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S O U T H E R N

A D V E N T I S T

U N I V E R S I T Y

COMMENCEMENT EVENTS MAY 7, 2023

ILES PHYSICAL EDUCATION CENTER
COLLEGEDALE, TENNESSEE



Power for Mind & Soul

President's Message to Graduates



Dear Graduates,

On behalf of every Southern Adventist University employee, I congratulate you on completing your courses of study and receiving your well-deserved degrees. We are proud of you!

We pray that as Southern alumni, you will continue to hold dear the Christian values you have experienced here, that you will excel in your occupations, and that you will continue to listen to and be part of God's calling in your lives, resulting in meaningful service in your churches and communities.

To your loved ones who have provided financial, emotional, and spiritual support, we thank them. The renowned scientist Isaac Newton once wrote that he was able to accomplished so much because he was "standing upon the shoulders of giants." I join you in acknowledging the giants in your lives, the ones who have loved, cared about, and supported you.

You have put in the hard work and completed a job well done. You are now equipped to go and lead. "The Lord bless you, and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance on you, and give you peace" (Numbers 6:24-26).

Blessings,

KenShaw

Ken Shaw President

SERVICES ON THE WEB



Commencement services can be viewed live online by visiting southern.edu.

Please silence all electronic devices during programs.

Please do not use airhorns or other noisemakers as they can be harmful and painful to those of our guests with hearing devices.

Mission



Grounded in Jesus Christ and dedicated to the beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, we equip students to embrace biblical truth, embody academic and professional excellence, and pursue Spirit-filled lives of service.

STUDENT LEARNING GOALS



Students of Southern Adventist University will:

• Spiritual Development

grow in a vibrant relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, while integrating into their lives Bible-based beliefs and values as understood by the Seventh-day Adventist church.

• Intellectual Development

develop a commitment to lifelong learning and demonstrate a mastery of the cognitive skills of critical reasoning, independent thinking, reflective judgment, communication, and creativity needed to confront the issues, ideas, and values of historical and contemporary civilization.

Occupational Development

exhibit excellence and moral leadership in their chosen field of study and/or profession.

Individual and Social Development

develop socio-emotional maturity that will enable them to be effective leaders and contributing members of their churches, families, groups, and communities in a global society.

Physical Development

take responsibility for their own well-being through a health-promoting lifestyle.

Grand Marshal for all Services



Rachel Williams-Smith, University Senate Chair, Journalism and Communication Dean and Professor

C o m m e n c e m e n t

Sunday, May 7, 2023, 9 a.m.



anfareFanfare for the Lord Mayor of LondonSir Arthur Bliss
Processional
nvocation
Welcome
ntroduction of Speaker
Commencement Address
Conferring of Degrees
Presentation of Degree Candidates
Alumni Association Welcome
Benediction
Recessional Rigaudon André Campra

Brass Ensemble Conductor: Ken Parsons, School of Music Associate Professor
Faculty Assisting Graduates: Jaclyn Huse, School of Nursing Professor
Laura Racovita, School of Social Work Dean and Professor

C o m m e n c e m e n t

Sunday, May 7, 2023, 1 p.m.



Fanfare	Fanfare for the Lord Mayor of London	Sir Arthur Bliss
Processional	Pomp and Circumstance March, No.1	Sir Edward Elgar
Invocation		Bianca Guarino, senior
Welcome		Esther Manu, senior
Introduction of Speaker		Ken Shaw, President
Commencement Address		Dave Ferguson hurch of Seventh-day Adventists
Conferring of Degrees		Ken Shaw, President
Associate V	ice President for Academic Administration and Dean of President for Academic Administration and Dean of G	ent for Academic Administration Dionne Felix of Student Success and Retention Tyson Hall
Faculty Honors	Robert Young, Senior Vice Preside	
Alumni Association Welcome	Alumni Associaton	Eric Dunkel Senior President, Class of 1999
Benediction		Miro Manestar, senior
Recessional	Rigaudon	André Campra

Brass Ensemble Conductor: Ken Parsons, School of Music Associate Professor
Faculty Assisting Graduates: Candy Dolcy, School of Social Work Assistant Professor
Beth Scott, School of Nursing Professor

SOUTHERN SCHOLARS



In addition to maintaining a 3.50 GPA and meeting normal degree requirements, *Southern Scholars* complete a special honors curriculum involving interdisciplinary studies, honors courses, and independent study. This semester, five graduates earned that distinction. The titles of their senior research projects are listed below:

Daniel James Burke

"The Change of Italian and United States Banking Systems in Response to the Global Financial Crisis"

