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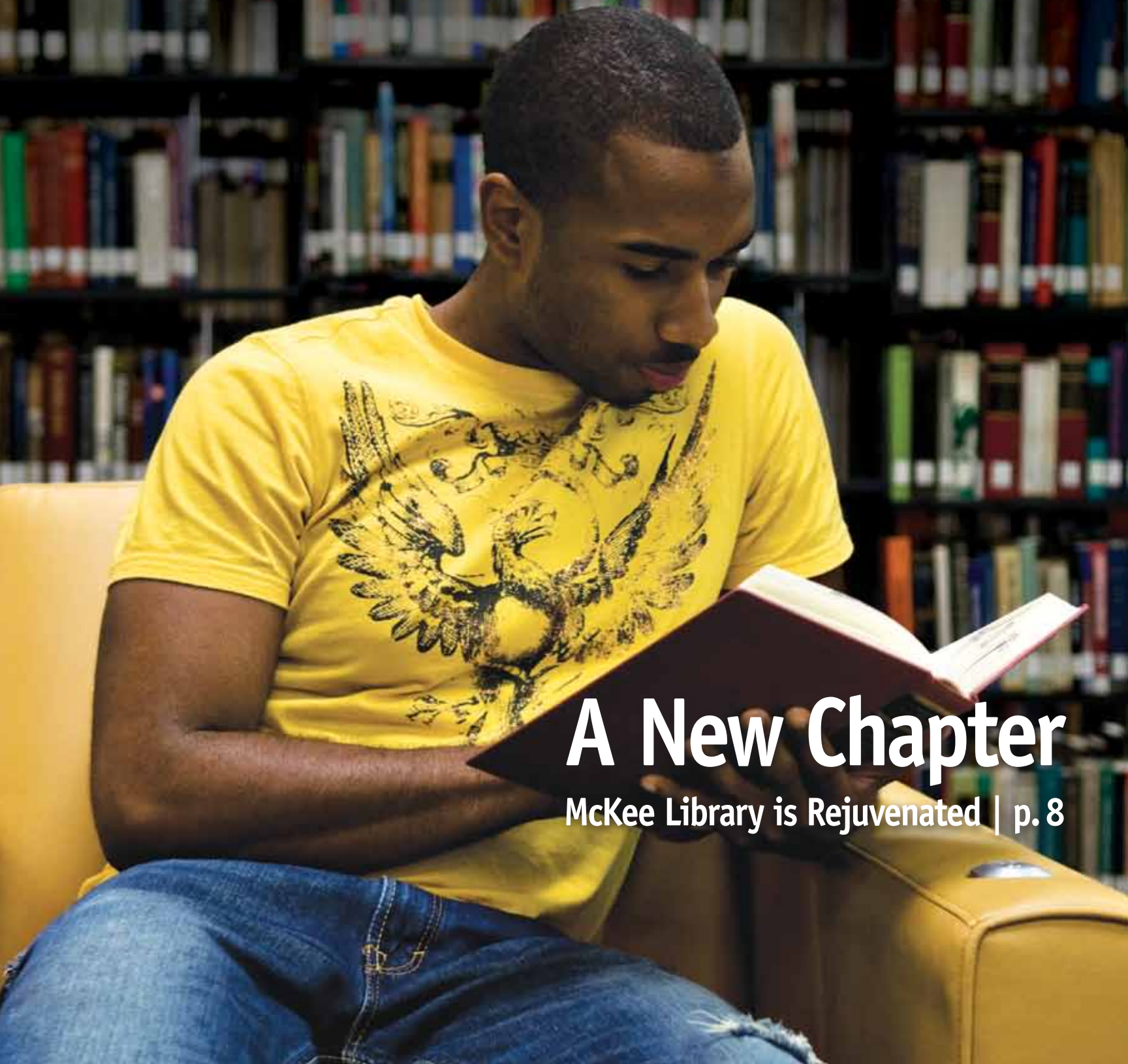
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The Magazine of Southern Adventist University

COLUMNS



A New Chapter

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Fall 2009

Comma Queen

My high school English essays held few clues that they were being prepared by a future editor.

Two grades were handed back with each paper: one for composition and one for mechanics. On every single paper, I earned a beautiful “A” for composition. And on every single paper, I received an embarrassing “F” or “0/10” for mechanics.

Commas were my particular downfall, so I was less than excited my senior year when my English teacher announced one day that we’d be having a quiz on commas.

After the final school bell rang, I made my usual trek from Collegedale Academy to McKee Library, where I would study before checking in to my evening job. It was a light homework day, so I decided to focus on overcoming my incompetence with commas.

Leaning against a wall that separated study carrels from where periodical archives were stored (a wall, by the way, that no longer exists. Turn to page 8 to learn why), I opened my stylebook to the commas page. I read and re-read every rule and example until each rule was memorized and all the examples made sense. For the next hour or two, my whole world revolved around that one small section of the stylebook.

The next day, I confidently took my English quiz before heading off to chemistry class. Fifty minutes later, I was met at the lab door by a friendly mob.

“There she is! The comma queen!” one shouted. “Aw, Lori, you ruined the curve,” another jested.

“What are you talking about?” I asked, realizing I was surrounded by seniors from the English class that met right after mine.

“Mrs. Ruf says you’re the only senior who got 100 percent on the comma quiz,” someone responded.

In everybody’s mind, the quiz was probably seen as insignificant. I could have received another “0” and still done well in the class.

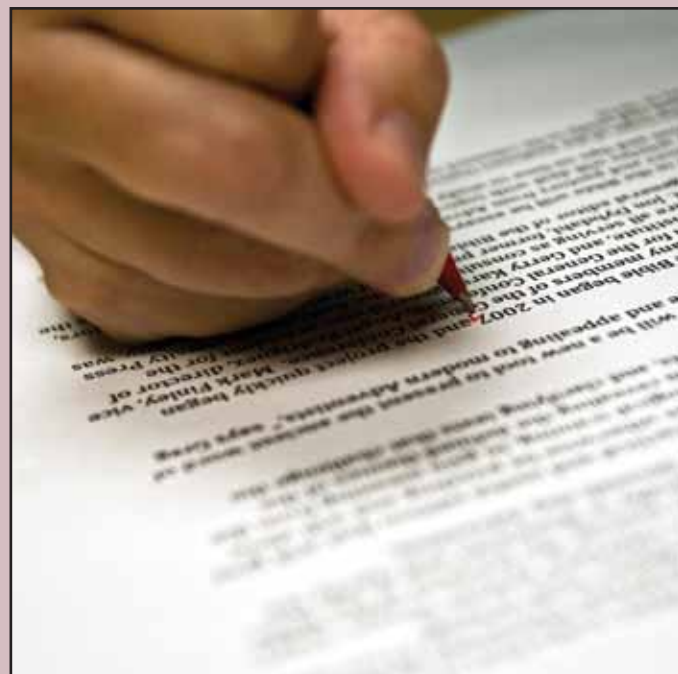
But in reality, that quiz changed my life. With my new reputation, I started getting requests from peers to look over their work to check punctuation.

“It was the day you became an editor,” my mother says.

It was also the day I learned that with a little determination, I could overcome just about anything.

Lori Futcher, Editor

P.S. As McKee Library gets ready to celebrate its 40th birthday, take a look at the library’s recent makeover highlighted on page 8. Also, take a moment to think about your own library memories and if you’d like, share them with us by sending your short stories and photos to columns@southern.edu for possible inclusion in a future “Scrapbook.”



Lori Futcher applies her meticulous attention to detail to another COLUMNS article.



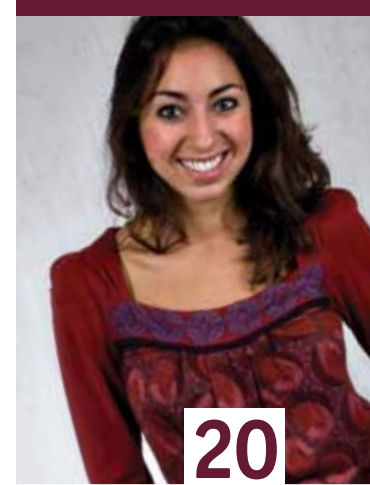
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COVER: With recent improvements, the McKee Library is seeing increased usage.

Missing Musicians

I have enjoyed reading the recent articles in COLUMNS concerning the careers of graduates in various fields from the college. I have never seen a graduate of the School of Music among those who have been featured. Many of these went into teaching and devoted their lives to their students and to the forming of choirs and instrumental groups. Some of them also found time to further their own music careers as performers and became well-known.

I believe that the work of these musicians should be recognized for what they have accomplished in our schools but also for what they have accomplished as performers in their chosen fields. Some of us still continue our practice and public performance into old age.

Musicians of note who are teacher performers include J. D. Bledsoe, '53; Don Thurber, '69; Paul Haynes, '75; and Margarita (Dieta) Merriman, '46.

Charles L. Pierce, '51

Tiger in Talge!

I was surprised to see so much white space in the InBox page of the recent COLUMNS (Summer 2009).

It was such a similarly slow news day (circa 1983) that prompted me to insert in the classifieds of the *Southern Accent*, in small type, a joke that I had heard that I intended to be entertaining: "Q. What happened to the man-eating tiger who went through Talge Hall? A. It starved."

The ferocity of the responses surprised me. Those few words in tiny type evoked weeks of vehement letters to the editor from both genders. As a social scientist, I observed this phenomenon with some degree of objectivity and concluded that there must be some level of sensitivity to the subject. As a resident of Talge myself, I thought the short joke humorous—as I did the subsequent firestorm it sparked. Can't we laugh a little at ourselves and not take ourselves so seriously? Although I never hid my authorship, I didn't advertise it either. People apparently just assumed that a Thatcher resident posted it.

While I'm certainly not suggesting that we be insensitive, can't we occasionally poke fun at ourselves?

J.T. Shim, '86

Lessons Learned?

In the summer 2009 article "Southern's Survival," R. Lynn Sauls, '56, wrote an insightful review of a success story; however, whoever wrote the next piece, "Poised to Thrive Again," failed to make application of the lessons learned then for Southern today.

Building new facilities, marketing, and seeking more scholarships (handouts) does not enable more students to either attend or stay in school. Too many years ago (1964-1969), I was able to finish my degree due to a work-study program that taught me more lessons about life than any classroom instruction did. Paradoxically, secular campuses have instituted internship programs with local businesses while Adventist campuses have all but eliminated opportunities for students to earn their way through college. We continue to promote debt as the solution.

Our department repeatedly receives applications from graduates with \$50,000-\$80,000 of school debt, a considerable burden on young adults just starting out in the work world trying to maintain a minimal standard of living while meeting their just obligations. The economy is not the only problem; when Adventists deviate from guidance provided and lessons learned, we complicate rather than resolve challenges. While perpetuation of the institution is important, the institution exists to serve the needs of people (students rather than administration). Hopefully, Southern balances that principle when striving to thrive.

Gary R. Councill, '69

Editor's Note: In addition to scholarships, which help students better afford college, Southern encourages students to contribute to their bill by working. The university offers approximately 1,100 student jobs on campus, and there are many more part-time jobs available to students in the community. Internships are also encouraged within the different majors, and many students complete not only one but several internships before graduating.

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.

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It was the week before Thanksgiving, the time of the semester when students and professors alike are achingly close to the holiday break but still have that last test to take (or grade). So I jumped at the chance to procrastinate when students Matt Higgins, '05, and Brad Clifford, '05, invited my wife and me to go wakeboarding on Lake Ocoee.

Mid-afternoon found us on the water, where Matt and Brad gave instructions. As we were about to face wakes of epic proportions, the students reminded us that a proper attitude was key. "Put a smile on your face, thanking God for that moment in time," they told us, "because an afternoon in the boat is infinitely better than an afternoon spent in the books."

Getting on the Water

I was first up and learned that while the drysuit admirably served its purpose, it was useless for my exposed head, hands, and feet, swiftly leading to the end of my run once numbness set in. Matt and then Brad each rode, astounding us with their smooth riding style and extensive tricks. It was like watching the pros ride on video, but we had prime seats in the back of the boat.

My wife, Becca, then proceeded to charge the wake, motivated by the guys and apparently embracing their "go big or go home" philosophy. She landed a couple of monster jumps out in the flats and then drew laughter from the boat on an impressive splash resulting from what seemed an innocuous crash. As we circled the boat to pick her up, she was grimacing. Upon closer inspection, we could see her foot visibly swelling. Perhaps in a foretelling of his future occupation as an orthopedic surgeon, Matt said, "I don't think your foot is supposed to look like that."

