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Panorama Parent Newsletter

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Southern Adventist University

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For Parents of Southern Adventist University Students

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PANORAMA

parent newsletter | October 2020



President David Smith to Retire in 2021



David Smith, PhD, has announced that he will retire in May 2021 at the conclusion of his fifth year as president of Southern Adventist University. Smith has a long relationship with the institution, where he began teaching English in 1981, serving 17 years as professor and then department chair. His wife, Cherie, and two daughters are graduates of Southern.

"David's passion for students and for spreading the love of Christ has inspired me," said Tom Verrill, senior vice president for Financial Administration. "His presidency accomplished significant objectives that prepare us well for a strong and successful future."

These accomplishments include leading the rewrite of Southern's mission, vision, and values; the development of a comprehensive strategic plan; and the emphasis on Southern's endowment fund that experienced a \$15 million increase as part of the recently completed Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning.

"Grappling with enrollment, academic excellence, cultural competency, Christian integrity issues, and the COVID-19 pandemic have showcased Dr. David Smith's commitment to the development of higher education within the Seventh-day Adventist Church," said Ron Smith, PhD, DMin, chairman of Southern's Board of Trustees and president of the Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. "I will miss his leadership and friendship."

David Smith previously served as president of Union College in Nebraska and senior pastor of the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists. Deeply committed to serving God and nurturing a Christ-centered environment on campus, as Southern president, Smith established a new leadership position, the vice president for Spiritual Life.

"David has been a visionary leader who has a great sense of humor, is a good listener, and asks good questions," said Robert Young, PhD, senior vice president for Academic Administration. "He has also brought a spiritual credibility that is evidenced in his messages to campus, his prayer life, and his servant-leadership."

Having made a five-year commitment to serve as president, Smith has peace about his decision as he finishes up his leadership at Southern and prepares for retirement.

"Southern Adventist University is God's school," Smith said. "Its future is in God's hands, not our hands. If we humble ourselves, if we pray, and if we submit to His will, God will deliver the future He knows is best for us and for those we serve. With each step into the future, we must learn to trust Him fully."

Calendar

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

October

22 | Domestic Violence Awareness #PurpleThursday

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

29 to Nov 1 | Virtual Alumni Homecoming

November

1 | Student Association Fall Fair

2-6 | Fall Week of Prayer

2 | Online W21 Registration for Southern Scholars and Graduate students

3 | Online W21 Registration for Returning Seniors

5 | Online W21 Registration for Returning Juniors

7 | Studio 4109 LIVE

8 | Symphony Orchestra Concert

9 | Online W21 Registration for Returning Sophomores

11 | Online W21 Registration for Returning Freshmen

16-20 | International Student Week

22 | F20 Rent and Meal Plans End

23-29 | Thanksgiving Break

30 | Classes Resume Online

30 | Priority Deadline for Filing 2021-2022 FAFSA

December

11 | Fall Semester Ends

13 | Winter Commencement

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have completed the process before Smith retires in 2021.

[Parents](#)

Watch a message from the president [here](#).

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

McKee Library Celebrates 50th Anniversary



For five decades, McKee Library has supported Southern students with ever-expanding access to materials and resourceful staff members. Ongoing transformations of space and technology help to keep the library's current collection of 178,000 items relevant and accessible.

To commemorate this year's milestone on September 24, the library displayed historic timeline banners and coordinated several appropriately distanced events for students and employees. The celebration will continue into October with an online guest speaker during this year's virtual Homecoming Weekend (see southern.edu/homecoming for details).

Named in honor of Mr. and Mrs. O.D. McKee, co-founders of McKee Foods Corporation and major financial contributors to building the library in 1970, the original McKee Library facility more than doubled shelf capacity from the smaller library in Daniells Hall. Since then, Southern's librarians have been eager to experiment with cutting-edge technologies to make academic life easier for students and professors. Starting in 1976 with a computer network connected by terminals that were only available to librarians, the library now offers laptops and tablets available for check out, streaming media databases, live online chats, and other avenues for learning engagement.

Available resources are not just virtual. Students can borrow board games, books, DVDs, news sources, and other traditional materials. Both the Writing Center and the Tutoring Center in the library offer one-on-one sessions for students who need help finding research sources, writing speeches and papers, and understanding assignments and class materials. Research coaching is another resource that provides support beyond course work to personal interests and post-graduate work.

