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Fall 2012

## Columns Fall 2012

Southern Adventist University

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### Recommended Citation

Southern Adventist University, "Columns Fall 2012" (2012). *Alumni Newsletter*. 94.  
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fall 2012

# columns

magazine of Southern Adventist University



## Close to God in the City of Angels

finding a life of service in Los Angeles | page 16

## Dear Southern

I wonder what they packed for college. In the years following World War II, what did the female students who moved into Talge Hall (a women's residence at the time) bring? I doubt the rooms were equipped with a phone line; a personal typewriter would have been a luxury. Beyond the suitcases, I wonder what intangibles they carried. They had watched fathers and brothers go to war. Now it was their turn to change the world.

Today Talge Hall is home to 750 residents. With the help of the dedicated We-Haul crew (see page 30), they carried a few more gadgets into their rooms this past August than their 1950s counterparts. But many of the intangibles were undoubtedly the same: hope, a love of learning, a desire to serve. These are heavy things, but they are carried in the heart and mind and become lighter when shared.

— Kendra Stanton-Lee, assistant professor



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## features

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Memories come alive during this special October weekend. Graduates from five different decades share why this is a “can’t miss” event.

**16 | Close to God in the City of Angels**  
Los Angeles has become an accidental landing place for several Southern graduates. Do their spiritual lives look and feel different in Tinseltown than they did in Collegedale?

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After a tough senior year, Mona finds that the Bible—and not the classroom—is the best source for answers to life’s deepest spiritual questions.

**24 | Devotions with Dr. Hopeful**  
Professor Ken Caviness is reading and recording the Bible in Esperanto, a planned language created to help foster unity among different ethnic groups.

Cover Photo: Brian Lauritzen, '06, finds that a city as big as Los Angeles provides unique spiritual challenges. The story of his journey—along with that of two classmates who moved to L.A. around the same time—begins on page 16 (photos of Lauritzen by Adam Buck, '08).

## departments

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Homer Dever, pictured here on the cover of our last issue, passed away shortly after the magazine was printed. The story of his burden for writing letters to student missionaries proved inspirational to many of you, as more than a dozen people contacted the university asking how they could assist in this important task. We would like to thank everyone who put emotion into motion; we think Homer would be thrilled with your response!



# columns

**Volume 64** **Number 2**  
**Alumni Edition**

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## facebook

I miss Sabbaths at Southern Adventist University. However, Sabbaths are a blessing no matter where you are.

»Eduardo Daniel Arroyo, '12

We will really miss our Japanese guests, Yuri and Yo. Safe travels over the sea, girls!



*Editor's note: This was the fifth year Southern has hosted nursing students from Japan. More than 20 students immersed themselves in American culture, taking English classes in the morning and nursing classes in the afternoon. Nash's guests stayed in his home for two and a half weeks; it was the family's first time serving as hosts.*

»Andy Nash, Professor  
School of Journalism and Communication

God is good! And my adviser is so patient! Mrs. Valenda helped me plan the next three years of my schooling, and I'm right on track.

»Brooke Firestone, junior nursing major

I love how even when I'm having a rough and crazy month I can still feel God working through the people around me. So incredibly blessed to be a Southern Adventist University student.

»Jackie Olivas, senior marketing major

Our last sunset at Hergheia.

*Editor's note: Eric, '97, and Janelle (Pettibone) Hullquist, '05, visited Hergheia, Romania, to shoot video of mission work for Outpost Centers International.*



»Eric Hullquist, '97

## flickr



President Gordon Bietz visited Turkey over the summer, even trying out a mud bath in the warm pools of Laodicea.

[flickr.com/photos/southernu](http://flickr.com/photos/southernu)



This huge double rainbow behind Wright Hall was captured on a cell phone camera in the early morning hours of August 17. The image received more than 1,000 "Likes" when posted to Southern's Facebook page.

[flickr.com/photos/southernu](http://flickr.com/photos/southernu)



John Youngberg, associate professor of construction management in the Technology Department, poses with Abraham Lincoln (Chet Damron, '57) during August's ASI convention in Cincinnati. Note the "I Love Southern" sticker on Abe's hat!

[flickr.com/photos/southernu](http://flickr.com/photos/southernu)

# twitter



Volunteers from Southern Adventist University helping out at our parks the day before school starts. Thanks, SAU!

»Chattanooga Parks and Recreation

Can't wait to buy this shirt!



»Becca Anderson, junior public relations major

# worth a click!

[mypvpower.com/dashboard/460](http://mypvpower.com/dashboard/460)



Southern's new 200-kilowatt solar panel system, up and running since April and featured in the last issue of COLUMNS, includes a dashboard monitoring device that allows the public to easily view system performance. The information can be accessed via the link above or by visiting [southern.edu/green](http://southern.edu/green). Daily charts show the weather vs. power correlation, current and lifetime wattage numbers, and energy equivalencies as measured by pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>, trees, and gallons of gas.



# vimeo



Bryan Fowler, '97, shot this video about an outdoor leadership class trip Southern students took to Death Valley for a motorcycle adventure that also provided training in expedition planning.

See the video at [southern.edu/columns](http://southern.edu/columns).



In the fall of 2007, Southern's animation students and faculty set out to create a three-minute short film based on a simple parable about helping others. This artistic venture was a five-year journey. The result is the 12-minute animated short, "Rock in the Road."

See the video at [southern.edu/columns](http://southern.edu/columns).



Christopher Emerson, senior film major, wrote and directed "An Invocation for Artists" featuring upperclassmen from the School of Visual Art and Design. The video was used as a send off for students at the end of the year show.

See the video at [southern.edu/columns](http://southern.edu/columns).

# youtube



Tanya Musgrave, '11, directed and filmed this promotional video for Mount Pisgah Academy, an Adventist boarding school just outside of Asheville, North Carolina.

See the video at [southern.edu/columns](http://southern.edu/columns).

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twitter: [twitter.com/SouthernNews](http://twitter.com/SouthernNews)

[leadership]

## Trustees' Businesses Honored for Outstanding Products, Service

Southern's Board of Trustees provides high-level leadership and strategic direction for the university. These 39 individuals share their expertise and business acumen to hold the institution to high standards. Recently, several trustees who run their own companies were recognized for outstanding products and services on local and national levels. Southern is proud to have influential trustees with such successful businesses.

### Danny Houghton, One Degree Organic Foods

Danny Houghton, '98, is the vice president of Marketing and Sales for One Degree Organic Foods, winner of the Nexty Editor's Choice Award for Food and Beverage. The company's products

include bread, flour, and seeds, and are best described as local and traceable. Product packaging has links printed on it that take consumers directly to information about the specific farmer and source of the product. Houghton has been a board member since 2006.

### Izak Wessels, Allied Eye Associates

Allied Eye Associates (AEA), Izak F. Wessels' one-stop eye clinic, won the Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce 2012 Small Business of the Year Award for the 21-50 employee category. AEA provides comprehensive screenings, diagnosis, and treatment. Wessels prays with patients before surgery and gives them his mobile phone number to use

whenever needed—even at night. He has been a board member since 2006.

### Jeffeory White, White's Pediatrics

Jeffeory White, M.D., is the medical director of White's Pediatrics, a system of clinics in Georgia. For two years in a row, his business has won Georgia's Provider Quality Incentive Program (PQIP) award from Amerigroup Community Care.

"As Christians, money cannot be the highest focus of our businesses," he said.

White, whose two sons attended Southern, enjoys helping the university equip Christian young people to serve in any way he can. He has been a board member since 2005.

—Ingrid Hernandez

## President Edits Book on Higher Education in North America

Gordon Bietz's new book, *Seventh-day Adventist Higher Education in North America: Theological Perspectives and Current Issues*, has just been released and represents four years of writing and research.

The book was put together by Bietz and Steve Pawluk, provost at La Sierra University and former senior vice president for Academic Administration at Southern, and contains four sections: Theology of Seventh-day Adventist Higher Education, The Value-Added Aspect of Seventh-day Adventist Higher Education, External Perspectives, and The Future of Seventh-day Adventist Higher Education.

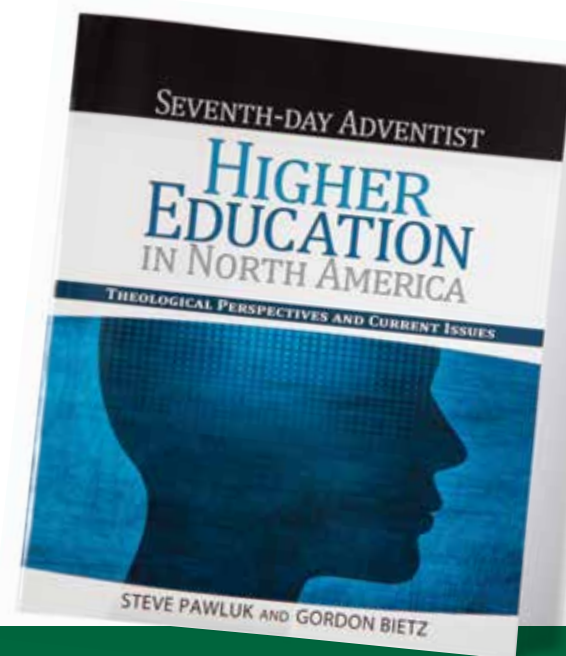
"When Pawluk approached me about contributing to the book, I was immediately interested," Bietz said. "It is one of the only books I have seen that deals with the subject in great detail."

Along with being president of Southern, Bietz also has been executive director for the Association of Adventist Colleges and Universities (AACU) for the past four years, making his contribution to the book all the more insightful.

"I found that our schools are more alike than they are different, and each of them makes an important contribution to higher education," Bietz said.

The book can be ordered from [adventistbookcenter.com](http://adventistbookcenter.com).

—Luke Evans



## » by the numbers

15

Students enrolled in Southern's new Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

89,498

Average daily volume of emails received by Southern servers during the summer. 75,303 of those were blocked as spam.

3.7

Miles from campus to Exit 9 on I-75. The newly opened exit connects Apison Pike directly to the interstate.

[around campus]



(Left) The Khirbet Qeiyafa Ostrakon, or inked potsherd, was found in 2008 and it is possibly the earliest sample of Hebrew writing. A replica of this important piece will be included in the new exhibit.  
(Above) An aerial shot of the Khirbet Qeiyafa dig site in Israel.

## Artifacts from the Time of King David Displayed at Museum

Was King David's reign a myth? The poet king is at the center of Israel's ancient biblical history, but many have questioned if he and his kingdom actually existed.

After years of work at Khirbet Qeiyafa, Southern's Institute of Archaeology is proud to answer these questions. "The Battle Over King David: Excavating the Fortress of Elah" opens November 7 at the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum.

For the past four years, the Institute of Archaeology has been taking students to Israel to help uncover the remains at the Fortress of Elah, an ancient city from the time of David. Archaeological evidence found at this site has shed new light on the authenticity of the history of David and his kingdom.

