanooga Chapter of the American Advertising Federation's (AFF) annual ADDY awards. An associate professor also won two Gold and two Silver ADDY awards.

"I found out at the last minute that I had even won an award," says senior Tamara Scott, who won a Gold ADDY and Student Best of Show for an editorial spread. "I had no idea that

my design was so well liked. I felt very honored to receive such a prestigious recognition."

Other winners included senior Kristina Benefield, junior Hiroyoshi Kasahara, sophomore Lauren Mayberry, and Associate Professor Dean Scott.

"The ADDYs are a way of honoring the most creative talent in the Chattanooga area," says Julie Wells, president of the Chattanooga chapter, "and AFF Chattanooga is so proud of the talent at Southern Adventist University."

~ Manuela Asaftei

## Southern Students Tutor Inner-City Children

Elhaffner Bertus, attended, experienced a life-changing moment while visiting Tyner Academy in Chattanooga. Striking up a conversation with one of the inner-city school's teachers, Elhaffner was invited to watch the senior students present their end-of-the-year project.

"It would be nice if students at Southern could talk to the seniors," the teacher observed, adding that the students lacked direction and purpose and didn't know their own potential.

Struck by the idea that high school students

look up to college students, Elhaffner began envisioning a volunteer program now known as Tyner Tutoring. Since last fall, Southern students involved in the program have spent Thursday afternoons at Tyner Academy, tutoring freshmen in algebra, geometry, Spanish, and biology.

"Some students need a lot of help to understand what they are studying," says senior animation major Yannick Amegan, who led the program this past semester, "but there are others who know what they are doing yet lack the motivation to do it and need some encour-

aging. We're glad to serve both these types of students."

Elhaffner recalls one student who was struggling with biology, but after a session with a Southern tutor, the student was teaching what he had learned to his classmates and boasting to his teacher that he knew the material. It's stories like these that Elhaffner says is what makes the volunteer effort worthwhile.

"We all are influenced and influence those around us," he says. "People cannot see Jesus. They can see us. If we live right, then they can see Christ, and that is the whole goal." ~ Vanessa Pham



Southern SIFE students worked with two local SIFE teams from Lesotho, Africa, to build greenhouses.

## SIFE Students Build Greenhouses for African Orphans

Six Southern SIFE (Students In Free Enterprise) students spent their spring break constructing greenhouses for orphans in Africa, building the foundation of Project Hope.

Project Hope began when SIFE students learned the staggering statistics of orphans in Lesotho, Africa. Because of the prevalence of AIDS, there are more than 5,000 orphaned children within a 10-mile radius of Maluti Adventist Hospital, with more children becoming orphans all the time. Last year alone, the number of orphans increased by 20 percent.

Southern SIFE students joined two local SIFE teams to build three greenhouses that will be used as sources of food and income for orphan children.

“To have all teams working together to make a change,” says senior nursing major Eunice Kim, “was a powerful witness to the villagers.”

Southern’s SIFE team presented this project, along with several other projects SIFE worked on during the academic year, at the SIFE regional competition, winning in their league and earning the chance to go on to nationals. ~ Vanessa Pham

## Two New Majors Introduced to Prepare Students for Non-Traditional Ministry

Students eager to prepare themselves for a life of missions and ministry have two new majors to choose from: missions and biblical studies.

The new missions major, coordinated through Southern’s Evangelistic Resource Center, will prepare students to serve as cross-cultural or hometown missionaries. The new biblical studies major will prepare students for positions of lay leadership in the church and community.

