

Summer 2007

Columns Summer 2007

Southern Adventist University

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COLUMNS



Summer
2007

Ha, Ha Ho

Pastel butterflies and dragonflies made of silk grazed my head as I welcomed the class to our first week of Sabbath School. My husband handed out bells, and the pianist began playing.

The audience seemed thrilled. So why did I feel like crying even as I continued singing and smiling? It probably had something to do with the fact that our audience consisted of only one person—my daughter, Sierra.

After closing with a lively rendition of “Happy, Happy Home,” I cheerfully commented to my volunteers that this was an excellent practice week and ensured them that more babies would start coming in the weeks to follow. I hoped I was right.

Cleaning up the room after class, I reflected on why I had volunteered my precious time to create and lead a brand new class. It was the same reason as why I’d spent the last seven years teaching in my son’s classes: there are very

few things more important to me than knowing my children are enjoying Sabbath School. Happy memories, I figure, will keep my children coming back to church even when their lives become more challenging and complex.

While Sierra loved the teachers in the Beginner’s class, much of the program was geared toward the older children. Sometimes we sat there watching as the others participated in activities she couldn’t do.

“I wish our church had a separate class for children under 2,” I commented to my husband. I was astounded a few weeks later when I arrived at a church meeting to notice “addition of an infants Sabbath School class” on the agenda.

I should have kept quiet, but my overwhelming excitement took over. The official start of the meeting was delayed as I expressed how excited I was. Our children’s pastor (who is part of the growing trend of female ministers—see page 28) just smiled. That afternoon, it dawned on me exactly what was going on. “I think I’m going to be asked to lead a new infants’ class,” I told my family. I was right.

I was also right about more babies coming to class. Today, we have five regular attendees, most of whose parents now also volunteer in the class.

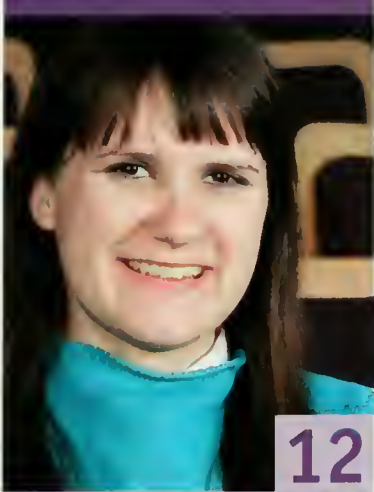
Soon after Sierra turned 1, our family was gathered in the living room singing what had become a Sabbath School and family favorite. “With Sierra in the family...” we all sang. Turning her chubby face toward mine, she joined in on the chorus, “ha, ha ho.” Once again I felt like crying, but this time tears of joy. *That is why I volunteer.*



Creating a happy Sabbath School environment for youngsters is Lori Futcher's top priority come Sabbath morning.

Lori Futcher

P.S. To learn about the volunteer activities of some of Southern’s students, faculty, and alumni, turn to page 22.



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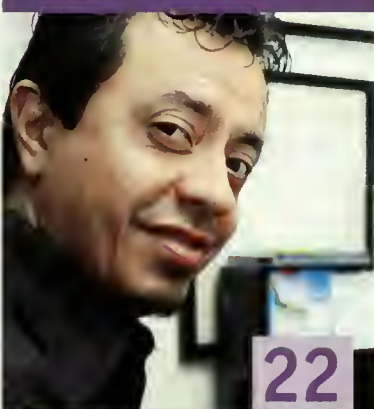


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On campus and globally, the hands of students, staff, faculty, and alumni are volunteering. Read how three pairs of helping hands are changing the lives around them.

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They're young, they're female, and they're completely devoted to ministry. Here's a glimpse of some young women sharing the good news of the gospel.



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COVER: Southern's first identical twins, Thelma (Thomson) Hartwell, '37, and Ella May (Thomson) Sorensen, '37.
PHOTOGRAPHER: Billy Howard

Inspired to Reminisce

Your piece on the Liles family in the winter 2007 issue inspired me to dig out some pictures I took of Bill Richards.

I was a photographer for the college Public Relations Department many moons ago, and one summer day in 1984, I had an assignment to go take some pictures of Dr. Richards, honoring his latest educational degree.

Dr. Richards had just completed his CMA or CIA or something that started with a "C," and the department was going to send out a press release. None of the professors at Southern (or probably within a 500-mile region, for that matter) had ever earned as many degrees. It was definitely considered an achievement, certainly

worth sharing the news about. So I went to take his picture.

What I found when I got to his office was someone who actually was very humble about his personal success. I also found out this well-educated man was somewhat of a cut-up! After shooting some pictures to be used for the release,

I asked him if he would take one of the degrees off the wall and act like he was giving it the ol' heave ho. He gladly did, hence the photo of him with a mischievous smile on his face.

Southern has been fortunate to have employed many great professors over the years, Dr. Richards being one of them. Although he set very exacting standards for his students, Dr. Richards helped many go on to establish successful careers in business and accounting. Looks like that help paid off for Chip as well.

Pete Prins, '85

Mistaken Identity

Please correct an error in the summer 2006 issue of COLUMNS on page I4 in my article on Adventists in the military (toward bottom of second paragraph in the third column). In the sentence reading, "Before enlisting, contact Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, one of the National Security Office field representatives...." The correct acronym for NSO is National

Service Organization (NSO) rather than National Security Office.

In 1954, the denomination established the National Service Organization to provide support for church members serving in the military and to oversee the ministry of Adventist military chaplains. In 1985, the NSO changed its name and broadened its mission to become Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM).

Ten years later, ACM became a department of the General Conference. NSO still exists today as one of the ACM chapters with the mission of serving the spiritual and religious needs of Adventists in the military.

ACM and NSO can be contacted via the Internet website, adventistchaplains.org or email: acm@gc.adventist.org.

Thank you for correcting this mistaken identity. The church has never had a National Security Office.

Gary R. Councill, '67, '69

Picture Perfect

Thank you to the editor and staff for the excellent recent edition [winter 2007]. I enjoyed the large photo of Harold Brown (my uncle) with Valerie Mixon (a former classmate). The article about Michael Boyd (whom I went to school with), Dr. Dickinson (whose wife was my daughter's kindergarten teacher), and the upcoming movie were fun and educational.

One question. Will the class photos from alumni weekend be published anywhere?

Mitzi A. Bame, '86

Editor's Note: You can view class pictures from alumni weekend at alumni.southern.edu. Click on "Group Photos."

InBox is a forum for reader feedback. Questions, concerns, compliments, criticisms, and even discussions—all are welcome and encouraged. Letters may be edited for length or clarity. Please send InBox letters to: COLUMNS Editor, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN, 37315-0370 or email columns@southern.edu.

COLUMNS

Volume 59

Number 2

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Taking the Hard Road

by Robert Coombs, School of Education and Psychology

Every fall, Southern Adventist University opens its doors to hundreds of life travelers.

Some come with visions of greatness, certain their journeys through life will bring them fame and fortune. Others come because their friends are here—or because their parents are not. Many come with insecurities, questioning if they have what it takes to make the journey at all.

Usually by midterm of the first semester, students arrive at a fork in the road.

In one direction is the enticing option of hanging out with friends, having a good time, and living for the moment.

In the other direction lies the daunting challenge of papers to write, chapters to be read, projects to prepare, and tests to study for.

Making the choice to throw on one's heavy backpack and travel such an intimidating, challenging road is far from easy, especially when one's friends are playfully calling from the easy lane.

Wisdom

Susan was not to be swayed, despite the many voices seeking to entice her from the difficult path she had chosen.

She always arrived to class at least a few minutes early with her study guide in hand. She listened intently in class and frequently contributed with thoughtful insights, her participation indicating that she was thoroughly prepared, having read her assignments and given substantial thought to the materials she had studied.

One day after the class had been dismissed, I made a comment to her about how impressed I was with her obvious commitment to her studies.

"It's my dad," she said with a smile, then reading the questioning look on my face, she continued. "My dad taught me that if I was tempted to choose the easy road in life, then my life would turn out hard, but if I chose the hard road, my life would turn out easy. It's worth the effort. I want a good life." With that, she picked up her books and left.

Her father was right. Facing the challenges of college isn't an easy thing to do. If it were, more than a mere 28 percent of Americans over the age of 25 would have a college degree, but according to the U.S. Census, they don't.

For the students who are willing to buckle their seatbelts, earning a college degree will become one of the greatest predictors of future satisfaction.

Sometimes even the brightest and most talented students don't succeed in college while those who have every excuse not to do well make an effort to excel.

Inspiration

One of the most sacred privileges of my job is walking side-by-side with those who have chosen to face head on the challenges college brings.

I gain inspiration from the students I interact with who have chosen the hard road, students like...

...Kristie, a social work graduate who quickly made a name for herself in Chattanooga's mental health community and has enrolled in law school so that someday she can combine her advocacy for families with the backbone of a law degree.

...Erica, who spent hour upon hour at Barnes & Noble, deeply absorbed in her studies and is now in medical school at Loma Linda University. (I imagine she inhabits another Barnes & Noble store across the country.)

...Eric, who is on the other side of the world working in the mission field.

...Jennifer, a current student who has already become a court advocate for families in the inner city of Chattanooga.

...Mario, who will be the first member of his family ever to get a college degree.

...Darlene, who arrived from Haiti four years ago, struggling with the English language and an overwhelming shyness, but went on to graduate and enroll in Southern's master's program.

...Jesse, a newcomer on the path whose confidence and clarity are remarkable. With wisdom that exceeds her years, Jesse already understands

that only hard work will take her where she wants to go in life.

Walking alongside these students has been such a privilege and a great learning experience.

They have taught me that nothing is impossible for those who have the courage, stamina, motivation, faith, and determination to walk one step at a time down the hard road of life. ✧



Robert Coombs enjoys traveling with students who have chosen life's difficult road.

Don Keele Jr. Communicating Good News

The squeak of tennis shoes echoing in the racquetball court revealed the rising intensity of the game. The year was 1978, and Don Keele Jr., a junior communications major, was in the midst of a competitive game with his father when he got too close to his father's racquet on the backswing. Instantly, his nose shattered into more than 30 pieces, one missing his brain by only 1/64th of an inch.

While in the hospital recuperating, Don examined his life, asking God for guidance. Don felt God's response: "I want you to go into ministry and work with young people."

"No way!" was Don's immediate reaction, but his experience was hard to deny.

Upon his release, Don began work on a second major in religion. Each of the next four semesters, Don took twice the normal course load in order to graduate with both communication and religion degrees.

Despite the heavy course load, Don made

time to co-found an annual tradition at Southern—the slide show during Strawberry Festival. At the time, the festival was mainly a farewell party consisting of games followed by strawberries and ice cream. Don and his roommate, Keith Langenberg, '81, enjoyed color slide photography, accumulating between 1,000-2,000 slides they had taken that year.

"Too bad we can't show these slides," Don commented three weeks before the festival.

This comment led to the addition of slides at the Strawberry Festival. Using a small sound system and two projectors, with Keith operating the devices while Don made funny comments into a microphone, the boys began a tradition that's continued to this day.

Don's career in ministry started during his final year at Southern when he was asked to fill the college's new position of assistant chaplain, a position that enabled him to be involved in the start of another of Southern's continuing traditions—Destiny Drama Company.

Don has since been a chaplain, Bible teacher, youth pastor, and head pastor. His daughter, Andrea, and son, Donnie, are both



following in his footsteps. Andrea, '06, works in the university's Chaplain's Office as the student missions coordinator, and Donnie is a mass communications major at Southern.



Shirley Menhennett Happy Meal-Maker

Hang on the walls of Shirley Menhennett's office is a collection of old menus from the Campus Kitchen (CK). Pointing to one menu with a drawing of a young couple holding hands while sitting in a CK booth, Menhennett jokes, "They're not allowed to do that!"

It is partly her sense of humor that endears this CK manager to her student employees. From showing an employee with whipped cream to filling a birthday boy's car with balloons, Menhennett's good-natured pranks often leave students smiling.

"It's a blast working with Shirley," says junior social work major Ian Brooks. "While she's both firm and consistent, she's also able to take a joke—and make an equally good one in return."

Menhennett managed a McDonald's in Chattanooga until pressure to work on the Sabbath coincided with an opening at Southern.

Coming to Southern 20 years ago, she noticed a dramatic contrast between McDonald's employees and Southern students.

"There is a huge difference in their attitudes



Don returns to Southern occasionally to guest-teach ministry classes. It has been some time, though, since he has set foot on the racquetball court.

of not being afraid to talk about God," she says. "Most of the students come from a Christian background, and their values tend to be higher."

This environment makes it possible for Menhennett to be involved in the spiritual growth of her workers by having worship with them each morning before the CK opens. Watching the students' spiritual and social growth during their years at Southern is Menhennett's favorite part of her job.

"I really try to understand students and that they come from different backgrounds," she says, "especially since a lot of students are away from home for the first time."

Menhennett's effort to understand students has made her someone students feel comfortable opening up to. "Sometimes they come into my office to talk about problems they don't know how to handle," she says. "I tell them God has a way of working things out—of turning our problems into blessings."

Jaela Carter Friendship Ministry

After Jaela Carter's parents divorced, her fourth-grade schoolteacher made a point to nurture Jaela's young faith.

"I was going through a really hard time," Jaela says. "Joyce Royal stepped in as a second mom." Jaela spent every Friday night at her teacher's house and attended church with the Royal family.

"She encouraged me to read my Bible and develop a personal relationship with the Lord," she says. "She never allowed me to feel sorry for myself. She made me believe I could do anything and be anybody. I'm a Christian today because God brought people like Joyce Royal into my life to mentor me."

Now a junior at Southern, Jaela has made it her life's goal to provide young people with this same kind of nurturing. With a double major in theology and religious education, Jaela dreams of going into full-time youth ministry.

She made this decision five summers ago while sitting in her cabin at summer camp, where she asked herself, "What is my favorite thing to do in the whole entire world?" She realized the answer was surrounding her. "I knew if I worked with youth my whole life," she says, "I'd be happy."

Her gift for youth ministry recently brought Jaela to the attention of the editors of the *Adventist Review*,

who featured her in the article "The Top 20 in Their 20s." In it, Kendra Avila recounted an experience at camp when Jaela shared with her campers the importance of having a personal relationship with Jesus. "She really touched my heart," Kendra said, "and I decided to accept Him into my life."

Outside of summer camp, Jaela has found many ways to minister to young people. She worked as a task force student dean at an academy; counsels with students at Advent Home (a place for struggling teenage boys); and participates in many outreach activities at Southern, including a women's Bible study group and a traveling praise group.

Speaking to the importance she places on building relationships, Jaela comments, "Christianity is not a self-help ministry. We need relationships."

Through her friendships, Jaela is connecting young people to the ultimate friendship—a personal relationship with Jesus.





