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PANORAMA

parent newsletter

November 2016



Southern Helps Students Thrive in Their First Year Experience

College can be intimidating, especially for freshmen. Although overwhelming in the beginning, through its Student Success Center, Southern Adventist University offers students the guidance and support that they need from the start.

One example is the First Year Experience program coordinated by Renita Moore. This program empowers students to become an integral part of campus, not only within academics, but also within social and spiritual groups.

As a part of the program, freshmen are required to take Southern Connections, a course giving first-year students the opportunity to research a variety of topics within their major. This course is a great way for students to connect with professors within their majors, while taking courses that focus on critical and creative skills in students' chosen areas of study.

The First Year Experience also connects incoming freshmen with peer mentors. These mentors are backed by a team of faculty and staff who help to ensure success on all levels. Mentors plan social gatherings and worships, which helps foster student involvement.

First Year Advising

Even before a student's on-campus experience begins, Southern is committed to helping new students feel welcome and at home. Cheri Durst, the first year advising coordinator, and her team work year-round to contact incoming freshmen to establish relationships, assist with registration, and offer support by answering questions and directing students to the appropriate departments on campus.

Additional Resources

The Student Success Center also offers other resources for students struggling with the college transition. Readily available and experienced staff members are there to assist through personal and career counseling, tutoring, and disability and testing services. These services are designed to address student and parent concerns affecting students' ability to learn or to have a full college experience.

For more information about the resources available for new students, please call the Student Success Center at 423.236.2782.

~ Staff



“Being at Southern so far has been a blessing. Coming from a public school, I was worried that I would have trouble making friends and fitting in with my peers who came from academies and home schools, but I could not have been more wrong. Southern is a school full of loving, caring people. It blows my mind every time my professors take the time to pray before class. I had considered attending other schools, but I know that in the end I am in the place that God wants me to be. Otherwise he would not have opened so many doors and carried me so well through these first few weeks of school. And for that I am thankful.”

Tierra Hayes, *freshman mass communications major*

Timeless Teachings

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

James 1:5

Student Life: Students Find Connection in LifeGroups

Students flood into the Iles P.E. Center after a spirit-filled Friday night vespers. Small tables line the inside of the gym, inviting students to join an integral part of Southern's community—LifeGroups.

Southern is dedicated to delivering an environment of spiritual connection and growth. As a Campus Ministries' initiative, LifeGroups supports Southern's desire to keep the student community close-knit and Christ-focused.

Since 2013, LifeGroups has flourished as a student-led ministry. Twenty student leaders are available each year to coach other students on how to lead their own small group. They continue to provide students with the opportunity to join

together as friends and family for prayer, Bible study, and dynamic discipleship.

On September 16, students were able to choose from one of 100 LifeGroups, becoming part of a small spiritual family. The topics of the LifeGroups range from studies on particular books of the Bible to groups specifically nurturing young women or young men.

Starling Eargle, a junior nursing student, has been a part of LifeGroups since her freshman year and said it has been a blessing in her life.

"LifeGroups is my chance to breathe and take a break from the constant, busy pace of life," Eargle said. "Regardless of how the week is going, I know that my LifeGroup family will always be there as support through the good and bad; I can be transparent about what's on my heart, without the fear of judgment. Most importantly, LifeGroups has encouraged me to pursue Christ with reckless



abandon by showing me a reflection of His love."

Students also receive worship attendance credits for their involvement in a group. Every year, participation in LifeGroups has increased. Last school year, more than 1,200 students participated in the program.

~ by Sheann Brandon

Meet The Assistant Chaplain

An Interview With Andrew Anobile

Q: What is your role at Southern?

A: As the assistant chaplain, I work with our head chaplain, Brennan Kirstein, and help run the Campus Ministries team. I am in charge of all ministry-related things on campus, with the exceptions of LifeGroups and women's ministries.

Q: Why should my student take advantage of the spiritual activities on campus?

A: Every student gets what he or she puts into it. And if they come with an open heart and an open mind, I believe that the positivity, the Christ-centeredness, and the biblical foundations of what we do is an opportunity for students to get a

blessing in Campus Ministries, if that's what they seek. We don't guarantee a result or a feeling; what we guarantee is an environment and an opportunity.