Christina Elizabeth Cannon

"The Sound of the Civil War: Examining the Intersection of Music and Emotion"

Matthew Allen Gano

"The Impact of Floral Diversity on Soil Microbial Community Composition"

Esther Akosua Manu

"College Students' General Knowledge of Africa and Their Willingness to do Business in African Countries"

Marie Ariannee Rodriguez

"The Impact of Soil Disturbance on Soil Microbial Community Composition"

THE MACE



The mace is a traditional symbol used to communicate and designate authority. The Southern Adventist University mace was crafted in 1986 by John Durichek, a Southern alum. Southern's mace represents its heritage and *raison d'être* (reason for existence). The base is of pine from Jones Hall, built in 1917 and razed in 1985. The main staff is of walnut. The seven rings represent completeness. The four-sided ebony segment is seen as Southern's underlying educational philosophy—balanced mental, spiritual, physical, and social development for each student. The brass flames represent the Holy Spirit.

Bearing the mace is the grand marshal, Rachel Williams-Smith, chair of the University Senate and dean of the School of Journalism and Communication. Her regalia is evergreen, the university's traditional color.

PHILANTHROPY MEDALLION



Graduates are wearing a gold zipper-pull medallion in honor of the alumni, family, and friends who have donated to the class gift this year.

ACADEMIC REGALIA



The color of velvet trim on the hoods represents the area of study. The color of the silk lining represents the university that conferred the degree. The color of the tassel represents the degree of the undergraduate.

Arts, Humanities, Interdisciplinary, Letters White	Outdoor LeadershipRusset
Business	Physical Education
CommunicationCrimson	Public Administration, Foreign ServicePeacock
EducationLight Blue	ScienceGolden Yellow
Fine Arts Brown	Social Work
LawPurple	Software EngineeringOrange
MusicPink	TheologyScarlet
Nursing Apricot	

Honor Cords



Gold Cord—Summa Cum Laude—3.90+ GPA
Silver Cord—Magna Cum Laude—3.75-3.89 GPA
Green Cord—Cum Laude—3.50-3.74 GPA

All other colors represent honors societies in the various academic areas.

CULTURAL GRADUATION STOLES



The cultural stoles celebrate Southern's Asian, African/Black Christian Union, European, Latin American, Native American, and Oceania Islanders student groups. They represent the fabric that makes this university a diverse community and spiritual family in faith. "After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb'" (Revelation 7:9-10, NIV).

BACCALAUREATE DEGREE GRADUATES

Issac Sunil Abraham, Magna Cum Laude	BSN Nursing: AS Chemistry
Isabella Songco Abugan	
Khelley Catherene Alegrado Cabil, Cum Laude	
Marlyn Antwan, Summa Cum Laude	©, -
Camden Elise Armstrong, Cum Laude	
Jared Alexander Azevedo, Cum Laude	
Xavier Baca	
Dariana Elizabeth Badillo, Cum Laude	
Jacob Abraham Bahn, Summa Cum Laude	
Junyul Baik, Magna Cum Laude	
Kevin William Panugao Bartolome, Magna Cum Laude	
Kenneth Nathaniel Bautista, Summa Cum Laude	
Shannelle E. Bennett, Magna Cum Laude	
Katherine Melissa Berrios	
Ashley Elizabeth Blake, Magna Cum Laude	9
,	9
Philippe Jonathan Blake, Cum Laude	
Kristen Shea Boyd Brittany Eden Braister-Sturgis, Magna Cum Laude	
,	
Marina Zipporah Brock	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Melissa Renee Buck, Cum Laude	
Daniel James Burke, Cum Laude, Southern Scholar	
Christina Elizabeth Cannon, Magna Cum Laude, Southern	
Alexander Peyton Carelock	
Emily Elizabeth Carvajal, Magna Cum Laude	
Jonathan Jonas Cerino	, , ,
Bo Bae Eunice Cha, Cum Laude	0, -
Helen Grace Chikay Chan, Magna Cum Laude	BS Biology [Biomedical]
Laura Edith Chavarria	
Giselle Chavez	
Junyoung Cho, Cum Laude	
Nathan S. Chung	C, -
Sarah Elizabeth Cole, Summa Cum Laude	
Kaleb James Coleman, Cum Laude	<u> </u>
Briana Lynn Collins, Cum Laude	
Noah McKenzie Collins, Magna Cum Laude	
Nicholas Andrew Cox	BA Film Production
Caroline Grace Crank	
*Bradley Allen Culpepper	BS Health, Physical Education and Recreation
Naomi Beata Daniels, Cum Laude	BA Political Science
Colton Hart Davis, Cum Laude	
Kaitlyn Grace Deaux, Magna Cum Laude	BSW Social Work
Johanym Gadyel De Gyves	
Tristan Charles Deschamps, Cum Laude	BBA Computer Information Systems
Brandon Abbade DeSouza, Cum Laude	
Kaelin Yuhana Djami, Summa Cum Laude	BBA Accounting
Kevin A. Djami	BSN Nursing
Dara Storm Domingo, Cum Laude	BSN Nursing
Karen Dominguez	9
Arian G. Dovald, Cum Laude	
Charles Brandon Bermudez Dugaduga	
Sierra Paige Dunzweiler	
Angelyn Marie Edwards	
1 11.ger) 11 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,

