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## **ePanorama March 2020**

Southern Adventist University

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For Parents of Southern Adventist University Students

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# PANORAMA

parent newsletter | March 2020



## Changes Due to COVID-19

### Classes Move Online for Remainder of Winter Semester

On March 11, the World Health Organization officially declared the current coronavirus a pandemic due to the global spread and severity of COVID-19. In response, Southern canceled all official Spring Break trips and made the difficult decision to transition to distance learning for the remainder of the school year. Following a one-week extension to Spring Break, classes will resume online on March 30. The May graduation was postponed, and a new date will be announced in the coming weeks.

The university also closed the residence halls and Southern Village, giving students 10 days to make arrangements, pack, and move out by March 23. Clearing out each room was necessary so that staff can conduct a thorough cleaning and prepare for the return of students to campus in the future. An exception was made for international students who could not go home; they have been allowed to stay on campus, with

### Revised Calendar

#### April

6 | Fall Semester  
Registration Begins:  
**Southern Scholars &  
Graduate Students**

6 | Summer Session  
Registration Begins

7 | Fall Semester  
Registration Begins:  
**Returning Seniors**

9 | Fall Semester  
Registration Begins:  
**Returning Juniors**

13 | Fall Semester  
Registration Begins:  
**Returning  
Sophomores**

13 | May Graduates:  
Deadline to Finish  
Incompletes & Home  
Study Correspondence

13 | Last Day for 40%  
Tuition Refund

trips are being processed and will be forthcoming.

Additionally, many faculty and staff are now working from home, while continuing to connect through technology and aiming to provide the same care, support, and services as usual.

While there are still no known cases of infection at Southern, the administration made these decisions in part at the recommendation of experts who advise limiting close contact and large gatherings in order to help slow the spread of the disease in the community. In an email to students, President David Smith said:

“Those of us who work in higher education do so because we love young people and learning together! We will deeply miss the presence of students on our campus over the next few months, and eagerly look forward to resuming normal campus life as soon as possible.”

Smith also recorded a [video message](#). For more details, regular updates, distance learning resources, and an [FAQ for students](#), visit [southern.edu/coronavirus](https://southern.edu/coronavirus).

## Questions?

If you have an unanswered question about Southern's response to the coronavirus or how distance learning will affect your student, please visit [southern.edu/parent](https://southern.edu/parent) and fill out the form. Your question will be sent directly to the appropriate department; however, if you don't see a relevant department on the form, write to [studentsupportmanager@southern.edu](mailto:studentsupportmanager@southern.edu) or call 423.236.3400 (Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., plus Tuesday, 6-9 p.m., and Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. ET).

Registration Begins:  
**Returning Freshmen**

**16** | Last Day to Drop a Class (W on Transcript)

**20** | Fall Semester Registration Begins:  
**New and Transfer Students**

**May**

**7** | End of Winter Semester

## Quick Links

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## Student Resources

**Academic Support**

Professors are in the process of transitioning their course materials to an online platform and will be communicating directly with their students with specific instructions. Students should continue to check their Southern email account for updates.

**McKee Library**

The library team is providing a wide range of services remotely, including writing and tutoring help. The library also offers a large selection of online materials, including ebooks, periodicals, and more. For a list of resources and contact information, [click here](#).

**Counseling**

Counseling will be available via secure Zoom for the remainder of the semester. To schedule an appointment:

- Call 423.236.2782 (Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET).
- If you are unable to reach the office manager, please leave your name and phone number and your call will be returned.

**First Year Experience**

Freshmen and new students are invited to reach out to the First Year Experience team with any questions as they navigate this semester.

- Call 423.236.2575 (Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. ET).

**Disability Support Services**

For the remainder of the semester, the Disability Support Services team will be available to discuss with students and professors the impact distance learning has on students with accommodations. To schedule an appointment:

- Email [DSS@southern.edu](mailto:DSS@southern.edu) with your phone number.
- For urgent matters, in addition to an email, please call the office at 423.236.2782 (Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. ET).
- If you are unable to reach the office manager, please leave a voice message with your name and phone number and your call will be returned.

résumé and cover letter reviews will be available via secure Zoom for the remainder of the semester. To schedule an appointment:

- Call 423.236.2782 (Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET).
- Or email [drolson@southern.com](mailto:drolson@southern.com) any time.

### General Student Support

Staff members will be reaching out to all Southern students via email, phone, and text throughout the semester. This group is also available to help connect students with other campus resources and for student support meetings (held remotely). To schedule an appointment:

- Visit [southerncares.as.me](https://southerncares.as.me).
- Or email [studentsupportmanager@southern.edu](mailto:studentsupportmanager@southern.edu).

### Spiritual Support

Here's how students can stay connected to their Southern family and the Chaplain's Office, even while away from campus:

- Make an appointment to talk online with a chaplain: [Anna Bennett](#) or [Joseph Khabbaz](#).
  - Join a live [online Vespers](#) service every Friday night at 7:30 p.m. (ET) through May 8.
  - Stay tuned for an online LifeGroup that is forming, where students will be able to meet together virtually for Bible study and support.
  - Use the hashtags #SDAUnited and #SAUprays so that students from all over the country can follow and see what others are doing for spiritual encouragement.
  - Share an idea of how the Chaplain's Office can be a source of spiritual encouragement or support at [chaplain@southern.edu](mailto:chaplain@southern.edu).
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# Southern and Oakwood Come Together for 20th Annual DEEP Retreat

## A Positive Story From Earlier This Semester

This February, 20 students from Southern Adventist University and 20 students from Oakwood University were invited to come together for the 20th annual DEEP (Diversity Education Exchange Program) Retreat. Under the theme “20/20 Vision,” the Southern Union-sponsored program included discussion and fellowship, a service event, and opportunities to enjoy nature.

The group spent a weekend in Cordele, Georgia, where each student roomed with someone from the other university. They also had the chance to get to know each other by kayaking on the surrounding lake; sitting together in worship talks by Roger Hernandez, the ministerial and evangelism director for the Southern Union; picking up trash at a nearby state park; and engaging in deep discussions about diversity.

“The main goal of DEEP Retreat is to bring together students from different cultures and backgrounds,” said Stephanie Guster, Southern’s senior adviser for diversity, who coordinated this year’s event. “In another setting, they may not get the opportunity to room with someone

According to Guster, the most frequent sentiment expressed by attendees was that they wished they had more time with each other.

“I was tremendously blessed by the seminars, and I want to make it my mission to break down social barriers,” said Sokopeti Paongo, a senior nursing major at Southern. “The weekend went by so fast, and I wish we could have stayed longer.”

“My favorite aspect about the retreat was truly being able to engage in meaningful conversations with students from Southern about their life perspectives and cultural background,” said Grace Wainaina, a senior finance major at Oakwood. “The informal sessions during the retreat were so enlightening.”

Guster was pleased to see students forging new, culturally diverse relationships over the weekend, fulfilling the goal of the event.

“Getting students together allows them to see that they have more in common than they may realize,” Guster said. “I hope this event helped to nurture Christian diversity and develop a new understanding between students of Southern and Oakwood.”

- by *Tierra Hayes*, senior mass communication major

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## We Want Your Feedback!

Your thoughts and feedback are valuable! Email [southernparents@southern.edu](mailto:southernparents@southern.edu) or call 423.236.2581 with your comments or questions.

Thank you!

