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Panorama Parent Newsletter

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## Panorama October 2012

Southern Adventist University

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### Recommended Citation

Southern Adventist University, "Panorama October 2012" (2012). *Panorama Parent Newsletter*. 29.  
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# PANORAMA

parent newsletter

october 2012



## Inspiring Them to Make College Memories

Before Craig Foster came to Southern, he had never snowboarded. Now the junior biology major has done it twice on snowboarding trips to Colorado sponsored by the Southern Outdoor Adventure Program (SOAP).

That's not all Craig's done with SOAP. He's also been on the spring break surfing trip to South Carolina. And as a Student Association officer, last year he went to the Adventist Intercollegiate Association meeting in Seattle, Washington—a trip he considers to be one of the highlights of his time at Southern so far.

"College is all about trying new things, meeting new people, and making connections," Craig said.

Craig lives up to this creed in many different ways. He's a regular participant in the student-led outreach ministry, West Side 4 Jesus, and he's also begun his own Bible study group, Character Credit, with the guys in the residence hall. The small group began meeting in his room until attendance was so large it had to move.

"My parents are my biggest support," he said. "They encourage me constantly."

One of the biggest sources of inspiration for Craig is his parents' sacrifices. They

emigrated from Jamaica in order to give their children the opportunity for a better education. Now that Craig's at Southern, he continues to feel supported, and is always reminded to work hard, make good friends, and create lasting memories.

Consider the following tips on how to inspire your student to make college memories. For more information on each point, refer to the 2012-2013 parent information booklet.

**Recommend student organizations.** There are more than 50 student clubs and organizations on campus. Students can join a club related to their academic department or major, favorite hobby or skill, or even culture and background. These organizations hold several events throughout the year, giving students opportunities to meet new people and get involved. A list of these clubs can be found at [southern.edu/activities](http://southern.edu/activities).

**Suggest leadership roles.** Students who are involved in the process of improving student life are usually the ones who have the memorable experiences. There are sev-

eral organizations through which students can become campus leaders, including the Student Association, Campus Ministries, and the residence halls staffs.

**Encourage intramural participation.** More than half of the student body participates in intramurals each year, a program that organizes a variety of sports leagues and competitions. Along with getting students physically active, Southern's intramurals program creates an environment for

social and recreational enrichment with a Christian approach. For more visit [southern.edu/intramurals](http://southern.edu/intramurals).

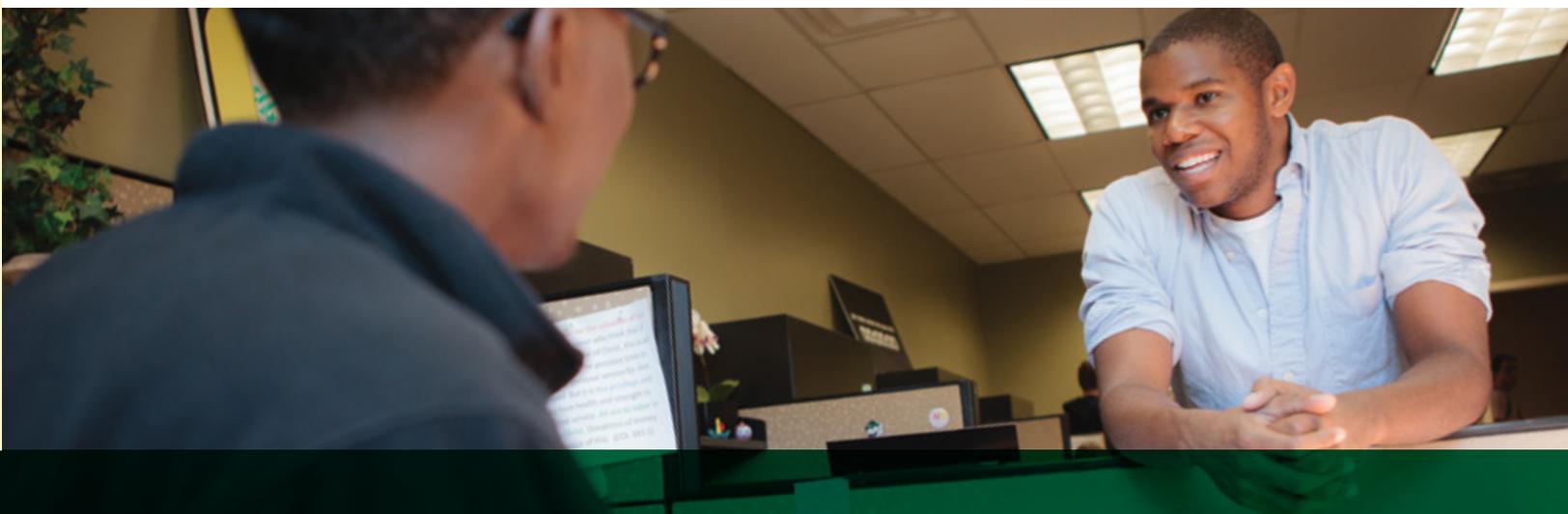
**Support trips, tours, and group outings.**

College memories are not restricted to campus; they can occur in town, or even on a daytrip. Since a majority of Southern students are out of state, parents should encourage a desire to explore Chattanooga and other parts of Tennessee. And with so many opportunities to go on school-sponsored study tours, music tours, and conventions, the opportunities to travel to new places are nearly endless.

