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For Parents of Southern Adventist University Students

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PANORAMA

parent newsletter | September 2020



Q&A with Chaplain Joseph Khabbaz

Vice President for Spiritual Life

Q: What is the spiritual theme for this year?

A: Our theme for this year is "United: Pursuing Jesus Together," based on the promise in John 17. Jesus says that the world will know we are His disciples by how we love one another. We are committed to exemplifying what it looks like to love each other in harmony through Christ. Along with an element of unity, there is also an evangelistic component in this theme. We choose to follow Jesus *for ourselves*, but we can't just follow Jesus *by ourselves*. We need to pursue Jesus together, and we are better together as a result.



Q: What changes have been made in spiritual activities to be as safe as possible?

A: This semester we are not requiring any Enrichment Credits so that sick students do not feel compelled to attend large events such as vespers. However, we are continuing face-to-face vespers because we believe it is important to build community. We set up a large, open-air tent and offer two vespers services there, which helps keep gathering sizes smaller. All attendees go through the daily health assessment, wear masks, and stay physically distanced. Students can also watch and interact with vespers online. We encourage taking part in a LifeGroup online as well. Just because we are physically distancing, we don't have to be socially or spiritually distant.

Q: How do you stay encouraged during difficulties?

A: One way is by focusing on the promises of God. One in particular is found in Philippians 4:6-7, which says in part: "Be anxious of nothing. Through prayer and supplication make your prayers be known to God. And the peace of God that passes all understanding will guide your hearts and your minds through Christ Jesus our Lord." Every time I feel anxious, I use that as an opportunity to pray. I turn to God because He is my burden bearer. I have to remind myself that faith matters most when times are difficult, not when life is easy. When things are challenging, that is when my faith grows.

Q: What advice do you have for students who are discouraged right now?

A: Don't be too hard on yourself. Even though we may be weary, that does not mean that we are weak. Even the strongest people in faith sometimes feel fatigued. Stay committed, and remember God's goodness in your life. Our strength this semester is dependent on knowing that God is with us. Write down the times that God has been with you, and this will give you encouragement. Although many things have changed in the world, there's one thing that never changes—God's love for every student here on campus. Even though we are in uncertain times, we can remember that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

by Madison Reinschmidt

Calendar

Please note that all campus events are students-only this semester

September

21-25 | Student Missions Emphasis Week

22 | 1st Day of Autumn

25 | Student Association Smile Initiative

25 | Vespers: Student Missions

26 | All Night Softball Tournament

October

1 | Financial Aid for 2021-2022 available, FAFSA priority deadline November 30

2 | Senate Surprise Day

2 | Vespers: Latin American Heritage

4 | Symphony Orchestra Concert

8 | Meet the Firms and Graduate Schools

11 | Wind Symphony Concert

20 | Midterm Grades Due

22 | #PurpleThursday Photo Booth

29 | Last Day to Drop a Class with a "W" on Transcript

30 | Vespers: Short Term Missions

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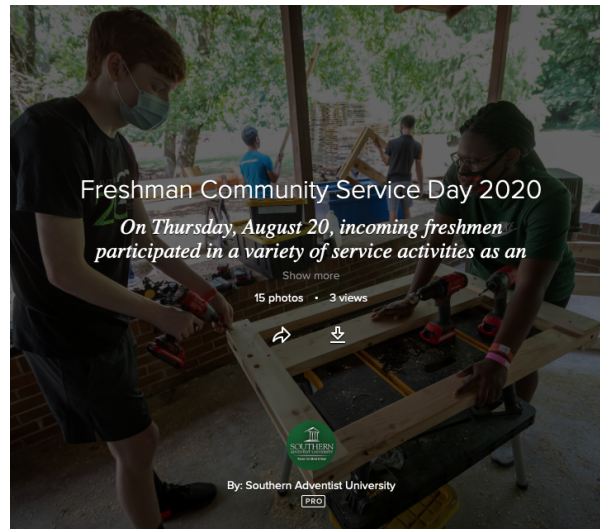
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COVID-19 Resources

If you have questions about Southern's response to the coronavirus, please visit the following websites for more information.

- southern.edu/covid19policy—The university's full COVID-19 policy for Fall 2020
- southern.edu/coronavirus—The main hub for information regarding fall safety features and policies that also includes a student FAQ and an archive of previous emails to students
- southern.edu/care—The Covenant of Care that students and employees agree to every day
- southern.edu/guest—A direct link to a symptom survey campus visitors must complete before arriving on campus and completing a temperature check



Check out the Freshman Community Service Day 2020 album on Flickr, [here!](#)

Students Help Struggling Local Businesses

This year, Southern Adventist University's Enactus team launched the Marketing Kit Tools (MRKT) project. Students from the School of Business, which houses the innovation-driven student organization, have reached out to local businesses that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and recent tornados.

"After doing our research to see what small businesses needed, we came up with two solutions," said Iliana Dialectakis, junior finance major and one of the MRKT project managers. "First, marketing support; and second, capital. As college students, we felt could provide help in marketing."

Dialectakis, along with Kerby Desamour, junior business administration major and MRKT's other project manager, have been working with eight fellow Enactus members to focus specifically on digital marketing because of its heightened importance during the pandemic.

The team's first client is the Adventist Muslim Friendship Association (AMFA), an organization that supports refugee immigrants. Through MRKT, students coordinated a video interview with a doctor, who provided the organization with instructions on how to deal with COVID-19. The students also organized photo shoots to provide AMFA with a collection of quality images for defining and promoting its brand.

One of AMFA's projects is a women's sewing group called Peace of Thread, which gives refugees an avenue for income through making and selling purses and now face masks. The Enactus students have helped Peace of Thread establish a social media presence, improve its website design, make business cards, and create stores on Etsy and Facebook Marketplace.

To help meet client goals, MRKT has partnered with Touch Marketing Solutions (TMS), a company established by recent Southern business alum Kristi Jensen, '20, to support digital marketing efforts. This additional resource in MRKT's toolbox helps the organizations fill in gaps with services that Enactus may not be able to provide.

"Digital marketing is not a one-size-fits-all system," Jensen said. "We strive to create a marketing strategy that reflects the needs and personalities of each company we work

The MRKT project team is actively searching for additional businesses to equip with the resources needed to recover and be successful.

"We want to help them learn how everything works and then, once they're ready to go forward on their own, they'll know exactly what to do," Desamour said. "The primary point of this project is just to help those in need."

- by *Trisney Bocala*

We Want Your Feedback!

Dear Parent,

We are so excited to be back on campus for the 2020-2021 school year! Thank you for investing your time to read *Panorama*, where we will share relevant and exciting events, stories, and other updates here at Southern.

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

Thank you!

Madison Reinschmidt, sophomore mass communication major
Panorama Editor