"What's great about this exhibit is that, for the first time, we will have artifacts

**"What's great about this exhibit is that, for the first time, we will have artifacts Southern students have excavated for themselves."**

—MICHAEL HASEL

Southern students have excavated for themselves," said Michael Hasel, director of the Institute of Archaeology.

Displays will include several pottery and stone vessels dating to the time of King David, as well as coins and stamp seals from various other periods.

"The excavations at Khirbet Qeiyafa have been making headlines since 2008," said Justo Morales, coordinator for the museum. "The oldest Hebrew inscription (or piece of writing) in existence was discovered there by students, along with strong evidence that the Fortress of Elah may be where the Israelites camped

before David had his famed battle with Goliath."

The artifacts that will be featured at the exhibit are on loan from the National Treasures of Israel and will be returned at the end of April 2014.

"We have invested a lot of time and financial resources into this incredible site for four years now, and we are delighted to make the findings and discoveries of Khirbet Qeiyafa available to the public for the first time in the world," Hasel said.

The work done at Khirbet Qeiyafa has earned Southern's Institute of Archaeology a \$10,000 sponsorship from Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries International. The money will be used for the final publication of evidence that was uncovered at the site.

For more information, please call 423.236.2027.

—Luke Evans

19

Countries students visited over the summer for study tours and evangelism.

3,500

Span of years represented in the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum (see article above).

193

Vegetarian sushi rolls sold at the Village Market during an average week.



## [around campus]

**University Purchases Winding Creek Apartment Complex**

Southern recently purchased the Winding Creek apartment complex, located just off the Four Corners intersection in Collegedale. The new housing option will help accommodate growing enrollment.

The apartments were specifically purchased to serve married students and families. There are 50 units—34 two-bedroom and 16 one-bedroom—with sizes ranging from 620 to 1,360 square feet. They were fixed and cleaned as needed in preparation for students and their families but did not undergo any major remodeling.

“Married couples and families have

different housing needs than other students, and we purchased the Winding Creek apartments to meet these needs in the best way possible,” said Tom Verrill, senior vice president for Financial Administration.

The new units are located less than two miles from Southern, and similar to Spalding Cove Apartments, Winding Creek is connected to campus by the popular Wolftever Creek Greenway.

“My husband and I use the Greenway all the time. It’s a nice walking trail,” said Linda Moore, sophomore nursing major and Winding Creek resident. “I absolutely plan on using it to get to class.”

These apartments were acquired at a time when more housing options were needed to account for the continued increase in university enrollment. This school year marks the 14th consecutive year the campus has seen a record number of students taking classes.

Additional housing changes over the summer included the conversion of Upper Stateside apartments to undergraduate housing (allowing for higher density, dorm-style living arrangements), and moving older single students and graduate students to the Spalding Cove townhomes.

—Ingrid Hernandez

## [news briefs]

**Volkswagen Awards Scholarship for Interpreting**

Southern senior Clemente Perez received a \$2,500 scholarship from Volkswagen for his interpreting at the company’s annual global leadership event in Chattanooga. Several students participated in the work, and all were invited to submit essays about the experience as a means of applying for the scholarship. Clemente, a biblical studies, archaeology, and international studies major, previously spent two years in Austria through the Adventist Colleges Abroad program.

**Campus Architect Earns Eco-Friendly Certification**

Campus architect Fred Turner has recently become a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) accredited professional, bringing Southern one step closer toward its Vision 20/20 benchmark of becoming a greener campus. LEED certification is recognized as the standard for measuring eco-friendly building designs, construction, and maintenance solutions. Turner’s LEED certification has taught him new methods of protecting the campus’ natural environment by means of maintaining fresh air, conserving water, saving energy, and using materials and resources in a responsible way for Southern and the surrounding community.

**Faculty and Staff Set Giving Record**

Employee giving at Southern reached an all-time high this year with more than 70 percent of faculty and staff participating to raise more than \$88,000. Southern’s Advancement department

credits the growth in giving to their Building Relationships In Department Giving Everyday (BRIDGE) program, which connects the different schools and programs across campus while raising awareness of the numerous ways employees can help students. The most popular donation areas were individual department affinity funds, the Student Missions program, and scholarships.

**Website Connects Students and Alums with Employers**

CAREERlink, a massive job recruiting website powered by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) and Simplicity software, is now available to Southern students and alumni. The search engine allows users to post resumés and portfolios and to review the internships and job posts that hiring managers have submitted. Students of junior, senior, or graduate status are automatically enrolled, while interested alumni can request an account by emailing Jeremy Moore, '00, career services coordinator: [jsmoore@southern.edu](mailto:jsmoore@southern.edu).

**Information Systems Hires New Associate VP**

Southern welcomed Gary Sewell to the campus in May as the new associate vice president for Information Systems. Sewell previously worked as the manager of information technology applications development and infrastructure for Ferrellgas, a propane company. Project prioritization includes developing a technology master plan and strengthening a disaster recovery plan for computing systems. He is married with five children; his oldest son, Zac, is a freshman nursing major.

[student news]

## Business Team Wins Regionals, Competes at National Level

After being named champions at the Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) Regional Competition in Atlanta, Southern's team had the chance to present at the National Exposition in Kansas City, Missouri, May 22-24. Although they didn't win, it was the fourth consecutive year Southern's group has made it that far; an accomplishment worthy of celebration.

They also received an unexpected pat on the back as the Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport covered their travel fees to the competition in honor of the team's work getting a 200-kilowatt solar panel system installed on campus last April.

"We believe it is critical for organizations to provide thought leadership in pushing our industries to recognize our impact on the environment," said Terry Hart, president and CEO of the airport. "Southern's SIFE team did just that, and it was an honor to recognize them for their work on this project."

The SIFE team presented four of their projects at the national exposition: the installation of 832 solar panels on a

campus warehouse roof, the addition of single-stream recycling at Southern, GenLink, and Dream Discover Do. GenLink creates temporary jobs in the community for students, and Dream Discover Do provides workshops where students can meet with various entrepreneurship experts.

"We have devoted team members who worked hard to get the projects and results we could present on," said Christina Whary, '12, SIFE president for 2011-2012.

SIFE is an international nonprofit organization that works with businesses and higher education, mobilizing university students to make a difference in their communities while developing the skills to become socially responsible leaders of tomorrow.

According to Stephanie Sheehan, '05, director of SIFE at Southern, some of the project plans for the new year include: Campus RainWorks, an EPA stormwater project; Value Our Voltage, a campaign to increase awareness of



Applauding SIFE's solar panel project, the Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport provided four complimentary round-trip tickets to help offset expenses for the team as it traveled to a national competition.

energy-saving practices; and a safe home for women in Chad, Africa, that uses solar ovens to run a business and keep the nonprofit self-sustaining.

To stay informed on the group's projects, visit [southern.edu/sife](http://southern.edu/sife).

—Ingrid Hernandez

## Medical Missions Documentary Features Southern Students



Director Martin Doblmeier said the idea of medical missionaries paying their own travel expenses on trips, like Shelby Tanguay did in the Dominican Republic, is an inspiring element of *The Adventists II*.

It was senior health science major Shelby Tanguay's fourth mission trip assisting an orthopedic surgeon in the operating room. This time, however, she was much more involved.

The team Shelby worked with at the Julia Santana Municipal Hospital in Tamayo, Dominican Republic, removed the extra fingers and toes of a boy. Shelby's younger brother, sophomore health science major Ryan Tanguay, got to watch. He knew how much this opportunity meant for his sister, whose dream is to become a doctor.

"The boy's favorite sport was baseball, but he couldn't play because he couldn't fit his hand into the glove and he didn't have the normal shoes," Shelby said. "This changed his life."

Shelby's and Ryan's experiences will be a part of a sequel to 2010's *The Adventists*, a well-received documentary by Martin Doblmeier.

"I made the first film and thought it was all I had been called to do, but we kept hearing about the medical missionaries and saw there was another story to tell," Doblmeier said.

The Tanguay siblings were thrilled to be a part of the film.

"This university has given me the basis for my dream, so this was an incredible opportunity to represent my school," Shelby said. "I was even able to wear my Southern scrubs!"

*The Adventists II* will be released for broadcast on PBS stations in early 2013.

—Ingrid Hernandez

## [graduate school]

## School of Computing Offers New Master of Science Degree

With initial enrollment exceeding expectations, Southern's new Master of Science in Computer Science program has started out strong this fall.

"A graduate program like this will also attract more undergraduate students and encourage research opportunities in the School of Computing," said Willard Munger, the school's graduate counselor.

There are two emphases for the new degree—general computer science and embedded systems—and it is the only master's degree of its kind in the North American Division system of colleges.

Students in the program have three matriculation options: a traditional M.S. awarded in two years after having completed the four-year bachelor's degree;

an accelerated M.S. awarded in one year after having completed the four-year bachelor's degree; and an accelerated M.S. awarded along with a bachelor's in computer science in five years. The accelerated programs require 12 and 6 hours of summer undergraduate coursework, respectively.

"This program gives our students the opportunity to go straight through and finish in five years instead of six," said Kelly Sanchez, graduate enrollment counselor for the School of Computing.

The accelerated, five-year track is designed to be equivalent to five years of working in the field. This highlight, along with the embedded systems emphasis, separates the master's degree in com-

puter science at Southern from other universities' programs.

Ivan Marsh, who's already begun taking graduate level classes as he finishes his undergraduate requirements, called his decision to begin the degree a "no-brainer."

"The classes I took in the undergrad program were more like building blocks," Ivan said. "The master's program will be more hands-on and more of what I plan to do in my career."

Graduate classes in computing scheduled for this semester include Embedded Systems in Robotics and Automation, Algorithms, and Advanced Software Engineering.

—Ingrid Hernandez

## Social Work Professor Helps African Educators Build Curriculum

Sharon Pittman, professor of social work at Southern, moved her classroom this summer from the small valley in Collegedale, Tennessee, to the vast plains of Tanzania, Africa. Students at schools on both continents are all the better for it.

Pittman has frequently been involved in teaching and setting up social work programs at Seventh-day Adventist schools in Africa. Three years ago when the University of Illinois-Chicago asked her to travel to Tanzania and help do the same thing at the Open University of Tanzania, the Hubert Kairuki Memorial University, and the Institute of Social Work of Tanzania, she didn't hesitate.

Since then, Pittman has traveled to Tanzania five times to assist in the creation of undergraduate and graduate social work programs. The project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development working with the American International Health Alliance in partnership with the University of Illinois. Pittman's specific contribution has been to help university faculty, who often

have little to no social work education, build curriculum for new bachelor's and master's degrees in that area. She also has been involved in helping create online social work programs that will be delivered throughout the country by the Open University of Tanzania.

"In Africa, faith is so much a part of everyday life that it is essential for professors to learn how to integrate Christian principles of social justice into their curriculum," Pittman said. "It has been a privilege to be a part of that."