Isaac Eh, Cum Laude	RSM Numina
Isabella Marie Eklund, Cum Laude	9
Rafael Antony Encarnacion III	
,	
Breanna Renee Ermshar, Cum Laude	
Robert Nicholas Estrada, Jr.	9
Emma Elisabeth Fenwick, Summa Cum Laude	
Erick Samuel Flores	~
Jared Lee Freeman	•
Katherine Grace Frykman, Cum Laude	
Nicolas Samir Galindo	
Matthew Allen Gano, Summa Cum Laude, Southern Schole	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Michael Ross Garcia	
Morgan Justine Garcia, Summa Cum Laude	
Jacob Benjamin Gates	BBA Finance
Laura Catherine Gibbs	BSW Social Work
Gina De Jesus Gonzales	BSN Nursing
Kevin Noel Gonzales	BA Chemistry
Matthew Ryan Gorton	BA International Development Studies
David Nathaniel Graham	BS Business Administration
Camden Scott Griggs, Cum Laude	BA Film Production
Adriana Bianca Gallego Guarino, Cum Laude	
Zarina Jenae Gurley, Magna Cum Laude	
Jeremy Reese Gustman	
Sarah Marie Hagan	
Jeremy Michael Hall, Magna Cum Laude	9
McKenzie Renee Hanon, Summa Cum Laude	-
Treftenzie Renee Harron, owning own Zame	AS Allied Health [Pre-Nutrition and Dietetics]
Andrew James Delevante Hansbury	
Alaina Janette Harelimana, Cum Laude	•
Julian Charneco Harrington	
Hannah Mae Hayton	
Meghan Mackenzie Hedges, Cum Laude	
Kleber Marsola Hernandes	
Sophia Christine Hernandez	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Alexander Ryo Hongo, Summa Cum Laude	
	~ ·
Janie Lee Hoskinson, Magna Cum Laude Michaela Gabrielle Hounslow, Cum Laude	
*Brittany Danielle Howard, Magna Cum Laude	
Natalie Margaret Hutchins, Cum Laude	
Allan Evan Hyde	
Daniel Michael Tae Kang Im, Summa Cum Laude	
Jessica Anne Ing, Magna Cum Laude	
Charlotte Erina Ishikawa, Summa Cum Laude	•
Jordan Elizabeth Jablonski, Magna Cum Laude	
Matthew Louis Jensen, Summa Cum Laude	*
Mackenzie Renee Jezierski, Cum Laude	
David Anthony Johnson, Summa Cum Laude	
Michelle Kiele Johnson	
Lilly Catherine Jorgensen	
Yedam Ju, Cum Laude	
Chelsey Chae-Reen Kang, Magna Cum Laude	
Esther Minji Kang	
Anton James Kannenberg, Cum Laude	
John Matthew Kent, Summa Cum Laude	
Collin Andrew Kilmer, Magna Cum Laude	BS Mathematics

