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## Columns Fall 2008

Southern Adventist University

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### Recommended Citation

Southern Adventist University, "Columns Fall 2008" (2008). *Alumni Newsletter*. 158.  
[https://knowledge.e.southern.edu/alumni\\_newsletter/158](https://knowledge.e.southern.edu/alumni_newsletter/158)

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The Magazine of Southern Adventist University

# COLUMNS

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIV. McKee Lib  
Vol. 60 No. 2 105908-120



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OCT - 8 2008

## Dive In

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18 | A Groundbreaking Library

2008



# Reading Time

Would you like to be a judge for the *Legacy*?" Freshman outdoor leadership major Suzanne Ocsai asked, her face radiating with the same excitement as when I had assigned her a story on the Adventist Robotics League (page 25).

"Oh!" I paused, trying to buy time as my mind raced. I looked over at the wall where I had just hung a complicated multi-colored schedule that mapped out the details of the next four months of my life. I had an exciting but busy summer planned: producing two periodicals, starting grad school, writing a children's book. I just didn't see how I would have the time.

On the other hand, the *Legacy* has such a special place in my heart. As a student, I had worked with the literary publication, and judging the *Legacy* would be like coming full circle. (Be sure to read about the *Legacy*'s start on page 31.) Certainly I could find time for something so special! After several broken sentences that I'm sure made no sense to Suzanne as my words tried to keep up with my thoughts, I agreed to her request.

I know I'm not the only one who struggles to find extra reading time. If I were tempted to think I were, all I would have to do is review the readership survey we conducted last year to see that I'm not. Those of you who were randomly selected to participate in the survey said that you love the magazine. You love the articles, you love the design, and you feel proud to have this magazine associated with your alma matter. Yet, over and over again, we heard you saying that you just didn't have time to read as much of it as you would like.

That is why we've made some changes to this magazine. We're including more brief articles, keeping our features shorter, and decreasing the size of the entire magazine so you can better squeeze COLUMNS reading into your busy lifestyle. My goal is to keep the magazine inspiring enough to read on Friday night, intriguing enough to bring on vacation, and brief enough to read at the doctor's office.



Lori Futcher doesn't have trouble finding stuff to read. How about you? There are 46 reading materials pictured through this magazine. Can you find them all?

*Lori Futcher*

Lori Futcher, Editor

P.S. Looking for *more* to read? Southern has a new archaeological library that should keep you busy for a while. Learn more about it on page 18.



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# Features

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This summer, the jungles and beaches of Indonesia served as a classroom for about 20 Southern students. Take a peek at their journey through pictures and journal entries.

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COVER: Students explored the biodiversity of Indonesia, both underwater and on land, during this summer's Tropical Biology class.

**Busted!**

I really enjoyed the most recent issue of COLUMNS. However, I have “busted” some of the information concerning Rachel’s Ladder. The author writes that the steps were modified in the early ’70s. Having graduated in 1971, I remember walking those modified steps daily. I paged through the ’69 and ’70 annuals and found a picture on page 179 of the 1970 *Southern Memories*. The picture shows shorter depth on the steps than were originally built.

Peg Griffin, ’71

**Wrong Wife**

I was delighted to find an article on my father (Beecher Lafever) in a recent issue of COLUMNS [spring 2008]. I am disappointed, however, in the editing. Firstly, his name was spelled two different ways in the article (Lafever and Lefever). Also, he is not married to Susan; my mother’s name is JoAnne (Wassell) Lafever (class of ’66).

I love your magazine and the graduate features.

Mindi (Lafever) Guptill, ’97

**Southern Marriages**

Congratulations to Ashley Cheney for “Mythbusters: Southern Edition” in the spring issue. It was interesting to me that when it comes to the total number of graduates and attendees since the school’s beginning, Southern’s rate of marriages is no higher than other Adventist schools. I have a feeling that the rate was higher in the 1940s and 1950s, when SMC stood not only for Southern Missionary College but also “Southern Matrimony College.”

Whether the rate of marriages is high or low, couples often get acquainted and fall in love at Southern. Their courtships may lead to marriage before graduation, right after graduation, or a short time after graduation. Some couples come to Southern already married. Here are some examples of varieties of Southern marriages.

Helen Braat, ’52 and ’63, and I came to Southern in 1950. We were married at the end of our sophomore year.

Bill Wampler, ’51, and Betty Grounds, attended, came to Southern in the late ’40s. Their courtship led to marriage a few days after Bill received a bachelor’s degree in theology.

This pattern has been repeated through the years. Mark McKenzie, ’91, and Carla Tyler, ’91, came to Southern in 1986. They got engaged fall of their senior year and were married shortly after graduation.

Andy Nash, ’94, came to Southern in 1989. He found his soul mate his senior year, when Cindy Griffin, attended, transferred from Southwestern. Their wedding was in June 1995, one year after Andy graduated from Southern.

Anh and Vanessa Pham came already married to Southern in 2005, Anh to complete a bachelor’s in journalism and Vanessa to investigate the master’s program in evangelism and world mission. Anh is planning to graduate this year.