Shot in the Arm



Brad Yensho looked fervently about, his eyes desperately searching for an escape route as the kindly doctor picked up a needle to administer a simple tuberculosis skin test. Ducking under the physician's arms, Brad leapt off the medical table and charged about the examination room with doctor, mother, and nurse scampering behind him.

Brad's fear of needles had begun several years prior when a nurse who was either poorly skilled or simply didn't care had wielded a needle with something short of gentleness. The memory of that injection haunted him still—the initial pain as the needle had pierced his skin, the grinding sensation as the nurse had fished for his vein, the uneasy pressure as the medication had rushed into his arm—and he was determined to avoid experiencing it again.

The circus-like chase ended as Brad's expressed desire not to encounter the needle was dully noted and then ignored while the three adults succeeded in pinning him to the table.

Tuesdays With Needles

Sitting on the hallway floor in Lynn Wood Hall more than a decade later, the much-calmier nursing major smiles as he relates his childhood efforts to avoid anything needle related. The wall he leans against separates the hall from the skills laboratory where nursing majors practice drawing blood and inserting IV lines. As a senior, Brad is no longer required to practice these procedures, but he'll soon proffer his arm as a practice held for other

One nursing student's motivation to tackle a demanding schedule —and take on a little something extra.

students needing to perfect their skills.

Brad doesn't have to spend several hours every Tuesday afternoon being poked with needles. And no, he isn't paid for his pain. He volunteers. When asked why, he has a ready reply.

"Because of that experience," Brad says, referring to his first needle. "I know it's important to be good at basic nursing skills so others aren't scared like I was."

Two years ago, Brad approached Dana Krause, the associate professor who runs the skills laboratory, with a question: Would she be willing to let him monitor extra lab sessions? He wanted to perfect his needle skills and figured the best way to learn would be to teach others.

"If someone misses the skills lab," he pushed, "I can help them make it up."

Even though Krause would need to be around to oversee Brad, she agreed. Brad's classmates also liked the idea of having more time in the lab. Now, two years later, Brad still shows up at four in the afternoon on Tuesdays to supervise the budding nurses.

"I try to stop him sometimes," Krause says with a laugh. "I don't want him to offer up his body too much for medical science."

Finding His Calling

Brad didn't begin his college journey as a nursing major. Initially, he wanted to explore a less-human



Brad Yensho and Lori Bartlett find time to study together between classes.

side of science and spent his first year at Southern tinkering with the machines that dominate our lives—computers. His fascination waned after spending eight hours attempting to program a traffic light to blink. His efforts were unsuccessful, and he soon began contemplating other career options.

While Brad certainly doesn't have the fondest childhood memories of medical professionals, he felt drawn to nursing. He also sensed God's guidance.

"I prayed, and God led me into nursing," Brad says.

Nursing wasn't completely new to Brad. He had become a certified nurse assistant (CNA) while in high school and was already well acquainted with at least one other nursing major at Southern—his girlfriend, Lori Bartlett.

With his decision to change majors, Brad joined the growing trend of males (20 percent of Southern's nursing student body) choosing the nursing profession as a career.

A Typical Wednesday

Walking briskly through the lobby of Thatcher South on the way to his Wednesday morning class, Brad speaks highly of the professors as he finishes the final bites of his breakfast and studies a quiz review sheet. One of several classes pushed out of Herin Hall due to the expansive growth of the nursing program, Adult Health III meets in a fourth-floor

conference room in the Thatcher South residence hall.

The classroom fills quickly with chatty nursing students. When the professor calls the class to order, several students are still standing in the back of the room, their eyes searching desperately for vacant chairs. Most find what they are looking for; two students satisfy themselves with less comfy arrangements—a chair shared with a friend or one of several low windowsills that border the room. Until more space is created for this rapidly growing (and overwhelmingly popular) major, such arrangements will have to do.

Before getting into the day's lecture, Associate Professor Christine Moniyung makes a deal with her students. "If you come to the Barnes & Noble bookstore Saturday night," she says, "I'll be there to study with you."

"Most of the nursing professors are like that," Brad later remarks. "They go out of their way to help their students."

Sitting in his apartment at Southern Village later that afternoon, Brad points to several pictures on his wall—each one, unsurprisingly, has Lori in it. Just below the pictures is a schedule outlining his classes and assignments for the rest of the semester.

There's a constant battle between the pictures and the schedule. Juggling classes, clinicals, and studying, he says, never leaves as much time as he would like for his girlfriend.

"If we don't have much time,"



Junior nursing major Ernie Brandt prepares to give a practice shot to willing volunteer Brad Yensho.

A New Home for Nursing

by Sean Reed, '06, and Lori Fletcher, '94

says Brad, "we can at least study together."

Just the day before, he says, the only time they spent together was studying for an upcoming test. Sharing the same major also means they both understand the stresses of being nursing students, and together they understand all of the inside jokes that seem to abound among nursing students.

Later when Brad walks into Herin Hall for Mission Nursing—his only class that meets in the nursing building—Lori is waiting for him. Balancing a plate with his supper in one hand and a drink in the other, he grabs a couple of cookies from a tray in the lobby as they head down the hallway to class.

"You got a haircut!" Lori exclaims as she looks up at him.

"Yes," he replies, adding that his visit to the barber had occurred several days before.

"We studied together for a test yesterday—our only time together all day," she says with a laugh. "I didn't even notice."

Back in the Lab

The week speeds by, and soon it's time for another Tuesday lab. As the big hand of the clock points to four, Brad untangles his legs and pushes himself up from the hallway floor in Lynn Wood Hall. Within a few minutes, students gather around him, ready to practice their skills.

Rolling up his right shirt sleeve, Brad reveals an arm scarred with needle marks—his battle wounds from Tuesday afternoons. Because of those pockmarks, a 10-year-old boy somewhere may never experience Brad's dreaded fear of needles—at least that's what Brad hopes. ✧

Editor's note. Brad Yensho graduated with an associate degree in December 2006. Having passed his boards on the first try, Brad has now contributed to one of the amazing statistics that first attracted him to Southern: the university's nearly perfect pass rate (one of the highest in the nation). He is now working at two hospitals in Indiana, where he still offers his arm as practice territory for new nurses. He and Lori plan to marry this December.

The School of Nursing's reputation for excellence, combined with a national nursing shortage, has led to exponential growth in the program.

In the last five years, the number of students studying nursing at Southern Adventist University has more than doubled. Today, more than 500 students are pursuing nursing degrees at Southern, and there are many more who desire to join the ranks.

To meet this growing demand, administrators have employed a fair amount of creativity to ensure all nursing courses have a classroom to meet in. The limited number of rooms available in Herin Hall (the current nursing building) has forced students to attend nursing classes in buildings scattered across Southern's campus. One soon-to-graduate senior has attended nursing classes in Thatcher South; Lynn Wood Hall; the Spanish-American Church; the library; the gymnasium; and yes, a few in Herin Hall.

Soon nursing students will have a new 32,000-square-foot home (more than twice the size of Herin Hall) with five new classrooms ranging in size from a 25-seat room to a 105-seat amphitheater.

Learning Spaces

These classrooms are only the beginning of the spaces for learning opportunities students will find in their new building:

Two seminar rooms will provide space for students to collaborate on group projects. "It will be very helpful for the students to have a place where they can work together where faculty aren't too far away," says Barbara James, dean of the School of Nursing.

A larger Learning Resource Center divided into two sections will allow one group of students to take computerized tests while others use computers to complete homework assignments. This area will house more than 60 computer stations.

Separate graduate and undergraduate resource areas will give students easy access to the materials they need for their level of study.

A special ASAP (assisting students to achieve professionally) classroom will provide a tutorial area for students to review missed test questions on a computer or with a tutor and meet in small groups to review content and practice questions.

Two specialized skills labs will provide state-of-the-art learning environments. One skills lab, at approximately 1,600 square feet, will house 10 areas, each equipped with its own hospital bed, sink cabinet, computer station, and all the hook-ups that simulate a standard hospital room. Adjacent to that will be a 1,000-square-foot skills lab with 10 massage tables to closely resemble an outpatient setting. "The height and firmness of massage tables are easier when you're teaching students how to do assessments," James says.

Larger faculty offices will provide a more comfortable environment for professors to meet with students.

With the School of Nursing offering three distinct programs (associate, bachelor's, and master's), these different learning areas provide opportunities for each group to have its specific needs met while working together under one roof.

"This building will provide an unprecedented opportunity to positively impact nursing education and health care locally and internationally," says James, "by continuing to educate competent nurses and health care leaders."

A Perfect Fit

Situated along the K.R. Davis Promenade between Daniells Hall and the Garden of Prayer, the \$4.5 million building will be in harmony with Southern's classic architecture while blending elements appropriate for a modern university.

"My goal in designing this new building," says Fred Turner, Southern's corporate architect, "was to comfortably accommodate all the needs of the nursing program to best facilitate the learning experience of both faculty and students—while simultaneously housing this function in a structure that is aesthetically pleasing and contextually relates to the current architecture on Southern's campus."

"I think the look is beautiful and sophisticated," adds James, "and it fits in with the traditional look of the campus nicely."

Funds for this building are being provided through the Health and Healing Campaign, which is also covering the cost of the university's new Hulsey Wellness Center (see page 18). Thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends, more than \$2 million has been raised or pledged.

"We look forward to inviting those who have given, and those who will soon make their best intentions a reality by making a gift, to join the groundbreaking ceremony planned for October 7," says President Gordon Bietz. Construction is expected to be completed in time for the 2009-2010 school year.

If you would like to make a gift toward either or both of these projects, call 423.236.2829 or visit advancement.southern.edu.



The New

by Shane Gallatin, attended

SMC

Standing in Lynn Wood Hall's chapel, I held a hymnal marked "SMC" and sang hymns from the early 1900s. Though it may have appeared that I had stepped back in time, in reality I was experiencing a taste of the future.

Worshipping with the Southern Missionary Church (SMC), I saw church leaders of tomorrow in action today.

At first I hadn't noticed anything unusual about this worship service (I'm told SMC isn't officially a "church" despite its name). I was greeted at the door with a smile and a bulletin and walked into a chapel full of worshipers chatting pleasantly with each other as they waited for the service to begin—a scene very similar to my home church.

The difference is that the service is run entirely by students, people my age who are tired of being bystanders at other churches and want to become their own church family. Students plan and organize the worship service, participate in the program, and even take it upon themselves to make sure visitors (like me) feel welcome.

A Place to Connect

I was still standing in the back looking for a seat when a young man named Desmond Suarez, a sophomore religious education major, walked

up to wish me a happy Sabbath and ask how I was doing. After we chatted a while, he invited me to sit with him and his friends.

"From the beginning, we tried to create an atmosphere of acceptance," Bess Martin, a senior psychology and religious studies major and SMC's worship coordinator, told me earlier in the week. I was already seeing that in action.

"When you have an atmosphere where everyone is like you," says Sean Reed, '06, last year's SMC leader, "it becomes much easier to get involved."



From the beginning, we tried to create an atmosphere of acceptance.

Bess Martin

This connection isn't accidental. The goal of SMC, now in its third year, was to create another option for students who weren't making a connection at some of the other community churches, a place where they could meet and worship with other students in a service that was run by students.

It's that sense of community that draws students into the SMC service and makes them feel at home. Nathan Krause, senior theology major and SMC's leader, told me that because of the relatively short amount of time most students spend at Southern, those who attend community churches often don't really feel like they're a part of the church family, let alone

have a chance to get involved. SMC's goal is to get students active in a church environment, some for maybe the first time in their lives.

An Opportunity to Serve

Any student has the opportunity to be involved with the service, from preaching to leading song service to greeting people at the door or taking up the offering. SMC also provides real-life learning opportunities for those in its leadership positions, many of whom plan to go into full-time ministry after college.

"As a pastor-to-be, this is a time to learn sometimes-hard lessons about what a church is," says Nathan. But those are lessons that Nathan, along with everyone else involved



This is a time to learn sometimes-hard lessons about what a church is.



[In] an atmosphere where everyone is like you, it becomes much easier to get involved.

Desmond got up from his seat next to me and walked to the front to lead the "I Saw Jesus" portion of the service. I watched as students throughout the congregation shared ways they saw the character of Christ manifest itself throughout the week, whether through a kind word, a helping hand, or a good friend.

Looking around, I saw Jesus too—in the actions and words of the many students who play their part in building and supporting their community of believers. If what I'm seeing is, indeed, a glimpse into the future, then we have (as Ellen White said) nothing to fear. ✧

By the Students, for the Students

by Anh Pham, senior journalism major, and Jaime Myers, senior English and international studies major

Ministry programs organized by students to spiritually support their peers are cropping up all over the campus of Southern Adventist University. Here are two of the ways students are reaching out to their peers with spiritual programming.

WePods

WePods are small groups of 6-12 people who unite in order to build spiritual relationships throughout the week.

"Many people don't interact outside of the church," says WePods founder Rika Gemmell, a junior mass communications and social science major. "The church body should be moving throughout the week."

The meetings allow students to build bonds with each other as they share, study the Bible, pray, and hold each other accountable.

"Small groups help students take a break from their daily tasks to focus on spiritual issues," Rika observes. "When you are with friends, you don't usually have an agenda of things to cover. With small groups there is an

expectation of growth. You are there to study, share, and be real."

Axiom

Senior nursing major Emily Baldwin founded Axiom with the goal of dealing with issues like pornography, homosexuality, and substance addiction in an environment of understanding and support.

"Axiom provides the opportunity for [students] to be honest about what they are struggling with," says Emily, "and enables them to seek out wisdom and knowledge in dealing with the problem, thus making it possible for them to grow."

The program includes a seminar presentation and personal testimony by a student on a specific issue. After the seminar, small study groups are formed to focus on the issue and help those struggling with it.

"The small groups," Emily adds, "are an equal blend of prayer accountability, and study of a specific resource manual and the Bible as it pertains to that area."



Blessed by

by Deborah Taube

Fear gripped Ileana's heart as the camp director leveled his gun at her mother.

"I'll give you two choices," he said sternly. "Either your daughter renounces her faith and remains in the work camp, or you sign these papers." Her mother's signature virtually assured they would be prosecuted.

Horrified at the choice she and her mother faced, 14-year-old Ileana desperately prayed.

Choosing Faith

From the day she entered the government school seven years earlier, Ileana had been confronting Cuba's communist ideology in defense of her faith.

"I had to decide whether or not to believe in God when I was very young," says Ileana Freeman-Gutierrez, now an assistant professor in Southern's School of Education and Psychology. "I knew there would be many troubles ahead of me, but when you are forced to defend your faith, you become mature at an early age."

Trouble did come while the high schooler and her classmates were at a 45-day mandatory physical labor camp that was established by the communist government to indoctrinate the students and contribute to the economy of the country. Here, the students traded the comfort of their beds for hammocks strung one above the other in the stark barracks of a sugar cane plantation. There were no modern toilets, only the crudest of latrines.