Pittman will be returning to Tanzania during school holidays to help the institutions continue to grow their graduate programs. The time spent there is of im-

mense benefit to students here, as well. The contacts she makes through this work will assist with internship opportunities for Southern students, especially those interested in international social work. Additionally, the global practice skills that she keeps sharp by helping in Africa make for a stronger classroom experience at Southern.

Hubert Kairuki Memorial University and the Institute of Social Work of Tanzania have already begun to offer undergraduate social work degrees and they plan to offer graduate degrees in January 2013. Open University will begin its new graduate social work program this fall.

—Luke Evans



Sharon Pittman has traveled to Tanzania five times already to assist in the creation of undergraduate and graduate social work programs that meet international standards. Faculty of multiple faiths, pictured here, are eager to learn more.



Ken Parsons, Wind Symphony director

# More Than Music

By Mia Lindsey, '12

I blew the audition. I walked out of Wood Hall disappointed, fighting back tears. One of the reasons I had looked forward to attending Southern was to play in the Wind Symphony. I played the clarinet throughout high school, but since my school was too small to support a music program, I had to settle for playing solo pieces in my bedroom or occasionally at church for special music. Southern would give me my first opportunity to be a part of a real ensemble. After the way the auditions went, however, I didn't think I would ever get that chance.

The audition consisted of playing musical scales by memory and sight-reading several short songs. I struggled, squeaking out notes in the wrong rhythms and key signatures. The Wind Symphony director patiently smiled as I played, then told me that the names of the band members would be posted on his office door at the end of the week. I went back to my dorm room and tried to get my mind off of what had just happened.

Yet, to my surprise, my name showed up on the door. What I learned over the next four years would far exceed anything I had imagined.

## Playing with Purpose

The man who gave me a chance with the symphony was Ken Parsons, associate professor in the School of Music. He came to Southern in 2000. In addition to directing the Wind Symphony, he also directs the Jazz Ensemble, offers private trumpet lessons, and teaches several music education classes. Before coming here, he chaired the music department and directed the wind ensembles at Forest Lake Academy in Apopka, Florida, for 14 years.

The first thing I learned was the importance of practice. Every group rehearsal started with playing through all of the scales. I dreaded playing them and just wanted to skip to the "real" music. However, after playing them over and over, I eventually learned to play through them all with ease. Parsons stressed the necessity of practice outside of group rehearsals as well. Each of us was held accountable for knowing our individual part, no matter how simple or uninteresting it sounded on its own. I soon realized that if any part of the song was missing, it would not be the same; each instrument worked together to form a beautiful sound.

I also learned that there is more to music than just playing notes off a page. Whenever we began working on a new piece, Parsons would

tell us the story behind the composer's creation of the song. Learning what served as the composer's source of inspiration would in turn inspire us to play with purpose.

Parsons' conducting served as the best example of the power and beauty of music. Whether the song was fast and lighthearted, or slow and sobering, his careful movements demonstrated what different stresses and articulations to play. During any performance, I could look up and see Parsons' face filled with emotion—his arms moving to keep rhythm but also showing creative expression. Seeing how much the music affected him would challenge me to play my best, and I would often find myself getting lost in the music as well.

Parsons has an incredible memory. We began each rehearsal with a prayer, and on Fridays he would take prayer requests. At least 15 hands would go up every time. The topics of concerns could range from a lost ID card to a loved one's health. Parsons would listen attentively as students poured their hearts' distresses before the entire group. Then, without writing down any notes, he would pray, matching every request with the student who mentioned it. The fact that he remembered our prayer requests, no matter how big or small, reminded me of our Heavenly Father. What a wonderful thing to think about during symphony rehearsals!

## Blessing Others

Because of one dedicated and compassionate instructor, I decided to minor in music and plan to use the musical skills I have acquired to bless and inspire others. I'm thankful that even though I did not think I had what it took to be a part of the Wind Symphony, Parsons saw otherwise. I hope to view people through that same filter of grace through which Parsons saw me.

It's a good lesson to take away from college. Four years ago, who could have imagined the clarinet would be this instrumental in my spiritual education? When it came to Ken Parsons and the Wind Symphony, it was definitely about more than music. ■

# There's No Place L

For those who stayed in the area after graduation, a trip to campus for Homecoming is nearly as simple as clicking their heels together three times. But for friends of the university flying in from around the world, the event requires a bit more planning. The rewards are the same either way: memories come alive during this special October weekend.

by Angela Baerg, '06

There are certain moments from our shared history at Southern that will forever be scrawled in graduates' hearts and minds, such as eating pile after pile of haystacks in the Dining Hall, laughing as ducks hold up traffic at the entrance to campus, and relishing the smell of Little Debbie snack cakes hovering over campus.

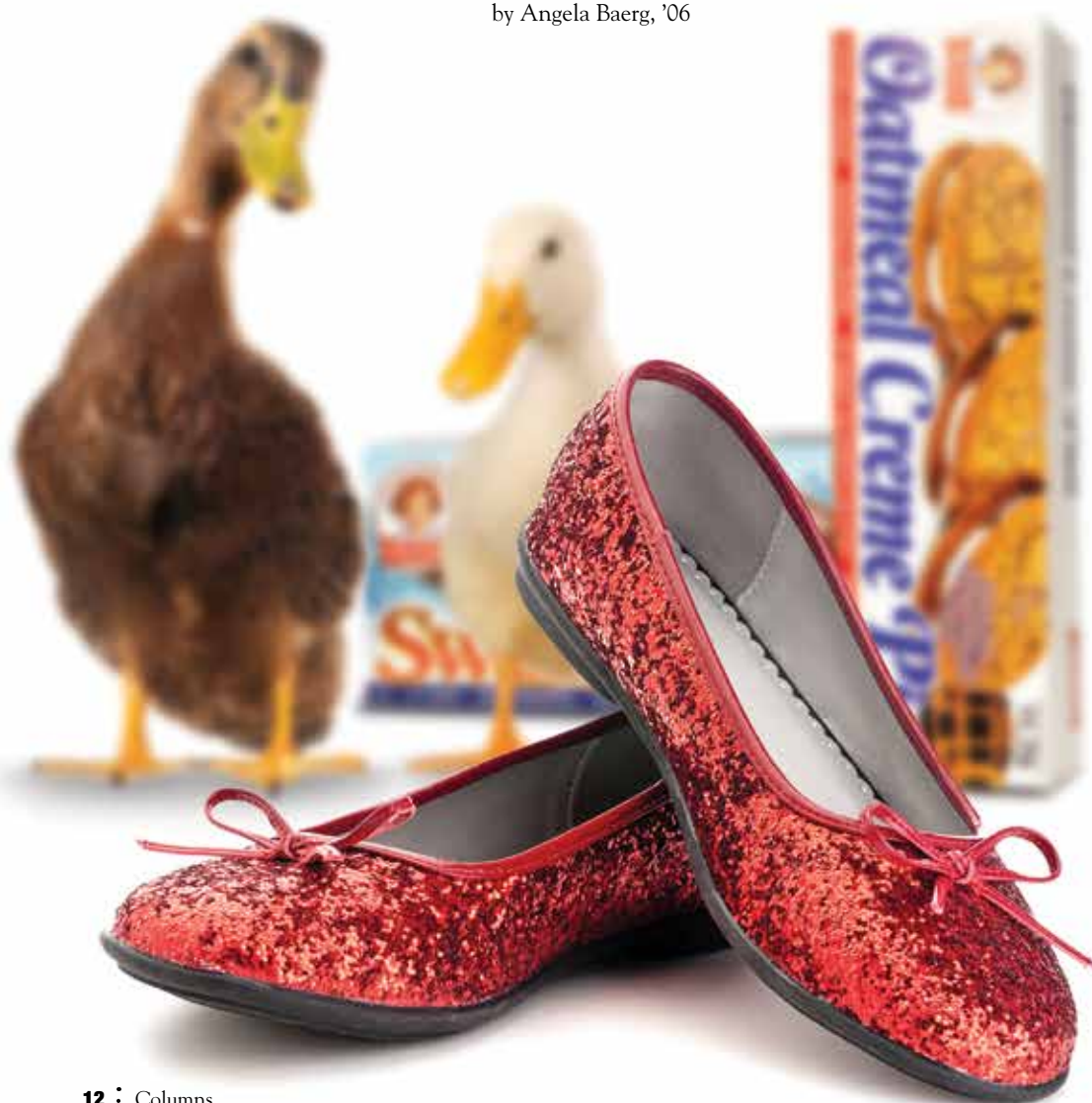
Although we can never actually rewind and relive those times, this year's Alumni Homecoming Weekend, October 25-28, provides opportunities to embrace many of these same experiences once more. And along with the lighthearted moments already mentioned, Homecoming's networking, fellowship, and worship opportunities make the event a tool for future growth, not simply a time to celebrate our past. Just how important is Homecoming? Ask these participants, who travel from near and far to keep the amazing friendships they began at Southern alive.

## Noble Vining, '36

*Business Administration*

Vining remembers a time when there was not a paved road in or around Collegedale. At Southern Junior College (SJC), Vining was a 12-year graduate with the two-year college combined class. He gained lots of hands-on experience learning business and graphic arts as a student worker at the College Press on campus. His time there sparked an interest in technology and the graphic arts that would aid him well throughout his career.

After five years at SJC, he went on to receive his degree from Emmanuel Missionary College (renamed Andrews





# Like Homecoming

University in 1959). Vining served as a medic with the Army Air Corps from before Pearl Harbor until the end of World War II, and then worked for many years in a variety of positions in publishing all around the world. For awhile, he was kept away from Homecoming by sheer distance while he lived in areas such as England and the Philippines, but all that changed when in 1966 he was invited to be the manager of the College Press, where he stayed until 1985.

Since coming back to the area, Vining has rarely missed a Homecoming. The high-point of the weekend for him is the Friday lunch with the men in the Student Park, where he is able to meet with old friends. He misses the So-Ju-Conian Dinners, which were replaced because of fewer numbers by the dinner with both Junior College and Missionary College students. The antique car show on Sunday is also a favorite.

"It is important to keep up ties with your alma mater," Vining said. "If you don't, you're missing a real fine fellowship experience. I enjoy going every year to keep up with my classmates who are still able to attend."

Of the more than 40 Homecomings Vining has attended, the Homecoming of 2003 sticks out as particularly memorable.

"That year they asked me to say grace at the So-Ju-Conian dinner. I took the occasion to introduce my family," Vining said. "We had members of my family from every stage of the university: myself and my wife from Southern Junior College; my two children, graduates of Southern Missionary

College; and my grandchildren, graduates of Southern College and Southern Adventist University. It was very special, and I will never forget it."