Those who will benefit from these programs include:

- students taking missions or biblical studies in conjunction with another service major
- students in pre-professional programs, such as pre-med and pre-law, who want to go on to use their advanced degrees for service
- students interested in going on to graduate school

“The goal is to prepare someone to be an active lay leader,” says Donn Leathermann, religion professor. “We want students to be equipped and knowledgeable about the Bible so they can present it to others.” ~ Lori Fletcher and Hollie Eirich

## Pentecost<sup>2</sup> Results in Student Baptisms

International evangelist David Asscherick, who appears regularly on 3ABN and Hope TV and has been the speaker for the Discover Prophecy Seminar and Hope for the Homeland series, spoke on campus in late March for Pentecost<sup>2</sup>, a series designed by students for students to promote spiritual revival.

The meetings were named Pentecost<sup>2</sup> in reference to the biblical outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and the end-time outpouring of the Holy Spirit believed to be greater than the first Pentecost.

“The goal was to cultivate and reap the students who have had their spiritual need awakened during the year,” remarks Jeff Tatarchuk, junior religion major and Pentecost<sup>2</sup> organizer.

Asscherick spoke 15 times over the course of nine days.

Most of the meetings were held in a large tent near the main entrance to the campus,

but each weekday Asscherick also spoke in the dining hall for lunchtime devotionals.

“I was actually really excited when I heard he was going to preach in the cafeteria, because he could reach a lot more people,” says Rebecca Wong, senior art education major. “The environment was totally different—much more informal.”

On Sabbath afternoon, two students and two community members were baptized. In all, 40 students made the decision to be baptized as a result of the Pentecost<sup>2</sup> meetings

“Not only did I feel a need,” says Cassie James, sophomore nursing major who was bap-



David Asscherick spoke for Pentecost<sup>2</sup> meetings, held in a tent near the music building.

tized on Sabbath, “but also the desire to give my whole life to Christ for good.”

If you would like to hear David Asscherick’s presentations, visit [www.SEYC.org](http://www.SEYC.org). ~ Suzanne Ocsai

## Professor Lives a Ministry of Social Work

In social work, you have to live Jesus Christ," says René Drumm, dean of the Social Work and Family Studies Department. "If you don't, people will know it." This is the philosophy of a professor whose work has not only impacted students but the Adventist Church as well and who was honored during graduation with the President's Award for Excellence in Scholarship.

In the classroom, Drumm encourages her students to integrate their faith with the ideas they are learning. Each class period begins with a devotional thought that encapsulates the lesson she plans to teach, then Drumm steps back and allows the students to discuss the concepts.

"She doesn't go up there and start lecturing," remembers Cita Garcia, '08. "She lets students take some time out. As social workers, what we do reflects situations in the Bible. Her teaching style helped us understand why we're called to social work."

Reaching beyond Southern's campus, Drumm

started the ASSIST program (Academy Student Service Initiative Stipend/Tuition) and has published her research on abuse in the church.

ASSIST is a program that connects academy students with older adults in their communities. These students are given tuition assistance for helping the elderly with household chores or day-to-day activities. The focus of this program goes beyond the chores, however, as interaction between the generations is the true purpose of the initiative. "We want to inspire young people to develop a value for lifelong service," Drumm says.

Drumm's own value for lifelong service has caused her to ask and seek the answers to difficult questions about abuse in the Adventist Church,



René Drumm brings her ministry of social work into the classroom.

resulting in landmark research published in *Adventist Review*, *Christianity, Social Work*, and *Affilia: Journal of Women and Social Work*. Her surveys showed that 34 percent of women and 20 percent of men within the church have experienced abusive behavior within their marriages. That's more than the rates of spousal abuse outside of the church. "It's an issue that is not only tolerated, but hidden," Drumm says.

Since Drumm's research was published, she has heard from people all over the world who feel comforted by the fact the church is taking a look at the abuse issue. She has since worked with church leaders to provide training and strategic planning in the area of domestic violence.

"When people stay in denial, they won't make a difference," Drumm says, "When they move out of denial, they can make a difference."