Abigail Mi-Hyun Kim	BSN Nursing
Andrew Bohsuk Kim	~
Deborah Sujung Kim, Cum Laude	
Dustin Chulyoung Kim, Magna Cum Laude	
Joshua Saejin Kim, Summa Cum Laude	~ ·
Katie Ji-Yun Kim, Summa Cum Laude	, - , -
Lucas James Kim, Magna Cum Laude	
Madeline Onu Kim, Summa Cum Laude	O,
Yongha Joshua Kim	0, -
Katelyn Clair Knight, Magna Cum Laude	O,
Geraldine Cheryl-Kimberly Kra, Summa Cum Laude	
Ryan Scott Kuczma	
Katherine Cheyenne Lanagan	
Lauren Que Lapham, Summa Cum Laude	
Hannah Hyemin Lee	
Elizabeth Legerman, Cum Laude	
Xin Li, Magna Cum Laude	
Thang Sawm Lian	0, -
Joseph Jaehwan Lim	•
Brayan Lopez, Magna Cum Laude	0
*Sydney Noelle Lopez, Magna Cum Laude	
Nick-Erce Louis	
Sarah Jennifer Luna Manuel, Magna Cum Laude	- 0-
Paula Macena	0 2 . 03
Elodie Nathalia Manalo, Summa Cum Laude	
Miro Ioan Manestar, Summa Cum Laude	
Jacquelyn Esther Mannerberg	BSN Nursing
Esther Akosua Manu, Summa Cum Laude, Southern Scholar	BA International Development Studies
Rachel Trimercy Marpaung	BS Biology [Biomedical]
Megan Deogracia Marquez, Summa Cum Laude	BS Biology [Research]
Elysse Mastrapa, Magna Cum Laude	BBA Accounting
Lillian Brylee-Paige Mattox	BBA Management [Management]
Marcus Timothy Maynes	BA Film Production
Madison Rose Mehl, Summa Cum Laude	BSW Social Work
Dayan Rogelio Mejias	BS Business Administration
Gabrielle Tavares Mendonca, Cum Laude	
	AS Allied Health [Pre-Nutrition and Dietetics]
Priscilla Mensah	BA Art
Grant Austin Milano, Cum Laude	
Tahli Jamica Miller Simphson	9, -
Victoria Lea Mills, Magna Cum Laude	~
John Luke Monday	
Sheila Marie Monrobert	
Leann P. Montaque	~
Hannah Elizabeth Moody, Summa Cum Laude	0, -
Ji Won Moon, Magna Cum Laude	9, -
Daniela Alejandra Morales	
Juan José Morán	
Heather Megan Morris	
Levi Cale Nerness	
Nickolas Richard Nieves, Magna Cum Laude	~
Nathan Alexander Norris	
Michelle Ashley Norton, Cum Laude	
Cody Evan O'Brien	
Elsie Sun Ah Pak, Summa Cum Laude	
	AS Allied Health [Pre-Dental Hygiene]

Andrew Selvan Pakkianathan, Cum Laude	BS Business Administration
Patricia Kalsey Pakpahan, Magna Cum Laude	
Hyun Ah Park, Summa Cum Laude	
Jaehyun Park, Cum Laude	
Daniel Steven Patil	
Aaron Christopher Patterson, Magna Cum Laude	
Marisa Lynell Patterson, Summa Cum Laude	
Ruben Daniel Pechero-Loewen	
Samantha Yulia Pechero-Loewen	
Kelsey Lynette Perez, Summa Cum Laude	
Reisey Lytiette 1 etez, Summa Cum Laude	AS Allied Health [Pre-Nutrition and Dietetics]
Olivia Grace Perry, Cum Laude	RS Riology [Riomedical]
Safiyya Ilysse Phillip, Summa Cum Laude	
Wade Kenneth Pierce	~ ·
Mileidys Annette Piñero Velez	
Fernando Gabriel Portillo, Magna Cum Laude	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Lauren Rose Azelin Powell	
Xavier Joseph Quiles	
Emily Pinheiro Raimundo	
Raul Eduardo Ramirez, II, Cum LaudeBS Health S	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Migdalice Ramos Nieves	
Catherine Marie Vollmer Ray, Cum Laude	
Nathan Lee Ray	
Gwyneth Kay Reams, Magna Cum Laude	0,
Hannah Xuan Reimche-Vu, Magna Cum Laude	
Madison Priscilla Lane Reinschmidt, Summa Cum Laude.	
Adam Robert Reiss	
Isabella Capistrano Schmiele Ribeiro, Magna Cum Laude.	~ ·
Marie Ariannee Rodriguez, Cum Laude, Southern Scholar	
Natalie Grace Rouse, Magna Cum Laude	
Obed J. Salazar, Magna Cum Laude	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Amber Lynn Adil Salibio, Summa Cum Laude	0,
Edrian Yovany Sanchez	
Carlos Fernando Sanchez-Garcia	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Olivia Cheri Sandoval	
Sara Jaclyn Scarpino, Cum Laude	- A /-
Conner Reed Schell, Magna Cum Laude	, = , =
Camryn Rose Scott, Cum Laude	0,
Katie Elizabeth Scott, Cum Laude	
Daniel Gary Scull, Cum Laude	
Abigail Lizzeth Segovia-Santos, Cum Laude	
Amie Caroline Shelley, Cum Laude	BA Psychology
Katie Marie Shelley, Cum Laude	BSN Nursing
Melody Jade Sheppard	
Melanie Marie Shields	BSN Nursing
*Aden Hansel Sikes, Summa Cum Laude	BA Mathematics
Terrence Joseph Simmons, Cum Laude	BA English [Literature]
Jonathan Michael Stuart Sisler	
Sean Rodney Slabbert	BSN Nursing
Anya Isabella Smith, Magna Cum Laude	
Stig Alan Soderblom, Magna Cum Laude	~
Caleb Andrew Spitalsky, Cum Laude	
Tyler Andrew States, Cum Laude	
Jessica Nicole Stern, Summa Cum Laude	_
Gillian Renae Stevenson, Magna Cum Laude	~ ·
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	BS Business Administration; BA Computer Science
	BS Business Administration
	BS Business Administration
	BBA Accounting
	BA Biology; AS Allied Health [Pre-Physical Therapy]
•	BBA Management [Entrepreneurship]
•	BSN Nursing
	BBA Accounting
	BA Theology [Ministerial]
	BA Liberal Arts Education
	BBA Accounting
Audrey Grace Umali, Magna Cum Laude	BS Business Administration
	BBA Accounting
Michael T. Vance	BBA Accounting
Brandon Gregory VanFossen	BS Business Administration
Natasha Enid Varela	BSN Nursing
Branyely Vega	BSN Nursing
, , e	BS Health Science;
1,	AS Allied Health [Pre-Physical Therapy]
Evelin Nikolaeva Velinova, Cum Laude	BFA Film Production
	BS Chemistry [Biochemistry]
	BBA Marketing
lack Alexander Wheeler BS H	lealth Science; AS Allied Health [Pre-Physical Therapy]
Autumn Grace White	BS Kinesiology
	BBA Management [Management]
	BSW Social Work
	BA Religious Studies
	BSN Nursing
	BA Biology
	BS Biology [Biomedical]
	BA Liberal Arts Education
0.	BBA Management [Entrepreneurship]
Kiersten Sierra Zirike, Cum Lauae	DDA Wanagement [Entrepreneursinp]
Associate De	gree Graduates
9	AS Nursing
	AS Nursing
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	AT Construction Management
Arantxa Daniela Coa	AS Nursing
McCall Amelia Waldrop Crone	
,	
	AS Nursing