## James Hannum, '65 *Communications*

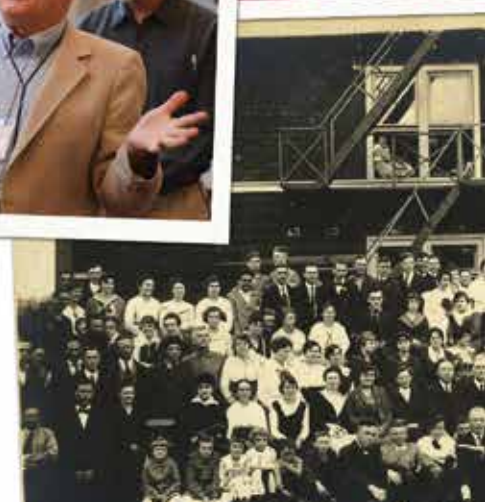
Hannum still remembers the crisp sound of his voice announcing pieces by Beethoven and Bach on WSMC Classical 90.5 in the '60s.

"It was a big responsibility for a student," he recalled. "Back then, the station was student-run, and students were involved in everything from announcing to managing and hiring. It was a powerful experience."

After graduation, Hannum became a communications professor at Southern for 11 years and served as director of broadcasting during most of those years when the title and responsibility of "manager" was relegated to students. He attended many Homecomings and was even the vice president (president-elect) of the alumni association. Afterward, he moved on to become executive producer of Faith for Today and then a communications professor at Walla Walla University. Although he lives far away in Washington state, when he heard that there would be a



James Hannum (front), '65, alumnus and former general manager, shares a story of his time working for WSMC while (from left) Bradley Hyde, '71, Michael Bradley, '76, and Gary Eldridge, '77, listen.



major emphasis on WSMC at the 2011 Homecoming, he couldn't resist flying across the country to get reacquainted with the great friends and students that graced his life at Southern.

Although he enjoyed the entire experience, a special moment was when he returned an old baseball mitt to student and friend, Ray Minner, '70. Some 40 years ago, Hannum had wound up with Minner's mitt by mistake. Over the years, Hannum's children had grown up playing catch with the mitt, and as he headed back for the reunion, he brought it along. During an event on Friday evening, Hannum revealed the mitt in front of everyone, told the story of how he had ended up with it, and tossed it back to Minner. They all laughed as Minner caught it and made an impromptu speech about how he remembered losing it so many years before. Not a year later, Minner suddenly passed away. Hannum is grateful that he chose to attend Homecoming and had the opportunity to return the mitt and have those special moments with his old classmate.

## John Lazor, '80

### Theology

After a rocky childhood, Lazor became a teenager who was addicted to drugs, alcohol, and a partying lifestyle. As he grew older, he began to realize that his present lifestyle wasn't sustainable or desirable. Although he tried several times, he found it hard to leave those bad habits behind. At the age of 20, for the first time in his life, he fell down on his knees and prayed to God for strength to overcome. Since that day, he has never used drugs or alcohol. Not long afterward, he became an Adventist and felt called to the gospel ministry, which brought him to Southern.

Along with becoming equipped for his future profession, it was at Southern that Lazor formed some of the strongest, most nurturing friendships he had ever known. Since then, Lazor has made keeping up with his classmates from Southern a priority by attending Homecoming.

"I actually started going to Homecoming while I was still a student," Lazor remembered. "It was fun, and I thought it was a good way to keep in touch with my friends who had already graduated."

After Lazor graduated and became busy with his career as a pastor and as

***"Attending vespers and then afterglow really made me feel like I was experiencing Southern all over again—all except for handing in my vespers card."***

the director of a self-supporting ministry, he kept up his tradition of attending Homecoming. He has ministered in foreign countries, with short-term mission trips to Thailand, Romania, and the Philippines. Most recently, his ministry led him to Hawaii, where he has been living for 15 years. In spite of all this, he has not let distance come between him and his friendships. Since 1980, he has attended Homecoming 24 times.

When Lazor comes, he takes part in almost every event, from Sabbath programs to the afternoon men's lunch. Of all of the homecomings he has attend-

ed, his favorite was his 25-year-reunion because so many of his classmates were there.

"I love it," he said. "The programs are good, the food is good, and the fellowship is my favorite part of all. It is a highlight of my year."

## Joy-Lynn (Philpott) Norris, '99

### Biology/Pre-Physical Therapy

Even as a little girl alongside her missionary parents in Bangladesh, Norris knew that medicine was her calling.

"I saw the need that people had, and I wanted to help them get better," Norris remembered.

To further that dream, Norris pursued a strenuous double major in pre-med biology and pre-physical therapy at Southern. In spite of her heavy workload, she enjoyed her studies, especially in the areas of botany and zoology. Her classes took her beyond the textbooks with canoeing, bird-watching, camping in the Smoky Mountains to observe flora, traveling on field trips to see wildlife in Florida, and scuba diving in the coral reefs of Belize to examine firsthand the natural phenomena that she was studying. In her free time, Norris connected with a group of friends who shared her interests, and together they went almost every weekend on exciting



local outdoor excursions such as hiking and caving.

After graduating, Norris was still up in the air about which direction to take in pursuing a career, so she took a year off to go as a student missionary to Palau. Overseas, she spoke so warmly of her time at Southern that her missionary companion was inspired to enroll as a result. Once Norris returned home, much prayer and deliberation led her to pursue chiropractic training, which she believed combined the best parts of both biology and physical therapy.

Today, Norris practices in Collegedale and takes every opportunity to immerse her children in the same natural phenomena she explored as a college student. In the seven years since she moved back, she has attended Homecoming each year and plans to keep up the tradition. Norris believes Homecoming is a great opportunity to attend uplifting programs plus keep up with the many changes that are happening at the school. She makes a point to attend vespers, the worship service, and the Saturday evening program whenever she can, but she enjoys the post-worship potluck most of all.

“I like the potluck because you can get around and talk to lots of different people,” Norris said. “In a busy world, it’s a good way to take some time out to reconnect. It’s a special opportunity to reminisce about the past, catch up on the present, and encourage one another in our hopes for the future.”

## Sharon Michaels, '09

### History/Spanish

Growing up in an urban neighborhood in northern Alabama, Michaels saw many inequalities around her that she wanted to change. Realizing her passion for social justice issues, Michaels decided to attend Southern because of its strong Christian values and the opportunity to engage within a diverse environment.

As a double major in history and international studies (Spanish), Michaels stayed busy, holding offices in the Black Christian Union in her free time. Upon graduating, she went through a competitive application process for a position with Teach for America, a nonprofit organization that aims to close the achievement gap by enlisting high-achieving recent college graduates and professionals to teach for two or more years in low-income urban and rural communities throughout the United States. Currently, Michaels works on a team that provides the training and ongoing support necessary to develop the conviction, skill, and insight to become life-long, transformational leaders within the education reform movement.

In addition to her work with Teach For America, Michaels dedicates time to coordinate an annual Black Christian Union alumni reunion, which takes place during Homecoming. Since the year of its inception in 2009, the aim of the reunion has been to encourage young Southern alumni who identify as persons of color to return to the univer-

sity, connect with peers and professors, and forge mentoring relationships with current students.

During last year’s reunion events, Michaels facilitated a small discussion on “Life After College” in Pierson Chapel with a few Black Christian Union club members. Many Southern alums and professors attended and shared their personal experience on how they navigated their first few years after graduating from college. The conversation was very motivating, and Michaels can hardly wait to attend Homecoming again this October to check in with some of the students that she met last year and to meet new students. Although she enjoyed it all, one of Michaels’ favorite events of Homecoming was the Friday night vespers.

“Attending vespers and then afterglow really made me feel like I was experiencing Southern all over again—all except for handing in my vespers card,” she said with a laugh. “It really made me feel like I was still a part of the community.” ■

Below: Black Christian Union 2011 alumni dinner attendees (from left) Melissa Taylor, '06, Kenneth Victor, '05, Sharon Michaels, '09, and Paula Clarke.





Close to God in the City of

*Los Angeles*



# Los Angeles has become an accidental landing place for an increasing number of recent Southern graduates. For many, the trek west means more than just geographical relocation; it involves charting a whole new lifestyle, learning new ways of building community, and re-evaluating faith in an urban context. Do their relationships with God look and feel any different in Tinseltown than they did in Collegedale?

by Brian Lauritzen, '06



Welcome to Los Angeles, the land of sun, surf, and silicone. A place where superficiality reigns supreme and the only time people say the word “genuine” and really mean it is when it is a modifier to words like “Rolex” or “platinum.” If your teeth aren’t white enough, bleach them. If your skin isn’t tan enough, spray it. If your lips aren’t plump enough, inject them with collagen. There’s always a quick fix for whatever ails you. It’s the L.A. way. At least, that’s a common caricature of life here.

After attending A.W. Spalding Elementary, Collegedale Academy, and Southern, the Seventh-day Adventist enclave near Chattanooga represented a safe haven of familiarity for me. I moved to L.A. six years ago for a position with KUSC, the largest nonprofit classical music station in the country, and leaving Collegedale behind—for a city so huge that St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Boston, Milwaukee, San Francisco, Minneapolis, and the borough of Manhattan all fit within its geographical footprint—had me apprehensive, even if I was excited about the job.

My new home is also the most diverse city in the United States. A recent study showed that nearly 35 percent of residents were first-generation immigrants born outside of the country. As a result, this

city has no choice but to become a dynamic group of people from every corner of the globe learning from one another, sharing one another’s cultures, and eating one another’s foods. There’s give-and-take, push-and-pull, conversation, compromise, and yes, conflict.

## Happy in Happy Valley

Congregating in groups of like-minded saints has served the Adventist church well over the years. Places like Collegedale, Loma Linda, Berrien Springs, and Hagerstown have proven to be vibrant communities of faith. They have produced powerful voices for the message of the church, the message of God. And there is great peace found in the solidarity of this kind of community.

But a common misconception in Adventism is that somehow it is easier to follow God in a small town than it is in the big city and that removing oneself from the influence of the urban, “secular” world makes it a safer environment for living one’s faith. Rather than forcibly isolating ourselves, I believe our challenge as Christians is to identify God’s will and apply it in our lives in any setting.

Don’t get me wrong. I appreciated growing up in Happy Valley, and my four years at Southern, where everybody knew what the Great Disappointment was and we all got the Veja-Link jokes. It gave me a sense of identity and comfort that was invaluable to my spiritual development. But I feel like God ordained that very clearly as a specific period of my life, with a definite ending point. As



Brian Lauritzen enjoys the meaningful spiritual atmosphere at the Hollywood Seventh-day Adventist Church.

much as we are called to strengthen our faith through unity with one another, He also compels us to live out our faith in the midst of a fractured world.

For me, living in an Adventist enclave removed me from the people I felt God was calling me to serve the most. How could my life have a maximum positive impact in a community where there was nothing unique about my way of living? Conversely, what could I learn about God's character from the people He places in my life who are very different from me?