Whether teaching, researching, or developing programs, Drumm uses her talents to benefit others. Drumm is thankful for the opportunities she's had at Southern to live Christ's love. "It's been my privilege to serve Him in a beautiful place," she says, "in a school that has excellent leadership, good resources, and marvelous students." ~ Adrienne Vernon

## Changes Made to Southern's Nonprofit Major

The nonprofit administration and development major that resided in the School of Journalism and Communication for the past 11 years moved to the School of Business and Management.

"The major now has a different focus," says Carrie Harlin, campus director of Students in Free Enterprise and business relations. "More business classes are offered that will equip students with the knowledge needed to start a nonprofit."

Along with the move, the major has undergone a few more changes within the curriculum. This nonprofit management major now offers

three different concentrations: nonprofit leadership, communications, and international and community relations. Although it will keep a couple of the core classes from the School of Journalism and Communication, it will also incorporate business classes such as accounting, business law, and management.

"This major offers specific training in the kinds of things that can move a nonprofit organization forward," comments Robert Montague, professor in the School of Business and Management. "It is for people who have a heart for service." ~ Manuela Asaftei

## Student Wins Southern 6 Trail Race Held on Campus

Whether it was because he runs daily along the Biology Trail or because he trained hard over the summer, junior nursing major David Macias swept past 129 other racers to take home the first place prize in the first-ever Southern 6 trail race (benefitting Southern's outdoor leadership program) along the university's Biology Trail.

The Southern 6 kicked off this year's Rock/Creek Trail Series as the first-ever series race to be held on a Sunday (other series races are held

on Saturdays). Though some, like David, were familiar with the trail, many racers had never been on Southern's campus. Racers agreed that the trail, which can be quite steep in places, was harder than expected.

After the winners received their trophies (mugs crafted by Loren Howard, '03), Mark McKnight of Rock/Creek encouraged racers by reminding them that "everybody who won first place just set a course record." ~ Lori Futcher



Southern 6 racers, primarily from the community, started and finished their run next to the Iles P.E. Center.

## Alum Follows Call to Serve and Protect

**M**elvin Taylor, '06, started college with the goal of being a corporate lawyer, and it would have been no surprise if this ambitious, responsible student succeeded as an attorney. Though Taylor's job *does* involve standing in front of a judge, the calling he chose was not of lawyer but of Collegedale police officer.

This shift in career probably started when Taylor decided to become a volunteer firefighter as a student. "He just wanted to do something that was out of his comfort zone, something that would be good for the community," says Nathalie Mazo, '05, who is a good friend of Taylor and now serves as an enrollment counselor for Southern. After some time, Taylor also added volunteer police work to his growing list of extracurricular activities.

During his junior year at Southern, Taylor served as Student Association president, a task he didn't take lightly. "The year he was S.A. president, it was his idea to pray for everyone

on campus," says Mazo. "He always made prayer the number one priority in everything he did."

It was Taylor's maturity about prayer that surprised School of Business and Management Professor Julie Hyde when she first joined the faculty during Taylor's senior year. "He was sympathetic to my apprehensions in beginning an academic career and said he would pray for me," she remembers. "Then he astounded me by telling me that he prayed for *all* his professors!"

By the time he graduated, Taylor responded to a calling to take on a job where he could make a difference in the lives of those he would not otherwise come in contact with.

"Melvin goes above and beyond the call of duty," says Collegedale Police Chief Dennis Cramer. "He'll stop by nursing homes and help the elderly or drop by businesses to say hello."