And the Eliana Lawre Eliana Comp. Lawrence	ACNI milioni
Aviella Eliana Lynn Eugene, Cum Laude	
Ji Lian Firman, Cum Laude	
Emily Annelise Freeman, Summa Cum Laude	<u>~</u>
Kristin Kay Freeman	
Amanda Suzanne Green, Magna Cum Laude	~
Nathan S. Griswold, Summa Cum Laude	~
Madison Kay Guzowski Thompson	~
Rahel Jolynn Haley	
Levi Leroy Hanson	
Ashley Miller Harper, Cum Laude	
Alyssa Michelle Harriman, Summa Cum Laude	
Mikenna Eve Healy	
Lindsey Abigail Howard	
Dakota Andrew Ilchuk, Cum Laude	<u>~</u>
Condrasheera Joao	
Jehlyssa Karina Junei Kennedy	
Jonathan Martin Klingbeil	AS Accounting
Goohyuk Kwon, Cum Laude	
Eunice J. Lee	
Makenna Elyse Lunde, Cum Laude	
Gabrielle Faith Macri, Summa Cum Laude	
Julianna Rose Magan, Magna Cum Laude	AS Allied Health
	[Pre-Speech Language Pathology & Audiology]
Olivia Kay Mairs	
Jordyn Elizabeth McLean, Summa Cum Laude	
Emily Denise Meadows, Magna Cum Laude	
Arabella Faith Merryman	~
William Collins Mitchell, Jr.	
Dafni Katherine Montenegro	
Samuel David Mosher	~
Joey Yonathan Naibaho	
Justin Christopher Neal-Gillett	
Eden Emerson Nerness	
Daniel H. Oh	10 1
Diana Carolina Ortiz	,
Gabrielle Ray Patrick, Cum Laude	e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e
Brianna Perdomo	
Kamryn Brianna Perez, Magna Cum Laude	
Ronald Josue Perez	~
Netanya Bela Phan, Magna Cum Laude	
Brianne Piyebulmal	
Michael Falon Potter	
Zachariah James Franz Reich	
Nina Reno	
Deicy Sanchez, Summa Cum Laude	9
Elizabeth Kerstin Shrode, Magna Cum Laude	~
Wella Danelle Slough	
Conner Garrett Thall, Cum Laude	
Abby Nichole Tishaw	
Anna Rose Tomanelli	~
Abigail Vega	
William Blake Wallace	
Hamilton Taylor Will, Summa Cum Laude	~
Brandon Joseph Zepeda, Cum Laude	AT Construction Management