Awakened at 4:30 a.m. to a breakfast of hard, moldy bread and coffee, the teens worked all day in the unrelenting heat, supervised by their pro-



Homeschooled until the age of 7, Ileana Freeman's early childhood was carefree and happy.

fessors who acted as guards. About midday, work stopped long enough for them to drink dirty, stagnant water. The students were forbidden to eat sugar cane in the fields, but ravenous and weak with hunger, they ate anyway, burying the fibrous remains to avoid detection. At 3 p.m., the second meal was served: a dish of rice and fried eggs, frequently crawling with worms.

Day after day, with only sleep to break the spirit-crushing monotony, the students planted heavy sugar cane roots delivered in four- to five-foot sections piled above their heads. The girls, assigned to carry the roots to the field for the boys to plant, found it impossible to reach the tops of the piles. They struggled to pull the roots out from beneath the tremendous weight.

Loading their arms, they staggered the quarter mile to the fields. There the boys wielded razor-edged machetes to cut each cane root into sections. Frequently, a boy slashed his leg by mistake—a mixed blessing, as camp releases were granted for medical reasons only.

Freeman consistently refused to work in the fields on Sabbath, offering instead to nurse the sick teens in the barracks. This angered the professors, who singled her out for ridicule.

Freeman's mother, wishing to protect her daughter (for at least one week) from the dilem-

ma she faced each Sabbath, scheduled a Friday afternoon dental appointment so she could take her daughter home for the weekend. But when she arrived at the entrance to the camp with the papers from the dentist, a guard stopped her and told her to wait while the authorities decided if the teenager would be allowed to go. She waited by the fence all day under the torrid sun until finally at 6 p.m., the guard appeared, refusing the girl's release. When her mother protested, he interrupted, "On that side of the fence your daughter belongs to you, but on this side, she belongs to the state."

As her mother prayed outside the camp, Freeman came in with the fieldworkers. One of the camp's students risked being expelled by warning Freeman that the guards intended to make an example of her as they had recently done to two other students, who had been publicly humiliated when the guards verbally abused them and forced the other students to spit on them.

Adversity

The Ileana Freeman-Gutierrez Story

Studying Psychology for the Sake of Service

by Lori Fletcher, '94

I was 9 years old when I first realized I wanted to be a psychologist," says Ileana Freeman-Gutierrez, assistant professor in Southern's School of Education and Psychology. "I loved people and was passionate about understanding and serving them. My parents were extremely service-oriented. They taught me that learning was more than just acquiring knowledge. It had a purpose: the more I knew, the better I could help others."

Today, as the coordinator of Southern's school counseling master's degree program, Freeman guides students through the process of obtaining a graduate degree that will better enable them to serve young people.

Because of dedicated professors like Freeman, the most recent graduating class of master's degree school counseling students achieved a 100 percent pass rate on their licensure exams for the states

where they intend to practice.

"There's a history of a high pass rate at Southern," Freeman says. "These pass rates also mean, of course, that we have good students in our program."

To learn more about Southern's graduate programs (which are conveniently scheduled for working adults), visit graduatestudies.southern.edu or call 423.236.2694.

"I have some pride, some self-respect left," Freeman thought. "They're not going to do that to me." She thrust her belongings in a bag and scaled the fence to join her mother. They sped across the dark, uneven fields, but when Freeman's absence was discovered, the searchlight began its circular sweep as the guards screamed over loudspeakers for her return. Freeman and her mother looked frantically for a place to hide, but the relentless glare of the searchlight eventually forced them to turn back.

Now, as her mother stood facing the leveled gun, Freeman looked into her eyes. Instantly, without a word, they were in agreement. They couldn't deny their beliefs. That left only one option. Resolutely, her mother reached for the pen and signed the papers. They turned from the guard and walked away into the night.

Witnessing Miracles

After walking a few miles, they found a truck full of men being taken from the fields to their lodgings. The driver agreed to let them ride along, but it wasn't far into the trip before they realized he was drunk, and from his lurid comments and lewd gestures, they began to comprehend their imminent danger.

"Pray! Pray!" Freeman's mother whispered.

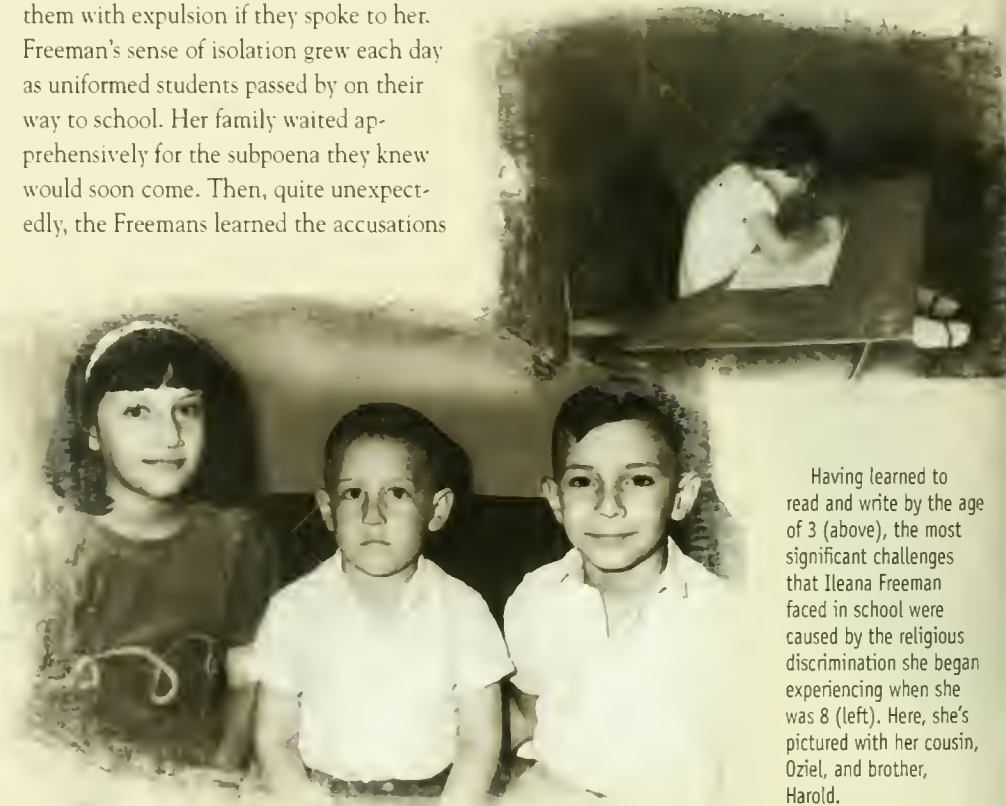
A few minutes later, the truck came upon a car that had run out of gas. Because of Cuba's government-imposed fuel rations, this wasn't unusual. As was customary, the truck driver stopped to help the stranded family. Recognizing their opportunity for escape, Freeman and her mother jumped from the truck and ran to the other side of the car, begging the family to take them along. As soon as they jumped into the family's car and the father turned the key, the engine started. The angry truck driver's curses faded in the distance as they sped away. The father, a Baptist, kept shaking his head.

"I cannot for the life of me understand what happened," he said. "We just left my in-laws' five minutes ago with a full tank. Suddenly, the car stopped. Looking for the problem, I realized the gas tank was totally empty, though I couldn't find any leaks. That's when the truck came along. Now look. The gas tank is full again!" When Freeman and her mother explained how they had implored God for deliverance, they all praised God for the miracle.

Freeman was home once more, though under unbearably tense circumstances. She had been blacklisted from attending state schools because of her refusal to assent to atheism. The loss of educational opportunities was perhaps the greatest disappointment in her life. In addition, she lost contact with her high school friends when the authorities threatened them with expulsion if they spoke to her. Freeman's sense of isolation grew each day as uniformed students passed by on their way to school. Her family waited apprehensively for the subpoena they knew would soon come. Then, quite unexpectedly, the Freemans learned the accusations

were dropped. Though they never knew how it happened, they were convinced God had intervened once again.

Meanwhile, the problem of Freeman's education remained unresolved until a friend suggested she apply to the Cuba Adventist Seminary. It was one of the two Christian schools still operating, though strictly regulated. Inundated with applicants, admission had become highly selective, resulting in an arduous application process. It was Freeman's last hope. Though she was an excellent student, competition for entrance was keen, and she tried to prepare for disappointment. When she was accepted immediately, Freeman counted it a blessing from God. Elated and thankful, she studied there for three years.



Having learned to read and write by the age of 3 (above), the most significant challenges that Ileana Freeman faced in school were caused by the religious discrimination she began experiencing when she was 8 (left). Here, she's pictured with her cousin, Oziel, and brother, Harold.



Leaving Cuba

For 12 years, Freeman's parents had attempted to emigrate to the United States, but the authorities insisted that her father's medical expertise was a state necessity and subjected him to severe surveillance. After Freeman's father suffered a fatal heart attack, her mother applied for emigration status and was again refused. It seemed they would never leave Cuba. Once more, however, their extremity was God's opportunity.

One day, a communist party leader arrived at the Freeman home. He and his aide entered unannounced, poured drinks from the kitchen, and walked from room to room with their glasses. Freeman's mother overheard the officer say to his aide, "I really like this house. Do you think my furniture would fit in this room?" A few hours later, the Freemans received an eviction notice—and permission to leave the country! The officer had found a way to confiscate their property for himself, unaware he was being used to answer their prayers. Soon the Freemans were on their way to Costa Rica, with no money and wearing their only clothes. Three months later, they arrived in the United States, where Freeman eventually became a citizen.

Freeman's longing for an education was satisfied after many years of hard work. She completed her bachelor's and master's degrees at Andrews University while working two jobs, and later, she earned her doctorate in counseling psychology at Ball State University.

Continuing in Faith

By the time she obtained her master's, Freeman had become fluent in English and had been translating radio scripts for *Your Story Hour* to Spanish. Shortly after graduate school, she attended a personal finance seminar and became convicted that she needed to live debt free. Though she had worked hard, her income hadn't been enough to cover expenses, and she owed substantial student loans. Newly married and looking for a job, it seemed impossible to satisfy the loans and avoid the interest payments. But dependency on God was a conditioned reflex that drove her to Him in any perplexity.

"Lord, there is no way I can pay for that loan quickly," Freeman prayed. "How can I do it? Please show me." The next morning, the telephone rang. A representative of a Chicago publishing firm was looking for someone to translate an English-to-Spanish project and

asked if Freeman was interested. Was she! She wondered how a perfect stranger could know about her. The representative explained that an unidentified person had called the office with Freeman's name and phone number.

"How much would you charge?" the representative asked.

Having no clue how much to request, Freeman asked, "What is your budget?"

The representative offered an amount, and Freeman promised to think it over and call back. She did the computations and was astonished to learn the offer would cover the cost of a computer she needed in order to do the project, pay off the loans, and provide for a tithe—to the very cent!

Sharing With Students

Now a professor at Southern, Freeman has found many opportunities to inspire her students with her personal accounts of God's intervention. "Sometimes when I see my students so worried about their loans, I have shared my story," Freeman says. "I pray with them and tell them if they will let God lead, they will see wonderful things happen."

Freeman's students say they learn more than psychology in her classes. "Dr. Freeman's experiences have taught me that no matter what, you can always trust God," says Libna Arroyo, master's school counseling student. "Trust God, and never give up despite the challenges."

"You have to let God be the pilot in your life," Freeman tells her students. "With all your heart, you have to let go of the controls. God is really interested in our personal lives. He has not forgotten us in our troubles, which are serving a purpose in the grand scheme."

"I'm extremely impressed with her strong spirituality," says master's school counseling student Terri Bonnick, who notes Freeman's

personal interest in her students. "Before every class, she asks us how our day has been and offers prayer. She creates a family unit."

Freeman is grateful for the strong trust in God that the hardships of her youth helped form. "I think one reason that I experienced so many miracles in my life is that my need was so great," she says. "I knew I couldn't solve my problems, and that forced me to depend completely on God." ✧

Religion in Cuba

by Jaime Myers, senior English and international studies major

Religion has historically been oppressed in the traditionally atheist Republic of Cuba. However, in 1992 the government revised its constitution to make it a secular state rather than atheist. The reform also lessened governmental religious persecution and discrimination, although some instances of harassment persist.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has been in Cuba since 1905. Today, there are more than 241 churches and a seminary on the island. The Adventist Church is registered with the Cuban government, allowing members to meet freely in organized churches. However, some activities (such as the importation of books, buying electronic equipment, and the building of new churches) must be approved by the Cuban Council of Churches and the Office of Religious Affairs. Denominations that are not registered with the government are considered illegal. Cuban citizens are still expected to put their loyalty to the state above their religious convictions.



Building a Wellspring of Health and Healing

by Brad Betack, junior mass communication major, and Jaime Myers, senior English and international studies major

Before Southern settled into the valley—before Thatcher's Switch was re-named Collegedale—there was a spring on the Thatcher Farm with water more pure and reliable than other springs and wells in the area. Families from miles around would bring their sick to drink the doctor-recommended water. Today, Southern continues this legacy of healing as it moves forward in the comple-

tion of the new Hulsey Wellness Center.

"This building will preach wellness," says Christopher D. Carey, vice president for Advancement. "This is the hands and feet of Christ's message."

Phase One of the Hulsey Wellness Center was completed in November and included a new training facility where the Gym-Masters, Southern's acrobatic team, now holds practices.

The second phase of the Hulsey Wellness Center, scheduled to open in 2008, will add square footage and state-of-the-art facilities to the existing Iles P. E. Center. Already students, faculty, and community members are looking forward to how they will benefit from the amenities the wellness center will bring.

Wellspring for All Seasons

Sophomore social work major Kimmy Barton loves rock climbing. She particularly enjoys building up her strength while engaging in friendly competition.

"I have to go farther than my sister," says Kimmy. "I can't let her beat me. She and I push each other to do better and to pass up the boys."

Coming to Southern from Colorado, Kimmy quickly learned what keeps the

Great Smoky Mountains so lush and green—rain. She's enjoyed many sunny days climbing the Goliath Wall on campus, but precipitous weather often keeps her indoors. However, plans for the Hulsey Wellness Center include a 30-foot indoor climbing wall that will enable her to climb as often as she wants.

"I'm excited," Kimmy says, "because I'll be able to go rock climbing every day."

Wellspring of Warmth

As a basketball game rages in the gym, community member Faye Fuller maneuvers her way through benched players and onlookers to the women's entrance of the Iles P.E. Center pool. Fuller, who suffers from arthritis, has been a faithful member of the water aerobics class for 20 years. Water aerobics allows her to exercise without putting painful stress on her joints.

Fuller's faithful attendance is not only due to her desire to stay fit but also to the friendly atmosphere and helpful instructors who make workouts fun. But during the cold months, the pool can become nearly unbearable for water aerobics.

"The water is sometimes so cold that some people have stopped coming to classes," says Fuller. "I can't wait for the day we get to take classes in the heated pool of the new center."