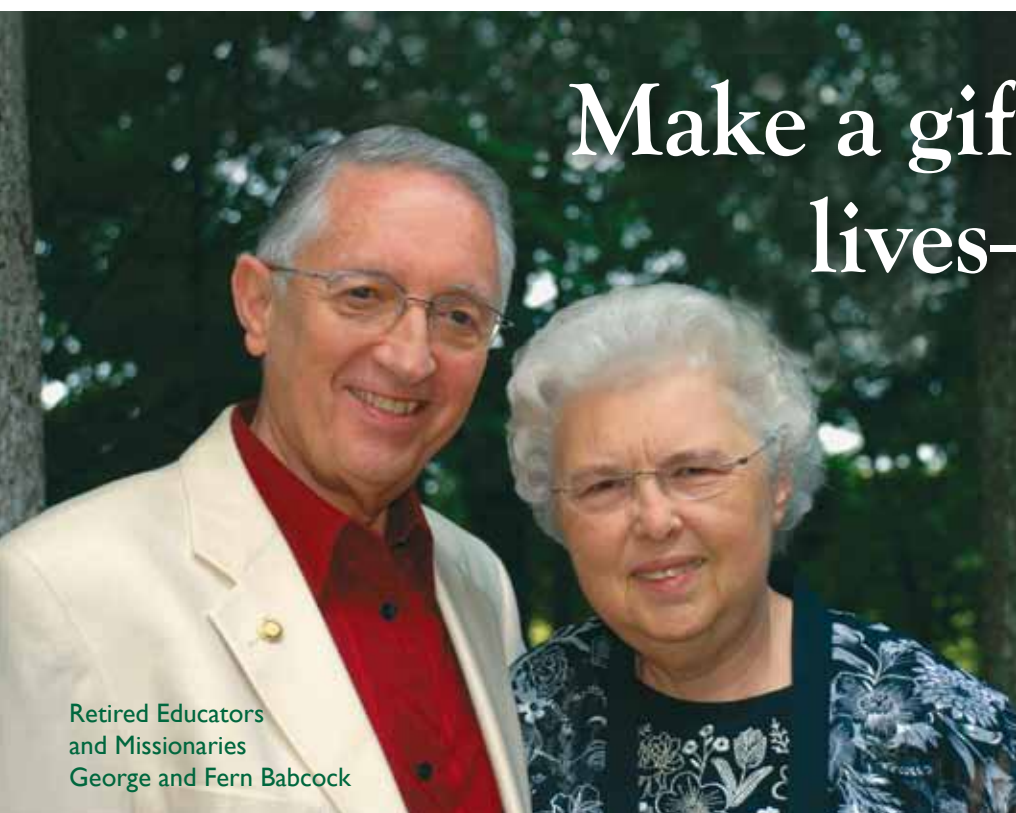
His job as a Collegedale officer has kept him present in the community, bringing a sense of safety and security. Southern faculty, staff, and

students see him riding on his bicycle (Taylor is a certified bicycle patrol officer), greeting employees as he passes through campus buildings on routine walk-throughs, or assisting with the occasional disruption. He has also stopped at WSMC to read to children as part of the radio station's Read With Me program. Most recently, he received some notoriety for helping deliver a baby whose mother just couldn't make it to the hospital in time.

"I think it's awesome," Cramer says. "As far as I can remember back, that's the first time a Collegedale officer has assisted with delivery."

Taylor hasn't let the notoriety get to his head as he continues serving the community, smiling humbly at the doctor jokes his heroism earned him.

"I feel that he is probably in the right job for the right reason," observes Physics Chair Chris Hansen. "He seems even-tempered and dedicated, which are important traits for a police officer."  
~ Vanessa Pham and Lori Fletcher



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# What the Storm Uncovered

by Manuela Asaftei, junior public relations major

I had no idea what they were saying. The language these island people were speaking was unlike any I had ever heard. As a world traveler fluent in Romanian, I thought that at least understanding the native tongue would pose no problem while teaching on the island of Chuuk in Micronesia. I was wrong. While other languages borrow and lend variations of words to one another, this one was all on its own.

As I exited the plane and entered the dilapidated structure that served as the airport terminal, Chuukese swirled around me. “God, what have I done? Why have You sent me *here*?” I spouted out loud with no fear of anyone understanding.