R. Lynn Sauls, ’56

**Retired From What Job?**

I’m not sure who submitted the information for Ken on page 38 of the Spring 2008 COLUMNS, but a correction is definitely in order. The item under “’50s” states: “Kenneth Wright Jr., attended, retired from working as a treasurer at the General Conference.” No doubt that would be a big surprise to the GC Treasury Department! Ken did work in the department, but not as treasurer. We now live in “wild and wonderful” West Virginia.

Ruth Wright

**Futcher Fan**

I wanted to mention what a nice job Lori Futcher is doing as the editor. The writing and articles are very well done.

By the way, my parents, Wolfgang, ’72, and Hazel von Maack, attended, and grandparents William and Mercedes Bernal knew/know Cyril Futcher’s family and have fond memories of their time with them at Southern.

Jennifer von Maack, ’89

**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](mailto:columns@southern.edu).

**COLUMNS**

Volume 60

Number 2

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# I've Learned to Listen for the Story

by Sylvia Mayer, School of Nursing

It was 10 p.m. My long day of teaching at the sprawling city campus of the state university was finally over. I rushed to gather my books and lecture notes and deposit them in my office. The students were gone; the building empty and still. With car keys in hand, I opened the nursing building door prepared to move quickly to the safety of my car. I nearly tripped over a student sitting dejectedly on the dark step.

"Tuyet! What are you doing here?" I asked. As it turned out, Tuyet's backpack had been stolen. Not just a backpack, but all of Tuyet's most precious possessions—her passport, visa, journal, books, car keys, and a picture of the brother who had been her sole parent and had just died in a Vietnamese prison.

"May I take you home?" I asked. "You can't stay here. It isn't safe." After much persuasion, she agreed to come home with me for the night.

What I knew of Tuyet before that night was that she often missed class. When she appeared in class, she slept soundly in the back row. After getting an incomplete one semester, she was repeating the class the next semester.

## But She Had a Story...

Born under the wrong moon, Tuyet was going to be given away by her mom when her older brother decided to raise her as his own in military camp. When South Vietnam fell, she was scooped up by a soldier and put on the last plane out of the country. Tuyet eventually reunited with her mother and relocated to the United States.

Now, Tuyet's family kept sending her to Texas against her will to be married to a family-selected man. Each time Tuyet would escape, return home, and reappear in class. She supported herself by working a full-time night-shift position at the regional postal center. She showered at the university gym and slept in a back study carrel at the library. In spite of missing multiple classes, this determined young lady stayed on the Dean's List. My previously critical idea of this student's lack of participation in class was replaced by awe at her strength of resolve and persistence at acquiring an education.

## Southern Stories

Twenty years later, I can still picture Tuyet asleep in the back row, and I'm reminded to listen for the story. By listening, I get to know students at a deeper level.



Sylvia Mayer learned the importance of listening long before she became a professor at Southern Adventist University.

Charrie\* tentatively tapped on my office door to request another day or two to complete her class assignment because she needed to add a couple more days to her hospital work schedule. The real story? Char-

rie was doing her best to help her parents, who had filed for bankruptcy for the second time. As a result, she was carrying more than \$60,000 of debt. After tears, prayer, and a plan, Charrie slipped out the door.

Geri\* wore sunglasses to class one day, explaining that she had hurt herself and thought dark glasses would look better than the bruises around her eyes. The real story? Her trusted boyfriend of several years had physically abused and threatened her life—for the first time. After hearing her story, I was able to help. Instead of losing clinical hours due to her injuries and court appearances, she was given clinical credit for the experiences she had in the emergency room and court system as she dealt with the domestic violence she had intended to keep secret.

Jesse\* asked to start the semester late—he needed a few extra days for some medical treatments. The real story? Without any appeal for sympathy, this young man slowly revealed

his battle with cancer. Jesse told me: "I believe my battle with cancer has been my salvation. I wouldn't do anything differently. In fact, I have found my life work through this experience." I was inspired by Jesse's strength.

## The Rest of the Story...

As time went on, Tuyet learned that it had been one of her brothers who stole her backpack full of precious possessions. Another brother stabbed her in the university library. Although eventually forced to marry a family-selected husband, Tuyet had the marriage annulled. Despite all this, Tuyet finished both her undergraduate and graduate degrees. Now she has married the husband of her choice and raised three boys of her own, plus a niece and nephew who would have been given away.

Like Tuyet, I know my students will overcome with God's help.

I will always keep listening for the story. ✧

\*Name has been changed



## Frances Andrews Publishing Pioneer

Becoming an Adventist in 1943 at age 21, Frances Andrews, '49, had already spent years in the workforce. She wasn't considering an Adventist college—or any college, for that matter. Then one day a friend told Frances that arrangements had been made for her to attend Southern.

Frances arrived on campus in the fall of 1945. Her well-developed ability to type (resulting from her years with Red Cross) and her composition skill caught the attention of English Chair Elaine Giddings, who chose Frances to be the first editor of the *Southern Accent*. Giddings promised to help Frances through the unfamiliar process of producing a student newspaper. Together they, along with the first members of the *Accent* staff, created a lasting tradition for Southern.