Trials and Tribulation

We quickly motored back to the boat launch, intent on getting us home as fast as possible. There we saw our first problem: the van had a flat tire. *That's okay*, I thought. *A quick tire change and we'll be on our way.*

Brad opened the back of the van and lifted away the flooring only to discover our second problem: the spare tire compartment was as dark and empty as Wright Hall on a Friday afternoon.

Looking around at the parking lot vacant of other vehicles, Brad pulled out his cell phone, and problem three reared its ugly head: the boat ramp was too isolated to receive a cell signal, even at the top of the largest hill. By this time, Becca's foot was obscenely swollen and pain had

Put a Smile on Your Face

By Loren Barnhurst, Chemistry Department

set in, the temperature was dropping, and nightfall was fast approaching.

As we were contemplating our next action, we heard an engine coming down the road and a couple of good ol' Southern boys, rich in stereotypes, drove up and asked, "Y'all alright?" After we explained our situation, they offered to take Brad to the nearest gas station to get some Fix-a-Flat.

After what seemed an eternity but was probably only 30 minutes Brad arrived and successfully inflated the tire minutes before the light faded from the sky.

The End in Sight

As we pulled out of the parking lot, we commiserated on our bad luck—but congratulated each other on overcoming our obstacles while keeping smiles on our faces. Weaving through the back roads on the way to the main highway, we simultaneously rounded a bend with a pickup traveling in the opposite direction. A startling crash resounded just after the truck had passed us. Brad immediately stopped the van and got out to see that the pickup had cut the corner of the bend too sharply and its oversize side mirror had hit the trailer guideposts, snapping the mirror back violently into his driver's side window, which promptly shattered into a thousand pieces. Continuing the



Loren Barnhurst has discovered that a positive attitude makes everything better—whether it's wakeboarding in cold water or facing unexpected problems.

evening debacle, the pickup driver adamantly claimed that we were at fault, which forced us to wait for another hour until the police officer finally arrived to pronounce otherwise. Mercifully, our streak of misfortune had run its course and the rest of the trip to Collegedale proved uneventful.

If only our story had a perfect ending! But alas life often mocks fairy tales. My wife's fracture required six months in a cast, but years later, what I remember most about that day is the lesson Matt, Brad, and my wife demonstrated throughout our ordeal. They showed that attitude in life is what determines your reality. A smile on your face, even in the most trying of circumstances, can influence those around you and cause them to smile in turn, creating a cyclical wave of optimism and happiness. ✨

Denny Nooner Igniting Change

Church members in the Dallas/Fort Worth area were concerned that there wasn't much being done to have an impact on young people and the community.

Denny Nooner, '83, decided to change that. He recalled the time at Southern when he held a cookout with one of his friends and was pleasantly surprised by the event's strong turnout. He had always known that one day he would use his organizational skills and passion for a greater cause, and with the solicitation of the church members, the opportunity presented itself.

So Denny, who is owner of a health care management company and a real estate development company, created Come Worship (CW), an organization that produces Christian festivals as an outreach effort. CW focuses on reflecting God, reaching out to the community, and improving the world.

Earlier this year, CW orchestrated IGNITE, one of the largest Christian festivals of the year in Fort Worth, Texas. With activities for kids, performances by well-known contemporary Christian artists, and inspiring seminars and

sermons by eminent motivational speakers, the event attracted an attendance of about 7,000 people from the community. That day, 60 people gave their hearts to God.

Denny's passion for God, fervor for justice, and interest in youth served as the fuel for the creation of IGNITE. More fuel to his fire is a passion for mission and service. At the festival, Denny arranged for attendees to bring canned goods for community shelters.

Continuing this theme of service, Denny is currently devoting his time to TwentyTen, a historic Christian benefit concert that will raise money for 10 impoverished cities and villages. The event will take place in 2010 and will involve 20 non-governmental organizations.

Denny is excited about the possibilities that TwentyTen has in store. The elation of putting on a huge program for the benefit of others and helping others getting to know Christ is an opportunity that Denny could not resist.

"Mission and service has impacted me greatly," says Denny. "I realized that we can help others in different ways and that if people work together, a lot can get done."

~ Cristina Hernandez-Persia



While preparing for a career in nursing, Suranny Villamizar is already impacting the lives of those around her.

Suranny Villamizar A Blessing to Many

Riiiiing, riiiiing, riiiiing, sounded the nurses' station phone as Suranny Villamizar, junior nursing major, stood filling out paperwork during her practicum.

"It's for you," the receptionist said, handing Suranny the phone.

Who would be calling me? Suranny wondered while taking the phone. "Hello?"

"Hi, this is the lady you took care of who was discharged today," said the voice on the other line. "I am just calling to thank you and to say that I'm very grateful you were my nurse today."

Suranny was thankful to God for the opportunity to bless another's life—a blessing her friends and colleagues say she has been to many.

Having grown up in Colombia, Suranny moved to the United States with her family at the age of 17. Two years later, Suranny uncovered an adventure awaiting her as she began studying nursing at Southern Adventist University.

One of the ways Suranny contributes to campus life is by using her passion for health and ministry to enrich fellow students' lives as wellness coordinator for the Chaplain's Office. In this position, Suranny works to educate students about how to get the most out of their college experience by following simple health principles, such as getting good nutrition, sleep, and spiritual nourishment.

"Sometimes I feel like I don't want to graduate," says Suranny, "because I love Southern so much. It's been full of learning and great memories. What I love most are the people. They make it the best!"

Suranny still has time at Southern; she won't be graduating with her bachelor's until 2011, allowing her to also be here when the new nursing building, Florida Hospital Hall, opens.

"I know that students are going to benefit greatly from the donations that people have given to make the new nursing building possible," says Suranny. "Because of them, we will have better classrooms, labs, and equipment. That will help us become better nurses."

~ Suzanne Ocsai

Josip Mocnik The Man Behind the Books

It was a cold morning in early November when Josip Mocnik began the Marathon in the Park race in Rockville, Maryland. At the 15-mile marker, Mocnik "hit the wall."

"How can I go on?" he asked himself.

His life's race had begun in Croatia where, as a teenager, he was influenced by his brother to begin attending an Adventist church. Being baptized into the church was a major event in his spiritual and personal development. He had discovered a purpose in life. He must go on.

He had met his wife, Mirta, in an Adventist church in Croatia. Without her support, he could not have obtained the education that prepared him to be a director of libraries. He must go on.

While Mirta worked to help support their growing family, he attended Newbold College. It was there, while working in the college library, that his interest in library science developed. He must keep running.

He then continued his education, eventually being granted a full scholarship to Bowling Green State University, where he had completed nearly all of the requirements for a doctorate in history. Only the dissertation remained. Finding it difficult to work on his dissertation while working full time, he had taken up running to help him cope with the stress. He must finish the race.

He did finish. He was among the first half of the runners to reach the finish line in Bethesda.

"Daddy, we have been waiting a long time for you," said his boys, who looked disappointed. "Where were you, Daddy? We wanted you to win. We wanted you to be first."

But being first isn't all that matters; sometimes finishing the race is enough. With renewed energy, Mocnik completed his doctoral dissertation. And in this intellectual race, he did come first, earning Bowling Green State University's Distinguished Dissertation Award for best dissertation completed that year.

That same year, Mocnik became director of libraries at Southern Adventist University. He has no doubt that God brought him to Southern just in time to have a part in McKee Library's major renovations, which have dramatically increased



Josip Mocnik is running the library much like how he ran a marathon—with determination.

library usage (see page 8).

"This is not the time to stop improving the library," says Mocnik. "We must go on."

"This year has been a very rewarding one for

me," he adds. "I am excited to work at a place where students not only get a degree but also preparation for life and eternity."

~ R. Lynn Sauls



Denny Nooner orchestrated one of the largest Christian festivals of the year.



“The library has gotten cool again,”
 a journalism student recently told her professor.

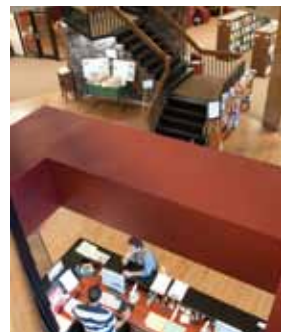


Lobby Area

This assessment seems to be shared by many students based on the library’s increased patronage (up 30 percent this past year). It is the result of concentrated efforts to make an old building relevant to today’s students, an effort that included a face-lift in time for the library’s big “4-0” celebration in 2010.

As you step into the library, one of the first things you’ll notice is its openness and the natural light that lends to a cheery atmosphere.

“There is an emphasis on openness,” says Josip Mocnik, library director. “We want students and faculty to find the library a useful and pleasant place.”



In the periodicals section, there are warmly lit reading nooks as well as one of the secrets to the library’s ability to increase space without increasing square footage: compact shelving. These shelving units, where older issues of the more commonly used periodicals are stored, are on a track system so they can be moved, allowing the periodicals to be stored in a tight space yet still easily accessed when needed.

Periodicals



Knowledge Commons

Having the periodicals in a more compact area allowed the addition of a Knowledge Commons to the library floor plan. This multipurpose area is used for hosting events such as poetry readings or art openings.

“The Knowledge Commons helps us think of the library in a different way,” says Mocnik. “It’s not just a place that houses educational resources but a place where things happen.”

One thing that happens at the beginning of an academic year is the opportunity for new students to leave their handprint on a large mural. Faculty handprints surrounding the outside of the mural symbolize the embrace that Southern hopes all students will experience on campus.

When not being used for an event, the Knowledge Commons is used as a casual study area.



Still Cool at 40

McKee Library’s Middle-Age Makeover

By R. Lynn Sauls, '56



Offices

As you pass by the offices, a librarian steps out to greet you. What were once closed-in offices are now glassed in, giving librarians more opportunity to interact with library patrons.

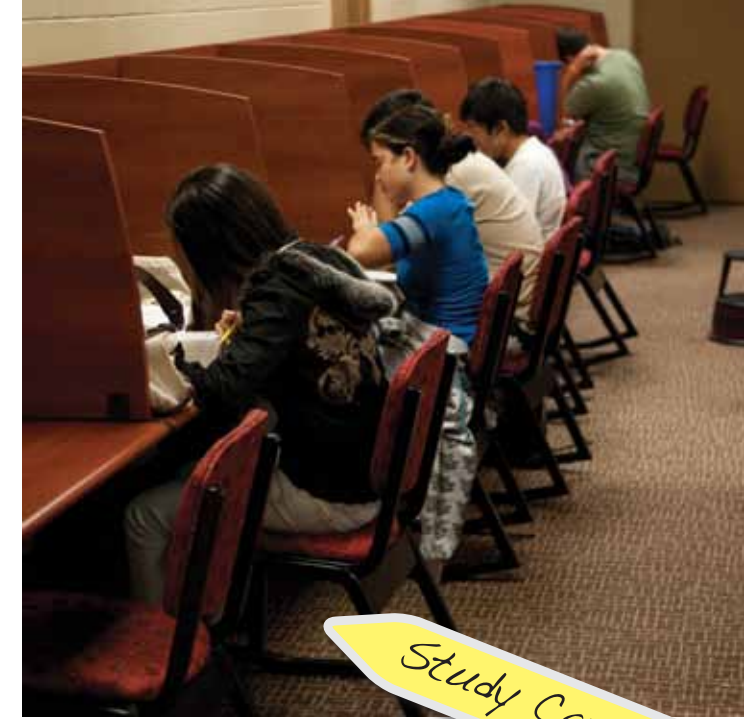
"Librarians are very accessible," says Katie McGrath, '00, the new reference/instruction librarian. "We are located in glass offices with open doors and are very proactive. If you look lost, a librarian will come to your aid."

When McKee Library was dedicated in the fall of 1970, Southern students had never seen a personal computer or a laptop—and had never heard of email, e-newsletters, or e-anything. Since then, the library has put its card catalog online, made computers available, and added many electronic databases to its growing collection of books and periodicals.

Fifty computers enable patrons to locate materials in the library and retrieve information from the databases and Internet.

Students and faculty may also access library-subscribed databases from their own computers 24 hours a day. "More and more of the business that patrons conduct with the library is online," says Mocnik.