After that shaky beginning, I tucked my language-based fears away as I found common ground with other English-speaking missionaries. Being an extrovert, I longed to reach out to the Chuukese locals, especially the other school staff. I could communicate fairly well with my aide, Yersi, as she helped me around the classroom and translated whenever the students were struggling to understand. But there were others whom I couldn’t communicate with, like Keyheart, the bus driver, and Nelna, the school secretary. The idea to approach one of them and strike up a conversation popped into my head more than once, but I ignored the gentle prodding and just smiled as I walked by them.

As time passed, I prayed that God would provide an opportunity for me to connect with the locals.

## Disaster

In late October, the teachers decided to take a weekend camping trip to a small outer island. As we made our way to the two fishing boats, I was surprised to see that the Chuukese staff were also coming along. I made a point of sitting in the boat that had more locals than teachers.

“There is storm coming,” said Keyheart, in his broken English.

“Really?” I questioned. All I saw was pristine blue sky.

“Yes, Miss,” he replied somberly.

Finally reaching the island, we eagerly jumped off the boat, stretching our cramped limbs. Sparkling waters abundant with coral treasures invited anyone daring enough to enter it. I hurriedly put on my snorkeling gear and jumped in to explore the world beneath.

As darkness drew near, everyone gathered at the designated camp area and trampled down bushes to make a clearing. Tonight the stars would be our tent. I needed two blankets just so that I would not feel the gravel

and shrubs underneath, yet peering over at the locals on the far side of the clearing, I saw that all they needed was a tarp to lie on.

By midnight, what was once a gentle ocean breeze had turned into a fearsome gust. The coconut trees started waving frantically in the wind, carrying to sea anything not tied down. The locals abandoned their post on the other side of the clearing and hurried over to where we huddled, shaking with cold and fear. Several of the Chuukese men made a makeshift covering with their tarp, and we all sat as close as we could to each other. There we were stranded on a tiny sand spot, where all it would take was a large wave to wipe us from history.

By this time, the howling wind drowned out any words that dared to pass between our lips. We silently prayed as we sat in a circle, embracing

one another to create a shield from the wind and rain. Finally, drenched and exhausted, I drifted off to sleep.

## Surprise

I awoke to sunlight filtering through the trees overhead. I looked around and noticed the others asleep in various positions. Turning to the ocean, I saw no indication of the hurricane-like storm that had passed us just hours earlier. Making my way to the shore a few yards from our camp, I squealed with glee. There before my very eyes was an array of shells unlike anything I had seen before. The storm must have swept them in, as I hadn’t seen any shells the day before.

Back at school I settled into the same routine, but one thing was clearly different: The other Chuukese staff and I did not shy away from each other anymore. After experiencing the storm together, language barriers could not keep us apart. We even spent Sabbath afternoons together, often visiting the sick,

where Yersi would translate whatever comforting words I could find.

At the end of my term while packing up my classroom, I came across the shells I had collected after the storm. Memories flooded my mind as I recalled how I had questioned God at the beginning of my island journey. It dawned on me then; while His master plan included that terrifying storm, it also showed me that after a storm there can be unexpected shells. After this storm, I discovered unexpected friendships. ✨



Manuela Asaftei discovered that friendships, like sea shells, can appear after a storm.



# 50s

**Paul**, '50, and **Ruth (Riset-ter) Watson**, '49, live in Thousand Oaks, California. Ruth recently wrote a book *Backwoods Girl*, told through the eyes of a child growing up during the Depression.

**Bill Dysinger**, '51, has completed the official history of public health education and lifestyle medicine during Loma Linda University's first 100 years. For the past couple of years, he and his wife have been conducting CHIP (Coronary Health Improvement Project) programs in their Middle Tennessee community. These programs have helped more than 90 people improve their lifestyles and reduce their risks of disease and early death. Bill celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday by skydiving.

# 70s

**Barry**, '70, and **Sharryn (Hughes) Mahorney**, '69, recently moved to Morganton, North Carolina, where they are pastoring after working in the Gulf States Conference for 17 years.

