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Southern Adventist University

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Innocent 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.

“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.

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 several 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.

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.

“My parents are my biggest support. They encourage me constantly.”
—CRAIG FOSTER, JUNIOR

~by Ingrid Hernandez
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 students 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

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.

~by Luke Evans
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.