After working her way through college, Frances left her role as student to fill the role of professor. Passionately devoted to helping her students achieve heights they never imagined,

Frances remaining contentedly in the background.

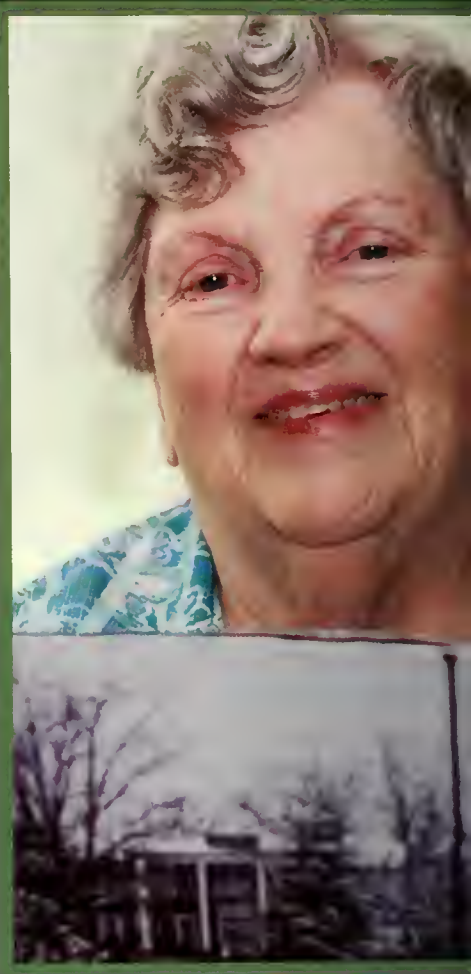
"My mission was to help the students," she says. One of the ways she assisted was by helping them find internships within the church and at local businesses.

Becoming the editor of *COLUMNS* in 1976, Frances completely revised the publication from a four-page newsletter to a 16-page magazine. She also sponsored the *Accent* for 18 years, working closely with the editors who were continuing a tradition she had started.

To this day, Frances enjoys watching her students succeed, stating that she can rarely pick up a church publication in which she doesn't see the name of one of her students.

Upon Frances' retirement in 1987, Tennessee Governor Ned McWherter honored her with the first Award of Merit certificate to be presented to a Southern faculty member. Last year, at Homecoming Weekend, Southern officially honored Frances with the Distinguished Service Award, recognizing her for nearly 20 years of service to the students and university she loves.

~ Suzanne Ocsai



## Scott Johnson Kenya Bound

"Najivunia Kuwa Mkenya," announces Scott Johnson, junior liberal arts education major. "I am proud to be Kenya!"

This fair-skinned, blue-eyed guy grew up in Virginia, but after a trip to Kenya, he dreams of the day when he can return.

Last fall Scott found out that the camp he had worked for was leading a mission trip to Kenya over Christmas break. He and Lucas Dobyns, another Southern student, signed up to go.

During the trip, Scott discovered his calling.

Before leaving, Scott went to the local pharmacy to get his prescription filled for 30 malaria pills—but was given 24. He wouldn't have the recommended full seven-day return supply. Not thinking much about it, he took the bottle and was soon speeding through puffy white clouds high above the Atlantic Ocean.

In Kenya, things went as planned until presidential elections on December 27. Terrible riots broke out around the country. Scott would not be able to leave when scheduled, due to safety concerns.

Scott wasn't too worried; he was in a safe location and enjoyed his work of training youth leaders and conducting children's programs





## Melodie Lopez Friend in the Balancing Act

Melodie Lopez's soft voice welcomes Moritz Wieser, graduate business administration student, and his wife, Daniela, into her office. They have stopped by to let her know what's been happening in their lives, just as they've done so many times since coming to Southern.

"When anything happens or if we have good news, we tell her!" Daniela says with a smile.

The couple's friendship with Lopez, administrative assistant for Graduate Studies, began developing while they were still in Austria, when Moritz applied for graduate school.

"We always had a good feeling while talking to her on the phone," says Moritz. "We had the impression that she was taking care of everything for us in the best way."

Lopez, who is often the first person with whom one will come in contact when applying to graduate school at Southern, understands what it's like to make transitions. Her latest

transition was only a couple years ago, when she moved to Southern to pursue a new career and finish her graduate degree.

Coming from Forest Lake Academy, in Apopka, Florida, Lopez had been assistant to the principal. By serving as a member of the school's administrative team and helping with numerous responsibilities within the school, Lopez had gained valuable experience in guiding students through challenging situations.

Now at Southern, Lopez directs prospective and new graduate students through the application process, helping them gather and fill out all the needed forms. If they are missing anything, she not only lets them know but will help them find exactly what they need. Lopez views what she does as far more than just a job.

"I enjoy connecting with people," Lopez says, "and I see my job as a form of ministry."

Because Lopez is working toward the same goal as the students she works with, it makes it easier for them to connect with her.

"She knows what kind of tensions you have to face because she is right there in the

classroom and can share the experience with you," says Daniela. "That's a great thing."