The founders of Southern College (left to right: Rev. George D. Smith, J.D. Jones, E.B. Brown, and W.G. Wright) found the Thatcher Farm spring well— which was known for being pure, clear and healthy—long before springs and wells in the area.

The Hulsey name

Former Collegedale Mayor Bill Hulsey is the founder of Collegedale Caseworks, one of America's largest laboratory furniture manufacturers.

As a pioneer member of the Committee of 100, Bill supported the construction of Iles P.E. Center 30 years ago. He and his wife, Myrtle, also pledged \$1.5 million ("a gift of faith," as he says) to the \$9.7 million Campaign for Health and Healing, which is supporting the con-

struction of the Hulsey Wellness Center and a Center for Nursing Education (see page 8).

The Hulseys were touched when President Gordon Bietz offered to have the wellness center named in honor of their family.

"I want you to notice that the next building over is Fleming Plaza," Bill commented during the Hulsey Wellness Center groundbreaking ceremony. "Anytime you can get your name that close to Chick Fleming's, it's a real honor."



With Phase One complete, work has begun on Phase Two of the Hulsey Wellness Center, which will provide a place for students and community members to put into practice the principles of healthy living.

Wellspring for Education

"In high school, I became more aware of the negative and positive effects food and exercise had on my body," says Erica Koltz, a senior with a double major in health science and corporate and community wellness management. "I started to make small diet changes and developed a passion for living a balanced lifestyle."

Wanting to share that passion with others, Erica came to Southern with wellness in mind and the goals of becoming a personal trainer, aerobics instructor, and dietician. For students like Erica, the wellness center will provide practical experience.

"Southern is in great need of a wellness center," says Erica. "I think the health on campus will improve tremendously. It will also create more opportunities to actually work with the community, and it will help wellness majors gain the hands-on experience we need."

Wellspring of Success

With his legs flying beneath him and the wheel of the stationary bike buzzing, senior

general studies major Jon Stewart made the final push toward the end of his hour-long workout. Walking to a nearby mirror, Jon caught his breath. "I'll see you tomorrow," he said determinedly to his reflection.

Workouts weren't always a part of Jon's routine, but when his weight made it a challenge to walk up the stairs around campus, Jon turned to professors in the School of Physical Education, Health, and Wellness for help.

Harold Mayer, professor of Jon's Fitness for Life class, put together a plan to help Jon lose weight. A semester later and 30 pounds lighter, Jon helps fellow students with their own weight-loss goals.

"The Wellness Center is important because without it, students may go to other places that don't put an emphasis on total wellness like Southern does," says John, "or worse, they might not work out at all."

For Jon, Erica, Faye, Kimmy, and many others, the Hulsey Wellness Center may become Collegedale's newest wellspring of health and healing—drawing students, faculty, and community members into a lifetime of wellness. ✦



Jon Stewart won the opportunity to bulldoze the first pile of dirt at the Phase Two groundbreaking by sharing his story of how a Southern professor helped him lose 30 pounds in one semester.

What's Inside

The Hulsey Wellness Center will be a state-of-the-art facility that will encourage healthful living. So what's included in this wellspring?

- Fitness Laboratory
- Massage Therapy Rooms
- 150-seat Classroom
- Aerobics Room
- Childcare Center
- Conference Room
- Fitness Center
- Heated Therapy Pool
- Hydrotherapy Pool
- Indoor Track
- Hot Tub
- Library
- Offices
- Small Kitchen
- Steam Rooms
- Sauna Rooms
- Weight Center
- 30-foot Indoor Climbing Wall

GIVE

To make a gift to the Hulsey Wellness Center, call Advancement at 423-627-2222 or visit www.southern.edu/giving

HOW to Become a Triathlete

by Britni Brannon,
junior print journalism major

You don't have to win, you just have to tri." This slogan easily sums up the experience of many, including myself who have participated in a triathlon for self-satisfaction, not for a record-breaking victory. My start in triathletism was two years ago. For my first race, I was part of a relay team with my dad and pastor. We left that day with the resolution to do a whole triathlon individually the following year and succeeded last October.

To be a triathlete, you don't have to conquer the Ford Ironman World Championship (a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike, and 26.2-mile run). Should you set your sights on it, I would give you kudos for bravery! I'm referring to competing in a sprint triathlon, like the Sunbelt/Cohutta Springs Triathlon held annually in October at Cohutta Springs Adventist Center in Georgia and organized in part by Southern employees. Its mere ½-mile swim, 18-mile bike, and 4-mile run seem to pale when compared to the Ironman distances.

In the following paragraphs, I've highlighted the important things I've learned about training for a triathlon. These simple steps are helpful for anyone who has a desire to feel a sense of athletic completion, not necessarily to win a trophy.

Step 1 Starting on the right foot: decide, pick, and commit.

Once you have acknowledged your desire to participate in a triathlon, then pick your specific race. Look online for local sprint triathlons and make a selection. (If you live in North Georgia or Southeast Tennessee, the Sunbelt/Cohutta Springs event is a fabulous option.) I cannot stress enough: commit. No doubt there will be



Step 2 Finding someone to train with can give you the motivation to keep going.

times during training when crossing the finish line doesn't seem worth the effort. So set your commitment level high!

Step 2 Misery loves company and so does training: buddy up.

Some triathletes prefer to train solo. But if you're like me, you'll enjoy having someone to share your experiences. My buddy was my dad. During the summer, we were able to train together, but because I live away from home during the school year, those opportunities soon became sparse. Instead, I found a friend at school willing to train with me. Having that extra push of support can help you avoid the "I'll do it later" mentality.

During the race, my dad insisted on staying with me, despite my desperate attempts to convince him to go ahead. But truth be told, his stubbornness was also an encouragement. Having someone with you for motivation can be a huge help. While an iPod can provide entertainment, it doesn't compare to the companionship of your training buddy.

Step 3 Getting a head start: train early and often.

When a triathlon is still months away, it's easy to put training at the bottom of your priority list. Depending on how well you want to do, training doesn't have to be your number one priority, but it should be close to the top. Working up to triathlon-length races takes time. The sooner you start training, the easier it will be to reach the ½-mile swim, 18-mile bike, and 4-mile run distances.

I should have been more diligent sooner. I didn't fully dedicate myself to training until about seven weeks before the race. It may seem

Get a head start: train early and often.



like a long time, but I should have focused on training several months in advance.

Unfortunately, training early won't be of much benefit if it's not coupled with training often. While I was training, I ran three times

Step 4 Focusing on the ugly: triathlons aren't beauty pageants so concentrate on your worst event.

I call this step "ugly" because no one likes doing what he or she is the worst at or enjoys the least. My worst event was running. This is where I made my biggest mistake—I disregarded it when I trained and suffered the consequences on race day. Unless it's my ideal time, weather, and pace, I don't like running. When race day came, I tanked on the run. Perhaps your worst event is swimming or biking. Whatever it is, focus on that area. Push yourself to excel. Come race day that event won't be as strenuous, and you won't get bogged down wishing you were better prepared.

Step 5 Being a health nut: give your body what it needs to work.

This step can become very complex and detailed by specifying types and amounts of carbohydrates, proteins, and fats to consume. (There are myriads of articles available by professionals.) I'm not a nutritionist, so I'll keep it simple: Eat well. This means embracing fruits, vegetables, and complex carbohydrates and avoiding foods high in fat and sugar.

Step 6 Giving your best "tri": have fun and relax.

We've all heard that "winning isn't everything," and it truly isn't. Before the race, I was a little nervous, but I reminded myself, "I'm not here to win. I'm here to have fun and finish." Pushing yourself is fine, but if it's going to stress

you out, don't bother. You've put time and effort into training; so when the gun goes off, pace yourself, relax, and take one stage at a time. During the swim, don't think about the next 22 miles. Concentrate on the "here and now." Enjoy yourself!

Triathlons are a challenging and fun way to stay healthy and meet athletic goals, even if you don't win. Once you've crossed the finish line, you just might find yourself addicted and, in the words of another slogan, find yourself saying, "I almost drowned, I almost crashed my bike, practically passed out on the run...when is the next tri?" ✧



Step 3 Having a training schedule will keep you on the right track.

a week, swam twice a week, and also biked sporadically. This worked best for my schedule and did a decent job of preparing me for the race, although more training would have helped. It's not necessary to train for everything every day (it's not even advised—your body needs time to recuperate), but having a routine that gets you sweating on a regular basis is key.



Step 5 Complex carbohydrates provide your body with fuel for the day of the race.

Britni Brannon is a junior print journalism major at Southern Adventist University. She finished the Sunbelt Okaloosa Springs Triathlon in 2 hours, 6 minutes, and 23 seconds.



Busy Hands

On campus and around the world, the hands of students, staff, faculty, and alumni are busy in service. Here are some of the ways these hands have been reaching those around them.



Brandon Palmer: Giving—Like Grandma
by Jaynie Medina, senior public relations major, and Lori Futcher, '94



Brandon Palmer was living out of his car when his grandmother took him into her home. Although her home wasn't much—a one-bedroom apartment in a government-subsidized neighborhood—the loving motivation she gave him to make something of his life encouraged him to go to college.

"Once you get that sheet of paper," she told him, "nobody can take that away from you."

Though a childhood case of polio had left Brandon's grandmother paralyzed on her left side, she didn't let that stop her from helping others in her family and community. Her example of selfless giving also motivated him to live a life of actively helping others. "All Grandma did was with half a body," Brandon says, "but with more than a whole heart."

When Brandon, now a senior nursing major, came to Southern Adventist University, he also joined Southern's Chattanooga Street Ministry program. This year, he is serving as the program's leader.



Brandon and his team interact with some of Chattanooga's poorest residents on their own turf. Whether the meeting place be on the streets or in a humble home, Brandon is always eager to share God's love. Sometimes this is done simply by sitting and listening; other times it involves sharing copies of *Steps to Christ*. Every visit includes prayer, even though sometimes circumstances necessitate that the prayer be for the individual rather than *with* the individual.

"There was this time one guy was yelling through the window, cursing at us, and telling us to go away," Brandon recalls. "We didn't take it personally. We simply prayed for that man, asking the Holy Spirit to come into his heart."

Brandon says he sees himself in a lot of the people he meets on the street. Sometimes, he'll also find someone who reminds him of his grandmother. "One day, a little old lady who was living by herself invited me to sit and visit with her," Brandon remembers fondly. "We ended up studying the Bible and having a nice afternoon."

Brandon may never repay his grandmother for her impact on his life, but he can pass on the spirit of giving he inherited from her.

"I owe everything I am to the two greatest volunteers I've ever seen: Jesus Christ and my grandma," Brandon says. "I want to leave with others the type of impact that my grandmother left on me when she took me into her home."

Carlos Parra: Teaching Benevolence
by Kaidi Tastet, senior journalism major



Wearing a red volunteer T-shirt, Carlos Parra, chair of Southern's Modern Languages Department, crisscrossed his way through the Sr. Andrews All Saints

Anglican Church, instructing volunteers and directing attendants at the La Paz de Dios (The Peace of God) Hispanic Health Fair. For three hours, Parra moved from booth to booth. When all was said and done, more than 200 local Hispanics had received free health screenings.

As an immigrant who came to the United States from Colombia as a young man, Parra understands the challenges—such as a language barrier—faced by those in a new country.

While some organizations charge up to \$100

for translation services, Parra has offered his services free of charge for immigrant workers who were about to lose their jobs due to difficulty obtaining social security numbers. As they sort out social security issues with English-speaking officials, Parra knows he is serving as a link to maintain stability in these men's families.

"Isn't that part of our message as Christians, to help others?" asks Parra.

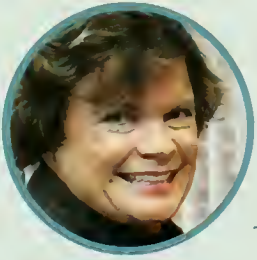
To encourage students to become involved, he includes a mandatory 10 hours of community service as part of the Modern Languages Department curriculum. Although participation is required, students often show enthusiasm when helping in community service. One of his former students, Libna Arroyo, a graduate student working on her master's in school counseling, particularly enjoyed teaching English as a second language at a local public school.

"I did a couple extra hours of community service just because I liked it," Libna says.

Parra enjoys hearing when students comment later about their desire to get involved in community outreach programs.

"I think community service is very rewarding," says Parra, "and it's an experience all students graduating from Southern should have."

Sharon Robberson: Lighting Her Corner
by Omar Bourne, senior journalism major, and Lori Futcher, '94



Sharon Robberson, '71, strolled across Taylor Circle, packages in hand, smiling and greeting everyone she came in contact with. Having just left Thatcher Hall, she was on her way to Talge Hall to drop off her next batch of freshly baked homemade banana bread and cookies. Baking pastries for Southern students is just one way Sharon lights up the lives of those around her.

"This is my way of nurturing these students when they're away from home," Sharon says. "I love to bake, and I can't eat everything!"

Sharon is no stranger to volunteer work. For more than 20 years, she volunteered for Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (ASI), contributing so much to the organization that when she decided she would need to give up some of her volunteer work in order to get a paying job, the organization hired her.

When Sharon moved to Collegedale, she

offered to volunteer at Southern as a way of getting acquainted with the community. "That seems to be how I always get into activities," she says, "through volunteering."

Her experience coordinating weddings and ASI events came into play when Southern's School of Nursing held a gala to celebrate its 50th anniversary and raise funds for a new nursing building (see page 11). This was to be Southern's first-ever gala, and Sharon was invited to attend planning meetings for the big event.

"Once I began sitting in on the meetings," Sharon says, "I was asked to coordinate the details, especially the night of the event—since all the nursing people would be participating in the actual party!"

"Sharon's expertise in event planning gave Southern an experience and look that we've never had before," says Joy McKee, Southern's volunteer liaison.

An inaugural member of Southern's Lights Volunteers program, a group that was formed in December 2006 to provide a home base for Southern's volunteers, Sharon continues to add a touch of beauty and taste to campus events.

"I am not one exceptional, just an ordinary person participating in activities that I enjoy and hope provide a service to others," she says, encouraging other alumni to consider volunteering at their alma mater. "I'm just happy to have the opportunity to do what I can." ✧





The New Face In Ministry

Do you remember how many female theology majors were studying at Southern when you were a student? Chances are, unless you're a recent graduate, there weren't many—if any—who chose this course of study. But things are changing. In the last six years, more than 50 women have graduated with majors from the School of Religion.

With degrees ranging from biblical archaeology to theology, the school graduates many women who will enter non-ministerial positions, but it is also graduating more and more women who believe they have been divinely called into ministry.

These are the stories of three women who heard this call and have begun lives of service—teaching, preaching, and sharing the good news of the Gospel.

by Natalia Lopez-Thismon, junior mass communication major

Facing the Congregation



Have you bought your ticket?" a member of her hometown church asked Kessia Bennett, '06.