Q: What is Campus Ministries hoping to emphasize this year?

A: Our theme is "Keep Looking to Jesus." This theme represents the hope that no matter what we go through—and we go through many things on this campus—we are imperfect humans, but because we are Christians, we have something that will give us peace, that will give us hope through our issues and our trials: Jesus Christ.

Q: How do you personally plan to reach my student at his or her level?

A: Personally, I hope to be present. I hope to do what I call friendship evangelism. It's basically to meet people where they are. I'm not concerned or worried or panicky with people, and when they ask me for advice because they trust me, that's when I can share the love of Jesus with them. There is an old cliché; people don't care about how much you know if they know about how much you care. They won't take your hand until they know your heart. And so I hope to give them my heart this year. I hope to mingle with them and be their friend.

Did You Know?

FAFSA Deadline Reminder:

File by November 30

Because Southern's endowment grants are on a first-come, first-served basis, the university recommends filling out the FAFSA no later than November 30, 2016 in order to receive the maximum amount of aid for your student next year.

The online form takes about an hour to fill out. It helps to have the following information ready:

- The Social Security numbers of both you and your student
- Your student's driver's license number
- Your student's Alien Registration Number, if he or she is not a U.S. citizen
- Your student's federal tax information or tax returns
- Records of untaxed income for both yourself and your student
- Information on cash, savings and checking account balances, investments (including real estate but not including the home in which you or your student lives), and business and farm assets for both you and your student.

Starting this year, parents can use tax returns from two years prior, allowing for an earlier FAFSA filing date.

You can file your FAFSA online at fafsa.ed.gov.



Campus News: Southern Ranks in Top Tier for 15th Consecutive Year

Southern is pleased to announce its ranking as a Top Tier university by U.S. News and World's Report's "Best Colleges" guide. Although Southern has been ranked regionally for the past 15 consecutive years, this is the first year that the ranking status has switched from college ranking to university ranking.

Volker Henning, vice president of academic administration at Southern, explains the recent switch.

"Due to our growing graduate program, which includes numerous master's degrees as well as one doctoral program," Henning said, "U.S. News has moved Southern from being listed among 98 Regional Colleges to now being listed among 148 Regional Universities."

Schools are ranked according to their performance across several indicators of

excellence, including graduation rate, performance rank, alumni giving, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, and student selectivity.

The U.S. News report allows for students and parents who are seeking the best academic value for their money to have an overview of colleges.

Along with the honor of being ranked regionally in the south, SmartAsset's "Best Value Colleges" study ranked Southern as one of the most economically valuable institutions in Tennessee. The average starting salary for graduates is \$45,000.

With a student body of nearly 3,000, Southern continues to provide a Christ-centered, student-focused, and excellence-driven campus.

~ by Oksana Wetmore



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Letter from the Editor

I hope this issue of *Panorama* was both enjoyable and informative to you. As a parent of a Southern student, your feedback would be greatly appreciated. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions and email your response to southernparents@southern.edu.

- Do you read about parenting topics in books, magazines, or websites? If so, where?
- Did anything about sending your student off to college make you nervous? If so, what?
- Which do you value more in a parent newsletter: learning about opportunities on campus that you can then talk about with your students or reading advice about parenting college students?
- Is there a particular topic you would like to see covered in *Panorama*?

Please list any email addresses where you would like us to send *ePanorama*, our electronic newsletter, which offers additional content that comes out four times per year. Thank you! May you and your Southern student have a blessed year.



Sheann Brandon
Panorama student editor

NOVEMBER

- 1 Online Winter Registration for returning Seniors**
- 1 Floor Hockey Intramurals Begin**
- 3 Online Winter Registration for returning Juniors**
- 5 Extreme dodgeball**
- 7 Online Winter Registration for returning Sophomores**
- 9 Online Winter Registration for returning Freshmen**
- 13 Symphony Orchestra Concert**
- 14 December graduates deadline to finish incompletes and home-study correspondence**
- 14 Online Winter Registration for New/ Transfer Students**
- 18 New York study tour begins**
- 21-27 Thanksgiving Break**
- 29 Christmas Tree Lighting**
- 30 Priority Deadline for filing 2017-2018 FAFSA**