Computers



Study Carrels

Students may also sign out one of 20 library-owned laptops or use their own laptop and the library's Wi-Fi access to do research at one of the 17 large study carrels.

"The study carrels are huge," says McGrath. "There is room for a laptop and plenty of room to spread out."

Comfy chairs with attached work surfaces provide another popular study location.

Comfy Chairs



The book shelves have wider aisles, allowing more natural light to fill the library. Furthermore, the stacks have been arranged so that you can see from one end of the library to the other.

Along the columns between the shelving, inspirational quotes on Plexiglas backgrounds provide for thoughtful reflection on education and wisdom.

Stacks



Study Rooms

One very popular feature of the library's facelift is the new group study rooms, which can be reserved online. Some have screens and projectors to which students can connect their laptops to practice presentations. Most of the rooms can seat six to eight people. One can seat 12. "You can work on group projects and don't have to be quiet," says Danika Ouzounian, a junior mathematics and physics major.

Through the Years

A Quick Glance at How Southern's library Has Grown

	Daniels Library in 1968 (shortly before the move to the current building)	McKee Library in 1970 (shortly after the move)	McKee Library Today
Square Footage	12,000	45,000	45,000
Volumes	46,447	69,000	160,000
Electronic Books	0	0	27,000
Electronic Journals	0	0	37,000
Computer Stations	0	0	50
Laptop Computers	0	0	20

Here in the basement, less-frequently-used books and periodicals are stored in compact shelving. While they are still easily accessible by a librarian upon request, having them stored this way opens up the main area of the library for more interactive learning.

Changing styles of learning call for changes in university libraries. Leaving behind the old stereotype of a warehouse for books and periodicals, universities throughout the country are converting their libraries into places where students and faculty find convenient expanded Internet and database access plus areas for group learning or individual research. With a little creativity, Southern Adventist University has taken the same building designed for 1970s research needs and brought it into the 21st century. It may be the library that's celebrating a birthday, but it's the people within who are benefitting from its birthday gifts. ✧



Basement Storage

Finding More Than Books

By R. Lynn Sauls, '56

Everyone knows that librarians are a great resource for helping you find books or elusive bits of information. What not everyone realizes is that librarians can also (whether intentionally or not) help you find your spouse.

In fact, Stanley Brown, who was head librarian when I was a student here, made a decision that led to my finding the love of my life.

Helen (Baat) Sauls, '52, '63, came to Southern in 1950, hoping for a job in the library. A graduate of Mount Vernon Academy, she was scheduled to go to Washington Missionary College, where a job in the library there awaited her. But she wanted to attend Southern. She arrived on campus a week before freshmen orientation and made an appointment to see Brown.

"I'm not hiring any more women," Brown told her. Helen was very disappointed. By the next morning, she had decided to pack up and go to Washington Missionary College after all. But a message interrupted her plans. "Mr. Brown would like to see you right away," the women's residence hall desk monitor told her.

When Helen arrived at Brown's office, he told her he had changed his mind. "You may have the job," he said.

Had he not changed his mind, I might never have

met Helen—my wife of 57 years.

And I've learned that we're not the only alumni who can trace their romance back to the library.

Clifford, '68, and Judie (Martin) Port, '68, socialized and fell in love in the reading room—without talking. The library was then a place for studying not socializing, and then-Assistant Librarian Myrtle Watrous was careful to enforce quietness in the area and not let couples sit together. So it was by leaving notes for each other hidden in a large dictionary that Clifford and Judie developed a love that led to a wedding shortly after their graduation.

In at least one case, a librarian intentionally helped a Southern student in his search for love.

David Klinedinst, '94, transferred to Southern for the summer session right before his senior year. Every day, he went alone to the library to study for a class. During his first week on campus, the library summer manager approached him and started asking him questions. Then she introduced him to every girl who worked in the library.

I should have come here sooner, he thought.

Then the librarian suggested that he go to the



On their wedding day, David and Marquita revisit the spot where they first met.

cafeteria and sit at a table by himself. "A nice young lady will sit down beside you," she said.

The next day he did just as she instructed, and sure enough, halfway through the meal Marquita (Counts) Klinedinst, '94, came and joined him. They have been together ever since.

Whether the role librarians played in helping us find love was intentional or something they were trying to avoid, those of us who can trace our marriages back to a life-changing moment in the library will always be grateful for the assistance we got from those always-helpful librarians. ✧



"We can all have a special part in fulfilling the dreams of nursing students."

As an alum of Southern's nursing program and later a member of the faculty, I have had years of involvement in the School of Nursing. My desire to help keep the program strong inspired me to become chair of the Campaign for Health and Healing, a campaign to fund the new Florida Hospital Hall. This facility will expand the variety of educational tools and opportunities available to nursing students, allowing them to be better equipped to go out and serve the world.

— Kathy Schleier, '80

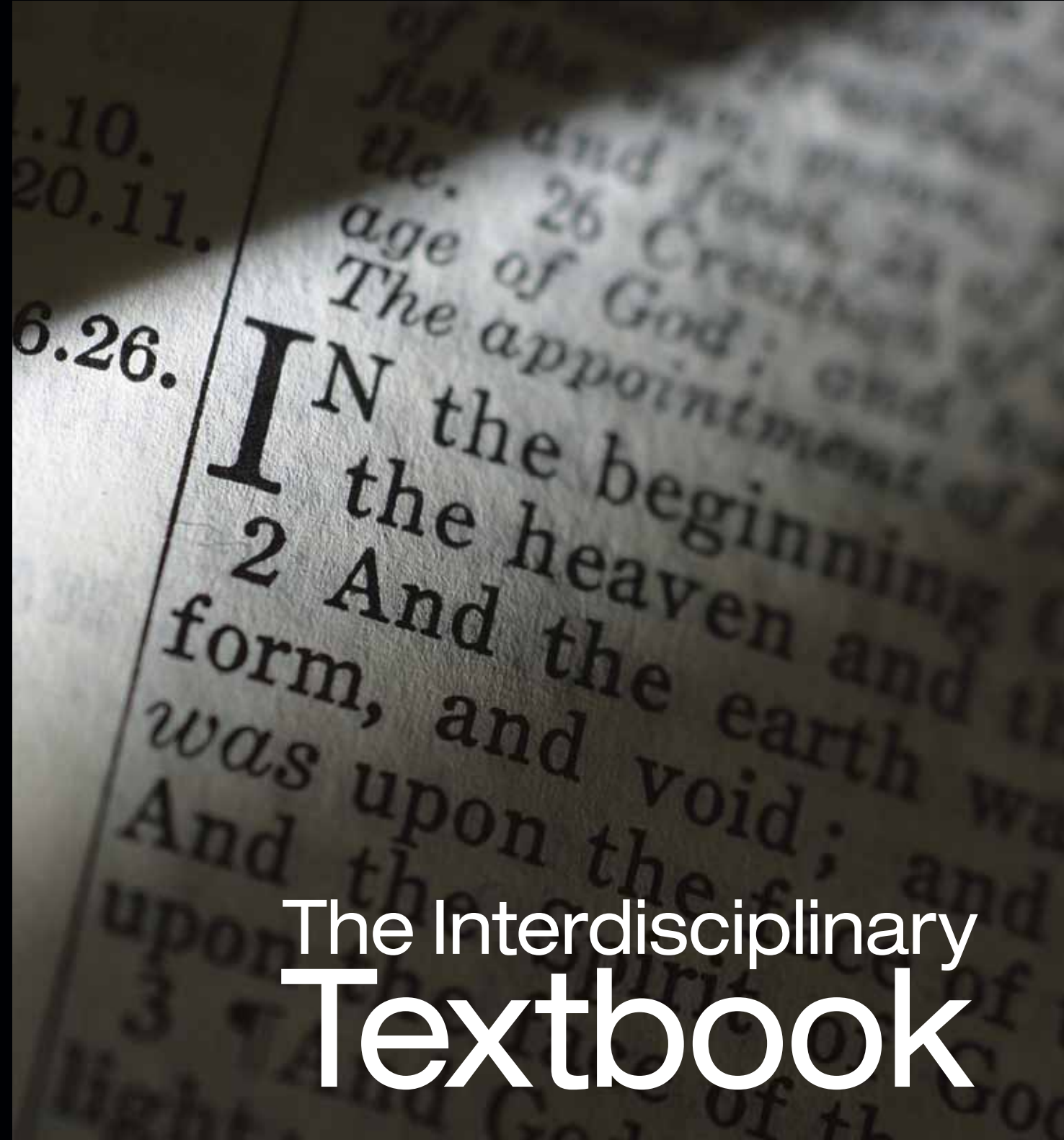
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Power for Mind & Soul



The Interdisciplinary Textbook

From the business principles illustrated in our favorite stories to the psychological wisdom found in Jesus' words, the Bible contains academic wisdom for every discipline. Within this book, Southern Adventist University professors find inspiration for their daily lives—and for their classroom lectures. Step into their classes as they reveal what they have discovered from the Source of all Knowledge.

Literature and the Three Angels' Messages

By Jan Haluska, English Department

Most of our brightest young Adventists will read worldly literature at some point. I am dedicated to helping them approach it critically from a Biblical perspective. As I teach literature, I keep in mind the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12.

1. *Fear God and give glory to Him.* I want to approach each course in obedience to His will, reminding the students daily of our dependence on His grace.

2. *Babylon is fallen.* Like most English teachers, I spend much of my time presenting the literature of Babylon but try to demonstrate its inferiority to Biblical truth.

3. *The mark of the beast.* The Church of Rome stands against using the Bible as our only perfect guide for example, in Sabbath observance. The papacy has also treated certain philosophers with the veneration that should be reserved for Bible writers. Thus I want to show how man's unaided thinking is always inferior to God's Word.

Those messages can help guide a discussion of works like *The Republic* by Plato.

In that dialogue, Socrates theorizes a system of government that will provide justice for everyone. That is a noble goal, but without Biblical guidance, the result is horrible. For instance, he says that ideally "all the women should be in common with all the men; similarly all children should be held in common, and no parent should know its child, or child its parent." Students are surprised to find that Socrates wanted

to replace the family with state control.

"What was God's system for creating a nation?" I ask them. After a discussion, a student will typically say, "Why, it's just the opposite! The whole of Israel was a family!"

Moreover, Socrates' ideal government can only survive through a series of lies. He stated that "our rulers will have to employ a great deal of fiction and deceit for the benefit of their subjects."

I ask the students how that statement fits in with his supposed dedication to truth.

Healthy skepticism toward Socrates can guide students away from Babylon's uncritical reverence for him, preparing them to be more wary of the philosopher's non-Biblical thinking about spiritual matters in later readings.

Adventist literary study may demonstrate the



Jan Haluska teaches literature, reminding students of the superiority of God's Word.

superiority of God's Word in many ways. In my classroom, the three angels' messages are a great help. ♦

"Basically every day, Dr. Haluska incorporates some form of Christianity into his lectures. I've always found them stimulating and reassuring."

— Megan Elmendorf, junior English major

Psychology and Its True Principals

By Ruth WilliamsMorris,
School of Education and Psychology

Very early in my teaching career, I came across these lines in Ellen White's book *Mind, Character, and Personality*: "The true principles of psychology are found in the Holy

Spiritual Connections in Haluska's Classes

- Each class begins with prayer.
- Literature students are encouraged to view every author's work in context with Bible truth.
- The Bible and Ellen White's writings are used to illustrate good writing principles.

Scriptures." Come with me to three of the courses I teach to see how that connection comes to life in my classroom.

The first class is Cognitive Psychology, and the chapter of the day is on the foibles of human memory as evidenced in eyewitness testimony. I start with the text in Deuteronomy 17:6, "Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness" (NKJV).

"Why not one witness?" I ask. As we review the scientific literature on the topic, it becomes quite clear that God, knowing how malleable and subject to distortion our memories are, commanded that one eyewitness account was not sufficient in death penalty cases.

In General Psychology, we learn that scientific evidence shows there are structural changes in the brain as a result of simple cognitive activities such as imagining and imagery. In short, the brain doesn't make a great distinction between what we imagine and what we actually do. My text for the day is Matthew 5:27-28, "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (NKJV).