"For what?" asked Bennett.

"You're going to Southern," he replied.

After earning her associate degree at a community college, Bennett wanted to continue on for a bachelor's degree, but couldn't afford it.

Her parents agreed to pay \$200 per month, but despite her good grades and numerous scholarships, Bennett still couldn't gather enough money to go to a public university, let alone a Christian one.

"Jesus desires so much that each of His children come to know Him—and that's my desire, too."

One day, amidst of all the financial frustrations, Bennett's church pastor asked, "Is working for the church something you would like to do?"

"Yes," she said. "But I'm not sure how."

Seeing the potential she had to become a minister, Bennett's church decided to raise money for her to attend Southern.

When Bennett got to Southern, she felt right at home and soon discovered her calling was to be a traditional church pastor.

"I realized I was interested in member care," says Bennett, "and that the most valuable evangelism doesn't happen in citywide public meetings but in the local church body."

After finishing a Sabbath sermon at church during her senior year at Southern, Bennett stepped out of the pulpit and was approached by a pastor who had heard her preaching.

"What's your major?" the pastor asked.

"Theology," Bennett replied.

His response was all too familiar to Bennett. "What are you going to do with that?"

Despite the recurring questions about what a female could do with a

theology degree, Bennett knew God wants her in ministry. In 2005, she became the first female to win Southern's Award for Excellence in Preaching, which recognizes a theology major

among his/her peers for being an exemplary preacher.

Bennett received a call from the Oregon Conference her senior year at Southern, making her one of an increasing number of female theology majors who are called to serve in traditional pastoral roles.

"I wasn't expecting a call," Bennett says. "I felt elated when Oregon called me. It's my home conference, and I felt that my area of interest would be useful there."

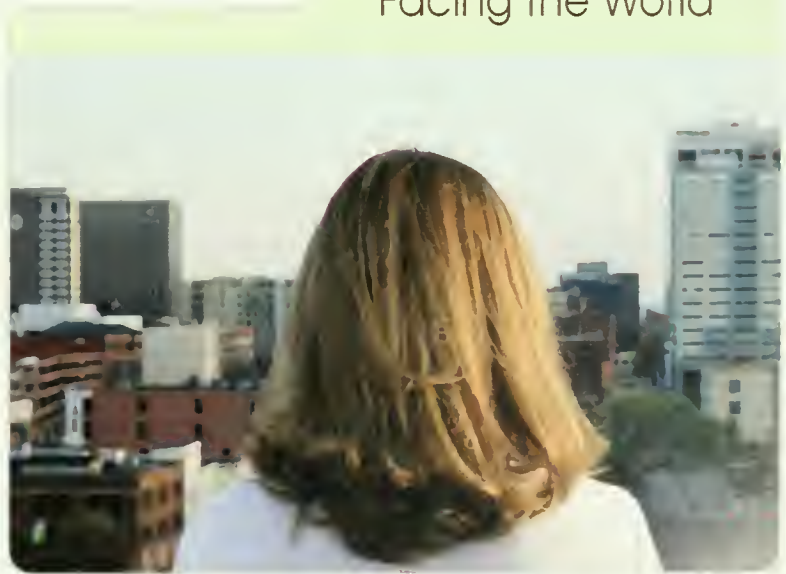
But because her husband, Josh, wasn't graduating until May of 2007, the Oregon Conference said it would be just as happy to have her in 2007 instead of 2006. Meanwhile, Bennett took a job at Southern as an assistant chaplain—a job she loved.

"I was blessed to have the opportunity to meet with several students each week to talk about their spiritual walk, ways that God may be leading them, and how to grow in their relationship with God," she explains.

Interpersonal ministry is her favorite part of her job, and she hopes to continue it in Oregon.

"I'm so excited about meeting the church members!" says Bennett. "I love people, and I have a passion for their spirituality. Jesus desires so much that each of His children come to know Him—and that's my desire, too."

Facing the World



When Emily Flottmann, '05, came back to Southern Adventist University after serving for a year as a student missionary in the Marshall Islands, she couldn't

shake the feeling that God wanted her to go into ministry.

"I always made fun of theology majors," she says. "I didn't even want to take any theology classes."

Even though she tried to ignore the impression, God kept telling her she needed to enroll in the theology program.

"I know it's a lack of faith, Lord, but I need a sign!" she told God.

Flottmann formulated the questions she needed answered before she made her final

"There's nothing more exciting than watching someone give his or her life to God."

decision. On April 4, 2002, she headed to the library to read and pray—and wait for her sign.

Among the questions she wanted answered were: "What am I going to do with this degree?" and "What are people going to say?" She pulled out a devotional book, opened it to the day's date, and began to read. Soon, she realized God was speaking to her directly—answering the questions in her doubtful heart. She closed that book and pulled out another devotional. Flottmann couldn't believe it. As she read, she noticed God was answering another one of her questions. Flottmann left the library in tears that evening. God had spoken to her and eased all her doubts.

When Flottmann began attending classes in the School of Religion, she felt discouraged.

"There was a roomful of guys citing Bible verses I had never heard before and saying all these big words I didn't understand," she says. "I'd cry almost every morning."

Feeling dispirited, Flottmann prayed again for another sign from God. She asked God to find someone who would tell her verbally that she was in the right place.

The next day, she went to a religion class with Professor Philip Samaan. She had never spoken with him before, but after class that day, she approached him to thank him for the class. After a couple of minutes of conversation, he asked her to go to his office to talk for a while. They spoke about family and friends, then Samaan shared that he felt impressed to tell her that she was exactly where God wanted her.

Flottmann has never asked God for another sign.

Her senior year, Flottmann scheduled interviews with different conferences. Having been told not to expect a call, she expected

her experience would be nothing more than good practice. Her first interview was with the Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

"I left that interview feeling like God had blessed it," she remembers, "but I still wasn't expecting a call. I know now that my faith was too small. Luckily, God's plans are always bigger and greater than my own." The conference ended up extending an official call to her. After waiting a couple of days to make a decision, Flottmann accepted the job offer.

The conference sponsored her way to Andrews University to complete her Master of Divinity. She will graduate in December and is waiting to hear where she will serve.

Flottmann's strongest passion lies in evangelism. One of her recent projects took place

would preach a short sermon, give a devotional thought, or have a Bible study, and everyone had a chance to discuss the topics.

The idea is that once these people get baptized, they will have more successful spiritual growth and will stay connected with the church because, through meetings like these, they developed close friendships that can help guide them in their spiritual lives.

"I've gotten very involved in this," states Flottmann. "It's a new kind of evangelism."

Flottmann's love for evangelism and ministry has grown with time.

"There's nothing more exciting than watching someone give his or her life to God," she says. "Praying with someone who needs guidance or just listening and being able to do that for a living is amazing!"

Flottmann is excited to be in ministry—and now she's sure that's where God wants her.

Facing Students



in Hawaii with fellow students from Andrews University. The evangelism project began long before the group arrived. Members of the church invited non-Adventist neighbors and friends to their homes (or any place they could have a small group meeting) before they ever invited them to attend any evangelistic series.

When the students arrived, they joined the meetings, which consisted of sharing a meal together and socializing. Afterward, Flottmann

Jessica Williams, '05, was at the Teen Prayer and Ministry Conference in Texas when Pastor José Rojas finished preaching his sermon and took out his guitar. Williams, a sophomore at Hawaiian Mission Academy at the time, was one of four young people from Hawaii chosen to attend this prayer conference. Rojas asked the congregation to stand and hold hands as they sang:

We are His hands to touch the world around us.

*We are His feet to go where He may lead.
We are His eyes to see the need in others.
We are His voice to tell of His return.*

As Williams sang, she had a conversation with God. "Why was I chosen to come here, God?" she asked. "I didn't ask to come here; this was not my idea. Why do You want me here?"

"I want you to be my hands, my feet, my eyes, and my voice," was the unspoken answer.

Williams went back home spiritually revived and knowing she wanted to work for the Lord.

"I became spiritual vice president the next year," Williams says. "I planned all kinds of spiritual activities and realized that I loved it!"

When she came to Southern, she knew she wanted to enter the ministry. Like many other women wanting to go into that field, she was unsure how she would use a theology degree. Despite feelings of intimidation, Williams continued with her pursuit.

Her junior year at Southern, Williams gave a sermon about being a bold disciple for Jesus. After the sermon as Williams was headed for lunch at the cafeteria, a woman from the community approached her. "Thank you," the woman said as she began to cry. "I wish more people would say what you said."

"All I could think was 'Wow!'" Williams recalls. "When you open yourself to be used by God, great things happen."

"I really want my students to learn how to read and study the Bible on their own."

Today, Williams is a Bible teacher at Loma Linda Academy in California. "I really want my students to learn how to read and study the Bible on their own," Williams says.

Williams will often take a break from her lesson plans and have "one big Bible study" with her students to see what insights they can obtain together. She always finds it rewarding when students realize that the Bible has something specific to tell them.

One class she teaches is Christian Missions. It is a hands-on service class. The students go with Williams to assisted living centers and children's hospitals, on prayer walks, and to help clean up neighborhoods.

One student decided to be a social worker after taking the class.

"She sent me a note thanking me," Williams says, "because thanks to my class, she knew what she wanted to do with her life!"

Williams loves being with her students and

sharing her love for Jesus with them. "I like to teach my students to look beyond themselves," she says. "I want them to follow Jesus' example of service and be a light for their community." ✧

What Can Women Do?

by Kate Rumppe, junior print journalism major, and Natalia Lopez-Thismon, junior mass communication major

Women have been serving the Adventist Church since its earliest days. However, when the topic of women in ministry comes up, questions are often raised about ordination. Can women be ordained? Should women be ordained? Can women serve without ordination?

Questions like these brought 120 people to the microphones to argue for or against the motion to ordain women at the 1990 General Conference Session in Indianapolis. After heated debate and heartfelt pleas on both sides, the General Conference voted down the issue 1,481 to 673.

In the 1995 General Conference Session in Utrecht, the issue was brought up again—this time to discuss whether divisions could individually decide to ordain women. The church determined again that women are not to be ordained.

Women Who Are Leading the Way

The decision against women's ordination hasn't stopped the growing number of influential roles held by women in the Adventist Church.

"It used to be that even if you were qualified for a top position in the church, as a woman you would not be considered at all," says Daisy Orion, an associate treasurer at the General Conference.

In 2005, Orion, Rosa Banks, and Ella Simmons were elected to some of the church's highest levels of administration at its world headquarters. Simmons became the first woman vice president, and Banks was the first woman to become an associate secretary of the General Conference, serving as a liaison between the East-Central and West-Central African divisions and as a coordinator of the Secretariat Missionary Care Program.

Opportunities for Service

James A. Cress, '71, General Conference Ministerial Association secretary, explains the various opportunities that are available to women around the world in the church.

"Women serve in virtually every ministry function in the Seventh-day Adventist Church around the world—except the office of president, which requires ordination," he says. "The issue today is deployment of qualified individuals to serve God's cause regardless of gender."

He says that hundreds of women serve as pastors; departmental directors; officers of conferences, unions, divisions, and the General Conference; chaplains; theology professors; and Bible instructors, both in the North American Division and in every other division of the world.

School of Religion Dean Greg King isn't surprised at the growth of women in leadership. "I am personally inspired," he says, "by the spiritual commitment and quality of the female students in our theology program."

Source: Adventist News Network



by Angela (Ford) Baerg, '06

You Can't Spell *Thel* Without *El*

Southern's First Identical Twins Share a Lifetime of Togetherness

The soft rustle of their matching dresses was drowned out by matching giggles as two sets of nearly matching feet—off by only half a size—pattered down Southern Junior College's North Hall stairwell. Tonight, the mischievous girls would put their identical twin status to good use, swapping places to find out if Ella May's date could tell the difference between the two. Trying to smother her laughter, Ella May stopped just short of entering the residence hall lobby, remaining out of sight and motioning for Thelma to go on out. Thelma took her cue, entered the lobby, and sweetly greeted her sister's date.

"Ella May!" the boy exclaimed cheerfully. "How are you?"

Inseparable from Birth

Southern's first set of identical twins, "Thel" (Thomson) Hartwell, '37, and "El" (Thomson) Sorensen, '37, were not always up to shenanigans, but anything they did was together. Their bond began in the womb, and while Thelma got a 15-minute head start in the world, Ella May was close behind.

"We did everything together," Ella May recalls. "Mother said we were hugging and kissing each other in the baby carriage. We lived in the same room, went to school together, and always dressed alike every day until the day we got married."

The twins were late arrivals to their close-knit family, making their appearance as their parents' only children when their mother was 42 years old.

"I'm sure she was surprised," says Ella May.

The girls were a joy to their parents, both of whom were nurses, and from an early age it became clear these girls had promising futures.

"We always got the same grades," Ella May remembers. In eighth grade, they both did so well that the twins and one other boy were in a three-way tie for class valedictorian.

"We had to draw straws to see who would present the valedictory address," Ella May says. "Thelma won."

To save money so they could attend college, Thelma and Ella May attended public high school. "It was hard," says Ella May. "We were left out of weekend activities because we kept the Sabbath. But although we couldn't afford to go away to academy, we always knew we would go to our mother's alma mater, Southern Junior College."



Becoming Southern Girls

Although moving from Florida to Tennessee was a big change, Thelma and Ella May knew it would be okay as long as they were together.

"We couldn't afford to go home much except at Christmas, but we never got homesick because we had each other," Ella May says. "It was a small school back in the '30s, and everybody knew everybody else. We didn't feel shy when we arrived—everybody was friendly, and we were friendly back."

Side by side, the girls cheerfully earned their keep as student workers.

"From what they told me, it sounds like they worked almost as much as they went to school," says Thelma's daughter, Fran (Hartwell) Robertson, '65. The twins were servers in the cafeteria, assistants in the registrar's office, workers in the puffery (the bakery that made puffed rice), and operators of the mangle (a contraption that pressed sheets and required two people to operate it, one twin on either side).

When they weren't busy working, they could often be found immersed in matching textbooks. Since they shared a room and took almost every college class together, they made perfect study buddies.

"But we didn't spend all of our time studying," says Ella May. "We were very involved with campus life."

Sometimes they would head out together for group activities like sunrise breakfasts and meetings with the Science Club. Other times they would dabble in the realm of romance. But they weren't concerned about meeting their matches.

"I wasn't seeking anybody," Ella May says. "While we were at Southern, we had boyfriends but no husbands."

Becoming Nurses

After the twins graduated from Southern with their pre-dietetic degrees in 1937, they planned to go to Loma Linda University to continue studying dietetics.

Coming from a family where both parents

After graduating from Southern Junior College in 1937, Thelma and Ella May Thomson returned to Florida for nursing school.

were nurses, the girls had witnessed first-hand the arduous workload that came along with the title of nurse. In fact, for a while the haggard intensity of what they had seen as children caused the girls to swear off the nursing profession altogether.