Steve Bontekoe, '08, outdoor education graduate, agrees. "Melodie has been immensely helpful in my grad studies," he says. "Personal interaction and Christ-focused discussion with Melodie really give me a feel for what is important here at Southern—people and God."



during an evangelistic series. Soon everything was being set for Scott to stay, except for one thing. He needed more malaria pills.

At the suggestion of a friend, Scott decided to count out the remaining small pink pills. Thinking there would only be around 12 left, Scott was astonished to discover 22—a supply that would last him the rest of the trip plus seven days.

He saw this as confirmation that he was right where God wanted him.

"It's really amazing because you hear about these things happening to other people," Scott says of God's providence, "and He ended up giving me extra malaria pills. God must have been planning this miracle a long time before we got there."

During the extra time in Kenya, Scott was able to witness the baptisms of 145 people. Scott also decided how he planned to use his education degree.

"I know now what I want to do," he says. "I want to go back to Kenya and teach. I know God took me there for a reason—to show me what I want to do for the rest of my life."

~ Suzanne Orsai



# SUMMER

## SCHOOL IN T

Snorkeling in waters with the highest number of marine species in the world.  
Standing face to face with monkeys in their jungle home.  
Walking on a black sand beach at the foot of a volcano.

On alternating years, Indonesia becomes a classroom for Tropical Biology. This summer, 16 students spent nearly three weeks in a learning experience that this class could never duplicate inside a building.

Here's a peek at images from the experience and journaled thoughts from three of the students: junior biology major Chelsea Foster, junior biology major AJ Pastor, and senior biology major Ben Smith.



Tropical Biology participants—front: AJ Pastor, Aldo Espinoza, Sidney Lauw, Brenda Prindle, Flor Osorio, Chelsea Foster, Megan Souza, back: Heidi Toppenberg, Sam Willis, Ben Smith, Brad Schleenbaker, Brendon Brockmann, Biology Professor Ann Foster, Noelle Snyder, Biology Chair Keith Snyder, Dasha Kulakov, Kevin Crawford, Josh Kim (not pictured: Assistant Professor Tony Trimm and Linna Zetko)





## THE TROPICS



**GNELSEA**



**AJ**



**BEN**

“ I particularly enjoyed observing the people of Manado. The majority of the people we saw were extremely poor. Even though, the people I saw seemed to have a joy of life and living. People were very friendly and unashamedly curious. Instead of shying away from our camera flashes, people would stand and pose. Shouts of hello and enthusiastic waves seemed to follow us wherever we went. ”

“ Today we toured around the market areas. While riding the bus and checking out the way of life, I felt like I was back in the Philippines. The heat, the houses, the constant beeping of horns—it was very similar to that of the Philippines. Something about it made me feel at home. Time seemed to go slower. ”

“ We chose a particular 3 meter by 3 meter plot and counted each tree, fern, herb, vine, shrub, epiphyte, moss, and grass in the area. By this raw data collection, we made certain deductions on how our data could be interpreted. We came to the conclusion that because of the extreme canopy cover of the jungle at this elevation, the undergrowth was limited to flora that could survive the reduced sunlight, which highly favored moss. This insight helped us to better comprehend the complexity and order of how the environment works. ”



Josh Kim (front) and classmates head for a snorkeling excursion.



Article photos contributed by Tony Trimm, Biology Department, and AJ Pastor, junior biology major



## BEN

“ Climbing Mount Klabat, we looked for tropical birds, observed intercropping habits of the locals, and caught the most spectacular of insects! ”



## AJ

“ Today, we walked on a black sand beach. As you might expect from the name, the sand was black, absorbing all the heat from the sun. I had to keep hopping around so I wouldn't get burned. ”

## CHELSEA

“ Watching tiny clown fish aggressively defend their anemones against humans hundreds of times their size was especially amusing. ”

## BEN

“ This was the jungle that we had all read about before, the jungle where you had to tuck your pants into your socks because of chiggers, the jungle where wild bands of monkeys wandered around and the trees grew untamed. Apparently, we were not supposed to smile at the monkeys because showing teeth is a sign of aggression, which seemed strange and was difficult to do. ”

## AJ

“ We saw monkeys, tarsiers, flying lizards, wingless grasshoppers, thousands of spiders, and much more. ”

- 1 Captivating colors in both sky and sea are part of the Bunaken Island experience.
- 2 A boat takes students from the dive resort of Bunaken to an underwater adventure.
- 3 In a moment of reflection, Sam Willis gazes across the ocean near Bali's Uluwatu Temple.

- 4 Ben Smith and Brad Schleenbaker stand inside a tree overrun by the lianes vine that results in a hollowed trunk climbable from the inside by stepping along the vines.
- 5 Aldo Espinoza befriends a crested black macaque.





## BEN

“The amount of smiles and laughter in each interaction we encountered was the best trademark of this marketplace [in Manado].”

## CHELSEA

“In the matter of an evening, we saw two different kinds of monkeys, climbed a tree from the inside, and hiked 13 kilometers.”

## CHELSEA

“I got a chance to try green bean drink and it tasted how it sounds, something like sweetened green beans with some pulp. After encouraging others to try it, it ended up in the nearest garbage.”

## AJ

“Never in my life have I seen so many fish at once.”