Master's Degree Graduates

D 4 D 141	MOW/O - 1 W/ 1 [0 1 10 - 1 W/ 1]
	MSW Social Work [Mental Health in Social Work]
	MS Computer Science
	MSN Primary Care-Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
	MSW Social Work [School Social Work]
	MBA Computer Information Systems
	MSN Primer Company Liver Manual Health Name Prescription
	MSN Primary Care-Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
	MSN Primary Care-Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
Devie I sais Hammand	MSN Primary Care-Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse PractitionerMSEd Instructional Leadership
	MSEd Instructional Leadership
	MSEd Instructional Leadership
	MSN Primary Care-Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
	MBA Management
	MSN Primary Care-Family Nurse Practitioner
	MSEd Literacy Education
	MBA Accounting
•	
	
Doctoral	Degree Graduates
Lizeth Joanna Rego Banuchi	
	t program does not constitute an official list of graduates.
The Commencemen	i program does not consutute an official ust of graduates.
Gue	ST GRADUATES
006	31 OKADUATES
IINII	/ERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA
	BBA Accounting
Mactiew Raymona Bewar	<i>EDITI Recounting</i>
Ο	LD DOMINION UNIVERSITY
Laurie Stankavich	PhD English
	ORTHCENTRAL UNIVERSITY
Joelle Wolf	PhD Nursing Education

Summary

UNDERGRADUATE GRADUATES – 316 (14 have two majors or degrees)

MASTER'S GRADUATES – 30 (3 HAVE TWO EMPHASES OR DEGREES)

DOCTORAL GRADUATES – 2

DEPARTMENTS/SCHOOLS WITH BACCALAUREATE DEGREE GRADUATES

Biology and Allied Health .40 Business .43 Applied Technology .3 Chemistry .8 Computing .9 Education and Psychology .8 Psychology .9 English .6 Health and Kinesiology .16	History and Political Studies 7 Journalism and Communication 5 Mathematics 4 Modern Languages 1 Nursing 43 Physics 2 Religion 16 Social Work 15 Visual Art and Design 16
	SCHOOLS WITH REE GRADUATES 5 5 5 5 5 6 6 6 6 6
	LS WITH REE GRADUATES Nursing
DOCTORAL DEG	REE GRADUATES
Nursing2	

PRESIDENT'S AWARDS FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE



Passionate about educating others as well as expanding her own learning experiences, Professor **Krystal Bishop**, EdD, demonstrates an exceptional level of commitment to her students, who qualify "the time, dedication, and care she shows [as being] like none other. You can tell she loves teaching and pours her heart into it." She is a "great adviser and always willing to help."

Bishop received her early preparation for teaching on the same campus she now serves, graduating from Southern Missionary College in 1975 with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. Committed to making education special for all children, she completed a master's degree in learning disabilities and a doctorate in special education at the University of South Florida.

Following 20 years in the educational system of the Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists that included serving as associate superintendent of education, Bishop returned to Southern 1996 and joined the teaching faculty in the School of Education and Psychology. She is also director of the Teacher Education Program. One peer champions Bishop for "huge impacts in both the public and private sectors. She makes a difference in every life she has the opportunity to engage with."

Complementing her impressive contributions within classroom settings, Bishop also writes for educational journals, advocates for literacy, and serves as a liaison for county, state, and regional programs. Her professional affiliations include the International Literacy Association and the National Council for Teachers of English. Presenting at conferences and conducting workshops in areas related to education and spiritual life are additional interests for this unparalleled professor.

Previously honored by Southern as Adviser of the Year (2010) and with the President's Award for Teaching Excellence (2011) and the Distinguished Service Medallion (2022), Bishop especially appreciates the privilege of being a spiritual mentor to her students and advisees.

Once again celebrating her remarkable legacy of impacting and caring for generations of educators in training, Southern Adventist University is pleased to present Krystal Bishop with the President's Award for Teaching Excellence.

FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARSHIP



Hailed for teaching and research expertise, Professor Sunia Fukofuka, PhD, has an impressive academic and professional career that spans the globe, including Australia, Fiji, India, Kenya, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Ukraine, and the United States. He joined Southern's School of Business in 2017.