Moving to L.A. provided a host of challenges. But thankfully, I wasn't alone on this journey. There were other Southern graduates—classmates, actually—seeking these same answers in the same town.

## Not All About Me

Emily McArthur, '06, never planned on coming to L.A. But immediately after graduating, she signed a three-year contract with Teach for America. This nonprofit group places young professionals in underperforming schools around the country, mostly in urban areas, as instructors. They ended up assigning McArthur to Locke High School in Watts, a tough section of South L.A. where gangs, drugs, and violence are a part of everyday life. She had immediate reservations about this cross-country relocation; the fact that she didn't know a single person in the area added fuel to the fire of uncertainty surrounding her future.

Once she moved and began working, her fears were reinforced.

"I think anybody who's seen an inspiring teacher movie ends up with this sort of picture that maybe you'll have a rough first week or two, but everything gets resolved before the end of the year," McArthur said. "It sure didn't happen that way for me."

The first few months were especially difficult. McArthur was living east of East L.A., and the commute alone was enough to discourage her. But in hindsight, she sees spiritual shortsightedness—not traffic or the stressful new job—as the primary reason for being miserable.

"I would drive to work and just pray my whole way there that nothing awful would happen to me, and when I got in the classroom, I let it be all about me there as well. That's probably the worst thing you can do," McArthur said. "If I had allowed myself to step back and ask God to take control, I wouldn't have had many of the issues that I had my first year. After I learned to do that better, to make my prayers about something bigger than me, things were so much more successful!"

Matters fell further into place as McArthur found a group of teachers sharing prayer time together Wednesday mornings at Locke High School. The spiritual encouragement found in that group foreshadowed how she grew to feel about staying close to God in the City of Angels.

"I don't think you can really have the gospel without living intimately in your community," McArthur said. "I just don't believe the gospel exists in a vacuum where it's only me and God and no one else matters."

## Learning to Listen

Leslie Foster, '06, had a more circuitous route to L.A. After graduating from the School of Visual Art and Design, he headed to London to work for TEDmedia, a division of the Gen-

*No school could have equipped me to immediately know the best way to handle every tough situation I faced in L.A., but Southern did teach me that I could turn to God for the strength to keep moving forward.*

*—Emily McArthur*

eral Conference's Centre for Postmodern Studies. Visa issues forced Foster to leave England after a year, and he returned to the Chattanooga area for a few months before facing the decision so many filmmakers struggle with: New York or L.A.?

Foster was leaning toward New York. He had visited L.A. before with Southern's Symphony Orchestra in 2004, but those impressions were not favorable.

"It just seemed so big and intimidating at the time. In fact, I remember leaving L.A. on the plane with the other students and looking at all that massive sprawl out my window," Foster said. "I was thinking, 'Thank goodness I'm leaving. I would never want to live in someplace like that.'"

So he really didn't know what to expect when coming back as a young professional. This was especially true when it came to spirituality.

"The stereotype is that there are very few Christians in Hollywood, but in my experience, I've met them on almost every set I've worked," Foster said. "I think it's important to share this kind of observation because it speaks against the belief that the industry is 'godless.' You'd be surprised by how many people in the field are deeply religious."

Foster said there are certainly moments that force him—and any Christian working in the industry—to examine the occasional conflict between his job and his faith. But the point of reconciliation between the two

varies for each individual.

"Not everyone will agree with their career choices or the projects on which they work, but I think these are opportunities to see how God travels with other people," Foster said. "Their spiritual journey is not going to look the same as yours."

Learning how to recognize the infinite ways God communicates with people has been a crucial component of Foster's own growth. The sheer size of L.A. has created opportunities to listen to others who have differing opinions about God. In a city this large, with such diverse opinions and cultures, the role of the individual is placed, perhaps, in better perspective than it is in small towns. Foster said this has given him a new outlook on what it means to share his faith with others.

"Christians talk a lot and there's a place for that, but is there a place for us to just listen? I'm learning to take somebody I completely disagree with and, instead of debating them, concentrate on simply paying attention," Foster said. "We're scared of what it means to trust God, and so we follow our little formula. I'm fighting that, too. I'm making a concerted effort to

have religious conversations without 'Adventist' and 'Sabbath' being the first words out of my mouth. I'm building spiritual friendships and trusting that God will lead from there."

## Intersections

For both Foster and McArthur, blessings were born through community. But not only was this a question of work-related encounters, it was also a deliberate search for a church family to help feed their faith. That search ended in an architecturally distinct, purple-hued building on Hollywood Boulevard, just a few blocks east of where the Oscars are held each year. Ryan Bell, senior pastor of the Hollywood Seventh-day Adventist Church, preaches a dynamic gospel that exists and thrives in the present. That message has drawn an

**Far left:** Her rough beginnings in L.A. taught Emily McArthur (right) to pray more broadly for God's guidance instead of asking Him to fix specific problems in ways that she thought would work.

**Left:** The size and diversity of L.A. has helped Leslie Foster realize that the spiritual journeys of others won't always look the same as his, and that's all right.



increasing number of young people to the congregation, many of them former Southern students.

McArthur landed there after an extensive period of church-hunting and felt at home. Foster's search began much earlier; in fact he knew the Hollywood church would be his home even before moving to LA. While still attending Southern, he listened to sermon podcasts by Bell and developed an immediate attraction to the group's extensive work within its surrounding neighborhood and the kinds of questions the church was asking.

"We put a pretty high premium on enlisting our members to not just

carry out the ministries, but to help determine what the expression of our Christianity, our Adventism, should look like in this time and in this specific place," Bell said.

Bell believes that the gospel lives most fully at the intersection of three different strands of life: God's story as articulated in the Bible, our own personal stories, and the story of our community. The key for the urban Christian, he said, is to actively seek out those moments of intersection and cultivate them when they occur. And the larger the city, the greater the opportunity to do just that.

"L.A. is full of people who want to

use the city. They want to extract their livelihood, fame, and glory. The city is here to be plundered," Bell said. "But what's unique about Christians is that we're invited to love the city in God's name, not to plunder it."

That invitation is an ancient one; first extended directly from the mouth of God to the Jewish exiles in Babylon.

"Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper" (Jeremiah 29:5-7).

Our manifestation of faith here in L.A. is not a better brand of Adventism than what can be found elsewhere. Rather, the city provides unique challenges—both inward and outward—that require a different Christian response. Yes, our efforts in a sinful world will be crude, at best. Still, in so doing, we serve as a living example of the gospel. A life lived in vibrant contrast to the world will demand explanation: when we earn the right to tell them what makes us different, we earn the right to tell them about Jesus.

And that seems especially fitting for those of us trying to stay close to God in the City of Angels. ■

Brian Lauritzen is an award-winning host and producer at Classical KUSC-FM in Los Angeles. His broadcasts of the L.A. Philharmonic can be heard on more than 100 radio stations across the United States, including WSMC Classical 90.5, where he got his start in radio at age 17. He recently preached a sermon at the Hollywood Seventh-day Adventist Church and a recording of that message can be found by visiting [southern.edu/columns](http://southern.edu/columns).



## Adventist Church Prioritizes Urban Evangelism

Ted Wilson, President of the General Conference, has called for comprehensive evangelism programs in more than 650 of the world's major cities, beginning with New York City in 2013. Here is an excerpt from his "Mission to the Cities" message. For the complete text, visit [southern.edu/columns](http://southern.edu/columns).

*Jesus was being honored on His triumphal entry to the city. He and the large crowd of people were outside of that ancient capital of Israel. As they came to the crest of the hill overlooking the city, Jesus stopped. There was Jerusalem in all its glory reflecting the light of the declining sun. The pure white marble of the temple walls and the gold-capped pillars created a dazzling sight. As Jesus looked down on the city, Luke 19:41 and 42 records His reaction and response, "Now as He drew*

*near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying 'If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from our eyes.'*

*He did not become angry or resentful. He wept! He wept for the people of the city because of their lack of responsiveness to His love. He wept for what was to become of them because of their rejection of the truth of His Word. How many of us are weeping with Jesus for the cities and people of this world? How many of us are looking upon the cities with unutterable love, as Jesus did?*

Even those outside the greater New York area can help. Event organizers are soliciting 5,000 prayer intercessors, and their website is set up to accept monetary donations. Visit [NY13.org](http://NY13.org) for more information.



# ROADMAP TO REASONABLE FAITH

By Mona Endehipa, '12

Do four years of Adventist education guarantee a stronger relationship with God for students? After one particular senior struggled with issues of philosophy, prophecy, and free will, it became clear that the Bible—and not the classroom—was the best source for answers to life’s deepest spiritual questions. Southern’s faculty and staff couldn’t agree more!

In October 2011, I stood on Ascension Rock, facing eastward on a cold New England afternoon. I was angry and full of questions. On this very day 160 years ago, many Christians my age stood on this exact rock and felt the deepest of disappointments—where was Jesus? At that moment I, too, had tough questions coming at me from all angles. I couldn’t help but ask myself why I continue to believe that Jesus is returning even after eager believers have waited more than a century and a half. On that rock, on that date, nothing about faith seemed reasonable.

## Philosophy 101

On the first day of class Professor Mark Peach gave the kind of announcement that almost always grabs a student’s attention.

“I will not give class lectures,” he said, “because this is a philosophy class which requires discussion. So that’s exactly what we’ll do.”

Excited, I anticipated a semester of highbrow give-and-take between curious students and the sage professor. Surely this was the kind of environment where I would learn to walk taller and speak with more authority on an impressive array of timeless topics. I was wrong.

As the days progressed, I slowly started to realize that I

knew nothing. After each class, I left as confused as when I entered. There was no definite answer, no concise reasons as to why I should or shouldn’t agree with these celebrated philosophers. The only thing I was certain of at this point was that I responded to the name “Mona.” Everything else was a blur. Why was the professor doing this? Couldn’t he just tell me what I should think? Isn’t that why my parents paid for tuition?

I remember the night I read Dostoevsky’s *The Grand Inquisitor*. The Russian philosopher’s story involves Christ coming back to Earth during the Dark Ages and being jailed by Spanish representatives of the Catholic Church. The official questioning this prisoner recognizes the old man as Jesus by miracles, sermons, and cries of “Hosanna!” from the masses He passed. But the inquisitor is not impressed. He tells Jesus that His “gift” of freedom was the very reason many humans still loathed Him. He said free choice has left men without a true purpose, and the uncertainty has angered us.

Captured by this story, I continued to read. The more I read, the more Dostoevsky started to make sense. Why did God curse me with free choice? Why couldn’t He just say, “Mona, I want you to be a teacher,” or “Mona, don’t listen to him because he isn’t the man I have picked for you. You will meet your future husband next Sabbath.” Why is everything



Ascension Rock on the William Miller farm in New York

a mystery? Why is *He* a mystery?

Not knowing what God wants for me is frustrating, yet to agree with the philosopher felt awkward.