## BEN

“Snorkeling below the water was just as clear as the cloudless blue skies above. The coral we saw was of every variety and color, and the abundant fish diversity swimming through the coral was stunning.”

6 As part of Southern’s outreach ministry while in Indonesia, Megan Souza plays American games with the local children.

7 Students also got a taste of the local culture while in Indonesia.

8 Biology Chair Keith Snyder (right) and several of his Tropical Biology students enjoy the company of a python.

9 Sidney Lauw encounters a white-bellied sea eagle.

10 Tropical Biology students view some of the world’s most varied marine life while snorkeling in Bunaken.

11 AJ Pastor and Sidney Lauw enjoy the Black Sand Beach.



# Christian Living in Postmodern Society

by John Wesley Taylor V, School of Education and Psychology

Ready or not, here we are! You and I are now living in a vast and relatively uncharted landscape, the postmodern world.

**S**ince the mid-20th century, a remarkable shift in the way people think has led to an increasingly pervasive worldview—postmodernism. Postmodernism is essentially a reaction against earlier modernist principles that governed the world in which many of us grew up.

As Christians, we shouldn't mindlessly accept or reject contemporary culture but rather affirm those elements of culture that are in harmony with God's will and seek to redirect any aspect that may not be in line with God's plan.

Let's take a brief look at some major principles of postmodernism with reflections on how Christianity fits into our current world.

## **Principle #1**

### **Human-Constructed Reality**

In postmodernism, truth and reality are constructed by humans. In this anti-realist approach, our world is not just about external things but is dependent on our internal experience and feelings, one that we actively construct by the thoughts that we bring to it.

This way of thinking promotes the emotive while rejecting the rational. Christians, however, must maintain the crucial balance between reason and emotion. We should see that the rational and the emotional each have limitations and work most effectively together, as crosschecks. A gut feeling, for example, should be weighed in terms of its potential consequences. Similarly, a logical course of action should incorporate kindness and compassion.

Remember, God is the ultimate reality and the source of all knowledge (Proverbs 2:6; Daniel 1:17). There are multiple avenues, however, for attaining this knowledge. While some knowledge is received through special divine revelation, discovered through scientific research, or confirmed by logic (Job 29:16; Ecclesiastes 1:13; Revelation 1:1), other knowledge is acquired through experience and reflection under the guidance of God's Spirit (Psalm 77:6, John 16:3). As Christians, we must note that our experiences and feelings as well as things around us are dimensions of truth and reality.

## Principle #2

### Abandoning Comprehensive Explanations

In postmodernism, there is skepticism of comprehensive explanations for reality. Such sweeping explanations are known as metanarratives. The suspicion of metanarratives proceeds partly from the subjective nature of truth and reality in the postmodern mindset. To the Postmodern, one size can't fit all because everyone has different circumstances and experiences.

Sample metanarratives include the Christian perspective on the Great Controversy; the theory of evolution; and the Marxist account of social emancipation. While metanarratives may not be embraced by today's postmodern thinkers, by their own definition they must be open to alternate perspectives—including the Christian worldview. Nevertheless, a Christian claiming to have the answers may be viewed with a certain level of wariness by postmoderns. Emphasizing the journey of discovery and the search for spiritual understanding may be one way for Christians to ease the distrust of the answers found in the Bible.

## Principle #3

### Pluralism

In postmodernism's view, there is no "one right way" but rather multiple viable traditions. This is known as pluralism. For example, the European influence that once colored the accepted view of history is giving way to diverse views—African, Islamic, feminist, and indigenous, among others.

Pluralism, while freeing society from the potential tyranny of one voice—such as what led to the Holocaust—has also resulted in the fracturing of values.

While the Christian worldview disagrees with the pluralistic approach because we

believe that universal Truth does exist, we also recognize the human constraint of partial knowledge and the potential for faulty interpretation. No one can claim flawlessness or a full understanding of any topic. When one realizes this, "I don't know" becomes a more appropriate response than hiding behind technical jargon in a pretense of knowing.

We should be careful, however, not to buy in completely to the idea of pluralism and the accompanying concept of moral relativism. While all human points of view may, in a sense, be considered equal (each with significant insights as well as "blind spots"), God has shared His own divine perspective through His Word, and this revelation supersedes all others. So while Christians endeavor to understand viewpoints different from our own, we should seek above all to see life from God's point of view (Matthew 6:33).

## Principle #4

### Significance of Context

Under postmodernism's model, all human knowledge is viewed through the lens of culture, being understood only when context is taken into account. Furthermore, people are not alone but are dependent on the community in which they live. As a result, postmoderns have a strong need for relationships, and building community becomes a prime goal.

When discussing social issues, historical events, and biblical passages with students, this postmodern approach helps me to avoid imposing my interpretations of meaning and motive. It also reminds me to develop relationships with my students and to try to create a community of faith in my classroom.

On a personal level, the Christian should recognize the influence of one's setting (Psalm 1:1, John 1:46). Humans, however, are not

merely pawns of circumstance. While not autonomous, we do possess free will. We should remember that we have been granted the power of choice (Joshua 24:15; Proverbs 3:31; Isaiah 7:15-16), which rises above the grip of culture and calls us to be led by the Spirit.