**Rick**, '79, and **Millie (Eadie) Gusso**, '79, live in Orlando, Florida, where Rick enjoys teaching internal medicine at Florida Hospital. Their oldest daughter, Kelsey, is eager to begin at Southern this fall, and their youngest, Lauren, is in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Orlando Junior Academy.

# 80s

**Wayne Dysinger**, '82, chairs the Department of Preventive Medicine at Loma Linda University. He was recently appointed to also serve as the director of the university's Institute of Lifestyle Medicine.

**John Dysinger**, '87, is involved in an organic gardening operation, which runs a community-supported agriculture project, producing healthful food and conducting seminars to train others in such efforts.

**Kenneth Bradley**, '83, is mayor of Winter Park, Florida.

**Gaye Colvin**, '85, won the Sara Aull Award in a statewide research competition sponsored by the North Carolina chapter of the Special Libraries Association. The study completed Gaye's work for a master's degree in library and information studies. She serves as logistics coordinator and FM grants/research coordinator for the Office of Regional Primary Care Education in North Carolina.

**Bo**, '88, and **Tina (Frist) Smith**, '89, work for The Fertility Center in Chattanooga. He is director of information

technology, and she is part-time patient support coordinator. Their children, Carolina and Tré, are in first and second grades at Apison Adventist School, where Tina serves as Home and School Leader. Bo is a volunteer diver at the Tennessee Aquarium.

# 90s

**Timothy**, attended, and **Joy (Freeman) Lee**, '94, welcomed their fourth child, Lydia Gracia, on October 25.

Tim is a pastor of three churches on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Joy is homeschooling their two oldest children.

**Leon**, '95, and **Cheryl (Sleeth) Austin**, '97, were married in October. Leon completed a master's in marriage and family therapy, a master's in psychology, and a doctorate in psychology from Loma Linda University. The Austins live in Ithaca, Michigan. Leon works for the Michigan Department of Corrections, and Cheryl is a homemaker.

**Ed Rahming**, '96, was recently appointed vice president of development, research, and analysis for The Grand Bahama Port Authority.



# 00s

**Josh Abbott**, '00, and wife, Karly, welcomed their first baby, Lyla Ranae, on March 8.

**Ilko Tchakarov**, '01, married Megan DeWind in August. Ilko earned a master's degree in theology at Andrews University in 2005 and is senior pastor for Marquette and Munising Seventh-day Adventist churches in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Megan is a nursing student at Northern Michigan University.

**Michael**, '01, and **Heidi (Olson) Campbell**, '02, welcomed the birth of their son, David William, on April 14.

**Len Timberlake**, '03, obtained her license in clinical social work in March. She works as a medical health therapist and lives in Indiana.

**Dane McClurg**, '05, recently graduated from Loma Linda University's School of Dentistry. He is applying for an orthodontic residency.



**Olga (Patsukevich) Vovk**, '05, married Viktor Vovk from Khmelnytskyi, Ukraine, in September. They live in Glen Allen, Virginia.

**Marla (Robberson) Treiyer**, '05 and '07, works at Redlands Community Hospital in California.

**Robert McLennan**, '07, and **Shellie Pires**, '04 and '07, will be married on June 21. Robert is a medical student at Loma Linda University. Shellie works in home health.

**Jackson Henley**, '08, is a medical student at Loma Linda University.

## Remembrance

**Larry Daniel Hughes**, '63, died September 19. Survivors include his wife, Joan; two sons; and three stepchildren.

**Jackie (Combs) Garrett**, '86, passed away November 27. Survivors include her husband, **Jeff**, '86; son, Brady; and parents, **Jack Combs**, '65, and **Sandie (Dickson) Spriggle**, attended.

**Earl McGhee**, attended, passed away on December 23. Earl is survived by his wife, Kathryn, and daughters, **Cheryl Rogers**, '73; **Patricia McGhee-Coffman**, '77; **Kathy Schleier**, '78 and '80; and Judy Fehlenberg.