The Research Design and Statistics I class is studying probability theory. Central to understanding research in psychology is the fact that life is uncertain and each person is unique. Probability theory gives a way to try to anticipate and measure uncertainty. Not knowing for sure and being uncertain can be quite unsettling. I want to share with my students that in these uncertain times and in dealing with unpredictable people, we can always depend on God, who is constantly faithful. I enter the classroom armed with three texts: Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today,

and forever” (NKJV); James 1:17, “Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow” (NASB); and 2 Corinthians 1:20, “For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen.” Jesus is the great constant! We can trust a God who represents certainty.

I continue to search the scriptures for that intersect between psychology and God’s word. This search is what has led me to a true and honest study of the brain God gave us. ♦



Ruth WilliamsMorris finds the true principles of psychology to be rooted in Scripture.

“I really appreciated the way Dr. WilliamsMorris would give us the facts but always mention her Christian bias.”

– Daphne Bastien, sophomore psychology major

Business and the Good Shepherd

By Michael E. Cafferky, School of Business and Management

“Know that the lord Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture” Psalm 100:3 (NASB).

These words became the basis for a complete overhaul of one of my favorite class periods in one of my favorite courses: Ethical, Social, and Legal Environment of Business, where I teach about the agency theory. After talking briefly about what it means

to be someone’s agent, to act on someone else’s behalf, we start a Biblical journey, examining the amazing imagery of sheep, owner-shepherds, and hiring-shepherds.

We begin with Jacob and his experience working for Laban and review evidence from ancient Babylonian shepherd agreements. I ask students to tell me where the sheep owners are likely to have difficulties with their hired shepherds.

Then we take a whirlwind tour of agents in the Bible, with particular focus on shepherd agents, who cared for the wealth-building assets of their owners. As the discussion continues, the imagery takes on a distinct spiritual meaning. We look at the symbolism of people being sheep and God being the shepherd before studying hired shepherds who allow the sheep to wander. I ask the students how people, as sheep, can get

scattered and what it means to be scattered. We consider the laments of the prophet Ezekiel over the nation of Israel, where we learn a little more about the work of a shepherd and the plight of scattered sheep who were supposed to be cared for by what turned out to be false shepherds. Here we pick up again the linkage between David and the Messiah before leaping into the Gospels to look at Matthew 2:6. For a few minutes we bring our thinking to John 10, where we learn more about hired shepherds and the Good, Noble Shepherd. Once again the questions of what it means to be scattered come up, creating a natural segue to the call of the gospel. If you are one of God’s sheep, what is it that has scattered you away from God? I ask if you realize that you have been scattered, who would you rather have responsible for bringing you back: the Shepherd or a hired hand?

Though not every business subject lends to such an in-depth Bible study as this one, there are many occasions throughout the year when verses from the Bible add an extra layer of meaning to the principles we’re learning in class. ♦

“Dr. Cafferky is in tune with the lives of the students and their prayer requests and praises and applying practical spirituality. His day-to-day decisions are decisions always made with the Lord’s leading.”

– Joshua Hooker, senior management major



Michael Cafferky uses Biblical stories to illustrate business concepts.

Spiritual Connections in Cafferky’s Classes

- Hymns are sometimes sung at the beginning of class.
- Recorded religious music is played five minutes before class starts.
- Bible verse and devotional thoughts are shared at the start of each class.
- Class begins or ends with prayer, with students invited to share requests.
- Term paper assignments have students comparing claims of the Christian faith with the topic they are studying.
- Full class period is devoted to discussing faith-sharing in secular workplaces.
- Story is shared about an organization where organizational leaders attempt to integrate faith in their work.
- Students read one or more articles or book chapters where issues of faith and integration are addressed.

Biology and the Creator

By David Ekkens, Biology Department

The thing that makes teaching biology fun is that one can introduce students to exciting, new things and also show God’s activities in the creation of life.

Ideas of intelligent design have created interest in the scientific community. But what about structures that seem to be badly designed? Sooner or later, students will hear this argument used against intelligent design: “God was

“Dr. Ekkens has a very good balance in presenting the controversy between evolution and creation. By the way he interacts and in conversation with the students, you can tell that his personal faith plays a major role.”

– Ingeborg Hogganvik, senior psychology major

a bad engineer. Look how He designed the eye backwards.”

In my Animal Histology class, I tell students, “Critics claim that the eye is poorly designed.”

A student might respond, “Why do they think that?”

“Well, they think that it is inefficient because the pathways of light and nerve impulses are opposite,” I reply. “How can our discussion of the eye’s tissues support a belief that God designed life?”

Then I discuss the way the eye works, including details that these critics, who have different areas of expertise, may not be aware of. As light enters the eye, it passes through the cornea, aqueous humor, lens, and vitreous humor before finally hitting the retina, the light sensitive layer. There are 12 layers of retinal cells that the light passes through; the very back (outer) layer is the rods and cones. These cells convert light to nerve impulses that then reverse direction to the front surface of the retina. Here, nerve fibers pass along the inner surface of the retina and exit as the optic nerve. But what some people fail to think about is that light is toxic; many free radicals are produced when light hits the rods and cones. Free radicals destroy cells if we don’t get them out of there.

Using a photomicrograph of the retina, I might say, “Look at this layer, the retinal pigment epithelium (RPE). It’s right here, just outside of the rods and cones. The RPE cells constantly remove the outer sections of the rods and cones, getting rid of the free radicals.”

If the cells in the retina were oriented the other way (what some people consider the “right” way), free radicals would build up in the interior of the eye and wouldn’t likely be efficiently removed. Having the retinal receptors in front would not enable the essential process of cellular rejuvenation and removal of toxins.

So it turns out the eye is very efficiently



David Ekkens explains the intricate designs of God’s creations.

designed, and we can forget about God not being a good engineer. The problem is with humans trying to understand God’s creation.

In all my classes, the students and I see design like this that shows tangible evidence of a Creator,

evidence that leads us to join with the psalmist and exclaim, “I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made” Psalm 139:14. ✨

Spiritual Connections in WilliamsMorris’ Classes

- Lesson plan preparation includes prayer for specific Bible texts or spiritual principles to be brought to mind.
- Students are reminded that Christians should be the best scholars.
- Class begins with a prayer inviting Jesus to sit in and help with the day’s topic.
- Students’ attempts to find spiritual applications are encouraged and affirmed.
- Unexpected teachable moments are sought, during which spiritual applications are made.

Spiritual Connections in Ekkens’ Classes

- Devotional texts at the beginning of class follow the theme of characteristics that Christians need in their lives.
- God’s wisdom is discussed as His creations are studied.
- Stories are shared of how graduates have used their education to impact lives for God.

The Climb of a Lifetime

Student-Established Nonprofit Focuses on Providing Humanitarian Aid in Afghanistan

by Suzanne Ocsai, sophomore journalism major



Because of the culture, taking pictures of girls or women is often difficult. Luther captured this photo during his trip in 2008.



“After seeing the Afghan’s indescribable needs firsthand, I couldn’t imagine doing anything else but helping them,” says Luther. “When I’m actively serving others, I get an incredible sense of fulfillment and happiness that I’ve never found anywhere else.”

Beginning the Climb

This summer, Luther and fellow Southern student Michael Taylor, sophomore international studies major, traveled to Afghanistan to begin developing Noshaq’s infrastructure within the country. Development has included researching projects, locating transportation and office space, hiring employees, and ensuring that the organization is recognized by the Afghan government.

“The process has been daunting at times,” Luther says. “But when I see the tremendous needs that exist here and when I realize how Noshaq will be part of the solution, it makes the present tasks more than worth it.”

A big part in Noshaq’s process of creating sustainable micro-business projects is sitting down with the village leaders and asking what they need and what trade-skills their communities can capitalize on.

“We want to tailor-fit our projects based on the unique needs of each village,” explains Luther, “collectively brainstorming to create a project that both the village and Noshaq can be equally excited about. It’s about creating a sense of teamwork and a bond of friendship with the people we’re trying to help.”

Because Luther is seeking the villages that are in greatest need, physically reaching them provides an adventure of its own. The roads are often insufficient and at times impassible. Luther tells of a time when his group encountered “a deep, yawning canyon spanning dozens of feet wide” where a road once was, prior to being washed out. But Noshaq workers aren’t letting little inconveniences hold them back.

“When siting project locations, we don’t play it easy,” says Luther. “We look for the

From looking at the picture above, one might expect Luther to have taken it near a quiet pueblo village in the American West. However, the slope Luther was standing on is more than 6,000 miles east in the Central Asian country of Afghanistan. In this country, Luther is seeking to help the people there through the creation of sustainable micro-business opportunities.

Eyeing the Mountain

When Luther first traveled to Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, on a humanitarian-aid trip with his parents in 2006, he was expecting a desert wasteland. Instead, what he discovered provided him with a profound appreciation for this war-torn country and its people.

“I found a country filled with stunning scenery, friendly people, and a fascinating culture,” says Luther. “I also saw a country filled with incredible hardship and poverty as a result of hundreds of years of war. I spent time talking with Afghans, and I heard their stories of tragedy. These stories will stay with me forever.”

Luther returned to the States with a longing to help the people and country that had captured his heart. After another humanitarian trip to Afghanistan in the summer of 2008, he returned with an even greater resolve to create a tangible way to help the poorest of people living within this aspiring country gain financial stability. And on February 12 of this year, Luther, a sophomore international business major, founded Noshaq, Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to this cause. Using the metaphor of climbing a mountain to represent the work he seeks to accomplish, Luther named the organization after Afghanistan’s tallest mountain.



poorest, most remote, and hardest-to-reach villages in the country to implement our projects. Sometimes that involves exhausting drives on brain-rattling roads and lung-burning hikes up the sides of mountains. But we’re up to the challenge, and we’re excited about helping people who have never been helped before.”

Currently, Noshaq focuses its resources on reconstructing the silk textile industry in some of the more rural villages. Afghans are familiar with the fact that the Silk Road, an ancient merchant trade route, stretched through a portion of Afghanistan for centuries, giving this project not only practical value but also historical worth.

Onward to the Summit

Looking toward the future, Luther is brainstorming ways the nonprofit can become a financially sustainable operation. One option that Luther is researching involves developing a wind energy farm in the United States to support Noshaq’s endeavors overseas.

“Through the farm, we’d be both helping the environment and reaching out to the world’s needy,” says Luther. “A tremendous amount of front-loaded funding would no doubt be required to make this a reality, but as I think of the future of Noshaq, I see a lot of potential. We’re currently a very small organization, but that means we have a lot of room for growth. New challenges, goals, and ideas motivate me and fill me with energy.”

Luther knows firsthand, from his previous trips and experiences in Afghanistan, that working within this complex society will bring seemingly insurmountable challenges, as all worthy endeavors do. But he is committed to the mission of Noshaq and won’t allow trepidation to inhibit his dream of helping the world’s disadvantaged.

“The biggest factor that seems to hold people back from their dreams is fear,” says Luther. “Fear of the unknown; fear of risk; fear of failure. We don’t serve a God of fear—we serve a God of action. If you know what you’re supposed to be doing with your life, don’t let fear hold you back.” ✨

During his second humanitarian-aid trip in Afghanistan, Luther caught this snapshot of the striking contrast between two vastly different generations.

A field of lush green grass stretches out before Luther Whiting as he stands on the slope of a small hill. Rugged mountains, sprinkled with snow, span the background of his view as cozy adobe homes sit at the base of an opposite hill. Reaching for his camera, he captures the peaceful beauty of the scene.



Reality Check

Is perception reality? Do the views future students hold about Southern prove true after they have enrolled? Curious how student's perceptions were either confirmed or changed after being on campus, we asked them to give us the scoop. Here are their candid responses.

Before coming to Southern, I thought Southern wasn't for me. I wanted to be a fashion designer, and Southern didn't offer that. I came to Southern first only because my family knew one of the art teachers and wanted me to take an art class from him.

Since coming to Southern, I've seen that Southern is where I belong. From the moment I stepped on campus for my art class, I was welcomed with open arms and made to feel completely comfortable and at home. The help I received was so amazing that it was like I was the only student registering and almost as if registration, a hectic time, was these people's favorite day of the year.

I immediately found professors who were willing to help me reach my dream of becoming a clothing designer while continuing as a student at Southern. One professor even volunteered to advise me as I looked into an interdisciplinary degree. As I continued studying at Southern, I realized God was calling me to be a journalism major. The fashion dream hasn't completely left me, but now I see my future with fashion as more of a mission than a career. I still talk with my first adviser about my fashion dreams, and I know that if I ever need advice about anything, she will be there for me.

~ Suzanne Ocsai, sophomore journalism major

Before coming to Southern, I thought it was overly conservative and cliquish.