## Principle #5

### Celebration of Diversity

Postmodernism does not simply tolerate or affirm differences. It celebrates diversity.

The apostle Paul's description of the body and its various members (1 Corinthians 12:12-28) is, in fact, an apt metaphor for the concept of unity in diversity. Such a perspective suggests that while there are fundamental beliefs, the Christian view must be open to consideration of multiple perspectives and of different views.

Each individual has limited perspectives and cultural "blinders." We can all learn from each other and perhaps especially from those who see things quite differently from the way we do, provided that we, as Christians, can connect that knowledge back to its source and apply it to our lives through the "truth-filter" of His Word.

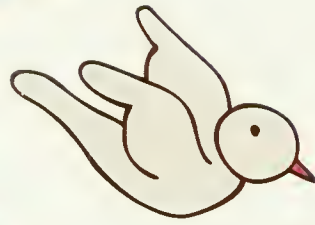
## A Call to Christians

Postmodernism is a double-edged sword. On one hand, its rejection of metanarratives, its moral relativism, and its denial of objective truth all threaten the values that Christians hold dear. On the other hand, postmodernism provides us with a number of opportunities. It suggests that Christians must be ambassadors of generosity, benevolence, and tolerance. It reminds us that in order to best meet the needs of others, we must understand where they're coming from. It implies that witnessing may best be formulated as relational—developing conversations about God, sharing one's personal experience with God, and seeking a deeper understanding of the Spirit.

As Christians living in a postmodern world, we must think deeply regarding our beliefs and convictions. We must be able to speak persuasively regarding our Christian worldview (1 Peter 3:5). Above all, we must share a hope for the future. ✧

We can all learn from each other and perhaps especially from those who see things quite differently from the way we do, provided that we, as Christians, can connect that knowledge back to its source and apply it to our lives through the "truth-filter" of His Word.





# romantic reunions

by R. Lynn Sauls, '56

“How did you meet?”

It's a question often asked of couples in love. For 20 percent of Southern Adventist University alumni, an easy answer would be, “at Southern.” But for some couples, that wouldn't be completely true. While these couples all attended Southern together, they didn't fall in love until some time after graduation.

For ever-hopeful romantics, these three stories provide evidence that graduation day does not necessarily close the book on Southern love stories.



## Chad Harlin and Carrie Garlick

Chad Harlin, '99 and '00, has been a nurse in the Chattanooga area ever since he graduated from Southern. Carrie Garlick, '01, began working in public relations after completing her bachelor's in mass communication. Although their student years at Southern overlapped and they resided in the Collegedale-Ooltewah area after graduating, their paths did not cross until they attended an alumni function on a Saturday night in 2004.

While working in Southern's Alumni Relations, Carrie was charged with planning events that would attract young alumni. Her first event was a karaoke night at The Warehouse in the Red Bank area of Chattanooga. Carrie invited all of the young alumni from the area to the event. Chad came with two of his friends.

As the hostess, Carrie moved among the group to collect suggestions the participants had written out for titles of songs and the names of alumni to sing them. When Carrie was later called to come up and sing "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," she looked around to see who might have suggested her name. Chad had a big grin. She walked over and reached out her hand to him. "I won't sing alone," she said. "You'll have to join me." He complied.

On the way home that night, Chad told one of his friends that Carrie and he had hit it off. "She's going to make someone a great wife someday," he said.

That next Monday, an intern who had helped with the event said to Carrie, "Chad was really taken by you," which got Carrie thinking.

Nothing came of it, however, until June when Chad's co-worker told him about one of her church friends. "I think she is someone you would like," his co-worker said. As she went on to describe Carrie, Chad remembered her and asked her to dinner.

"We were seated at a corner table," remembers Carrie. "It was quite romantic. Afterward, we sat outside the Tennessee Aquarium talking and eating ice cream."

Courtship was fast after that. "We really got to know each other in July," says Carrie. "We did lots of things together. We went to Coolidge Park on Saturday nights—not to watch the movies but to sit and talk. We spent time with friends and relatives." One evening Chad held her hand as they strolled along the Riverwalk. After church two days later, Carrie reached over and grabbed his hand.

"What does that mean?" asked Chad. "Dating? Going steady?"

"Sure," Carrie replied. It was July 17—an important date for them to remember.

In August, Chad went on a two-week vacation to California, flying out of Atlanta. Carrie drove him to

the Atlanta airport in her car. At the airport, Chad realized that he had developed a deep trust in Carrie. He gave her his car keys and asked her to use his car instead of her own when she came to pick him up at the end of his vacation. Before Chad went through the check-in gate, Carrie gave something to him.

"She gave me a stack of 14 dated cards," he says. "I had a message from Carrie to read each day I was away."

When Carrie got back home, she learned that Chad had arranged for a bouquet of sunflowers to be delivered to her. "He had remembered that my kitchen was decorated with sunflowers," said Carrie.

Before Carrie returned to Atlanta to pick up Chad, she went over to his house to get his car. Chad's roommate was amazed. Chad had never before let anyone drive his car.