**Ted Nelson Graves**, '54, passed away January 3. Survivors include his wife, Mary Jane, and sons, Ted and Tim.

**Jimmie Lou (Westerfield) Brackett**, '49, passed away on February 10. She taught in Southern's Business Administration Department from 1949 through 1951.

**Charlene (Van Allen) Robertson**, '76, former nursing professor, passed away February 22 at age 71. Survivors include her husband, Chuck; daughters, **Cheryl Sears**, '86, **Lisa**, '89, and **Kimberly Ann Johnson**, '88; sons, **Terry Allen**, '82, and **Daniel Todd**, attended.



**Martha Alyne Pace**, cafeteria employee and creator of the original recipe for the Master Burger while head cook at the Campus Kitchen, passed away on February 23. Survivors include her son, Bob, and daughter, Barbara Smith.

**Lee Kramer**, '40, passed away on March 13. He is survived by three daughters: **Mary Beth Cochran**, '75; **Janet Townsend**, '76; and Carol Bicknell.

**Bruce Johnston**, former Religion chair, died on April 6. Bruce is survived by his wife, **Marianetta**, '68; son, Jerry; and daughters, Kathy Fradhal and Cyndee Holm.

**Wilma McClarty**, former English chair and longtime professor, passed away on May 24. While at Southern, she won several awards, wrote numerable articles, and performed countless speeches. Survivors include her daughter, **Julie Smith**, '87, and son, **Stacey Jack**, '99.

Send your updates to: [columns@southern.edu](mailto:columns@southern.edu) or COLUMNS, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370.

# Southern Living

## Caving in the Cake

The tradition started my first year at Southern when one of my friend's parents sent her a cake on her birthday. It was a big cake for one person, so she invited several girls to her room that night to help her eat it. Instead of eating it on plates (which we probably didn't even own at that time), we set the cake on the floor, each grabbed a fork, and started digging away at the cake. We had so much fun that we started doing it for the other girls' birthdays too. Sometimes we even wore headlamps for effect. The best part of these nights was not the cake but the fun, laughter, and lasting friendships that developed. No matter how bad of a day we might have had, caving in the cake made it all better. Even though these four friends and I are separated now by thousands of miles, I still think of them with fondness whenever I eat a piece of cake and remember the good times we had at Southern.

Jeni Hasselbrack, '00

## Hosting Holidays

After I moved into Southern Village, each holiday was an opportunity to have people over for some fun. In the fall, people would come make caramel apples or carve pumpkins. In the spring, we could usually find a good night to go somewhere and sit around a campfire, roast marshmallows, and share stories. There were even several occasions when our apartment would be full of people over for a Sabbath afternoon potluck. My friendships made my experience at Southern exciting and entertaining. And those friendships are some of the most important things that have stayed with me after graduation.

Brittany Cinquemani, '08

**Your memories could be here. For the next issue, share your photos and stories of student employment.**

**Send your photos and brief stories**

to [columns@southern.edu](mailto:columns@southern.edu) or COLUMNS Editor, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370.



Enjoying cake in Thatcher Hall.



Carving pumpkins in Southern Village

# God Used a Garden to Plant a Seed

by Melissa Tortal, senior nonprofit administration and development major

I found my calling in a garden bed, or more accurately, a weed bed. But these were no ordinary weeds; they were the kinds of weeds that could make you pull a muscle. Some of them were as tall as me!

## An Investment in Others

It was my freshman year, and I was still settling on a major. After eight trips to Records to change from nursing to pre-med to education and so on, I was officially a nonprofit administration and development major. But the stresses of college and finding a purpose for my life could be put on hold for a day. Today was all about service. I was participating in Southern's annual student-led Community Service Day, pulling weeds for Hosanna Community (a residential facility for adults with disabilities).

After several hours of sweat and strain, my raw hands were indicative of a job well done. But now there was a beautifully clear, weed-free garden plot and nothing to plant.