Since coming to Southern, I've seen how a truly diverse and welcoming university can completely capture my heart. Southern provided a supportive environment for my personal growth, especially in the spiritual realm.

~ Barry Howe, '09

Before coming to Southern, I thought college life would be simple. I came expecting to receive a solid education, to meet different people, and to be in a spiritual environment.

Since coming to Southern, I've seen that life is challenging, but with God on your side, what can you not do? Everything I expected happened. I am very glad I chose to come to Southern. Here, I feel like I am part of something all the time. I've met amazing people and made friends that I will always keep close. The most valuable lesson I learned was that one must always keep God close. Instead of walking with God, I ran! I remember sitting down in a worship and hearing the speaker talk about relationships. He mentioned that we treat our earthly friends well by listening to them, speaking with them on a daily basis, trusting them, and treating them with respect. Then he asked a question that has stuck with me: "If we claim that Jesus is our friend, why do we treat Him so wrong? Why do we disrespect Him, ignore Him sometimes?" That question made me realize that building a relationship with Him is so important, and I am happy that I learned that. I will truly miss the environment and people at Southern Adventist University, but I feel that I am ready to take on the world in all aspects.

~ Lunelle Bertresse, '09

Before coming to Southern, I thought Southern was just a small-town university.

Since coming to Southern, I've seen a small-town university that is second to none. Whatever your studies are, you will get the very best there is to offer. In addition, the spiritual atmosphere, the diversity of students, and the support of the faculty and staff are all designed to aid you in becoming a better person.

~ Myron Jenkins, sophomore theology major

Before I came to Southern, I thought my college professors would be intimidating and unbending professionals.

Since coming to Southern, I've seen that the faculty members are dedicated to our personal and academic success. My freshman English teacher and adviser would take time to sit down and talk to me when I just stopped by her office to ask her a quick question. I was unsure about my major, and she'd take time to talk to me about it and discuss my different options. Three years later, she still greets me by name on the sidewalk. She knows the difference 10 minutes and a smile can make. My religion professors have also taken the time to care about more than just what grade I earned. One in particular took two hours out of his already hectic schedule to talk when I needed some direction. My experience at Southern has been greatly enriched by my Christ-centered professors who made the time to care.

~ Emily Caza, junior nursing major

Before coming to Southern, I thought that it would be exciting to finally go to school with people of my same faith.

Since coming to Southern, I've seen that my perspective has slightly changed. The academics at Southern are actually better than I expected. I was pleasantly surprised with the knowledgeable teachers and inspiring speakers.

The only thing that's bothered me is that most of the kids don't have a view of the world outside the Adventist circle. Growing up, most of my friends were not Adventists; therefore, I had many opportunities to share my faith. It may seem strange, but it was easier for me to maintain a solid relationship with Jesus while I was not in an Adventist environment.

Despite this, I find my classes here to be inspiring. Last year I particularly enjoyed taking Adventist Heritage. I learned about the founders of our church, their struggles, and their faith. It made me proud to be an Adventist. I love my church and its message, and Southern is giving me the tools to spread this message.

~ Kristina Kyle, junior chemistry major

Before coming to Southern, I thought activities would be boring.

Since coming to Southern, I've seen that this is far from true. Just in the first month, there was the clubs expo, a '90s-themed welcome back party, and Joker release party. Soon after, I joined the writer's and chess clubs and participated in Community Service Day.

~ Laurin Ward, sophomore animation major

But wait, there's more!

Want to hear more about these students' and recent graduates' experiences at Southern? These are some of the authors from Southern's giveaway devotional book (edited by Clifford Goldstein, attended) for the upcoming General Conference session. So if you're going to be in Atlanta, Georgia, next summer, be sure to stop by Southern's booth to pick up your own copy.



Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets

By Greg King, School of Religion



I sat at my desk, pondering the invitation I had received to be one of the contributors to the mammoth *Andrews Study Bible* project. It was indeed an honor to be asked to join the group of Adventist theologians and exegetes who had agreed to be involved in this significant new endeavor, but how should I respond?

I was being asked to write study notes for six of the twelve Minor Prophets, a block of books that comprises the last section of the Old Testament. In a day and age when anything labeled “old” is considered passé and outdated, and anything called “minor” is viewed as inconsequential, the fact that these books were Old Testament Minor Prophets made for two strikes against them.

Why not something from the Gospels, whose importance is universally acknowledged by Christians and which present the life and death of Jesus, the heart of the Biblical story? Or why not Daniel or Revelation, which contain exciting prophecies that speak to the last days of earth’s history? Why the Old Testament Minor Prophets?

And yet, as I thought about it, an invitation to write on Joel, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi was a request that was right up my alley. After all, in my Old Testament Studies class, I tell my students on a regular basis that the books we call “the Old Testament” are the only Bible Jesus had and that they are of foundational importance in understanding the totality of Scripture. Additionally, I point out that the Lord gave us 66 books in the Bible for a reason and that each book makes its own unique contribution to Biblical theology that should not be overlooked or ignored. Moreover, just as a rich vein of a precious metal can sometimes be discovered in an abandoned mine, sometimes those oft-overlooked books of Scripture can provide a rich payoff if we will only devote the time and attention necessary to study them.

So I agreed to take on this assignment. And as I studied these books and wrote the book introductions and explanatory notes for each one, it became apparent that the Minor Prophets, though they may be small in size (which is why they were dubbed “minor”), are major in importance! In fact, they speak with freshness, vitality, and power to God’s church in the 21st century. Among their emphases and themes that are especially relevant and important, I gleaned the following major lessons.

Joel: Return to the Lord

In the prophet Joel’s time, a terrible disaster had occurred. Myriads of locusts had invaded the land, devouring everything in their path. The scope and magnitude of the plague were unprecedented. The very existence of both people and animals was in question because their food supply had been devoured.

What was the appropriate response of the people to this dire situation? Should their reaction be to simply bewail their fate, recognizing that bad things happen to all of us? No!

Instead, the prophet calls them to see in current events a call to whole-hearted repentance and recommitment to a loving God. “Return to the lord your God,” he proclaims, “for He is gracious and merciful” (Joel 2:13, NKJV).

The same challenge speaks to our time. As we move toward the return of our Lord, as the pace of natural disasters in the world around us quickens, as the winds of strife are unloosed, leaving us to wonder about the survival of civilization, let us not view plague, pestilence, disease, or war merely as a sad twist of fate or a stroke of bad luck. Rather, in line with Joel’s message, may we hear in them the exhortation of the Lord: “Turn to Me with all your heart” (Joel 2:12, NKJV).

Habakkuk: Trust God Anyway

The prophet Habakkuk was perplexed. What was taking place around him didn’t make sense. The wicked were prospering and the righteous were being oppressed. The prophet had complained to the Lord about the injustice of it all, but God didn’t seem to be doing anything.

There are various ways Habakkuk could have responded to this situation. He could have stopped talking with God in prayer, deciding that prayer is not worthwhile without seeing tangible results. Or he could have concluded that the Lord simply didn’t care about His people. But he did something much better.

Habakkuk resolved to trust in God however

bad external circumstances might be. Though his life might be falling apart, with no supporting props to uphold him and indeed, nothing to sustain him, he still declared, “Yet I will rejoice in the lord; I will joy in the God of my salvation” (Habakkuk 3:18, NKJV).

This declaration is needed today. When our circumstances are not as we would like them to be, when we face challenges and setbacks, may we resolve to trust God no matter what.

Zephaniah: God Will Save a Remnant

The prophet Zephaniah had a threatening message for his contemporaries. Due to their idolatry and mistreatment of one another, judgment loomed large on the horizon, threatening to engulf all humanity.

In light of such a dire message, was there any hope to be found? Did Zephaniah have any positive announcement to proclaim?

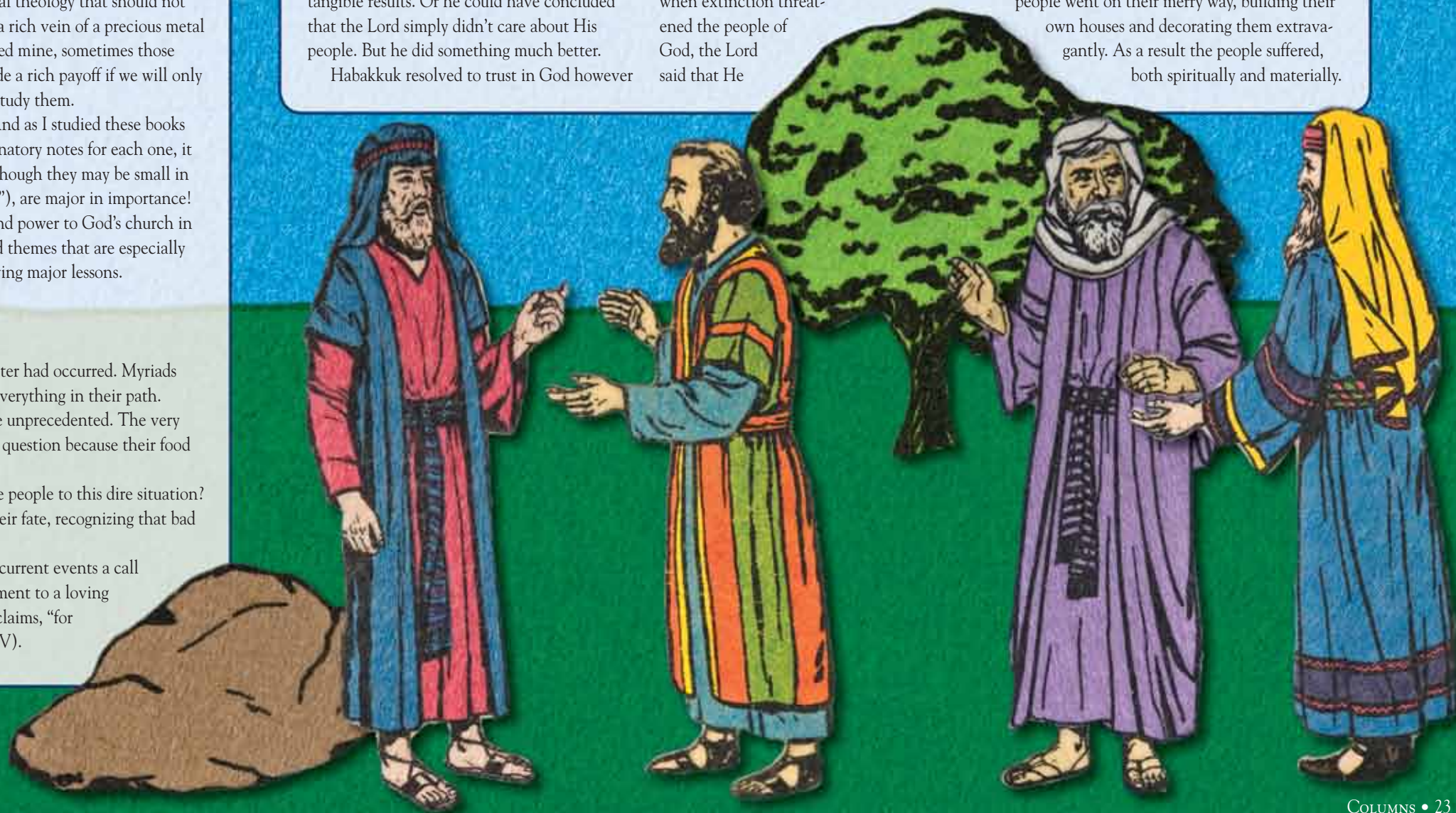
Yes, there was a silver lining in the dark cloud of judgment, for as was always the case when extinction threatened the people of God, the Lord said that He

would spare a group of them, a remnant. “I will leave in your midst a meek and humble people, and they shall trust in the name of the lord” (Zephaniah 3:12, NKJV).

This promise has relevance for our day. When threats to our existence loom, whether from a rogue dictator with nuclear weapons or a flu virus, God’s promise of deliverance holds true. His people will not disappear from the earth. Rather, a remnant will be preserved to bear witness by their words and in their lives to the matchless grace and saving power of their Lord.

Haggai: Get Your Priorities Right

The challenge that confronted the prophet Haggai was all too familiar. It was the challenge of misplaced priorities. Though the people had come back from exile in Babylon, their hearts were unchanged. They were still afflicted with selfishness and materialism; therefore the house of God, the Holy Temple, lay in ruins while the people went on their merry way, building their own houses and decorating them extravagantly. As a result the people suffered, both spiritually and materially.