Free choice is why I love my Lord. Free choice is the reason why I continue to choose to serve Him. Free choice is the reason I pray. Free choice is what makes God infinite in His love. I get it. So why was reason having such an easy time trumping my faith?

Between classes one particularly confusing morning, I quietly shared this spiritual quandary with Janita Herod, office manager for the School of Journalism and Communication.

“Mona, that is why you have to decide for yourself whom to serve,” she whispered back. “No one else can give you these answers, regardless of how much you may want them to.”

It was frustrating to hear, but deep down I already knew this was true. I don’t really believe anything if I’m only believing what others have told me.

Another philosopher we studied in class, Danish scholar and theologian Soren Kierkegaard, wrote that faith is beyond reason. Amen to that! He proposed that it’s the greatest of virtues because faith’s impossibilities develop your character. I pondered this for days, hoping it was true.

## Scared Straight

“I’m just taking this Studies in Daniel class for my upper-division religion credit, and maybe if I pay attention, it’ll scare me into getting my life together,” I told my friend when she asked why I was taking such a tough course.

Nervous about the heavy spiritual artillery in the book of Daniel, I entered

the first lecture apprehensive. For three grueling weeks I was immersed in dates and symbols, but I slowly discovered a story that reached beyond the sanctuary and numerical prophecies. What I found in the book of Daniel was a love story between a servant and his God. What I found was that love equals faith.

Daniel, even as a young captive of maybe 16 years old, had faith in a God that he had only heard about. Surely at that age he hadn’t experienced faith yet, had he? He purposed in his heart that he would remain faithful to the God of his father, and his father’s father. Maybe Daniel acted out of habit in Babylon, or maybe he genuinely believed. Whatever the driving force, he chose to let his heart and mind be only for the

## Nervous about the heavy spiritual artillery in the book of Daniel, I entered the first lecture apprehensive.

God of the heavens, and God remained faithful to His obedient servant.

God was just as much a mystery to Daniel during his first years in Babylon as He is to me now, yet Daniel remained steadfast in service to his Lord. As Daniel continued to lean more on his faith, God slowly revealed Himself until this love story reached its climax by the banks of the Jordan River, where the servant stands with his King in complete and humble awe. The personification of faith.

As we dissected each chapter in the book of Daniel—unveiling its historical context, discussing accuracy, and understanding prophecy—Professor Martin Klingbeil often reminded us that our intentions when approaching such things weigh heavily on our findings. If you want to find fault, you will find fault and inaccuracies. If you want to find answers, you will find answers.

Daniel was exiled, yet he remained

faithful. So, why was faith still an issue for me? Why could Dostoevsky, a dead philosopher with outlandish claims, shake me to my core? Would Daniel have been so easily swayed? He never asked God for a lion’s den experience to jumpstart his faith. He acted on faith first, and then he saw God; yet I stay stagnant as if to challenge Him to prove Himself to me before I exercise my faith. Even if this worked, could I call such a feeling faith?

Paul writes that faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen (Hebrews 11:1). My faith should be my evidence, but something was still missing. Why couldn’t I be more like Daniel?

## Patient Faith

On the 2011 Adventist Heritage Tour, I was angry. Angry that I could not understand why, after all these years, we were still waiting for Christ to return. Thinking about those people on Ascension Rock in 1844 watching the sun come up without seeing their Savior, I felt really bad for them. And, if I’m honest, I had a pity party for me, too.

“Were they mad?” I asked Jud Lake, professor in the School of Religion and tour guide on this trip.

“They were more disappointed than mad,” he replied.

“Why?” I prodded, trying desperately to find a better reason for my anger.

“Because that’s what the Bible told them. They studied their Bibles thoroughly, and the 2,300-day prophecy led them to yesterday’s date a hundred and sixty-seven years ago,” he said.

“So life continued as normal, sir?” I asked, as though I did not already know what became of the Millerite Movement.

“Yes. Life continued. It had to. They went back to their Bibles for more answers to comfort others who experienced the disappointment.”

“And that’s when Joseph Bates found the Sabbath,” I interrupted.

“And that’s when Joseph Bates found the Sabbath,” he echoed.

I looked over the hill onto the picturesque New England scenery. The fall colors were still beautiful, even that late in the season—oranges so magnificently orange, reds so magically red, yellows so vibrant, and the greens so luscious. I stood on that rock, trying to keep warm, waiting for the sun to creep up over the hill, wanting a reason to get excited again. I was in desperate need for my faith to make sense in practice the way it does on paper. And in that moment, in that need, I felt very close to the Millerites.

I have taken deliberately tough

classes, asked professors provocative questions, and engaged in conversation with anyone I could at Southern about faith. No one told me to stop, but no one gave me the answer either. Yet each person I encountered on this campus offered a new definition of faith.

Perhaps one of my favorite definitions came from Andy Nash, professor in the School of Journalism and Communication. He told me that stepping out in faith is actually giving up what you want to do, not blindly reaching for it; that by giving up our will, we hand our decisions over to God, with faith that His wisdom is more than sufficient.

“They went back to their Bibles for more answers,” I heard Lake’s voice ring out. “They went back to their Bibles.”

## Epilogue

It’s been almost a year since I wrote this article for an upper-level feature writing class. The circumstances of my life as a recent Southern graduate living in Australia are wildly different than they were as a senior living on campus. Faith was a romanticized idea within the security of the Promenade; but outside the luscious green blanket of Collegedale, faith is a lifestyle. I get it now. Completely. Learning to let go of my will so God can show me His is the best lesson I’ve ever learned; it’s even worth four years of college! ■

*Mona Endehipa is a freelance public relations professional waiting in faith on her Lord and Savior to return.*

# Thinkers, Not Reflectors

Question-and-answer session with Dave Smith, senior pastor at the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists

**Is it healthy for young people to ask questions like those in this article, or does it raise red flags for parents and Christian educators?**

Long ago Ellen White stated that true education involves helping students learn to be thinkers and not mere reflectors of other’s thoughts. Plus, young people won’t always have the luxury they do while enrolled at Southern of having spiritual mentors available every day to encourage and support them while they wrestle with important issues. Now is as safe a time as ever for them to face tough personal questions of faith.

**But it feels like they’re pulling away from the church...**

It can be just the opposite, really. We know that many young people, after attending Adventist schools, leave the church. Some completely forsake God. I think this often happens because these young people have not had the opportunity to take ownership for their own beliefs and for their own spiritual journey. Students with questions can thrive in an environment where faculty and staff allow them to explore their doubts yet provide an example and offer an influence that is supportive of Adventist beliefs.

**Is studying other faith systems and secular philosophers dangerous?**

There is a big difference between learning about a belief and subscribing to it. Daniel studied the pagan philosophies and beliefs of the Babylonians, but he didn’t agree with what he studied, nor did what he studied change what he believed. We should not be afraid to study other philosophers and beliefs, provided we are grounded in the Word and daily surrendered to God.

**Can’t we agree to love Jesus and disagree about other spiritual issues?**

John 1:1-5 describes how the Word of God and the personhood of Jesus are inseparable. His life and testimony provide the authority for Scripture. This can be a difficult concept for many young people, who try to rely on their own subjective feelings to determine right and wrong. But rejecting the authority of God’s Word, for any reason, includes rejecting Jesus.





# Devotions with Dr. Hopeful

By Janelle Sundin, senior English major

Ken Caviness enjoys building bridges—with words. The longtime Southern professor uses his daily devotions as an opportunity to read and record the Bible in Esperanto, a language created in the 1800s to help foster unity in an increasingly divided world.



What do a Canadian secular humanist, a Catholic from Brazil, and a Southern Adventist University physics professor have in common? Every day, all three spend time reading the Bible aloud in Esperanto and recording the passages for posting on the Internet, something that has never been done before. It comes as no surprise that this language, given its unique origins, is the backbone of an activity shared by such diverse people.

Ludwig Zamenhof, Esperanto's creator, grew up in a Polish village with five ethnic groups and numerous spoken languages. The animosity and confusion born from poor communication between these cultures was evident every day. Zamenhof designed Esperanto in 1887 as an easy-to-learn second language that different groups could use to communicate more clearly with one another without abandoning their native tongue. The young physician yearned to see language used as an agent for positive change instead of a tool for further separation. This optimistic outlook was evidenced from the outset; Zamenhof's book introducing the concept to the world was written under the pen name *Doktoro Esperanto*, which translates roughly as "Doctor Hopeful."

Ken Caviness, professor in the Physics and Engineering Department, has certainly done his part to reach out to other cultures. This learning junkie has studied natural languages such as German, French, Russian, and Spanish, along with numerous planned languages—even J.R.R. Tolkien's Elvish! But Esperanto may have been the simplest of all to pick up; some experts suggest it is as much as 10 times easier to learn than English.

"In Esperanto, you can participate in meetings within a month, and some people create original literature within a year," Caviness said. "Requiring others to work 10 years to learn your language is linguistic imperialism. It feels more equitable for both of us to put in a little effort and learn something new."

## Spiritual Study

"When I study a new language, I like to use it while reading the Bible during my personal devotional time," Caviness said. "This way, you really contemplate the texts' meaning."

Using the Bible as a devotional tool is nothing new. Neither is translating, or even paraphrasing, the text an original idea. Many familiar with Southern will immediately think of Jack Blanco, retired School of Religion dean, and his *Clear Word* as a famous example of the latter.

But Caviness went a step further and began recording himself reading the Bible aloud in Esperanto. It didn't take long before he realized that those files had significant value. No one had ever done this before, although the translation has been around for quite awhile, so in 2011 he made a New Year's resolution to record the whole Bible and post it online.

He soon realized that the scope of this project was too great for one person and began enlisting help from both near and far. His wife and daughter were some of the first to contribute, but it was far more than a family affair. Jonathan Miceli, a 2012 mass communications graduate, and John Beckett, professor in Southern's School of Computing, assisted with some of the programming and technical help required to get the website and files up and running. It didn't stop there.

As is often the case with web-based projects, many participants in this recording have never met each other. Vitor Luiz Rigoti dos Anjos, from Brazil, heard about the project in an online forum; and Detlef Karthaus, from Canada, heard about the project in an Esperanto podcast. Such demographic diversity would make Zamenhof proud.

Caviness is proud, too. He is amazed at the international response to this project and prays that listeners will receive a blessing from the work. But for this physics professor trained in the study of motion and matter, perhaps the most satisfying component to the whole thing is watching volunteers react with others in response to the task at hand.