Surveying the empty plot with the other students in our volunteer group, we came to a consensus: this was a problem that had to be solved. Getting all of us together to come back and work on the garden was ideal but not very realistic. If we wanted to make sure they had a garden, we had to do it that day. So I went with Brandon, our group leader, to Walmart to buy seeds, seed trays, pots, potting soil, and small garden tools.

Returning to Hosanna Community, we worked with the residents to help put the soil into the trays and select which seeds they wanted to plant. The joy on their faces more than made up for our small gardening investment.

## The Desire to Share

After several hours of hard work, hunger struck. It was nearing the time when we were to leave. We knew Southern was providing a free meal for us back on campus, but we also knew there was still a lot of work to be done.

Following an informal vote, we decided to stay and forgo the free food to finish our projects. We didn't want to burden Hosanna Community with preparing a meal for us, so we did the most logical thing to our frugal minds: Brandon and I hit the road for Taco Bell. After a feast of bean burritos, our team was ready to see our projects through to completion with a renewed purpose and determination.

The residents and directors were so friendly and appreciative that it made it hard to leave. I had always been committed to community service and volunteerism, but this experience revitalized that passion. I knew

without a doubt that a career in the nonprofit sector was exactly what God had planned for me.

The joy I received from the day was tarnished only by thinking about my friends who had chosen not to serve.

I was haunted with questions. Why were there so many good people at Southern, people who really seemed to care about others, who didn't see the value of Community Service Day? What could I do to get my friends and the whole student body to share this vision of service?

I returned to campus feeling responsible and privileged to share the joy of service with the rest of my Southern family.

## God's Seed Blossoms

These questions pestered me for years. Then I did something about it. For two years, I used my passion for service as the community service director. In trying to figure out what students' motivations were to skip or serve on Community Service Day, I spent hours speaking with students one-on-one. I learned that most students wanted to sleep in, visit friends, go home, or catch up on homework. Some added that they didn't care for some of the food options in past years.

Their thoughts and concerns led to some changes, such as starting the event later in the morning and providing multiple food options. As a result, around 350 more students participated my senior year than had my freshman year, and we nearly doubled the number of local

charities where our students served. Overall, our efforts saved our community more than \$25,000 in just one day.

Though I'm graduating, I'll be staying at Southern next year to continue coordinating community service efforts and develop a model of service learning.

After that, I'm not sure exactly what God has in store for me. I am only sure that while I'm reaching out to Him, He will guide me where I need to be. I have faith that He will continue to open doors and opportunities that I never expected. Just like He did that day in the garden. ✧



It didn't seem like a miraculous moment when Melissa Tortal stopped at Walmart to pick up potting soil and supplies, but it was a moment that would impact the direction of her life.



Graduating class officers Bernelle Taitague, Kristine Gemora, and Zackary Livingston (not pictured) added a lighthearted element to the commencement program with an original song about their Southern experience. To see a video, go to [www.southern.edu/gradsong](http://www.southern.edu/gradsong).  
PHOTOGRAPHER: Buddy Summitt

# ALUMNI HOMECOMING WEEKEND 2009

October 29-31

## *Keys to Excellence*

Help celebrate the milestone of Southern becoming an All-Steinway School, with special music-filled activities planned throughout the weekend.

### Homecoming Highlights:

- Kickoff Banquet/All-Steinway School Celebration
- Vespers by Greg Ellis, '84
- Church by Smuts Van Rooyen, '64
- Die Meistersinger (male chorus) Reunion Concert
- Southern Extravaganza (variety program featuring alumni and students)
- Southern Shuffle (5k/1-mile campus fun run/walk)
- 6th Annual Antique and Classic Car Show

HONOR YEARS: 1939, 1949, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1999

For more information, visit [alumni.southern.edu](http://alumni.southern.edu) or call 423.236.2830.