McKee Library implemented the institutional repository KnowledgeExchange@Southern, making Southern the first Seventh-day Adventist university in the United States to have one. Students and faculty are now able to submit creative or academic works—such as journal articles, research, creative writings, artwork, media projects, theses, and dissertations—for inclusion in the repository. Anyone can search for and view these works, along with information about many other resources at southern.edu/library.

by Olivia Fisher

Tutoring and Writing Help

own, but I kind of forced her to sign up for a tutoring session. Not only does she think it helps, she actually likes it, texting me after each session, telling me how good it went!"
- Shelly, parent of a freshman nursing major

The Writing Center and Tutoring Center offer free help to any Southern student. Learn more about how your student can benefit by visiting southern.edu/tutoring and southern.edu/writingcenter, emailing sfordham@southern.edu, or calling 423.236.2578.

Meet the Student Association President

Sheryl Kambuni, junior psychology and business administration double major

Q: What motivated you to run for Student Association (SA) president?

A: During my time at Southern, I have enjoyed serving in various positions. I worked as an RA in Thatcher Hall, so I was able to interact with the girls and got to know them better through that job. I served as a senator, which helped me get involved in student politics. I felt like running for SA



president was a calling for me because it is a way to continue serving the student body while impacting more change. I am still learning and growing this year, and I feel like nothing could have prepared me for a pandemic. But, as an international student who has moved from Kenya to Collegedale, I had to adjust to life here and believe that experience helped me to grow and prepared me for this position. I am dedicated to serving the student body and care about students and their needs. The Student Association and I are doing our absolute best as a team to make 2020-2021 a great year.

Q: What are some of your goals for this school year?

A: I want to have deeper conversations about mental health because I feel like a lot of students are struggling; I am showing students what resources are available for them. I also have a goal of expanding the concept of the RoundTable alumni program in the Schools of Journalism and Communication and Visual Art and Design to other departments on campus. RoundTable allows students to be mentored by Southern alumni who are professionals in their fields and to gain an understanding of what types of work they may pursue after graduation. I am partnering with Alumni Relations to create a mentorship program to give students an idea of what job options are out there while Southern alumni help them learn more about possible careers.

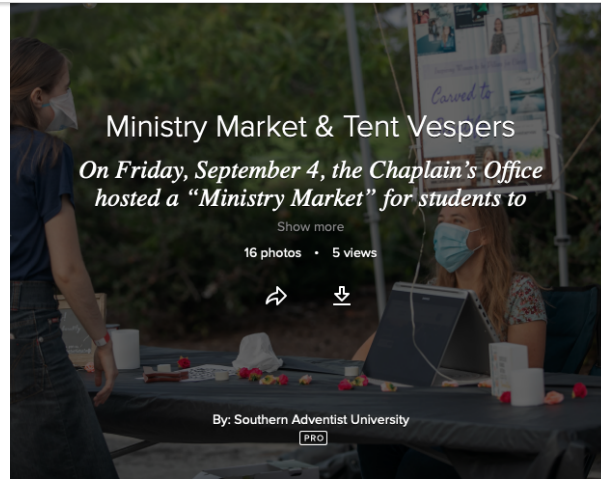
Q: How are you balancing planning events that are fun while also keeping safety a priority?

A: It is a challenge to create social events when physical distancing rules are in place; every event is a puzzle of its own. The SA team is intentional in our planning, and that collaboration is making this year successful. One example of the way events have changed would be in our first SA event of the year, the SA Welcome Party: Night Fest. Students walked through the gym in a line to receive their free Night Fest masks and Crumbl Cookie gift cards, as well as posing for individual photos. We were unable to include all of the elements that we had initially planned for the event, but our priority is keeping the student body safe and healthy.

Q: How is God guiding you?

A: When I decided to run for SA president, I prayed about it, and at the time, there was no pandemic. I was expecting a regular school year. But this situation is teaching me to depend on God for everything. I can't make it on my own, but I know that I can do what I need to when I depend on Him. In that way, He is growing me spiritually this year, and I am enjoying the challenges that turn into victories.

by Madison Reinschmidt



Check out the Ministry Market & Tent Vespers album on Flickr, [here!](#)

We Want Your Help

Dear Parent,

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