"We had seen how awful it could be—the unpleasant working conditions and never-ending hours—and we really didn't want any part in it," Ella May remembers.

Eventually, however, the girls were won over by one of their friends who persuaded them that conditions within the field were improving. Once convinced, the twins' good sense sealed their fate; after all, they knew that nursing was an in-demand profession that would offer many opportunities for them to touch others' lives.

"So we decided to go for it," Ella May says. Instead of traveling across the country, they stayed closer to home where they enrolled in Florida Hospital's nursing program in Orlando, which forced them to separate for one of the few times in their academic experience.

"The teacher didn't want to have to tell us apart," Ella May remembers. "Plus we were both doing well, so she thought we were cheating. To find out for sure, she tested us separately, asking us to name all the states and capitals off the top of our heads. We got every single one right."

While in nursing school, Thelma and Ella May worked some shifts together (during one such shift they got to witness the birth of a new set of twins), but often they worked opposite shifts.

One day, an older nurse approached one of them with concern. "Honey, don't you ever go home?" she asked. "It seems like I see you here 24 hours a day!"



Becoming Wives and Mothers

After they completed nursing school, Thelma and Ella May embarked on the next level of their life: marriage. This time, little sister Ella May led the way, tying the knot in 1941 with Arthur Sorenson, a fellow nurse whom she had grown acquainted with in nursing school. In 1942, Thelma followed suit, marrying Donald Hartwell, a military doctor.

Even after gaining new last names, neither girl forgot what she had learned in nursing school. Except for the 12 years Ella May set aside to be a stay-at-home mother, Ella May worked full-time in the nursing field right up until she retired in 1982. She worked in a variety of locations, ranging from private doctors' offices to Walker Memorial Hospital in Avon Park, Florida, where she and her husband worked together.

"That was a lot of fun," she remembers. "I was the head nurse, and he was the purchasing agent for the hospital, so it worked out really well. When product representatives would bring supply samples for him to examine, he would always put them on my floor so that I could rest them out and decide which ones we should keep. That way the nursing department only



Growing up in Jacksonville, Florida, Thelma and Ella May Thomson always knew they would attend college at their mother's alma mater in Tennessee.



Thelma and Ella May Thomson (fourth and sixth from left) were the second of four generations in their family to become nurses.



In the Genes?

Thelma and Ella May Thomson may have been the first identical twins at Southern, but they weren't the first from their family to attend. Their mother graduated from Graysville Academy before the school moved to Collegedale. The tradition continued as both of the twins had daughters who studied nursing at Southern. Thelma's daughter, Fran, even spent several years serving as a professor in Southern's School of Nursing. The family reached fourth-generation status when Ella May's grandson, Jaron Sue, graduated from Southern with a business degree in 2002.

The family has also seen four generations of nurses, beginning with Thelma and Ella May's parents and continuing through the family tree to granddaughters of each of the twins.

had to use products that we found really useful."

While Ella May exercised her nursing skills on the hospital floor, Thelma used her nursing know-how in a more private setting: with her three children in the home.

"Thelma used her nursing degree in the salaried work force for only two weeks in a temp position," says Ella May. "After that, her husband wanted her to stay at home with the children, so she never went back again."

Although the sufficiency of her husband's salary ensured that Thelma would not have to work, it had one colossal drawback: the constant moving required by the military impaired the twins' ability to live near one another.

"Growing up, our families were always a three-to-five hour drive apart," says Fran, recalling how she, her parents; her sister, Kathleen; and her brother, Raymond, looked forward to every chance of spending time with her aunt; uncle; and only cousin, Sylvia. But not even this distance barrier could truly separate the twins, and they worked hard to keep their connection alive through curly telephone cords, three-cent stamps, and winding interstates.

"Our families spent every holiday together—school breaks, summertime, Christmas break," Fran says. "We were together so much that my cousin felt like more of a sister."

Defying distance, Thelma and Ella May's

bond remained uncannily strong.

"They would go shopping in different towns and then show up at the same event with same dresses, the same shoes, or the same purse," Fran recalls with a laugh. "Even though they were apart, their tastes were still exactly alike—they liked the same colors, the same fashions, the same designs."

Together Again

Although the twins have now turned 90, not much has changed. People still have trouble telling them apart.

"I remember running to my Aunt El and thinking it was Grandma," Thelma's granddaughter, Linnetta Boshers, says.

Even the twins themselves have trouble naming ways in which they are overtly dissimilar.

"Well," Ella May says jovially, "she liked her husband, and I liked mine."

Having both outlived their husbands, the bond between Southern's first identical twins remains strong. Now, they're reunited at Greenbriar Cove Retirement Community in Collegedale, where (to their attendants' relief) they are not as mischievous as they once were. But they are still making memories, and they still know how to have a good laugh—especially when reminiscing about their time together at Southern. ✧

Literary Learning

by Tamara Michalenko Terry, '91

No matter what your major was at Southern, you probably took English Composition 101 and 102. Of the thousand-plus classes Southern offers, these are the only two that every student, regardless of the major chosen, must take.

Beyond Composition

The English Department, however, offers much more than just composition classes. From Creative Writing to Expository Writing, Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Literature to Twentieth-Century Writers, the classes cover it all.

"The literature classes have exposed me to many styles of writing, by authors English and American, modern and ancient, new and familiar, and from all over the world," says senior English major and aspiring writer Judy Clippinger.

In the past few years, that need for exposure has encouraged the department to add three new classes: Shakespeare, Non-fiction Literature, and a class on C.S. Lewis.

Associate Professor Debbie Higgins is gaining some practical experience that will help her bring the study of C.S. Lewis to life for her students. While working on her doctoral dissertation, she was offered a resident fellowship from the C.S. Lewis Foundation to live and work as a scholar in residence at the Kilns, the former home of C.S. Lewis in Oxford, England.



Associate Professor Debbie Higgins (pictured here in her office on Southern's campus) is currently a scholar in residence in the former home of famous medieval scholar and Christian allegory author C.S. Lewis in Oxford, England.

Young Writers

Southern's Writer's Club provides an outlet for English majors and others to share their creative works.

"I've really enjoyed my experiences with Southern's Writer's Club," says Judy, who is president of both the Writer's Club and *Sigma Tau Delta*, the English honor society. Last year, Judy was editor for *Legacy*, Southern's annual literary magazine, which gave her practical experience in both writing and design.

In addition to publishing their writings in *Legacy*, Writer's Club members share their creative works at monthly "open mic" nights at the home of Associate Professor and Writer's Club Sponsor Helen Pyke. After homemade soup and warm bread, students present and critique poetry, short stories, and other writings.

Guiding by Example

Pyke, like many faculty in the department, rises early in the morning and works late into the night to make time for creating various published works. The author of 16 books, Pyke's latest is a two-volume series she completed for the Utt Endowment. Former Pacific Union College professor Walter C. Utt published two books: *The Wrath of the King* in 1966 and *Home to Our Valleys* in 1977. Following Utt's death in 1985, the family found a large body of unpublished material, which they assumed was the first

draft of a third novel. The Utt Endowment commissioned Pyke to develop the material into a finished product. After several weeks of research and careful readings of the draft and published works, Pyke discovered that *Home to Our Valleys* interrupted the sequence of events in the drafted materials, so rather than creating only one novel, she created two.

Preparing Students for Success

Every year, several English majors do internships or practicums with local businesses or teach at Adventist academies. "About one-third of those internships have resulted in job offers," says Jan Haluska, English professor and internship coordinator.

Chair Wilma McClarty is very proud of the department's students and alumni. "All of our students pass the Praxis exam for secondary certification and do extremely well on the English literature section," McClarty says. "The department as a whole ranks in about the 90th percentile on the English major field exam in the last five testings when compared to about 250 other colleges like us. That speaks volumes for the department's success." ✨

Editor's Note: English Chair Wilma McClarty learned in January that she had lung cancer and a tumor in her brain. The doctors immediately scheduled her for brain surgery and successfully removed the tumor. While undergoing chemotherapy and radiation, McClarty is continuing with her departmental responsibilities as she is able. Please join the Southern family as we continue to pray for her as she fights this illness.

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C-SPAN Bus Visits

Southern Adventist University students were among the first in the nation to see C-SPAN's new Campaign 2008 bus as part of the "Road to the White House" tour during a stop at Southern in January.

Named after C-SPAN's renowned political program, the bus visited campus as part of the channel's educational outreach. The 45-foot mobile production studio will continue visiting

schools and traveling to major political events as the country prepares for the 2008 elections.

"Southern Adventist University is honored to have been chosen as one of the first sites for this national tour," says Vinita Sauder, vice president for Marketing and Enrollment Services. "Our students and the community benefited from getting a behind-the-scenes look at how campaigns are covered on C-SPAN."



Students, faculty, and community members got a behind-the-scenes look at the C-SPAN mobile production unit.

Gym-Masters Perform at Chicago Bulls Game

The Chicago Bulls welcomed Southern's Gym-Masters as its halftime entertainment during the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

The 50-member gymnastics team's performance with the NBA team was its sixth in the last seven years, and Gym-Masters is one of the first performers the team schedules each year.

"[A Bulls representative] went on and on about how our students, out of the thousands of halftime performers he books, are by far the most mature and polite students," says Richard Schwarz, Gym-Masters coach.

The Gym-Masters' high-energy performance, which promotes positive lifestyle choices,

captivated many in attendance.

"We have a lot of movement, people flying over people, throwing girls over pyramids—things that the crowd gets into," Schwarz says. "Most people go to the concessions stands at intermission, but this time, about 90 percent of the people stayed in their seats."



This is the sixth year Southern's Gym-Masters have performed for the Chicago Bulls at halftime.

New Vice President Selected

Robert Young became Southern Adventist University's senior vice president for Academic Administration this summer.

"We knew in our hearts that this was where God wanted us to go," Young says of the decision he and his wife, Robin, made to come to Southern.

Young brings 26 years of experience in higher education with him to Southern. He began working in the collegiate setting at Columbia Union College (CUC) in 1981 as a faculty member and later as an academic administrator. In 1998, Young became the institution's associate vice president for Academic Administration, and in 2002, he was promoted to senior vice president of that position.

The Maryland native looks forward to serving Southern in the same position he held at CUC. He desires to further the university's mission of nurturing Christlikeness and encouraging the pursuit of truth, wholeness, and a life of service.

"I look forward to learning about Southern," he says, "and working with people I have grown to respect from a distance."

Young replaces Steve Pawluk, who left for a position at La Sierra University this summer.

In the five years Pawluk served at Southern, he was a part of a team that increased the number and diversity of the teaching faculty, implemented the growth of new academic programs, and supported construction of the new Hulsey Wellness Center.

"Steve Pawluk has been a joy to work with," President Gordon Bietz says, "and has brought a strong level of professionalism and academic acumen to our campus."



New Academic Administration Vice President Robert Young speaks to an assembly of Southern faculty and staff.

President's Tour Provides Insights on Biblical Culture

University supporters and alumni traveled in March to the Middle East for the President's Tour of the Holy Land, an adventure allowing participants to visit biblical sites and retrace many of the journeys taken by Bible characters.

Leading the tour was President Gordon Biett and Michael Hasel, director of the Institute of Archaeology and professor of Near Eastern Studies. The group toured Jerusalem, Qumran, Masada, the Dead Sea, Eliat, Mt. Sinai, Cairo, Sakkara, and Giza.

On a visit to the pyramids in Giza, the tour participants enjoyed a newly opened Egyptian museum. While touring the museum, they

encountered what many Egyptians and enslaved Hebrews may have often seen: graven images

of cobras over the doorposts of each home, put there to protect the inhabitants.



Participants of the Holy Land Tour visited various biblical sites including the pyramids in Giza.

"So that might be why God instructed the Israelites to put the blood of the slain Passover lamb over the doorposts of their homes—not only to indicate that the blood of Jesus was their protection, but in order to do away with a pagan/satanic symbol," observes tour participant Deborah Winters, '73. "I think it's wonderful to come across new insights."

Alum Returns as Southern's Chaplain

A 1994 graduate of Southern Adventist University, Brennon Kirstein, is his alma mater's new chaplain, but if it wasn't for the influence of the man he's replacing, Ken Rogers, he might not have become a chaplain at all.

As a student working in Campus Ministries under Rogers, Kirstein developed a passion for helping students on campus develop the gifts God gave them.

"Working with students in discovering how they can use the skills they're learning to bless others—that's exciting to me," Kirstein says. "Ken was a very significant role model for me, and I want to do the same for others."

In the early '90s, a life-shaping scenario would unfold regularly in the offices of Campus Ministries. Seated in a circle with his fellow student workers, Kirstein watched as Rogers presided over their weekly staff meeting. One by one, Rogers would call upon each person with the same question.

"What has God placed in your heart?" Kirstein recalls Rogers asking. "What has God called you to do?"

The students would share what God had impressed upon them for service, outreach, and ministry and discuss what they could do.

"Ken empowered us and equipped us, Kirstein says. "We were set free to accomplish what God led us to do."

After receiving his undergraduate degree and serving as assistant chaplain and Campus Ministries director at Southern, Kirstein

attended seminary and later became a youth pastor in Georgia and then an associate pastor for young adults in Florida.

In his ministry, Kirstein followed Rogers' example for developing programs for people he pastored. Regularly, his volunteers and church staff sat in a circle, much like he had as a college student, sharing ideas God had given them.

As Kirstein implemented the skills he learned at Southern, he always thought about returning to his alma mater as chaplain.

"I realized it was my dream job when I was assistant chaplain," he says. "Ever since I left, it's been my dream to come back."

"I'm excited that I can be a part of something where students' needs can be met," he adds. "When students can be prepared and

equipped to do ministry for God, the sky's the limit for what God can do."



Brennon Kirstein is Southern's new chaplain.

Upcoming Events

Second Summer Session	June 4-July 26
Parent Orientation for SmartStart	July 29
SmartStart & Third Summer Session	July 30-August 24
University Colloquium	August 22-29
Parents Seminar	August 26
New Student Orientation	August 26-29
Classes Begin	August 30
Homecoming Weekend	October 25-28

Students Protest Genocide in Darfur

An international problem was highlighted on Southern's campus on March 27 as students protested Sudanese genocide.

In Darfur, a section of Sudan about the size of Texas, peasants and nomadic herders have become caught in a struggle between the Sudan government and Darfuri rebel groups. The government is sponsoring a terrorist group that has used rape, displacement, organized starvation, and mass murder to kill more than 400,000 and displace 2.5 million Darfurians.

At Southern's "die-in" protest, students took turns throughout the day lying across the K.R. Davis Promenade with signs making statements against the situation in Darfur.

"Imagine our entire student body dying six times each month and no one speaking out," one sign read. Another read, "I was raped when going to get water." Still another stated, "My president Omar Bashir is a terrorist."

More than 100 students participated in the protest.



Students protest the genocide in Darfur, Sudan, by blocking the K.R. Davis Promenade.