The prophet had no choice but to call them to accountability. Motivated by a holy zeal, he challenged them to get their priorities in order. "Build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified, says the lord" (Haggai 1:8, NKJV).

The same challenge is necessary today. All too often the materialism of our world infects the people of God and robs us of the blessings

we might receive. Though materially affluent, we are spiritually impoverished. We need to hear Haggai's call to his contemporaries to reorder their priorities. When our priorities are right, when we seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness, we will experience the abundant life God wants to bestow on each one of us.

Zechariah: Rejoice in the Coming King

The people in Zechariah's day were afflicted with spiritual amnesia. They seemed to have forgotten that the Lord loved them and cared for them. They did not remember that He was working on their behalf in a difficult and turbulent time. They had little recollection of His promise to send the Messiah to deliver them.

To counteract this situation, Zechariah did the best thing he could do. He underscored God's majestic promise of the coming Savior, the One who would deliver them. "Rejoice greatly," the prophet announced, because "your King is coming to you" (Zechariah 9:9, NKJV).

Zechariah's context is not unlike our own. We also suffer from spiritual amnesia. We often cast our eyes earthward and focus on the world around us instead of looking up to God and the wonderful future He has promised. In such times, we need to hear the same assurance of the prophet, the promise that our King is coming back to take His children home to be with Him forever.

Malachi: Let Your Life Match Your Words

The Israelites may have been called the people of God, but they sure weren't living like it. Their walk didn't match their talk! Malachi was dismayed that, though they spoke pious words to God and shed tears before Him, the people were disobeying Him by violating the marriage covenant and not being faithful in their tithes and offerings. And their spiritual leaders were no better, offering blemished and handicapped animals as sacrifices to the Lord.

As did his fellow prophets, Malachi indicted such blatant hypocrisy and called his people to live out their high calling. They must live in harmony with the divine covenant that God gave so long ago.

This challenge bears repeating today. All too frequently there is little noticeable difference between the professed people of God and the world around us. We are barren trees, and the fruit of the Spirit is absent from our lives.

We need to hear the call of Malachi to repent of our hypocrisy and disobedience. Only when the sanctifying Holy Spirit is working in our hearts will our actions be consistent with our claims. Only then will our lives bear witness that Jesus is Lord. ✧

What is the Andrews Study Bible?

By Jennifer Meyer, senior public relations major

The *Andrews Study Bible*, set to be published in 2010, is the first Adventist study Bible. It will include many features of traditional study Bibles, such as book introductions and outlines, study notes with a cross-reference system, essays, maps, and charts. The study notes will focus on revealing the defined themes of the Christian faith, explaining difficult texts, and clarifying texts that challenge the Adventist faith.

The *Andrews Study Bible* will be a new tool to present the ancient Word of God in a format that is accessible and appealing to modern Adventists," says Greg King, dean of the School of Religion. ✧

Moving Beyond Words

By Manuela Asaftei, senior public relations major

Times have changed. Journalism is no longer just about print, so journalists must learn to move confidently across a variety of media platforms. The School of Journalism and Communication is training its students to do just that.

"Everything has converged online; therefore, our students must be Internet savvy," says Stephen Ruf, associate professor. "They should know how to produce a podcast, upload a video, post a blog, and create a digital slideshow because in the media business right now, that's where the jobs are."

Keeping Up With Changing Times

Changes in the curriculum include dropping the word "print" from the journalism degree to reflect the transition to a more integrated major where students do more than just write for print. In addition, the mass communication degree has a new media emphasis. Within this emphasis, students learn to create podcast, video, web, and digital photography productions.

For new media majors in particular, one new class offered this fall demonstrates how students will gain experience across multiple communication fields. Interactive Online Journalism is an advanced web design course that focuses on multimedia storytelling. It incorporates elements of audio, video, and photos as well as the written word. This class introduces students to essential software and technology used in today's journalism, such as Flash, Wordpress, SoundSlides, and Twitter. Each student is using a palm-sized high-definition camcorder to capture interviews, a growing trend among newspaper reporters. The camcorder is used to capture interviews on video and upload content to a news-based website on the Internet.

"Journalism is now about complete and total storytelling, not just through one of our senses or through one medium," says Laure Chamberlain, associate professor. "This new journalism isn't just about learning new technologies, but about learning a new all-encompassing way to tell the story. Students have to learn convergence if they want to be the emerging and surviving voice of journalism."

Growth and Change

Student enrollment from seven years ago to the present has grown from 141 to 173 students working on majors or minors in journalism and

communication. Eight full-time faculty and a few adjunct professors make up the teaching team.

Since the enrollment has increased, so has the use of the Mac Lab in Brock Hall 102. With every student in the School of Journalism and Communication utilizing the room for class or projects, the room needed an upgrade from the 2000 renovations. Among the changes are the higher computer desks around the perimeter of the room, allowing professors to assist students while standing up.

To accommodate the growing public relations major, the school saw a need to have its own PRSSA (Public Relations Student Society of America) chapter. This allows students to participate and be active in PRSSA without leaving campus. Those who join this organization benefit from networking with local professionals, engaging in career workshops, and being involved in various career advancement activities.

Putting It to Practice

When it comes to the field of journalism and communication, students have multiple ways of gaining hands-on experience on campus.

The *Southern Breeze*, a student-produced podcast was founded by two journalism students in 2006. Now a function of the Student Association, the podcast is staffed by eight School of Journalism and Communication students who produce and help with everything from hosting the shows

to brainstorming for themes and stories. By being a part of the *Southern Breeze* team, the students learn interviewing, news reporting, and storytelling skills, as well as audio editing and podcast production skills. These episodes stream on the Internet, and listeners can tune in by visiting journalism.southern.edu/breeze.

All of these venues enable the School of Journalism and Communication students to not only keep up with the current trends in the media market but to hone their skills as they prepare to enter a world that is becoming more convergent every day and moving beyond words.

"Journalism today is much more than ink on paper," says Greg Rumsey, dean. "Our school is excited to be a part of this technology explosion as we prepare students to step into a world of new media." ✧



Students use the newly renovated journalism Mac lab to complete assignments ranging from article composition to web design.



SHARE SOUTHERN WITH SOMEONE ELSE

What Southern memories do you cherish most? Your experiences are likely formed around the lifetime friends you made, caring professors, and our Christ-centered campus. Southern is still like that today, and you have a chance to share your college experience with others.

If someone you know is thinking about attending Southern, help them arrange a free visit to campus, or encourage them to join one of our special free* PreviewSouthern events.

- November 12-13, 2009
- January 21-22, 2010
- February 15, 2010
- March 25-26, 2010
- April 15-16, 2010
- June 10-11, 2010

*Includes free meals and lodging for students interested in attending Southern. Student families are encouraged to visit too.



Collegedale, Tennessee
35.04 (35°2') | -85.06 (-85°3')



Power for Mind & Soul

COLUMNS Cover Models Graduate

Seventeen years ago, COLUMNS predicted that “if time were to be” the issue’s front cover models, Bethany (Canosa) Hill and Bo Benge, would graduate in the class of 2009. And that’s exactly what happened on May 3, 2009.

As young children, Bethany and Bo were both asked to dress up in pioneer clothing and pose together with Southern’s famous yellow doll house for the issue of COLUMNS commemorating Southern’s centennial. The experience brought different reactions from the two children.

“I remember not wanting to do the photo shoot because I had to dress up in that weird

outfit,” remembers Bo.

Yet Bethany was eager about the prospect of actually stepping foot within the little iron-clad gate. “I was excited about finally getting a chance to see the doll house close up,” says Bethany. “It was always locked inside the fence, so I never really saw it except when my parents and I would drive by every day on my way to school.”

Bethany and Bo grew up around Southern for much of their childhoods. This allowed them to take advantage of Southern activities and facilities before becoming students.

“Both of my older sisters went to Southern, so I was familiar with it from a very young age,” says Bethany. “They were both on Gym-Masters, and I was on Gym Kids. I spent two of my years at Southern on Gym-Masters too. It was a lot of fun.”

Iles P.E. Center, longtime home of Gym-Masters, also provided hours of fun for Bo, starting when his dad was hired by Southern to be intramurals and aquatics director after working as the physical education teacher at A.W. Spalding Elementary School.

“I must have been about 12 years old when my dad [Bob Benge] started working in the School of Physical Education, Health, and Wellness,” says Bo. “My brother and I would go over to the gym and play basketball all the time.”

For Bethany, who moved to Maryland with her parents at the age of 12, returning to Southern for college was like coming home.

“I still considered Tennessee home,” says Bethany. “I really enjoyed being a student at Southern. I made some lifelong friendships and grew

spiritually as well as intellectually.”

When Bo entered Southern, it reminded his parents, both alumni, of their own college days.

“Since my wife, Debbie (Hoffmann), ’78, and I graduated from Southern, we felt a sense of nostalgia having him come here to attend,” says Bob Benge, ’77, professor in the School of Physical Education, Health, and Wellness.

Both Bethany and Bo agree that they learned a lot from their extended time at Southern.

“Southern has been a big part of my life from the beginning,” says Bethany. “I wouldn’t have it any other way. I know God is working on that campus, and it’s a wonderful place to spend your college years.”

~ Suzanne Ocsai

Southern Experiences Record Enrollment for 10th Consecutive Year

Enrollment at Southern Adventist University is at a record high for the 10th year in a row. The university welcomed 2,891 students at the beginning of the fall semester. An incoming class of 603 freshmen makes the second largest freshman class ever. This year also marks the university’s 14th successive year of continuous growth.

“For the university to achieve enrollment growth despite the uncertain economic times is a testament to the value of the Christian education and environment we offer,” says President Gordon Bietz.

Total enrollment for this semester is up by 114 students from last year at this time, showing a 4 percent increase. The graduate program grew by 41 students.

“Our master’s degrees in nursing, business, counseling, religion, and education are very convenient for the working professional and are a popular option for those who are looking for a Christian graduate school,” says Marc Grundy, associate vice president for Marketing and Enrollment Services.

Southern’s student body includes students from all 50 states and more than 50 foreign countries. More than 200 international students are enrolled this fall.

~ Jennifer Meyer



Seventeen years after this COLUMNS cover photo was taken, Bethany (Canosa) Hill and Bo Benge graduated from Southern, Bethany with a degree in health science and Bo with a degree in nursing.

Upcoming Events

Alumni Homecoming	October 29-November 1
Symphony Orchestra Concert	November 15
Thanksgiving Break	November 25-29
Christmas on the Promenade	December 1
Wind Symphony Christmas Concert	December 5
School of Music Christmas Concert	December 12
Christmas Break	December 17-January 4
Outdoor Education Winter Intensive	January 17-28

To arrange your visit, call 1.800.SOUTHERN or go to www.southern.edu/visit.

Lights Volunteers Contribute More Than \$180,000 Worth of Volunteer Time

“What! No vegetables? I’m going to tell your mom!” chides Bill Wilson, volunteer coordinator, good-naturedly while serving a student in the cafeteria. Both laugh, and the student agrees to try some green beans.

But Wilson’s not just getting students to eat their veggies at Southern; he’s volunteering his time to serve an institution he believes in.

When Wilson retired from his position as vice president of Florida Hospital and moved to Tennessee, he visited President Gordon Bietz.

“I need something to do,” Wilson told Bietz. “I don’t need a job, I just need to do something.”

“Go talk with Advancement,” Bietz told Wilson. “We’re starting a volunteer program.”

Wilson did just that, and by the end of his meeting in Advancement, he was the new volunteer coordinator.

That was in 2006. Today there are more than 50 volunteers who help wherever they are needed around Southern’s campus. Whether helping a department with mailings or serving in the cafeteria, the volunteers get the job done.

Their hours of dedicated work calculate into large monetary value. Since the beginning, the volunteers have donated approximately 9,600 hours of service to Southern, which is valued at

more than \$180,000.

Like Wilson, Joan Shultz, who won the 2009 Lights Volunteer commitment award, finds fulfillment in service.