"Sunia reaches students academically and challenges them to think critically about subjects," notes a fellow professor. "He also incorporates a biblical worldview into his teaching—not a separate thought at the beginning, not a worship thought at the end, but as a part of the body of knowledge being presented. His courses challenge students to be better versions of themselves." Another peer describes Fukofuka as "often conducting informal research and constantly developing conclusions."

Fukofuka has received awards from the International Association of Multidisciplinary Research as best researcher (2014), from CPA Papua New Guinea for distinguished achievement (2006), and as teacher of the year (2003) in Tonga. He is a resource speaker and trainer in qualitative and quantitative research for the Philippines Association of Institutional Research and one of the founding executives of the Asian Qualitative Research Association.

A prolific author, Fukofuka's most recent articles address research for practical theology, the integration of faith and learning, and ways to improve effective teaching. Additionally, he is co-authoring a book titled *Principles of Management* that is under contract with a publisher.

Currently, Fukofuka serves as a reviewer for the *Journal of Management and Organization* published by Cambridge Press as well as for the *International Forum Journal* published by the Graduate School of the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, where he was employed prior to Southern. He willingly chairs dissertations for many faculty members and humbly prays that his life is a blessing to all with whom he interacts, giving God the glory for leading in his life and thanking his wife and six children for their sacrifices and support.

In recognition for extraordinary commitment in his ongoing quest for knowledge and growth in skills and experience, Southern Adventist University is pleased to present Sunia Fukofuka with the President's Award for Excellence in Scholarship.

FOR COMMITMENT TO STUDENT SUCCESS



Born and raised in Northern California, Conni Cash moved to Tennessee and joined the School of Nursing in 1997. As office manager, organization and patience are her superpowers, and cohorts of nursing majors praise her skills, attributing them as vital to their achievements. "She is always making sure [we] are prepared for the next semester, for graduation, and for certification exams," one notes.

"She is literally the backbone of the nursing program," another insists. "The staff and the students would be lost without her. She can answer any question or direct you to the person with the answer. She's kind and always bright and cheery. She helps us navigate everything: getting all of our documentation, completing papers, finding classrooms—she's just amazing. I don't think I would have had everything together without Mrs. Cash."

Both faculty and staff describe Cash as "thoughtful, intelligent, and knowledgeable" as well as "a pillar on which the School of Nursing stands." She stops what she's doing each time a person approaches her and makes that "need her highest priority—always and with efficiency and a smile. Her juggling act in the front office and as the face of nursing has been one of Christ-like joy and beauty every day." A "steady, calm force," Cash has learned and retained hundreds of students' names during her 25 years of service, and "there is nothing she doesn't know or can't fix." One peer has always wanted a T-shirt with the slogan: "I don't ask Google; I ask Conni."

Cash is married to her high school sweetheart, and they have two daughters, both nurses in the area, as well as two grandchildren.

Southern Adventist University is pleased to recognize Conni Cash as a true champion for those pursuing careers in the field of nursing and to honor her with the President's Award of Excellence for Commitment to Student Success.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDALLIONS

Southern alum Robert Benge, '77, PhD, joined the School of Health and Kinesiology in 1998 and has served as dean for the past 10 years. Described by fellow faculty as having a "Texas-sized heart" and living the motto "Service, not fame," he is known for helping, encouraging, and inspiring students, colleagues, and community members alike. "His philanthropy knows no bias because he truly cares about people."

In addition to his administrative duties, Benge teaches numerous classes—including Basic Swimming, CPR, First Aid, Fly Fishing, Lifeguard Training, Secondary Methods of Physical Education, Softball, Statistics, Tennis, and Water Safety Instructor—all while supervising internships for student teachers and wellness majors. His quiet, efficient work ethic begets long days and sometimes weekends running multiple facilities and activity spaces, and he is frequently found doing pool maintenance on Saturday nights. He donates the majority of his teaching salary back to the university.

Benge's other acts of servant leadership include transporting busloads to Nashville hockey games, providing suppers for students and friends in the Culinary Arts Program kitchen, organizing formal Christmas luncheons for his team, and directing/organizing various triathlons in the area. He also is an associate deacon at Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists on campus.

With 50 years of experience as an American Red Cross lifeguard and water safety instructor, Benge has served local communities as a coach, commissioner for youth sports, fundraising coordinator, and sports official. For more than two decades, he has voluntarily directed timekeeping while organizing all of Ooltewah Middle School's track and field home meets. Additionally, he instructs groups in First Aid CPR/AED without accepting a fee.