School of Business and Management Receives IACBE Accreditation

Southern's School of Business and Management recently received accreditation by the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE).

IACBE accredited the School of Business and Management based on its integrity and mission and the action taken to accomplish that mission.

"The accreditation does not change the quality of the School of Business and Management's education, but it does enhance the credibility of the program," says Don Van Ornam, dean of School of Business and Management.

The new accreditation covers all students, including those who have graduated in the past from the School of Business.



Don Van Ornam, dean of the School of Business and Management, says the new accreditation enhances the credibility of Southern's business program, which offers both graduate and undergraduate degrees.

Some other programs at Southern were also accredited because of their strong business component, including two emphases in sports studies (management and marketing) and the bachelor of science degree in computer information systems.

"The department is excited," says Van Ornam. "It's nice to achieve something we've worked on for so long."

Professor Interviewed for National Geographic Documentary

Michael Hasel, director of the Institute of Archaeology and professor of Near Eastern Studies at Southern, was one of six scholars interviewed for a National Geographic documentary on engineering in ancient Egypt.

As one of the world's experts on ancient

Egyptian military tactics, Hasel flew to London in February and was interviewed about Egyptian warfare technologies and how these helped keep the Egyptian civilization alive for 3,000 years.

"It's always neat to be able to break down the things we often discuss on a scholarly level for

the public to see their importance," says Hasel. "Documentaries make things like this happen."

The documentary, *Engineering Ancient Egypt*, is expected to air in the fall of 2007 in Britain and on the National Geographic channel in the United States.

Prayers Offered for Virginia Tech

Students from Southern Adventist University remembered the victims of the Virginia Tech shootings and reached out with words of hope on Friday, April 20, which was declared the national day of mourning.

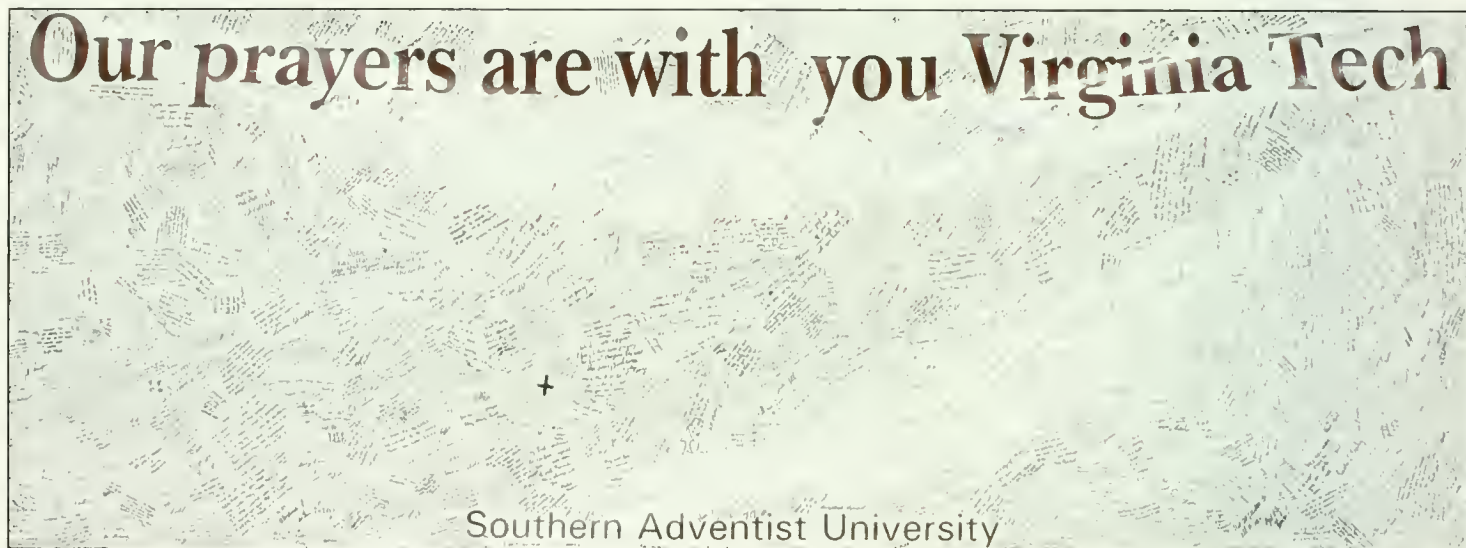
During vespers, the loss experienced at Virginia Tech was brought home as 32 Southern students each read the name of one of the

victims. After all the names had been read, a moment of silence was observed by everyone in the packed sanctuary.

Before and after the program, students penned messages of hope on a banner that was sent to Virginia Tech. Burgundy lettering at the top of the banner read, "Our prayers are with you Virginia Tech." The remainder of the 4-by-

9-foot banner quickly filled with words of hope and comfort, with a majority of the messages expressing the heartfelt prayers of Southern students.

Following the service, a group of students gathered at the flagpole at the center of campus to pray for those grieving the loss of their loved ones at Virginia Tech.



Students filled this banner with messages of hope and prayers for Virginia Tech.

Students Bring Medieval Scene to Creative Discovery Museum

A fierce dragon floated over the atrium of the Creative Discovery Museum in Chattanooga for the museum's annual Amuseum fundraiser in March thanks to Southern Adventist University's Art Club. This was the third year students contributed their creative talents to the museum's fund-raising event.

"It's good for students to take ownership of a project like this," says Loren Howard, '03, who began the tradition of students creating items for the museum. "It's a good opportunity to go out, get involved, have fun, and give back."

This year, 30 students contributed to the medieval theme by painting dragons and signs; creating

cutouts of knights and damsels; and filling the Creative Discovery Museum with rock castles, a coat of arms, and other special decorations. In addition to the works created by the Art

Club students, some of these decorations were done by non-art students who volunteered at the museum during the university's annual Community Service Day.



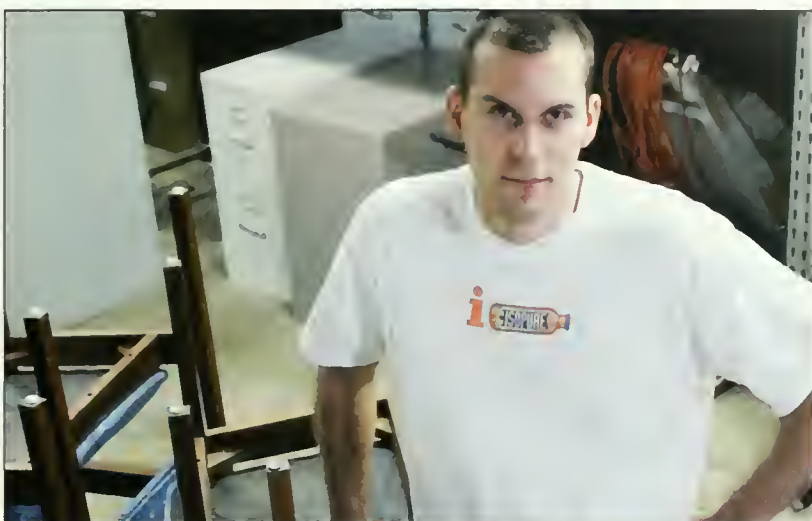
Southern Adventist University's Art Club created this dragon for the Creative Discovery Museum's annual Amuseum fund-raiser.

Southern Adventist University Donates Furniture to Schools in Africa

Desks, filing cabinets, and other office furniture that have been gathering dust and sitting in storage at Southern are being put to use by schools in Tanzania and Kenya.

In the past, Southern's Service Department has offered the university's outmoded furniture to area schools and non-profit organizations. This year, it had no local takers. But internationally, it was a different story.

The department met Dan Meehan of the Meehan Foundation, who knew of needy schools in Africa that could use the



Donald Lighthall, assistant director of the Service Department on campus, prepared the university's old furniture to be shipped for use at schools in Africa.

furniture. Meehan, who is retired from the freight shipping business, has thus far paid the cost for shipping two containers—each filled with between 15,000 to 20,000 pounds of Southern's furniture—to Africa.

"This was a blessing to be able to have done this," Lighthall says. "Since no one here wanted the stuff, it was going to the landfill. Now it is going where it can be used."

School of Visual Art and Design Recognized at SONscreen Film Festival

Southern Adventist University's School of Visual Art and Design garnered attention from the North American Division SONscreen Film Festival, which premiered the university's *Secret of the Cave* movie and awarded students for their film projects.

"The fact that work from Southern is being

recognized at festivals shows that our students are getting it," Assistant Professor David George says. "Getting into a festival is one of the most important things a young filmmaker can do to establish credibility, which is really important when it comes to starting a career."

Three senior film students were recognized

for their work, winning four awards at the SONscreen Film Festival.

Senior Kevin Ekvall's documentary won both the Audience Choice award and the Outstanding Achievement in Documentary Filmmaking award. Senior Nick Livanos' short film won for Best Comedy. Jon-Michael Brown, who graduated in December, won Best Public Service Announcement.

"Like radio or the Internet, film is another way to teach people with God's message," Kevin says. "I hope every film I make, at its heart, will touch people."

Southern alumni, Nathan Huber, '04, and Melody George, '06, were on a four-person discussion panel presenting "Surviving Your First Year in Hollywood." Nathan is working as an assistant to Kevin Bright, the creator of television's *Friends* and is also developing two separate film projects to be shot in the near future. Melody is working as a freelance film editor and is in the process of developing a short film.

The *Secret of the Cave* premiere was warmly received at the festival and was followed by a question-and-answer session with George, who produced the film, and Zach Gray, an assistant professor in the School of Visual Art and Design who directed the film.

The *Secret of the Cave* DVD will be available in major retail outlets and Adventist Book Centers this fall.

SIFE Team Wins Regional Competition

The Southern Adventist University SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) team won the Atlanta SIFE USA Regional Competition on April 5, 2007, and went on to participate in the national competition in Dallas, Texas, May 6-8.

During this academic year, the team organized 14 projects in the greater Chattanooga community. Among the projects was an entrepreneurial endeavor where students used eBay to help the Samaritan Center bring in more money from donated items. Another project was an outreach effort where students gave financial literacy presentations at a Spanish church in Fort Payne, Alabama, with the help of English-to-Spanish translation provided by SIFE members. In total, 21 team members worked for 388 hours and impacted at least 797 people.

SIFE is an international non-profit organization active on more than 1,400 university

campuses in 48 countries. SIFE teams create economic opportunities in their communities by organizing outreach projects that teach market economics, entrepreneurship, personal financial success skills, and business ethics. Their projects are judged at competition on creativity, innovation, and effectiveness.



Southern's SIFE team won the Atlanta SIFE USA Regional Competition.

Finding Perspective

by Jessica Rivera, senior public relations major

"I think life at home would be better than living here!" Roberto said defiantly to Joel, the director of the orphanage, after staffers had located and returned the escaped teenage boy from the nearby town of San Juan Opico. Joel knew the boy would continue being a disturbance until he could see what life was like for most Salvadorans.

Hogar Escuela Adventista, while an orphanage in name, shelters many kids who come from neglectful, abusive, or extremely poor families. Roberto and his three siblings came from such a family. They arrived at the orphanage shortly after the death of their alcoholic father, which left their mother struggling to support four children alone.

Roberto's Lesson

The day after the San Juan Opico escape, I stood out front with Roberto, his sisters Raquel and Teresa, and his little brother Marcus. It was time to take these children—each of whom had been ungrateful at one time or another—on a tour of their former home.

As I stared at the brick road, lined with gently waving palm trees and ivory-colored houses, I began to wonder why Roberto desperately wanted to leave. Each of the homes had running water and electricity, a rare occurrence among houses in El Salvador. Here they were given love, comfort, and education. What more could he want?

The ride to their house was incredibly long. We passed through San Salvador, El Salvador's capital, and continued past the outskirts and beyond. We eventually turned off of the highway onto a gravel road that wound for miles through the sparsely populated countryside. It took 30 minutes of travel on the rocky road to reach the dirt path at the base of a steep hill that would take the children to their home.

Natives of the neighborhood peered curiously at us as we piled out of our brand-new Nissan van. No doubt the only cars these people had ever seen were battered pick-up trucks or the ancient American-style school buses that came roaring down the road every half hour to provide transportation for those living in this rural community.

The children returned the wide-eyed stares of their neighbors as they struggled up the hill to their house. No one was at home. We were greeted with an austere one-room aluminum structure. A "covered porch," which consisted of another sheet of aluminum propped up by tree limbs,

sheltered the outdoor kitchen. Of course, there was no electricity or running water. The primitive kitchen was merely a handmade table that supported a metal grate containing a fire. The bathroom could be found down the path in a tiny outhouse with a rickety wooden door. Water for food and showers had to be drawn by the bucketfuls from the nearby river, inconveniently located at the bottom of the hill, and then stored in an outdoor stone sink called a pila. On the ground near the pila, a small slab of concrete with a tiny drain in the middle served as the shower.

It took only a few minutes for their surroundings to register in the minds of the children. The pastor took the siblings aside one by one and asked them where they would prefer to live. Without hesitation, all three readily agreed to return to the orphanage. Roberto hasn't tried to run away from the orphanage since.

My Lesson

It wasn't long after that experience that I returned to my home in the United States. For a couple of months I reveled in the comforts that only home could provide. One morning, as I was getting ready for school, I discovered that someone had used up all of the hot water in the house for washing a load of laundry! As I shivered in my cold shower, I felt resentment boil within me. Why would someone wash their clothes at the precise moment I was getting ready for school? As I turned off the water, I recalled the image of a small cement slab, the pathetic excuse for a shower that Roberto's family had to use.

"Have I turned into Roberto?" I asked myself. Shocked at my poor

attitude, all of my irritation vanished, replaced with humbleness. How could I have scolded the children at the orphanage for being ungrateful when I complained about something as trivial as a cold shower?

I am a blessed person, cold showers and all. There is an old Sabbath School song that reminds us to "count your blessings, name them one by one." However, we are also expected to share those blessings with others. I'm determined to make this my life's purpose because that's a calling I can fulfill at home as well as in the mission field. ✧



Jessica Rivera has learned to be grateful for what she has—even when her washing machine uses all of the hot water.

GREENSBORO, N.C. 27433



In 1984, the use of Kaypro computers vaulted Southern to the forefront of computing technology. Each computer included a monitor the size of a standard mouse pad, 64 kilobytes of RAM (equal to about 33 pages of plain text), and two floppy disk drives. One drive was reserved for the operating system disk that had to be inserted to "start up" the computer. The other disk drive was used for application disks such as PerfectWriter (a word processor) and information files. The detachable keyboard could be stored on top of the monitor, making the 26-pound computer "portable." Today, Southern remains on the cutting edge with computers that are 15,000 times as powerful as their predecessors from the 1980s.