~by Ingrid Hernandez

"My parents are my biggest support. They encourage me constantly."

-CRAIG FOSTER, JUNIOR



# Favorite Bible Verse

~Charisse De Belen, freshman computer science major

The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.

Exodus 14:14

## Parent Portal

### New Tool Provides Online Access to Student Information

Southern is very excited to tell parents about a new tool that provides 24/7 access to student information! The "Parent Portal" is an online resource that shows your student's major, semester-by-semester course list, course grades (including mid-term grades, available beginning October 23), cumulative GPA, and financial statements, as well as contact information for his or her enrollment adviser, financial aid adviser, and residence hall dean.

According to Vinita Sauder, vice president for Strategic Initiatives, creating the Parent Portal was a priority project for the university.

"Parents are a crucial support system for students, and we would like them to be

*"It doesn't require much tech savvy at all."*

-SHONNA DALUSONG, PARENT

empowered with this information," Sauder said. "We're all in the family together; that's how Southern looks at it."

You will find the Parent Portal link on the right-hand side of [southern.edu/parents](http://southern.edu/parents) beneath the Panorama newsletter sign-up area. Permission to view this information is granted by your student when they follow these links within the "My Access" menu on Southern's website: Academic Records>Academic Profile>Manage Access>List: My Relationship. At this point, they can extend an invitation for viewing their records, which triggers an email prompt to you requesting the creation of a Southern account. The username and password from this account are required to log into the Parent Portal.

Southern invited several parents to test the portal before it went live on October 1, and the results are encouraging. Shon-

na Dalusong appreciates no longer needing to search multiple places for information about her daughter, Kayla. This new tool will play a big role in her ability to keep up with the sophomore studying outdoor leadership and religion.

"Using the Parent Portal is so simple and easy; it doesn't require much tech savvy at all," Dalusong said. "The links are logical and easy to navigate. I particularly love being able to look at financial statements."

Plans are already in motion to enhance the Parent Portal's functions in the coming months. Southern looks forward to partnering with parents in this new way to help keep everyone working toward the same goal—a successful university experience.



## Q&A Ask The President

With Gordon Bietz



*Question: What social events are available to my student while she's at Southern?*

Southern is bustling with a large number of campus events that give students the opportunity to interact and meet peers.

For students searching for a planned, easy-on-the-wallet Saturday night event, Southern hosts a wide range of activities and parties that have become campus traditions. Student Association hosts many events like the Welcome Back Party, Super Bowl Party, Valentine's Day Banquet, and Talent Show. Other events include Studio 4109, a live comedic and musical variety show (see article in this issue), as well as events hosted by student organizations that include cultural nights and parties for club members.

Southern offers several events throughout the year for athletic students including two big tournaments: All-Night Softball, an annual tournament that concludes the intramural softball season, and the annual Rees Series, the championship

tournament that finishes the intramural basketball season.

For more adventurous students, The Dawn 'til Dusk race draws teams of students who complete challenges such as running, zip lining, caving, rock climbing, and even mental challenges.

There are also seasonal holiday events that include Thanksgiving Dinner for students who can't make it home for the holiday. Students are treated to a home-cooked meal while watching football and making crafts.

The Christmas season at Southern includes concerts, the S.A. Christmas Party, and Christmas Stories with me, President Bietz. The biggest event, however, is Christmas on the Promenade; musical performances and holiday goodies transform the campus!

# Staff Profile:

## Kari Shultz, Director Student Life and Activities



In 1998, Kari Shultz stepped into the brand new position as director of student life and activities, not quite knowing what the job would bring. Having spent the previous 17 years working in residence halls as a dean, she knew at some point she wanted a change. The opportunity presented itself in the form of this new position at Southern, one that she quickly came to love.

Fourteen years later, Shultz is still enjoys the job. Her responsibilities have grown over the years to include: coordinating student activities, helping the Student Association, running the student center, overseeing student organizations, making Southern's calendar, and handling student life issues. Shultz gains great fulfillment from what she does and the students she works with, despite the

hectic schedule.

"It's such a joy to watch them grow over the years and be a part of this phase of their lives," Shultz said.

Shultz emphasized the value of students having a college experience that includes activities outside of academics.

"Students' first job should be to study because they pay a lot of money to be here, but they can only study so much," Shultz said. "They need to have a balance."

