Prayer and Care
Student Residence Hall Chaplains Make Personal Connections

Sonja Cartwright, senior religious education major, walked down the hall of the women’s residence hall, softly knocking on doors, waiting for a response, and moving on. When a young woman answered, barely cracking her door open, Sonja was not phased by the shy response.

“Hi, my name is Sonja, and I’m your dorm chaplain. May I pray with you?”

The young woman smiled and nodded. Cartwright and her new friend, Rachel, spent more than an hour together talking about their faith and praying. Throughout the school year, this scene is repeated in both Thatcher and Talge halls.

One of the many ways Southern provides opportunities for students to grow spiritually is through residence hall chaplaincy. These volunteers each take responsibility for a hallway, visiting every room to pray...
As women's chaplain, Cartwright oversees the Thatcher Hall volunteers and finds that through spending time in spiritual conversation with others, she is learning how to listen better and to recognize God's blessings.

“Being the Thatcher Hall chaplain has taught me how to have utter dependence on God,” Cartwright said. “I am able to share the comfort that He has shown me, and I find joy in sharing my testimony.”

Nick Wanovich, senior theology major and men’s residence hall chaplain, holds a Bible study in his room every Friday evening after vespers. The group goes through different spiritual topics that are relevant to young men, like finding peace through Jesus, overcoming anxiety, and understanding the depths of God's love.

“Chaplaincy has allowed me to become the hands and feet of Jesus in the dorm,” Wanovich said. “I love being able to pray for somebody and be a listening ear. It’s so rewarding to see somebody that I’ve been studying with grow in their faith.”

by Natalie Boonstra
School of Journalism and Communication Takes Learning to a New Level

From Major Renovations to New Classes

Over the past year, Southern’s School of Journalism and Communication (SJC) has made it a priority to offer students a next-level educational experience. From extensive renovations to innovative new classes, these efforts support the department’s long-standing goal of sparking intellectual hunger and challenging students to succeed.

SJC added several new classes, including courses on social media and media ministry. As a result, Jacob Fisher, senior journalism major (with an emphasis in digital broadcast), received a unique opportunity to apply his skills; through a class outing to J103, a local Christian radio station, Fisher landed an internship producing advertising spots for the station.

“It has been an incredible experience! I’m constantly learning new things, and I’m having a great time,” Fisher said. “I appreciate how SJC integrates spiritual matters with real-world applications.”
Fernandez brought a fresh approach to the age-old speech class, introducing a TedTalk-style learning experience.

One of the most visible changes to SJC has been a complete remodel of the department. This included adding several new classrooms, a state-of-the-art photography studio, and a lounge area where students can relax and watch the news. Boards showcasing student work now line the halls, inspiring creativity and success.

“The remodel has made the department more welcoming,” said Lizzie Williams, senior public relations major. “The large couches and comfy chairs encourage us to come together, and the new study spaces help us grow academically.”

by Rachel Beaver
Check out the MLK Service Day album on Flickr, here!

We Want Your Feedback!

Your thoughts and feedback are valuable! Email southernparents@southern.edu or call 423.236.2581 with your comments or questions.

Thank you!

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