

For Parents of Southern Adventist University Students

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PANORAMA

parent newsletter | November 2024



Southern Accent Covers Collegedale "News Desert"

By Alexis Dewey, senior mass communication major



Leah Cunningham, sophomore psychology major, reads the Collegedale News section of the Southern Accent.

Over the past few years, the students working for the *Southern Accent*, the student-led newspaper on Southern’s campus, have been covering news stories about Collegedale, showcasing their commitment to keeping the community informed.

The undertaking is part of a national initiative where college and university students help cover “news deserts,” which are areas the local news may not reach. According to a study by the University of Vermont, Collegedale does not have consistent news coverage and falls into the “news desert” category. The closest newspaper is the Chattanooga Times Free Press.

“When I moved to Collegedale six years ago, I noticed a gap in local news coverage, largely due to the downsizing of legacy news organizations,” says Alva Johnson, associate professor in Southern’s School of Journalism and Communication and faculty sponsor of the *Accent*. “This created an opportunity for our students to provide a valuable public service while honing

Calendar

November

18 | Lynn H. Wood Archaeology Museum lecture: Matthew Bronson

18-22 | International student week

25 | Thanksgiving Break Begins

28 | Thanksgiving Day

December

1 | Concerto Competition Finals

2 | Classes Resume

3 | Christmas Tree Lighting

6 | Kirsten Wolcott 5k

7 | Wind Symphony, Jazz Ensemble, Steel Band, and Southern Ringtones Christmas Concert

9 | Horn Ensemble Concert

14 | Southern Choral Ensembles and Southern Symphony Orchestra Christmas Concert

16-19 | Semester Exams

19 | Commencement

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Beginning in 2020, with the help and direction of Johnson, the student newspaper widened its scope from campus to Collegedale. Student writers for the *Accent* were each given a Collegedale beat, and the stories were then published in the *Accent*.

“We added two extra pages to the student newspaper specifically for Collegedale news and received positive feedback from the community,” says Johnson.

Last school year, the *Accent* won the Associated Church Press Award of Excellence for investigative reporting on the Collegedale train derailment. The *Accent* continues to be a part of the national initiative and writing for the Collegedale community.

Read more of the *Southern Accent*'s Collegedale news coverage [online](#) and find more university news stories at southern.edu/news.

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[Photo Album: Latin American Cultural Night](#)

Browse photos of the Latin American Cultural Night held on October 12.

Photographer: Angel Guerrero, sophomore film production major



[Southern Promotes Healthy Minds](#)

Experts across America have gathered statistics that point to a mental health crisis for college students. Anxiety concerns have risen from 56% in 2013 to 65% in 2023, according to the Center for Collegiate Mental Health. The center also found that the number of students seeking help steadily increased from 2009 until the pandemic. In response to the crisis, Southern Adventist University is working to ensure that students have access to a variety of high-quality mental health resources. [Read more...](#)



Student Missions Vespers Highlights Worldwide Outreach

Each semester, the Office of Ministry and Missions celebrates the dedicated students who are serving as missionaries during a special vespers service. Throughout the service, students who have served all over the world gather in their cultural garments, carry flags, and recount stories from their time as missionaries. The photos in our email header this month also feature the student missions vespers service.



Find more campus life photos online

Our social media accounts are great places to find photos and videos of daily campus life that



Southern Adventist University ✓

2 days ago · 🌐

As the leaves are falling and the season is changing, we want to know what your go-to fall drink is: Pumpkin spice or Apple cider? #theweekinphotos



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