On August 17, they went back to the restaurant where they had their first date to celebrate the first month's anniversary of the day they began going steady, and they went back again on September 17. By then, they knew they loved each other.

In October, they went to Pennsylvania for a long weekend to meet Carrie's family. They told the family that they had been talking about marriage.

"I could tell that they liked him," says Carrie.

On October 13, they went to the Thai restaurant again. "We would have gone October 17," says Chad, "but there was a scheduling conflict at work." This was the evening Chad proposed.







The wedding was in the atrium of the Collegedale Church on July 17, 2005, exactly one year after they began dating.

"Three years into marriage, we are blissfully happy," says Carrie, "and are looking forward to a bright future," a future that started with an alumni event.

### Dwight Herod and Janita Robertson

Janita Robertson, attended, had always wanted to be a minister's wife, but it took awhile before her dream was realized.

Janita and Dwight Herod, '75, knew of each other when they attended Southern, but the romance didn't begin until Dwight was pastoring in the same conference where Janita lived.

In 1980, Janita experienced a broken relationship. She told the Lord, "You know where I am. You know who you have for me.

I don't know who he is or where he is. You'll have to bring him to me."

Three weeks later, all the pastors and conference officers and staff were introduced at a Carolina Conference meeting in Charlotte. When Dwight was introduced, Janita remembered how she had admired him at Southern.

"I was so impressed by him," Janita recalls. "He was handsome, well-dressed, and kind to everyone."

Dwight also remembered Janita even though he was several years ahead of her.

"I remembered watching her play tennis at the tennis courts," Dwight shares. "She was an attractive and sweet young lady."

As Dwight drove back to Goldsboro after the conference meeting, he could not get Janita out of his mind.

"I'm going to date that girl," he said to himself. "I believe the Lord intends for her to be my wife."

At campmeeting, Dwight asked her for a date. To Janita, this was an answer to prayer.

"The Lord had saved us for each other," she says.

After that, the four hours that separated them weren't enough to keep them apart. Beginning monthly and progressing to bi-weekly, Dwight would pack his Sabbath lunch to eat in the car, preach his sermon at the Goldsboro church, and then drive to Charlotte to

see Janita. They would go to a park, visit places around Charlotte, and go out for supper. Now and then, Janita and her mother would be the ones to make the drive to Goldsboro.

From the time Janita and the most eligible pastor in the conference started dating, members of his church and the conference officers were waiting and watching to see where this courtship would lead.

While together on a group tour of New England, Dwight said to Janita, "I've been asking myself for a long time, 'Do I love this girl?'"

Janita responded, "Have you ever answered yourself?"

"Yes," he said.

"What was your answer?" asked Janita.

Dwight said, "Yes! Yes! I love you."

Three weeks later, Dwight proposed. He had planned to wait until he could take her to a romantic spot by the lake at Nosoca Pines youth camp in November, but one day in October just before he returned to Goldsboro, he accidentally proposed. The words just rolled out: "Will you marry me?"

Janita answered, "Yes! But will you marry me?" It was a double proposal.

Dwight and Janita's engagement was breaking news. They were married in Charlotte in April 1980.

Twenty-eight years later, Dwight and Janita are the proud parents of two grown children. Their daughter, Jodi, '07, graduated from Southern with a bachelor's in public relations, and their son, Courtney, is a senior mass communication major at Southern. Dwight is senior pastor of the Bowman Hills Church in Cleveland, Tennessee, and Janita is office manager for Southern's School of Journalism and Communication.

"Every year brings new fun, energy, and excitement," says Dwight. "Janita is one of the sweetest and kindest people I've ever known."

### Don West Sr. and Edwina Smith Meister Miller

Don West, '42 and '49, and Edwina Smith, attended, knew each other while at Southern Junior College Preparatory School (now Collegedale Academy) and Southern Junior College. They will never forget the day they were honored as King and Queen of Courtesy. But they did not date. Don was already dating Edwina's roommate, Georgette Damon, '44.

It would be another 65 years before the two





It would be another 65 years before the two would fall in love.

Don had top sales among student literature evangelists in the Southern Union the summer of 1941. After he graduated with an associate degree in 1942, he became assistant publishing secretary of the Carolina Conference for the summer and was appointed publishing secretary in the fall. He and Florence Harmon, '78, secretary to the Book and Bible House manager, were married in 1943.

After Don and Florence started their family, Don returned to Southern and in 1949 finished requirements for a bachelor's in Bible with minors in secondary education and business administration before becoming a teacher and treasurer at Forest Lake Academy. He later served as assistant business manager and director of student finance at Southern and then personnel director at McKee Foods.

Don speaks warmly about his wife Florence and the 61 years they had together: "She was intelligent, kind, and hard-working. Later in life she went back to college, earned a nursing degree, and worked as a nurse until she was 83, when she developed diabetic retinopathy." She passed away from complications in 2004.

After Edwina graduated from the prep school, she took some pre-nursing college courses at Southern Junior College. Then she entered the nursing program at Loma Linda University, where she married Adam George Meister Jr., a medical student she had met at Southern. After George completed his M.D., they moved to Sarasota, Florida, where he served as a physician. When the Korean War broke out, George became an army doctor. He died in a plane crash in 1953 while stationed at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina.