In helping create an outlet for that balance, Shultz gets the opportunity to work with many students on the ground level of an idea's growth. Whether they need advice, ideas, or help brainstorming, the leaders of student organizations know where to turn for help.

"Taking the energy from what the stu-

dents have brainstormed and building on it is what I love most about my job," Shultz said. "I ask myself, 'How can I make these ideas work for them?'"

All of this hard work by Shultz and those she works with eventually pays off.

"It thrills my heart when students transfer to Southern because, in part, they perceive a lot of activities happening here."

Shultz encourages students to take part in as many events and clubs as possible, experiencing everything positive that college has to offer while they're at Southern.

~by Shana Michalek

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## Student Life: Studio 4109 LIVE

Dinner and a show—what more could students want? "Studio 4109: LIVE," a popular Saturday night comedy sketch performance held in the Dining Hall, is returning for 2012-2013 after a successful test run last year.

The idea for Studio 4109 was born during a conversation between Doug Frood, associate vice-president for Financial Administration, and Tom Goddard, former director of Southern's Destiny Drama Company. Frood wanted to create an event on Saturday nights that would provide free entertainment for students on campus, and asked Goddard if his team would like to get involved.

"Many students on campus do not have a lot of money or a car," Frood said. "We wanted to give them a fun, free Saturday night activity where they would also have the chance to show off their talents."

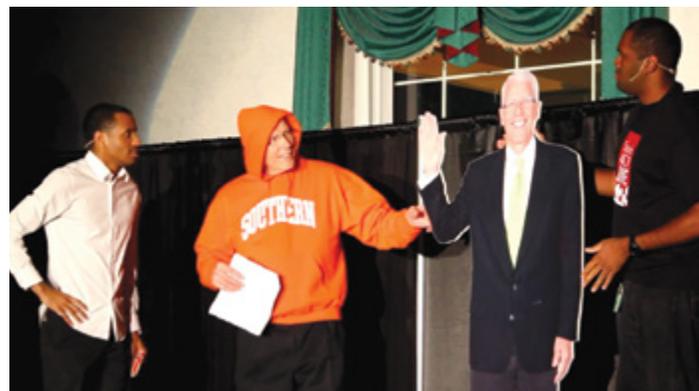
Goddard pitched the idea to one of his

students in Destiny Drama, Kevin Christenson, sophomore business major, and together they recruited a team of student writers, videographers, actors, and actresses.

"Students really love the show," Christenson said. "We have been accepting applications to be a part of the show, and have had a big response of people wanting to get involved."

President Bietz and Richard Schwarz, Gym-Masters coach, have each hosted past shows. One of the more memorable skits performed was the opening act in April when Bietz attempted to enter a school-sponsored concert while dressed down in sweat pants and a hoodie.

Other sketches have involved good-natured humor aimed at Adventist dating,



Campus Safety, and new students. The first show of this semester will be on October 13 at the Goliath Wall in the Student Park. Four other performances are planned to take place throughout the school year.

For more information, visit [studio4109live.com](http://studio4109live.com).

~by Luke Evans

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## Did You Know? Residence Hall Life

Residence hall life is what students make it and interaction with hall mates can either positively or negatively affect the college experience. This year, the student deans of both the men's and women's residence halls have planned social events that will help build the kind of community atmosphere that fosters healthy long-lasting relationships.

Thatcher and Thatcher South kicked off the year with a "Junk Scramble" at the Iles P.E. Center on September 8. The event provided an opportunity for the ladies to have fun, while trading "junk," such as old curling irons, with each other.

Tina Anglin, a Thatcher student dean, has been coordinating this and other events for the year.

"School and work sometimes makes it hard to bond with people on your hall

and that's where events like the Junk Scramble come in," Tina said. "We are planning a carnival for November and then more community-building activities for next semester."

Across Taylor Circle the student deans of Talge Hall are busy planning the second annual "Clash of the Titans" event. Clash of the Titans is a yearlong program that incorporates all the residents of Talge. The residents are divided by halls and randomly assigned a "titan" from Hebrews 11, such as David or Samson, to represent for the year.

Ultimate Frisbee, a Good Samaritan personal-care drive, and the No Shave November competition are just a few of the other events the men have scheduled for the year.

~by Charles Cammack

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### October

- 25 Alumni Homecoming Weekend Begins—*Alumni are invited to campus to celebrate Southern's 120th anniversary*
- 27 Southern Shuffle—*5k race and 1-mile fun run/walk held on campus course*
- 31 Symphony Orchestra Tour Begins—*Southern's orchestra will be traveling to Shenandoah, Blue Mountain, and Highland View academies.*

### November

- 11 Symphony Orchestra Concert
- 12 S.A. Spirit Week Begins—*Students participate in costume competitions and activities that show school spirit*
- 21 Thanksgiving Break Begins
- 27 Christmas on the Promenade—*Students, faculty, and community members celebrate the holiday with musical performances and more on the promenade.*