"If I miss a day, and I come back and see that other people have read a few chapters, it encourages me," Caviness said. "We encourage each other, get back up after we fall, and keep on. That's how the Christian walk should be." ■

*Caviness estimates the project is currently 75 percent done and will be completed by March 2013. He welcomes new readers for the final stages of recording between now and then. For more information, email [caviness@southern.edu](mailto:caviness@southern.edu). To listen to the Esperanto Bible audio files, visit [southern.edu/columns](http://southern.edu/columns).*

**The book introducing this language to the world was written under the pen name *Doktoro Esperanto*, which translates roughly as "Dr. Hopeful."**

# The Formula for Nearly Everything

by Luke Evans, senior English major

Students studying mathematics at Southern come away with more than just an abstract theory of numbers. Instead, the department drives home the message that math is tangible—an integral component of cars, cell phones, and nearly all of the other tools society uses on a daily basis. And with only 23 students currently enrolled in the major, it's easy for professors to maintain close relationships with their students, ensuring they fully appreciate this key point of practicality.

"It's a small department, kind of like a family," said Joshua Barrow, junior mathematics major.

Those majoring in the subject aren't the only ones interacting with the department. More than 400 students enroll in these classes each semester to fulfill general education requirements, work on other degrees, or pursue a mathematics minor.

## Biology and Writing?

The Mathematics Departments' courses also help students in other academic areas. In the Mathematics Seminar course, for example, students spend an entire semester researching and working in mathematical biology, also known as biomathematics or theoretical biology. This field involves replicating scientific processes numerically to assist in predicting future patterns. Problems modeled in Professor Patti Anderson's class include HIV/AIDS, cancer, and the flu, among others.

"We start by taking some general concepts and writing differential equations that describe the behavior," Anderson said. "Then we solve these equations to see what the final outcomes will be and what influences those outcomes the most."

Other classes have an even broader cross-discipline application. Mollie Braga, sophomore mathematics major, said the Set Theory and Logic course she took from the department improved her writing skills.



Professors Adam Heck and Patti Anderson help lead a tight-knit group of math majors.

"I learned to prove different statements by stating all of my information, piecing it together in a logical fashion, and summarizing my point," Mollie said. "After taking the class, my paragraph structure improved greatly, and I am now able to write much clearer."

## Academic Excellence

Though relatively small in enrollment, the Mathematics Department is highly ranked academically in comparison with other colleges and universities. Students pursuing a degree in mathematics are required to take a major field achievement test in their final semester before graduating from college. Their scores are averaged together to yield an overall score for the department. The Mathematics Department's most recent results put them in the 97th percentile as compared to the other 207 colleges and universities that use the same major field exam.

Four full-time professors are working to keep that percentage high. Kevin Brown, Patti Anderson, Ron Johnson, and Adam Heck have a variety of educational backgrounds and professional interests, which helps keep the department from stagnating.

The department recently started redesigning many of its general education classes to be more mastery-oriented. Students will work primarily within a software program, with help provided as necessary by a professor, until they demonstrate a predetermined level of mastery in a specific area. This teaching model has been tested with impressive results at other institutions, such as Virginia Tech.

In addition to the set course work, the department has developed an extensive tutoring program. Faculty members and senior mathematics majors team up to maintain regular afternoon and evening tutoring hours. This not only provides students the ready-made help they need, but also creates jobs and teaching experience for senior math majors seeking secondary education certification.

## What Next?

Some Southern mathematics majors continue in the area of mathematics after graduation, but many others go into fields such as physics, computer science, law, or medicine. Brown said that a number of his former students hold jobs as educators and actuaries or work within the defense industry. Such vocational variety provides many options for future graduates and speaks volumes of the field's potential.

Renowned mathematician Georg Cantor described mathematics best when he said, "The essence of mathematics is its freedom." ■

**40s Mamie (Echols) Bean,** '45 and '55, is retired and lives in St. Helena, California. Following 34 years of elementary school teaching and secretarial/stenographic work, she traveled to Lesotho, Africa, to teach children living in mountainous regions.

**Ruth (Howard) Brass-Keltner,** attended, has five grandsons who graduated from Southern, and four grandchildren currently enrolled.

**50s Paul McMillan,** '51, lives with his wife, Darleen, in Colton, California. He is a volunteer docent for the Alfred Shryock Museum of Embryology. He enjoys gardening at home and at church.

**Dolly (Darbo), '53, and Don Fillman,** attended, still live on a 90-acre farm in Collegedale. Don is semi-retired from his dental practice. He and Dolly stay busy with boarding horses, hosting the countless number of students who have lived in their home through the years, and keeping up with their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. The couple first met during a Fourth of July picnic at Southern and were married in Lynn Wood Hall Chapel in June of 1950.

**John W. Henson III, '54, and his wife Audrey (Gackenheimer),** attended, relocated from Tennessee to Niles, Michigan, in October 2011 to live near their daughter, **Shandelle (Henson) Hayward,** '87, who is chair of the Mathematics Department at Andrews University. Their son, **John W. Henson IV, '80,** is director of neurology for the Swedish Neuroscience Institute in Seattle.



**Chester "Chet" Damron,** '57, and his wife, Carolyn (above), have been serving as chaplains for the new Loma

Linda University Medical Center in Murrieta, California, since June 2011. They have recruited and trained 68 volunteer chaplains from 12 denominations to help meet the spiritual needs of the patients and staff.

**60s Lois (Vipond) Case,** '63, is enjoying retirement with children and grandchildren near Yucaipa, California. She previously taught music at Pacific Union College.

**Lloyd "Buddy" Fisher,** '66, is a retired accountant living near Loma Linda, California. He remains busy singing in a men's chorus, His Voice. Last year he established a nonprofit corporation for the chorus and he continues to work with their business records. He also serves as an elder at his local church.

**Thomas McFarland,** '67, and his wife **Arlene (West), '70,** live in Fort Payne, Alabama. He has a private medical practice and occasionally works in the emergency room. She is a marriage and family therapist practicing at Relationship Clinic. During a recent community event, Tom was voted "Best Doctor in DeKalb County" and Arlene's clinic was voted "Best Place to Go for Counseling."

**Bill Tucker,** '68, recently retired after 43 years of ministry, although he continues to work part-time as the senior ministries pastor for the church in Redlands, California. He will continue to serve as president and speaker of Quiet Hour Ministries (QHM) until a replacement is found. His wife, **Jackie (Hiser), '69,** is the trust officer for QHM. They have six grandchildren.

**70s Arlene (Potter) Arthur,** '73, has been a teacher at Loma Linda Junior Academy for the last 22 years and lives in Grand Terrace, California.

**Daniel Berry,** '76, was promoted to regional flight surgeon for the Central Region of the Federal Aviation Administration in January 2012. He is respon-



sible for administering several FAA programs, including the Aviation Medical Examiner, Airman Medical Certification, Air Traffic Controller Certification, and the Internal Substance Abuse programs in Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri. He and his staff manage approximately 200 physician aviation examiners and provide certification for about 35,000 pilots and 800 air traffic controller specialists in the region. Dan and his wife, **Pamela (Lund),** attended, live in Kansas.

**Martha Ruggles,** '77, teaches third grade in a public school near Loma Linda, California. She enjoys being involved in children's ministries at her church.

**Marsha (Koppel) Nagel,** '77, lives in Loma Linda, California. She is very involved in promoting and sending students to the Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP). She also owns a vegan candy business, Marsha's Candy, with her husband.

**80s Penelope Duerksen-Hughes,** '82, is serving as associate dean for basic science and translational research in the School of Medicine at Loma Linda University.

**90s Christopher Hulin,** '91, recently accepted the appointment of dean/program director at Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia located in Madison, Tennessee. Chris received a doctor of nursing practice with a focus in education from Samford University in 2010 and formerly served as the assistant program administrator for MTSA.



**Paul,** '93, and **Ellen (Roberts) Evans,** '94, live in San Antonio and have two sons in pre-school. Paul completed a bachelor's degree in engineering from Walla Walla



University in 1995 and a master's degree from Iowa State University in 1997. He is a mechanical engineer and director of his division at Southwest Research Institute (SwRI). He helped develop a robotic device for a NASA project called DepthX, which helped scientists explore what is beneath the ice layer on Europa, the sixth moon of Jupiter. Paul is also one of the partners of Green Vegetarian Cuisine, a restaurant in San Antonio. Ellen owns an online maternity clothing business called Bloom Maternity and does consulting in the field of social media.

**David,** '94, and **Marquita (Counts) Klinedinst,** '94, have two daughters, Melaney (7) and Emiley (4), and live in the St. Louis area. David serves as the evangelist for the Iowa-Missouri Conference, conducting prophecy and layperson training seminars in various parts of the world. Marquita works for Med-Assurance, reviewing patient records. She also manages a speaking ministry and is the featured speaker at many women's ministries retreats across the country. She is working on her bachelor's degree in nursing.

**00s Elisa Brown,** '00, lives in San Bernardino, California, and works as director of the M.B.A. program in the School of Public Health at Loma Linda University. She is also an assistant professor there. From 2008-2011, she served as a volunteer at Malamulo Hospital in Malawi.

**Joel,** '02, and **Jennifer (Cross) Mundall,** '02, both work at Hospital Adventista de Valle de Angeles in Honduras. Joel completed his doctor of medicine degree at Loma Linda University, followed by a dual residency in family and preventative medicine. Jennifer completed a master's degree in family and acute care nurse practitioner and a doctor of nurse practitioner degree.

**Jessica Williams,** '05, finished her seventh year of teaching religion at Loma Linda Academy in California. Last March she was a sponsor for a two-week mission trip to Thailand, where she and her students worked on a construction project at Bamboo School in Bongti.

**Joel**, '07, and **Kristy (Rodrigue) Davis**, '04 and '06, welcomed their daughter, Lillian Noel, in June.

**Mike**, '08, and **Yuki (Higashide) Duvall**, '06, are enjoying their daughter, Megumi, who recently celebrated her first birthday. Following Mike's graduation from dental school at Loma Linda last May, the family is considering mission service in the future.

**Paul**, attended, and **Pearl (Bekalo) Mwansa**, '08, were married in May 2011 and moved to Loma Linda, California, for Pearl to begin medical school.

**Kyle**, '08, and **Rachel (Randall) Ewert**, '07, moved to Montana fol-

lowing Kyle's graduation from dental school at Loma Linda in May.

**Jonathan**, '09, and **Flor (Osorio) Just**, '09, were married in 2010. Jon works for Loma Linda Medical Center as a financial analyst and plans to pursue a career in healthcare administration. Flor is in pharmacy school at Loma Linda University and works as a pharmacy intern at Kaiser Permanente Medical Clinics.

**Gene**, '10, and **Katrina (Bradt) Stewart**, '10, live in Loma Linda, California, where Katrina is attending medical school.