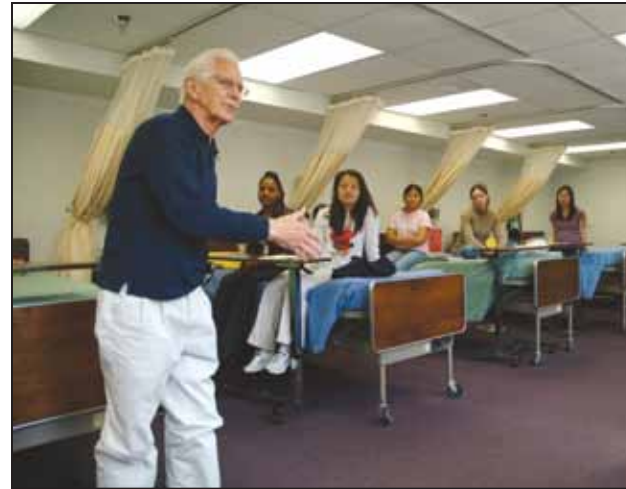
“It’s just rewarding to know that you’ve helped someone,” says Shultz. “It gives me a feeling that I’ve accomplished something when I finish a job.”

One of the ways Shultz spends her volunteer hours is by helping her daughter, Kari Shultz, director of student life and activities, with stocking and organizing supplies.

The volunteers’ dedication also shines outside Southern’s physical campus and goes beyond the hours they commit to on-campus volunteer work.

When Bert Ringer, director of Florida recruitment, called and asked Wilson to meet new students from China at the airport, Wilson and his wife become instant surrogate parents.

“Meeting these kids has been most rewarding,” says Wilson. “We got attached to them and just decided these are our kids. I told them, ‘Whenever you need anything, you call me.’”



Lights Volunteer Roy Albers gives a worship talk to nursing students.

They have called, and he’s been there for them each time. The Wilsons make sure the students have what they need when they get sick or if they need a place to stay, the Wilsons open their home.

“The reason we’re alive is to touch peoples’ lives,” says Wilson. “Every day when I get up I pray, ‘God help me to conscientiously touch someone’s life today.’ Being a volunteer puts me in contact with the students so I can do that.”

Alumni interested in becoming Lights Volunteers can contact Bill Wilson at 423.236.2618.

~ Suzanne Ocsai

Artist Shapes Science

Freelance artist Ron Hight climbs a ladder in Hickman Hall, armed with a paintbrush and a container with samples of various shades of purple. He scrutinizes his handiwork on the endoplasmic reticulum, and deciding that it needs a different hue of purple, he dips his paintbrush. With one fluid motion, the design on the wall begins to take on a new form.

After 15 years of working with The Institute for Creation Research (ICR) near San Diego, California, Hight decided to move his life and family to Nashville, Tennessee.

Although Hight resided in Nashville, he traveled back to the ICR occasionally to update a few displays. Most of the time, he worked in the back rooms away from the general viewing areas and tourists.

One day, he grabbed his gear and ladder and started to fix up a display in the museum. That same day, now-retired Biology Professor Earl Aagaard, while on a trip to California, stopped at the ICR hoping for an in-depth look at their creation museum. Before starting the tour, the guide introduced Aagaard to Hight as he worked on one of the displays. Once Hight heard that Aagaard wanted to tour the museum, he offered to come along.

“Neither of us thought anything much about his presence,” says Aagaard. “Except that he was able to tell me far more than the official guide about the actual making of the displays.”

After the tour, Aagaard described to Hight the plan for a creation origins exhibit in Hickman Hall. Murals, 3D exhibits, graphics, videos, interactive activities, an ice cave, photos, and descriptions of each display were just some of the ideas starting to be bounced around by the professors. When Hight learned that Southern Adventist University is only a few hours from his new home, he knew this meeting had been God-led and expressed interest in helping with the project.

“I consider it providential that we happened to be at the ICR museum at the same time,” says Aagaard. “I have no idea how we’d have met otherwise.”

Finally, a year-and-a-half ago, after enough funds were gathered to start, Hight began the project by painting the interior of



Ron Hight’s artwork will be an integral part of the creation origins exhibit in Hickman Science Center.

the cell on the walls of the south entrance of Hickman Hall.

“Our goal,” says Hight, “is to present the creationist viewpoint in an attractive, professional, and educational way.” He believes that his time at the ICR, working with creation exhibits, was a perfect preparation for this project.

“The issues involving the creation and evolution debate are more complex than others realize,” says Hight. “When people visit these hallways, we want them to get insight into what goes on in the classroom by what they see in the exhibit. The more complex the world, the less likely that evolution could ever begin to account for the

biological or cosmological structures we see. It is not a leap of faith to believe in God, but a reasonable faith based on the evidence we see all around us.”

Depending on the manpower and donations, the department hopes to have the major sections and the front entry completed by the General Conference Session to be held in Atlanta next summer.

“University time, talent, and resources will continue to be invested in this project,” says Chris Carey, the vice president for Advancement. “The only way this capital project may be successful is through significant philanthropic support.”

~ Manuela Asaftei

Master’s Graduate Leads New Charter School

Steve Bontekoe’s career path began to unfold in the fifth grade, when an understanding teacher allowed the restless boy to get up from his desk and stand by the window.

Steve had always been a student who had a hard time staying focused at his desk. “I was better able to focus when I moved around and could stimulate multiple senses as opposed to only having my eyes in a book,” says Steve.

As a restless high school student, Steve visited Southern Adventist University for the first time to attend a cross-country tournament. While on campus, Steve was able to exert his energy on



Giving students the opportunity to learn through nature, Steve Bontekoe’s school is adjacent to 7,000 acres of protected wilderness land.

the outdoor education ropes course. He met the staff and appreciated the care and commitment to students that they expressed.

While a college student at a local university, Steve’s adviser gave him a flyer announcing the outdoor education master’s program at Southern. Immediately, Steve remembered his first visit to the university and how much he had enjoyed it.

Seeing that the outdoor education program would involve hands-on experience and real-life applications, Steve decided that he couldn’t pass up the opportunity to benefit from such a unique degree, with the added bonus of a Christian emphasis.

Having completed the program in 2008, Steve is now using the skills acquired from that degree in his new position as director of programs for Ivy Academy, a new charter school in Hamilton County that is teaching grades 9-12

through outdoor education. “This is a school for people who want to learn outside, for kids who may be underperforming in normal classes because that style does not grab their attention,” says Steve.

Rather than having a principal, the school will operate under the leadership of two directors: a director of operations and a director of programs. The director of operations will handle the business and accounting aspect for the school, while Steve’s position as director of programs will allow him to teach while overseeing the assessments, curriculum, and educational aspect of teacher development.

“I will use all my life experiences and knowledge that I have gained in classes to impact my students,” says Steve. “My attitude toward education is that it is important but also needs to be more than books and lectures. Education is solidified through action.” ~ Cristina Hernandez-Persia

Social Networking Helps Alumni Stay Connected

Alumni from all over the world are getting and staying connected with each other and with the Southern Adventist University community through social networking websites. How can you get in the loop? Here are some of our favorite ways to network with the university online.

On Twitter...

Keep up with the latest news by following [SouthernNews](#).

Find out what’s on the president’s mind by following [gordonbietz](#).

Where: [www.twitter.com](#)

On Facebook...

Get updates about alumni events by joining [Southern Adventist University Alumni](#).

Contribute to the creation of COLUMNS magazine by joining [Columns Magazine Fans](#).

Where: [www.facebook.com](#)

On LinkedIn...

Be notified about ways Southern can enhance your career by joining [Southern Adventist University – Alumni Relations](#).

Where: [www.linkedin.com](#)

On Southern’s alumni website...

Post personal updates in [Class Notes](#). Discuss topics on the [Message Boards](#).

Where: [alumni.southern.edu](#)

~ Cristina Hernandez-Persia

First Alumni Baby Certificate Redeemed

Molly Huisman received \$200 toward her first year at Southern Adventist University just for being born. She isn't the only student to be this lucky, but she is the first to redeem her Alumni Baby Certificate.

Molly, a freshman nursing major, received her certificate in 1993, and her father has been keeping it safe ever since.

"It has been in the attic for many years," says her father, David Huisman, controller of Accounting Services at Southern.

The Alumni Baby Certificate program was started in 1992 as a way to connect with alumni. The way it worked was that alumni with infants born since 1991 could send their baby's name to Alumni Relations and receive a certificate for \$200 that would go toward the child's tuition if they chose to attend Southern.

Over a period of 14 years, Southern issued 1,502 certificates. Molly is the first recipient to actually redeem hers, although several other students have since redeemed theirs as well.

"We would love to have 100 percent redeemed, but realistically people may have lost them or forgotten they even had one," says Evonne Crook, director of Alumni Relations. "We want this to be a reminder, though; we want the full benefit for the student."

The program was discontinued in 2006 and replaced with the Alumni Baby Gifts Program. When Alumni Relations receives information about children born to alumni, age-appropriate gifts are sent to celebrate various milestones such as births, first birthdays, beginning of school years, and early teen years. Each gift

includes a reminder that Southern is looking forward to and preparing for the next generation of future Southern alumni.

Certificates will continue to be honored as long as the students holding them decide to enroll at Southern.

"I really appreciate it as a student, and it definitely made Southern a more attractive option," says Molly. "I felt blessed to have some extra money toward my bill."

~ Brittany Russel



Sixteen years after receiving it, Molly Huisman has redeemed her Alumni Baby Certificate.

New Market Research Institute Established on Campus

The new Market Research Institute, established recently on Southern Adventist University's campus, is providing students with real-world experiences and scholarships while helping businesses and nonprofits conduct high-quality research at a low cost.

Lisa Goolsby, assistant professor in Southern's School of Business and Management and faculty administrator for the Market Research Institute, says that the institute is being created with the needs of students in mind.

"I would sometimes struggle to provide students with projects that would give them a real view into the world," says Goolsby. "The institute is great because students can have more opportunities to observe real projects and exercise their skills."

Some of the services provided by the institute include focus groups, one-on-one interviews, and telephonic survey measuring tools.

~ Cristina Hernandez-Persia

Arnold Cochran Becomes First Recipient of Presidential Ambassador Award

Southern Adventist University presented Arnold Cochran, '54, with the first Presidential Ambassador Award, which recognizes individuals who have done an outstanding job of supporting the university in various ways, such as through loyalty and commitment.

"Arnold's efforts and service stimulated us to create the Presidential Ambassador Award," says President Gordon Bietz.

Among Arnold's contributions to South-

ern was the creation of the SMC-ites, a social organization for alumni who graduated from Southern between 1945 and 1955. The program's main focus was to raise funds for Southern's student missionaries.

Since their induction, the SMC-ites have raised approximately \$80,000 for Southern's student missionaries.

Arnold's other activities with the Alumni Association include calling alumni and volunteering to serving as Alumni Associa-

tion president and as a member of the Alumni Council.

Arnold says that his services are simply a way for him to give back to the university.

"I am greatly honored and thankful that I received the Presidential Ambassador Award," says Arnold. "I give Southern a lot of credit for taking a Depression baby—a backward, poorly dressed country farmer—and turning him into a businessman."

~ Cristina Hernandez-Persia

Good News From a Far Country

By Ashlee Chism, sophomore English and history major

After spending nearly a semester on the mile-long Marshallese island of Ebeye, I was weary and ready for some good news like that described in Proverbs 25:25: "As cold water to a weary soul, so is good news from a far country" (NKJV).

Weary

I was weary of heated discussions with one of my roommates over holiday celebrations and tired of worrying about what she thought of me every time I defended my point of view.

I was weary of the cultural norm of arriving late for appointments, especially after waiting three hours for a local boat driver to arrive and take us to a picnic we had planned.

And I was becoming very weary of the Ebeye Seventh-day Adventist High School sophomore class's behavior.

I was their sponsor, and we were preparing for the school's Christmas concert. My class picked the song "O Little Town of Bethlehem" to sing.

They got me to sing the verses of the song to them but then refused to practice. I cajoled them: "Hey, come on, guys, you don't want to be the only class not to sing. You guys want to be in the concert, don't you?" I continued repeating these words, hoping the encouragement would sink in.

The class just sat there and stared at me. Some of them whispered to each other.

With rising frustration, I threatened them. "If you don't practice, you just won't be in the concert," I said. "I'll bring the principal up here and have him talk to you." Nothing worked.

As I vented about the experience to fellow student missionaries, I felt like a failure.

I worried what other people thought of my teaching skills, and I started to think I wasn't doing any good as a student missionary, even questioning whether or not I was supposed to be on Ebeye.

Loved

God's answer to my questioning came in the form of a Christmas box, which looked like any other priority mail package I'd received during the year.