Benge graduated from Southern in 1977 with a bachelor's degree in health, physical education, and recreation, and then earned a master's degree in health education at Virginia's Old Dominion University in 1986. In 2001, he received his doctorate in physical education from the University of New Mexico. A former elementary physical education specialist, Benge has 46 years of teaching experience in health and physical education.

His professional affiliations include Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society; Society of Health and Physical Educators; USA Triathlon; and Tennessee Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance. On campus, Benge chairs the Employee Wellness Committee, participates as a member of the Alumni Committee as well as the Faculty Promotions Committee, and is the beloved sponsor of the Southern Striders running club. He regularly trains for and participates in sprint triathlon events.

For an exemplary record of leading by example in giving his time and talents to employees and students on campus as well as to members of the community, Southern Adventist University is pleased to recognize Robert Benge as a worthy recipient of the Distinguished Service Medallion.



Associate Professor **Stephanie Guster**, MSW, in the School of Social Work is cited by her peers for spiritual leadership, a positive mindset, and an exceptional work ethic, among other impressive qualities. She exemplifies a life lived as the hands and feet of Jesus, constantly seeking out the overlooked and those in need and providing knowledge, compassion, encouragement, and comfort. Both thoughtful and prayerful, Guster has become a true friend to many across campus and throughout the local community.

A licensed clinical social worker in both Tennessee and Georgia, Guster holds a master's degree in social work from Ohio State University and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Andrews University in Michigan. Her background includes providing clinical services in hospice and bereavement. Prior to joining Southern's faculty, Guster first served as an adjunct professor while also working as a school social worker in Dalton, Georgia, city schools.

While serving as senior adviser to Southern's president, Guster invited employees to participate in lunchtime "cultural conversations" focused on diversity and other social issues. In collaboration with senior administration, these monthly dialogues led to many thought-provoking and growth experiences for colleagues. One faculty member described the events under Guster's guidance as a "safe space to talk through important topics," and many benefitted from her lessons in listening actively with grace and love.

Guster has a reputation for exceeding what is required of her in fostering professional relationships with students and colleagues, often forming friendships and caring for needs outside of the classroom. These extra and often long hours are a "huge witness" to other professors. One observed Guster "spending a great deal of time with a vision-impaired student during an activity, not only helping her navigate but also explaining content and strengthening that personal connection." Additionally, Guster plays a key role in passionately advocating for the Feed My Sheep food pantry for those on campus facing food insecurity.

Initiating field trips to the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama, Guster goes "above and beyond" in coordinating logistics, recruiting students, and fostering awareness and understanding about the significance of the museum and the history of civil rights in the United States. An advocate of environmental justice, she also champions alleviating food deserts through agricultural start-ups and home gardening.

As school board chair, Guster freely gives her time at Avondale Seventh-day Adventist School in downtown Chattanooga. She enthusiastically supports social work students striving to begin careers in schools and enjoys mentoring others into the profession. She recently used her skills to benefit Collegedale Academy, housed on the university campus, with crisis intervention services, assisting conference officials, local principals, faculty, and parents with valuable proficiency. Her volunteer efforts in unchartered territory encompassed debriefing and counseling with staff, drafting communication, sharing resources with families, coordinating counseling support, and serving as a crisis response supervisor—all while being "graceful with her words" through a very difficult and painful experience.

For her shining example in modeling the gentleness and kindness of Christ while committing both her heart and expertise to classrooms and to the community, Southern Adventist University is pleased to present Stephanie Guster with the well-deserved Distinguished Service Medallion.

Special Thanks



Academic Administration

Advancement Alumni Relations Audio Visual

Blluum Floral and Event Design (stage florals)

Campus Safety
College Press
Energy Management
Financial Administration
Food Services

Graduate and Professional Studies

Landscape Services

Marketing and University Relations

President's Office Quick Print

Records and Advisement

School of Journalism and Communication

School of Journalish a School of Music Service Department Student Development Village Market

We extend our gratitude especially to parents, fellow students, and guests.

ALUMNI HOMECOMING WEEKEND



October 26-29, 2023

We are excited to welcome you back to the campus of Southern Adventist University to remember your fondest experiences, relive your best memories, and reconnect with fellow alumni from near and far. This fall, we look forward to hosting our featured speaker, Dwight Nelson, '73, and welcoming all of our alumni back to campus to enjoy some of your favorite Homecoming activities, as well as several new events!

Mark your calendars for Homecoming Weekend 2023.

Learn more and register at southern.edu/homecoming.

On behalf of the Alumni Association, congratulations to our newest alumni, the Class of 2023!