### Remembrance

**Joyce (Spears) Cotham**, '49, and '74, passed away on April 17 in the Collegedale area. She worked at Southern for more than 25 years, serving both as assistant dean of women and business

professor. She is survived by daughters, **Carolyn (Cotham) Wood**, '74 and '94; **Jeannie (Cotham) Fuller**, attended; **Nancy (Cotham) Chambers**, attended; and **Laurie Ann Cotham**, attended; her brothers, **Ken Spears**, '66, **Gary Spears**, and **Don Spears**, attended; as well as five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

**Margaret Jo (Urick) Bledsoe**, '51, passed away on February 3. She was retired from teaching in both the denominational and public school systems. During her career, she received an "Outstanding Teacher in America" award. She was an active member of the Forest Lake Church in Altamonte Springs, Florida, and will be remembered as an accomplished organist. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, **J.D. Bledsoe**, '53; son, **Dave Bledsoe**; grandson, **Joshua Bledsoe**, and brother, **Dewey Eurick**, '52.

**John Schmidt, Jr.**, Food Services director at Southern from 1959-1963, passed away on May 6 at his home in Riverside, California. He also served as food director for 12 years at Walker Memorial Hospital and at Andrews University. He was preceded in death by his son, **Don Schmidt**, '71, and is survived by his wife, Catherine Schmidt; three daughters, **Jean (Schmidt) Kingry**, '63, **Carol Rogers**, attended, and **Evelyn Cunningham**; five sisters; a brother; five grandsons; and eight great-grandchildren.

**Quinton Burks**, '61, passed away on May 10. Following 40 years of ministry, he retired in 2003. He is survived by his wife, **Sharon (Inman) Burks**, attended; sister, **Sandra**; daughter, **Rebecca (Burks) Heinrich**, '86 and '87; son, **Randall Burks**, '90; and eight grandchildren.

**Ray Deane Minner**, '70, died July 3, 2012. Born March 24, 1949, in Riverdale, Maryland, Ray studied communications at Southern Missionary College and worked as a public relations director at Andrews University, school teacher at Collegedale Academy, and general manager at WSMC. Ray had several passions, including classical music, political debate, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and his family. He is survived by his wife, **Laurie (Redmer)**; daughters, **Jennifer Payne**, attended, **Megan Minner**, attended, **Katie Partlo**, '06; son, **Caleb**; and two grandchildren. He is predeceased by daughter **Karen Minner**, '01.

## A Musical Legacy: Orlo Gilbert (1938-2012)

Orlo Gilbert, longtime symphony conductor and professor of music at Southern, died peacefully on May 26 at his home in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, after a battle with leukemia.

An accomplished violinist, Gilbert was one of the pioneers of the Suzuki method of learning and built one of the largest Suzuki string programs in the Southeast. When he began his work at Southern in 1969, he inherited a strings program that had been in decline. Within a decade the program was flourishing, and it continues to excel under the direction of former students. In addition, he built a large and accomplished orchestra, which still attracts many of the best string players in the denomination.

An extensive and successful tour to the Orient in 1979 set the stage for things to come. In the next 20 years, his students would take 10 more world tours and play in Carnegie

Hall. During the 1999-2000 school year, Gilbert's final season conducting the orchestra, they performed 10 different programs in 29 concerts.

Gilbert worked hard year after year to keep student musicians in school who otherwise might not have been able to afford it. Upon his retirement, he was honored with the establishment of the Orlo Gilbert Orchestra Endowment Scholarship Fund, which provides tuition assistance for current orchestra members in financial need. More than 10 years later, Gilbert's legacy continues to impact students.

In honor of the commitment Gilbert had to Christian higher education and the music program at Southern, we invite you to make a gift to his scholarship fund by emailing [advancement@southern.edu](mailto:advancement@southern.edu). His family welcomes your comments and memories via posts at [facebook.com/orlo.gilbert](http://facebook.com/orlo.gilbert).

We'd love to hear from you (and so would your classmates). Send updates about further educational accomplishments, marriage, additions to your family, or recognitions received in your profession to:  
**alumni@southern.edu** or  
**Alumni Relations,**  
**PO Box 370,**  
**Collegedale, TN 37315-0370.**





# Rejoice, O Youth

By Ingrid Hernandez, senior public relations and business administration major

I wasn't worried. I had worked in groups plenty of times before, and I enjoyed it. A semester before Communication Research class, I was already planning who would be possible group members, and when the class in fall 2011 began, I was ready. We formed a group of seven and decided on a graphology study. I was proud of the group I was in. I thought we were some of the most talented students in the School of Journalism and Communication, and my mind was already imagining a well-earned "A" and tickets to the research conference the following semester.

## Why So Serious?

From the beginning I was all business. My peers seemed to have expected that from me, quickly nominating me "primary investigator," meaning I'd keep the group organized, set up meetings, and serve as the main point of contact for the Institutional Review Board. It was the type of role I was born for. I went ahead and reserved a library study room for every Sunday afternoon through the semester, and I sent email reminders for each group meeting from then on.

We were invested in our project from the beginning. We divided much of the work, considered all ideas and opinions, and reached a consensus at each point of our research. Naturally, there were times conversation strayed off topic, and we'd get preoccupied with silly stories, funny occurrences, and general life updates. I would join in with a few anecdotes of my own, but I'd always try to steer the group back to the task at hand.

"That's why you're primary investigator," they'd joke.

And I'd laugh too. It was true. My nature was to stay focused, consider everything seriously, even work ahead. I had no need to be so uptight, though; my group was great. Between the laughs and jokes, they still completed everything on time. Their responsibilities were just as important as mine, and though my title was decided from the beginning, theirs emerged as we spent more time together. Suddenly, we not only had a primary investigator, we had a secretary, an encourager, a chaplain, and even a jester. We continued to divide the work and discuss serious research matters, but we also discussed the chaplain's triumphant debut on Twitter, and the encourager's mix-up between the dishwasher and the oven in my apartment. They helped me lighten up and enjoy those moments. It became fun.

## Making College Memorable

Not too long ago, my aunt shared a Bible verse with me that I had either never seen or had never paid much attention to. It has everything to do with where I am now: the precious college years.

"Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes ..." (Ecclesiastes 11:9 NKJV).

It's evident God wants me to rejoice in the days of my youth; He wants me to enjoy my time in college. And I had heard it before: what you remember most from college isn't that second test in accounting that lowered your class grade by two percentage points. It isn't the words in that final paragraph of the paper you pulled an all-nighter to complete. It's the epic Slip 'n Slide party after your accounting final, it's the crazy conversations with roommates, it's the absurd dishwasher/oven mix-up that is so ridiculous it doesn't warrant details here.

But the verse doesn't end there.

"... But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment."

Some people might take the first part of the verse—the part about walking in the ways of our heart and sight—as an excuse to do whatever they want. And it's true that we can. But there are consequences for the type and extent of "fun" in which we get involved. Irresponsible fun may lead to failing the entire accounting course or missing the deadline for a term paper. Yet there is a way to make college memorable. It's about finding a balance, and I found that in my group.

I count this lesson as a significant turning point in both my college education and, hopefully, in life.

"So I commend the enjoyment of life, because nothing is better for a man under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany him in his work all the days of the life God has given him under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 8:15). ■



## Moving Day

The college residence hall experience always begins with the big move, which can be daunting to students and parents alike. Yet those who drove up to Thatcher and Talge halls this fall were welcomed by the friendly smiles and the helping hands of volunteers like Mike Boyd (foreground), associate professor in the School of P.E., Health and Wellness, his daughter Hannah, and even President Bietz. For the past 14 years, teams of faculty and staff movers called “We-Haul” have demonstrated the kind of volunteer spirit that makes this transition back into school a little bit easier.



By Gordon Bietz, *president*

# comfort

What is the most comfortable place you can think of? Is it lying on a feather bed, covered with a feather quilt? Maybe a hard mattress is more to your liking, and when you think of comfort, you imagine a Posturepedic mattress covered with an electric blanket. How about a waterbed, easy chair, or recliner? Or even a La-Z-Boy?

I believe the most comfortable place in the world is church. Some might disagree with me.

“Pastor Bietz, have you ever sat in a pew? You clearly don’t understand comfort!”

It’s interesting that when we think of comfort, we generally think of physical comfort—that which is easy on the body, like clothes, shoes, car, and temperature. How about spiritual comfort?

There is a “Puritan” tendency that causes us to think that to be comfortable in the church is wrong, that to be comfortable spiritually is equated with being Laodicea. There are some who want only sermons that make people uncomfortable, that make people squirm and repent in fear.

Don’t get me wrong; there certainly is a time to be uncomfortable. When I am living outside of the will of God, I should be uncomfortable. When I go to church and at the same time am willfully disobedient of God’s will, I should be uncomfortable.

But there is also a time for us to experience comfort in church. I’m not speaking about the ambient temperature or the padding on the pews. I’m talking about the comfort that comes from experiencing God our Father.

## Spiritual Comfort

The Bible says, “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God” (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

God comforts us in all our troubles. We allow too many things to raise the stress level in our lives: a new physical pain, a disobedient child, bills that pile up. And besides all that, we are also inundated

daily with the news of people who are starving and dying.

God takes no pleasure in our distress. He finds no satisfaction in our pain.

He has no joy in our sadness. He desires to comfort us.

Even so, as Jesus was preparing to leave this world, He said, “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever” (John 14:16, KJV). The very name Jesus gives the Holy Spirit tells us a lot about how He wants us to feel—whether or not we’re to sit on pins and needles or rest with Him.

## Overflow

Our modern word “comfort” does not convey all the meaning of the New Testament word. God’s comfort is no narcotic. When applied to the Holy Spirit, the word implies strength and has the same root word as “fortify.”

This is not comfort where we rest satisfied and satiated in the love of God—focused on self. We comfort others with the strength and reassurance we receive from God. We have experienced sorrow, and so we can comfort the sorrowing. We have tasted the wine of bitterness and can guide the embittered.

“For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ” (2 Corinthians 1:5).

Our suffering is not for naught; we can help others who are under Satan’s attack. And it is in church that we share comfort with each other. It is in church that we experience the soothing strength of God. It is in church that we discover the comforting presence of Jesus.

When I was young, I experienced an earthquake in Glendale, California. I asked my daddy to sleep with me for the rest of that night. He did, and I slept in trial but in comfort, for I was in Daddy’s arms.

May we rest in the Father’s arms in church. May we worship God and rest secure in His plan for our lives. May we fellowship with other pilgrims and experience an empathic community. May we encounter the God of All Comfort. ■



# Alumni Homecoming Weekend October 25-28, 2012

CELEBRATING 120 YEARS OF  
**SOUTHERN**

## Celebrating *the* Past, Shaping *the* Future

Come celebrate the 120th anniversary of Southern Adventist University with us during Alumni Homecoming Weekend! Graduates and attendees from all years are welcome. **Featured honor classes include: 1942, 1952, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1982, 1987, 1992, 2002.**

Highlights of this year's activities include:

- **Inaugural Fall Colors Motorcycle Tour**
- **Volkswagen plant tours**
- **Alumni orchestra memorial concert, celebrating the life of Orlo Gilbert**
- **Celebrating Southern's 120th anniversary**
- **Inaugural Beyond the Columns Brunch**

For more information, visit  
[southern.edu/alumni](http://southern.edu/alumni)