The box didn't come as a complete surprise. After all, Southern's Chaplain's Office had asked me to compile a list of wants and needs.

Nevertheless, it was exciting to know that my university supported my efforts of teaching English to high school students on a bright and tiny island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

When I opened my Christmas box, I spotted a CD case labeled in the handwriting of one of my friends from Southern. I immediately thought, *How cool! They got my friends to help!*

Then, as I dug through the box, pulling out sandals, Thousand Island dressing, friend-compiled CDs, and sweet tarts, I found a note from three friends stating that they had adopted me as "their" student missionary. They said that they had selected and bought my gifts that were in the box. They even said they wanted to include more but didn't have enough room.

Rejuvenated

I was flabbergasted—and deeply touched—by what my friends had done.

I hadn't realized that student missionaries could be adopted by their fellow college students.

To learn that my friends cared that much about me, even when I was 7,000 miles away, floored me.

I literally jumped around our apartment, squealing with delight.

That box was my good news.

The Christmas box boosted my mood and also reaffirmed a lesson that God had been teaching me: I have people in my life who truly love and support me, so I don't need to be

afraid of what other people think. I don't need to fret over a disagreement with a roommate, stress about the differences between my culture and the Marshallese culture, or worry about whether or not my students' behavior makes me look bad.

I am loved—and I have the box to prove it. That certainly was good news from a far country.

God gave all of us a priority mail "Christmas box." A long time ago, Jesus Christ left His home in heaven to be born in Bethlehem, and He grew up to die a criminal's death on a Roman cross. He loved us so much that He became one of us and died for us. That's definitely Good News from a far country. ✧



An act of kindness by Ashlee Chism's friends transformed her student missionary experience.

40s

Otis, '47, and Margaret (Horne) Graves, attended, live in Apopka, Florida. Otis plays the piano in the Florida Hospital Apopka lobby.

60s

Sarah (Boyle) Sinclair, '67, is executive chief nursing officer of the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio. She is also coediting the Office of Patient Experience.

70s

Bruce Herbert, '72, is a medical technologist living in Hendersonville, North Carolina.

William Willruth, '74, is a frequent contributor to the online magazines *American Thinker* and *Fresh Conservative*.

Carol (Neall) Reynolds, '77, and her husband, Byron, live in Collegedale. She works part time as a nurse and is involved with many church ministries specializing in missions and outreach. Her son Jonathan was married in July.



80s

Ken Shaw, '80, is dean of the Florida State University Panama City campus.

Kevin, '81 and '08, and Karen (Eckright) Pires, '83, live in South Carolina, where Kevin serves as the youth/assistant pastor at the Columbia First Church. Karen works for H&R Block and is also a substitute teacher.

Kenneth Zervos, '81, is CEO of Bear and Bull Consulting, Inc. and lives in Panama. He and his wife, Fimia, have one son, Ethan, who is 4 years old.

Bruce Coston, '83, is a veterinarian in the New Market, Virginia, area. He recently authored the book *Ask the Animals: A Vet's Eye View of Pets and the People They Love*.



Marty, '83, and '01, and Gale (Covrig) Miller, attended, live in Collegedale. Marty is an associate professor in Southern's School of Education and Psychology, working specifically with the outdoor leadership program.

Shandelle Henson, '87, received the John Nevins Andrews Medallion from Andrews University for her contributions in the field of mathematical biology.



90s

Greg Norris, '91, serves in the U.S. Navy as a pediatric physical therapist. He is stationed with his wife, Ivonne (Rodriguez), '91, and kids (10-year-old Nathan and 6-year-old Joshua) in Misawa, Japan.

Kimberly (Leui) Kovach, '92, homeschools her three children and works for *The Old Schoolhouse Magazine* as a member of the Homeschool Crew that reviews products.

Shirley (Sanchez) Flores, '93, and her husband, Ruben, welcomed their daughter, Elizabeth Kaitlyn, in December.

David Graham, '93, is pastor of the Sharon Church in North Carolina and is finishing his doctor of ministry degree. He and his wife, Balinda, have been married for 19 years.

Bill Hawkes Jr., attended, married Elli Wiens on July 19.

Daniel, '94, and Julie (Miller) Graham, '94, live in Florida, where Daniel is pastoring at the Gainesville Church and finishing his doctor of ministry degree. Julie is a nurse and works with various church ministries.

Karen (Phillips) Yao, '94 and '96, was blessed by the birth of her second child, Caleb Edward Yao, on March 16. She calls him her "miracle baby" due to the fact that she was diagnosed with breast cancer when she was nine weeks pregnant with him. They underwent four surgical procedures together before he was born.

Jannett Myrie, '97 and '00, lives in Orlando, Florida. She works as a neuroscience registered nurse at Florida Hospital.

00s

Scott Hakes, '00, works as an evangelist for the Arizona Conference.

Carla David, '01 and '02, was recently featured in *Baltimore Magazine* as an outstanding businesswoman. She is the owner of Carla David Designs, LLC.

Geoffrey Cain, '03, and Stephanie Totman are getting married on October 11.

Tony, '05, and Kibs (Gilmore) Ludwig, '01 and '03, welcomed their daughter, Moriah Celicha Ludwig, on July 30. Tony was ordained as a minister in June.



Maranatha Hay, '07, is a documentary filmmaker working at Loma Linda University as a special projects editor. Her film projects include *Diary of a*

Japanese Soldier, which won Best Documentary at the 2008 SONscreen Film Festival; Emmy-nominated *Security Dogs*; and *Baby Blue*, winner of the World Nomads Travel Documentary scholarship. Maranatha is the first American to win this scholarship. She was also featured on National Public Radio after winning a storytelling competition at the Los Angeles Moth StorySLAM.

Jonathan, '07 and '09, and Lindsay (Smith) Reynolds, '07 and '09, were married on July 19 at the Chattanooga First Church.



Kelsey Belcourt, '07 and '09, is serving as a missionary in Ethiopia. She works as a nurse at Gimble Adventist Hospital.



Stella de Brito, '08, teaches English at SDA Language Institute Samyook in Korea. She enjoys spending time with her neighbors and is learning to speak Korean.



Jonathan, '08 and '09, and Rebecca (Erickson) Miller, '08 and '09, were recently married.

Kim Benfield, '09, and Doug Baasch, current, are engaged to be married. Kim is studying physical therapy at Loma Linda University.



Melissa (Maracle) Swanson, '09, and her husband, Andy, celebrated their one-year anniversary on June 29. Melissa works at *Chattanooga Magazine*.



Faculty and Staff

Marjorie Hakes, who worked at Southern from 1971 until 1995, now lives in Arizona with her grandson.

Remembrance

Edgar Randall Howard, '43, died on April 26, 2008.

Valerie (Miller) Elliott, '07, passed away on November 23, 2008, after a short battle with melanoma.

Dennis Taylor, '72, a member of the Committee of 100 and the President's Circle, passed away on August 30.

John Williams, dean of Southern's School of Visual Art and Design, passed away on October 8, after battling cancer. "Here we have the opportunity to prepare our students to enter the world without being conformed to it," Williams said in a 2005 COLUMNS article, "and that is an opportunity I take very seriously."

We'd love to hear from you (and so would your classmates). Send your updates to: columns@southern.edu or COLUMNS, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370.



"Hanging Out" at WSMC

While Curt Carlson, '69, was student manager of WSMC, he locked himself out of his windowless office on the top floor of Lynn Wood Hall. Entering Speech Professor Don Dick's office next door, Curt and I (who was at the time head announcer and news director) climbed onto the desk and removed one cork tile from the ceiling of each office.

Curt decided I should be first to go over, so I hoisted myself up and swung one leg over so that I was perched atop the wall with one leg hanging down into Dr. Dick's office and one down into Curt's completely dark office. Once I got the second leg over, my body was then extended down the wall on Curt's side. Even though it was dark, I knew it couldn't be too far to the floor, so I let go.

As I fell, both my wrists scraped violently across the edge of the metal grids that supported the ceiling tiles, ripping open jagged gashes. Knowing I was hurt, I instinctively felt for the light switch so I could survey the damage.

I didn't realize Curt had followed me and was now sitting on my previous perch atop the wall, one leg in each office. As soon as the light came on, current began inexplicably flowing through the metal grid work, delivering shocks to each of his inner thighs!

Before he could tell me of his distress, I discovered my ugly wounds and said, "I'm really hurt! I have to go to the clinic!" With that, I fled, leaving Curt atop the wall to solve his own problem.

Ray Minner, '70

Your memories could be here. For the next issue, share your photos and stories of library memories. Send your photos and brief stories to columns@southern.edu or COLUMNS Editor, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370.

Waiting Arms

By Zach Gately, attended

Chubby little arms hold my neck tightly as we dodge the other teams in a crazy version of tag. We stop to catch our breath, hoping not to be caught off guard. The hands around my neck slowly come up to my cheeks, rubbing the stubble on my chin. The rubbing turns to tickling, and I start laughing, trying to keep Jayden*, the 4-year-old on my shoulders, from falling off.

It is hard to believe that at first I hadn't wanted to come here.

Meeting Jayden

My first trip to FLAG (Fun Learning About God) Camp wasn't by choice. Though I had heard about it, FLAG Camp didn't interest me in the least bit. It sounded way too much like Vacation Bible School. I told my friend that I would only go if there was a ride, which I knew was unlikely. But when an extra car became available, I couldn't beg my way out of it like I had earlier.

Upon arriving at the low-income housing in Chattanooga where FLAG Camp was held, we had to go door-to-door and invite the kids to come play at the playground in a not-so-nice part of town. But after an afternoon of games, laughs, shoulder rides, and songs, I was hooked.

When I met Jayden, he was standing near the playground by himself, eyes down. I went over to encourage him to play, but I could only get him to hold my hand and walk around.

As we walked toward the smaller, less crowded playground set, Jayden's more energetic and outgoing brother, Eddison*, ran over with us. "Will you catch me if I jump?" he asked, climbing eagerly onto the set.

"Go for it!" I told him, and he did, flinging himself into my arms. Then he clambered back up the set and did it again. Jayden looked on and finally, after he was sure it was safe, decided to try jumping into my arms. Watching him on the edge of the playground set, I could tell that it was harder for him to trust me. I basically picked him up off the playground set that first time. When I set him down, he was grinning from ear to ear. Each time he jumped, I moved farther away, and soon he was jumping just like his brother.

From there our new friendship grew. We played together the whole time during each FLAG Camp. I helped him during craft time, and he taught me how to smile about the simple things, like a fluttering butterfly or a warm hug.



Zach Gately learned what it was like to love as Jesus loves while participating in FLAG Camp.

Sharing Jesus

Then one day, Jayden wasn't home. He wasn't home the following week or the week after. Eddison and their little sister, Dominica*, weren't showing up either.

I was beginning to wonder what had happened to their little family. Worried, I asked their neighbor where they were.

"Don't you worry," she told me. "They'll be back in about 30 minutes or so."

Sure enough, a half hour later they drove up.

As I saw their mom get out of the car, I felt a stab in my heart. There were her three little kids: 5-year-old Eddison, 4-year-old Jayden, and 2-year-old Dominica, and there the mother stood, dragging in on her cigarette and blowing out smoke as if there was no tomorrow.

The pain of imagining what the secondhand smoke was doing to those precious children became even deeper when I noticed that she was pregnant again.

I knew there was nothing I could do to change Jayden's home environment, but that didn't mean I couldn't have a positive influence on his life. I could continue to play with, hug, hold, and love him.

I can only hope that this time I've spent with Jayden is enough to help him see a different type of life—one with a hopeful future, not

just a future here on earth but also in heaven with all the rest of his playmates from FLAG Camp.

As I lift Jayden from my shoulders to take him back home after playing with him again, he tries to hold on to me. I sense that he feels the love that our group has given him and that he wants more.

Jayden thinks that love is ours, but he doesn't realize that he is experiencing the love of Jesus.

As he waves goodbye to me with the same gleeful smile he wore the day that he first dared to jump into my arms, I hope that Jayden will grow to trust God the way he's trusted me—and one day, jump eagerly into His waiting arms. ✧

*Names have been changed



Senior music performance and literature major Chelsey Appel takes advantage of the beautiful Steinway concert grand in Ackerman Auditorium as she accompanies junior social work and music performance major Deanna Baasch during a rehearsal.



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— Doreen Mayes, current student

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