40s

Robert Kistler, '48, and his wife, **Jean**, attended, have relocated to Valencia, California, to be closer to their daughter's family. Jean had a stroke last fall and is receiving physical therapy. The couple sends their best wishes to the many friends they remember from their days on the campus of Southern Missionary College.

50s

John Palsgrove, attended, and his wife, **Carol (Smith)**, '56, plan to travel in their motor home, beginning with a four-month trip to Alaska this summer. In March, John retired from 44½ years of practicing dentistry in Avon Park, Florida.

Harold S. Johnson, '53 and '58, has been appointed as the volunteer chaplain for the Avon Park Air Force Range. He also serves as chaplain with Battery B of the Florida National Guard and at Florida Hospital Heartland Medical Center.

Bob Catron, attended, and his wife, **Linda**, celebrated their 40th anniversary in January.

60s

Jim, '62, and **Judy (Clark) Culpepper**, attended, participated in four Maranatha projects in 2006 (in Lumberton, Mississippi; Eureka, Montana; Amity, Arkansas; and El Salvador). Among those helped by the projects were Bass Memorial Academy and an orphanage. In February 2007, the Culpeppers participated in a Maranatha project in the Solomon Islands. Jim and Judy have done some other traveling as well. The Culpeppers are involved at the Madison Campus Church in Madison, Tennessee.

Lois (Vipond) Case, '63, recently retired from 41 years at Pacific Union College, where she served as the associate professor of music and director of the Paulin Center for the Creative Arts.

Jean (Schmidt) Kingrv, '63, is working as a claims assistant for Adventist Risk Management in Riverside, California. Jean's two sons, **Dwight**, '92, and **Dwaine**, '98, also graduated from Southern.

Robert Potts, '66, a veteran administrator in higher education, recently began serving as the first chancellor of the Jonesboro campus of Arkansas State University. He and his wife, **Irene**, have two children.

70s

Gary, '71, and **Ladonna (White) Grvte**, attended, have been married for 36 years and have three children: **Greg**, 33, **Gavin**, 32, and **Crystal**, 24. Gary manages a hand sanitizer company and pastors the Carson City church in Nevada. Ladonna is an RN at the Sierra Surgery Center.

Marilyn (Leitner) Sperka, '71, is manager of senior engineers at Raytheon (formerly Hughes Aircraft) in El Segundo, California.

Joseph Rudd, '75, is director of clinical research and assistant professor at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine Orthopedic Department in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He is a member of the teaching faculty at Erlanger Medical Center.

Lin Ennis, '79, is a full-time writer in Sedona, Arizona, and recently co-authored a 96-page manual, *Let Your Mortgage Make You Rich*.

80s

Lois (Catoire) Myhre, '80 and '81, is working at Mesa Grande Academy as the school registrar and administrative assistant.

Penny (Duerksen) Hughes, '82, is the vice chair of Biochemistry at Loma Linda University.

Brenda LaBar, '83, lives in Loma Linda, California, where she is a certified financial executive officer for a major U.S. bank. In her spare time, she serves as director of music for the handbell program at the Loma Linda University Church and plays bass for the Loma Linda University orchestra.

Chris, '84, and **Liz (Schmitz) Klinvex**, '84, are living in Granbury, Texas, with their three children: **Christopher**, 16; **Jonathan**, 14; and **Jillian**, 11. Chris is the vice president of International Operations at Select International. Liz stays home with the children and has gone on two mission trips to Tanzania.

Doug, '84, and **Maryse (Provencher) Whitsett**, attended, are living in Ocala, Florida, where they work as ICU RNs. When they're not working to put their Southern-bound children through academy, they enjoy traveling, hiking, swimming, and going to Colorado to ski.

Janie (Jones) Simon, attended, has made her career in the telecommunications industry.

Dan, '84, and **Carol (Hurlev) Turk**, '85, work with various collegiate and young adult ministries on and near the Colorado State University campus, where Dan is on sabbatical from teaching computer information

systems. Dan will run his 20th marathon in May. He has completed three Boston Marathons, one New York City Marathon, seven Pikes Peak Marathons, and others.

Mike, '85 and '87, and **Patti (Schuman) Aguas**, '85, live in the Collegedale area. Mike teaches science at A.W. Spalding Elementary School. Patti does graphic design marketing for Convergys and is working on her MBA degree. Their son, **Jonathan**, current, is studying nursing at Southern, and their daughters, **Amanda** and **Cassi**, look forward to attending the university in the future.

Donald, '87, and **Maria (Holley) Kutzner**, '87, live in Hurst, Texas, with their 7-year-old son, **Adam**. Donald is a computer programmer who completed three triathlons last year and plans to complete several more this year.

90s

A. Allan, '90, and **Deirdre (Rivera) Martin**, '87 and '90, along with their 10-year-old daughter, **Alexa**, moved to Michigan, where Allan recently joined the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University as an associate professor for Discipleship and Family Ministry.

Karen Austin, '90, graduated in May 2005 with a doctor of arts degree in biology from Idaho State University.

Jeff, '91, and **Gina (Bietz) Gang**, '92, have three children: **Madison**, 7; **Braden**, 5; and **McKenna**, 2. Jeff graduated with a doctorate of ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary in 2006 and is pastoring the Crosswalk Church in Redlands, California. Gina is working per diem as a physical therapist at Redlands Community Hospital.

Rebecca (Knoll) Lawrence, '92, is a lawyer at Willis, one of the world's leading risk management and insurance intermediaries. She and her husband, **Jay**, have a 2-year-old son, **Matthew**. In her spare time, Rebecca directs an instrumental ensemble at her church and presents seminars to young women on the principles of finding a godly man.



Loren Nelson, '93, and his wife, **Suzanne**, have a 1-year-old son. Loren is pastoring in Elkhart, Indiana.

Eric, '94, and **Amy (Reifsnvder) Indermuehle**, '97, live in Fort Collins, Colorado, where they enjoy the outdoor activities Colorado has to offer. Eric is a rehabilitation nurse, and Amy has an independent psychology practice.

Tim Arena, '97, married **Heather (Myers)** on June 25, 2006. He has completed his master's degree in choral conducting from Indiana University.



Stephen, '97, and Rachel (Williams) O'Neal, '98, are celebrating 10 years of marriage this year. The couple resides in Florida, where they are raising three children: Laurel, 5; Lewis, 3; and Nathan, 1. Stephen works as the nurse manager for Neuro Critical Care at Florida Hospital, and Rachel is working in interventional radiology.

Moises Guerrero, '99, and wife, Betty, and daughter, Emely, welcomed Erik into their family on December 31, 2006. Moises is the chaplain at Mountain View Academy and is also the assistant pastor of the local Hispanic church.

Jennifer (Dee) Janssen, '99, is the senior biologist on the main exhibit at the new Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta, Georgia. "I am now a proud parent of four whale sharks!" she says. She and her husband, David, purchased their first home in September.

00s

Elisa Brown, '00, graduated with an MBA degree from the University of Central Florida. She is living in Orlando, Florida, where she works as a financial analyst for Adventist Health System.

Noah, '00, and Leta (Sowers) McCall, '97 and '99, were married on September 3, 2006, in Canoga Park, California. Leta's best friend from Southern, Natalie Knowlton, '97 and '99, was one of her bridesmaids.



Jason, '00, and Debbie (Battin) Sasser, '02, were married on March 26, 2006, in Manchester, Kentucky. After honeymooning in Mexico, they moved to Friendswood, Texas, where Debbie works as a writer/editor/graphic designer for a large Baptist Church near their home. Debbie does freelance work in her spare time. The couple serve as youth leaders in their church.

Brad Cauley, '01, and his wife, Nellie, welcomed their first child, Alexandra Joelle, on September 22, 2006. The couple will celebrate their third anniversary this June. Brad is a pastor in Fort Worth, Texas.

Jesse, '01, and Angi (Taylor) Rademacher, '01, have been living in northern California for the last three years. Jesse is working as a character technical director for Visual Concepts, a video game company. He is almost finished with his MFA in character animation. Angi went back to school last year to get her California teaching credentials and is now teaching middle school science and high school biology, history, Spanish, and French at a Christian school.

Michael, '01, and Heidi (Olson) Campbell, '02, welcomed Emma Catherine to their family on February 2, 2007. Heidi works in the School of Medicine admissions office at Loma

Linda University Medical Center, and Michael is responsible for the university's Archives and Special Collections/White Estate Branch Office.

Shelly Caswell, '01 and '04, completed her master's degree in multi-grade, multi-age education at Southern Adventist University during the summer of 2004. Shelly is teaching second grade in Duluth, Georgia.



Carrie (Mercer) Minton, '02, was married to her husband, Travis, on October 24, 2004, during an outdoor ceremony followed by an indoor candlelit reception at the Casa Grande del Rio in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The Mintons honeymooned in Mexico and now live in Alpharetta, Georgia.



Will Carroll, '03, has completed all of his didactic work to receive his doctorate in pharmacy from Purdue University. Will is now residing in Louisville, Kentucky, where he is doing rotations.



Boaz, '04, and LaRae (Coleman) Papendick, '04, were married on May 14, 2005. They welcomed a son into their family this May.

April Sjoboen, '04, is working toward a master's degree in biology at Loma Linda University.

Brad, '05, and Jessica (Winters) Clifford, '00, are in Loma Linda, California, where Jessica is in medical school and Brad is working as a business analyst. The couple plan to move back to Chattanooga after Jessica's graduation.

Stanley, '05, and Elimarie (Rodriguez) Pomianowski, '05, became first-time parents in May. They live in Apopka, Florida, where Elimarie is a teacher.

Jessica Williams, '05, is a Bible teacher at Loma Linda Academy in Loma Linda, California.

Brent, '05, and Cherie (Dale) Wilson, '05, moved to Berrien Springs, Michigan, in 2006. Brent is attending the seminary while Cherie works as a nurse practitioner.

Andrew, '06, and his wife, Heidi (Burgdorff) Burks, '03, were married in Ooltewah, Tennessee, on June 25, 2006. The Burks now make their home in Soddy Daisy, Tennessee.



Faculty and Staff

John Schmidt Jr., food director '59-'63, retired in 1980 after 35 years in hospital and school food service. Since then, he and his wife, Kitty, have participated in 46 different volunteer projects.

Remembrance

H. Arthur Swinson, '66, died on July 18, 2006, in Orlando, Florida, due to complications from heart surgery. He served as a pastor in the Florida, Chesapeake, Iowa, Texico, Texas, and Illinois conferences. He is survived by his wife, Patricia; three daughters (Sharon Priest, '71; Wanda Chamberlain, attended; and Marlene Lucas, '78); and nine grandchildren.

Sandra Raitz, '91, died at her home in Denver, Colorado, on October 30, 2006. She is survived by parents, Vivian and Robert Raitz, attended, and siblings, Ron, '77; Karen, '78; and Ken.

Lavton Ray Sutton, '52, passed away in his home in Keene, Texas, on March 18, 2007. Ray had served as a medical practitioner for more than 50 years.



Gordon Madgwick, former dean of students, passed away on November 11, 2006, after a lengthy illness.

A.C. Ford Jr., '38, died April 16 following a long illness. He is survived by his wife, Betty, attended, and their children: Gary, '67; Cindy Holly, '81; Dennis, attended, and Tammy Larson, attended.

New job? Interesting hobby?

Travel news? Recently moved?

Wedding bells? Growing family?

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Face to Face With a Bomb

by Christina Zaiback, senior public relations major

It was a hot day in Nassau, Bahamas, and having spent my lunch hour on the wharf watching swarms of tourists spread throughout the city's small streets, I couldn't wait to get back to my air-conditioned office at work. Had I known I was about to walk inches away from a bomb, I may have been less excited to get back.

On summer break from my studies at Southern, I was enjoying my seasonal job at the American Embassy in the Bahamas, where my parents worked. After all, who wouldn't like working just yards from the blue waves of the Caribbean Sea?

Making my way through the first phase of security checks to get into the embassy, I teased some of the local guards. "I want to go through the X-ray machine!" I joked.

"Silly girl," one guard said, laughing as he usually did at my pranks. "You have your father's mischievous grin."

I had worked up a reputation as being the prankster at the embassy. If I wasn't in my office, people knew they could find me cracking jokes with the janitors or play fighting with the ambassador's bodyguards. If both of my parents hadn't worked in the same building, I probably wouldn't have been able to get away with half of the pranks I pulled.

Suspicious Package

Making my way to the front entrance of the embassy, I had no reason to doubt my personal safety. The only people allowed here were employees or guests who had been cleared with all their belongings through a series of security stages. I always thought that I worked at one of the safest places on the whole island.

Then I saw it—a 4-inch square object wrapped with masking tape. My eyes quickly scanned the suspicious item and traced the black and red wires leading to a small device that looked like an activator. It had no digital screen with red numbers counting down backwards, nor was there any beeping sound like the bombs I had seen featured in movies. It was just sitting there, leaning against a water pipe by the wall of the embassy.

A chill shivered through my body. My heart began to pound, and my mouth went dry. I could feel the blood rush from my face and down to my stomach, which released a multitude of anxious butterflies.

My worst nightmare had come true. I had heard stories from my co-workers of how they survived grenade attacks and bomb blasts in other embassies. Some of them even had scars to prove it. Was it my turn now to be the victim of a terrorist attack? Would my mom and dad make it out of the embassy safely? Would people believe me when I yelled "bomb" or think it's just another one of my tricks? My middle sister always told me I would regret being a prankster and end up like the boy who cried wolf.

Immediate Reaction

In an attempt to not make a big scene and cause havoc, I asked a nearby co-worker, "Do you see what I see?"

Her reaction wasn't much different from mine. With her eyes as wide as tennis balls, she stared at the bomb with shock and fear. We quickly made our way through the heavy embassy doors and ran up to a Marine security guard.

"I think there is a bomb lying outside of the embassy," I said as calmly as I could, imagining what would happen next. The Marine would make an emergency call and the rest of the Marines would burst out of the embassy doors covered in their camouflaged armor from head to toe. With their guns pointed and ready to fire, they would scan the embassy and surround the bomb before one of them would attempt to deactivate it. Then the ambassador's bodyguards would rush the ambassador into his black armored car and zip him away before the blast could go off.

My imagination had never deceived me so well.



The response Christina Zaiback received when she told the Marine security guard about the bomb wasn't exactly what she was expecting.

Underwhelming Response

"Oh that," the Marine replied. "Yeah, that's just a fake bomb for some drill we had to do earlier. Everyone has been panicking about it."

I didn't know if I should be relieved that it was only a fake bomb or angry that I had experienced such anxiety for no reason.

While I didn't appreciate the scare, at least I learned that the old saying of "what goes around comes around," is true. My years of prank pulling had backfired on me. ✧



Graphic design graduates Lloyd Mabuto and Wayne Odle did not let the fact they graduated a semester apart (Lloyd in May, '07, and Wayne in December, '06) keep them from celebrating together after the May commencement ceremony at Chattanooga's Memorial Auditorium.