Edwina was a widow for 36 years. During that time she finished registered nurse requirements at Florida Hospital and worked as a nurse, first in Florida and later in California. During the early part of her career, she did what she could to help her five children complete their education. Two became nurses, one a dental hygienist, one a dentist, and one an investment counselor.

"When I turned 65, I was extremely tired, so I stopped working," says Edwina.

Soon after that, she got a call from J.D. Miller, who had been principal of Forest Lake Church School when she was a nurse in Florida. He had lost his wife and wanted to come out

to see her. They were married in 1989 and retired to a home they bought on the side of a mountain in North Carolina.

After they had been married nearly 13 years, J.D. developed cancer. He was under hospice care for eight months before he passed away in December 2004.

When Edwina lost J.D., Don knew of the situation and wrote a sympathy letter to her. He could empathize because he had lost Florence only four months before.

"It's terrible to live alone," says Edwina. "At night I felt afraid. I was miserable."

Her children insisted that she sell the house and come live near one of them. When she found out about Collier Place in Collegedale, she came and talked with her daughter, Joan Anderson, attended, and the people who were developing the condominium community. "I was one of the first to put a down payment on one of the townhouses," says Edwina. "It was finished in May 2006."

After Edwina moved to Collegedale, she invited Don every time her family came over for a meal. Don and Edwina agreed to just be friends, saying that neither of them wanted to get married.

Over time, they changed their minds. The first date was around the time of Alumni Homecoming 2006.

A gala had been planned in Chattanooga to raise money for Southern's new nursing complex. Don bought two tickets. Unbeknownst to Don, Edwina did the same. When Don invited Edwina to go with him, they discovered they had more tickets than they needed. So for their first date, they shared a table at the gala with Don's daughters, Shirley Wodzinski, '74, and Arlene McFarland, '70, and Arlene's husband Thomas McFarland, '67, who had also purchased a ticket.

After that, Don and Edwina became more than just friends. Once when they were visiting some members of Edwina's family, Don reached over to hold Edwina's hand and said, "When



we are together, we enjoy holding hands, but that's all!"

Three or four weeks later, Don said to them, "Holding hands is good, but we would like to indulge in a kiss now and then. Is that okay?" By Christmas time, Don asked Edwina to marry him, subject to the approval of all of his and her children.

Edwina said, "Yes," and all their children approved. They were married February 18, 2007.

"The Lord brought us together," says Edwina. "We needed each other."

"Edwina is one of the most loving and thoughtful persons I have ever known," says Don. "She is not only the Queen of Courtesy but also the Queen of Love." ✧





# A Library to Dig Through

by Angela (Ford) Baerg, '07

**K**enneth Mathews was absorbed, his neck craned over an archaeological site report that his son had studied only a few semesters before.

Kenneth already had several degrees—was Dr. Kenneth Mathews, in fact—but when his son had come home on fire with excitement

about his archaeology class at Southern Adventist University, he had ignited his father's interest as well.

Since then, Mathews had not only enrolled in the program himself but had also joined hands with Southern's archaeology program to do all he could to broaden the program's resources. Little did he know that prayers and efforts would bless the program far beyond expectation.

## The First Collection

Upon becoming acquainted with Southern's archaeology program, Mathews discovered that it had a glaring need. "It severely lacked library resources," he says.

So with the guidance of Michael G. Hasel, professor and director of Southern's Institute of Archaeology, Mathews prayerfully began the

hunt for new books. At first his purchases were sporadic—a book here, a book there. Then, after many inquiries, he hit a gold mine.

"I caught wind through a bookseller that the collection of Kent Weeks, a world-famous Egyptologist, would be up for sale," says Mathews.

About this time, Mathews also came into contact with the antiquarian bookseller who had recently purchased that very collection.

"The Lord had his hand in this transaction completely," says Mathews. "What was especially unusual was that rather than making us buy the whole collection, as is

customary, the seller let us pick and choose the books our library needed."

So the majority of the collection from one leading archaeologist found its home in 2007 in Southern's Hackman Hall. The acquisition of Weeks' collection was exciting; even so, the best was yet to come.

## A History With William Dever

Long before meeting Mathews, Hasel came into contact with someone whose influence would help to launch Southern's archaeology program—William G. Dever. Hasel still remembers the moment in 1990 when Dever, a famous leader in the field of archaeology and director of Hasel's first excavation in the Middle East, verbalized an interest in Hasel's professional future.

"The whole dig was a wonderful archaeological learning experience, the equivalent of learning how to do brain surgery with Ben Carson," Hasel reflects. "Then toward the end of the first session, we were eating dinner, and Dever said, 'I want you to come and study with me in Arizona.' It was one of those moments in life when your fork stops halfway to your mouth."

Eagerly Hasel followed Dever to the University of Arizona, which at the time was the national leader in the field of archaeology, drawing students from around the country and the world to garner Dever's extensive knowledge, study his large collection of artifacts, and peruse his extensive library. Although thousands of



students passed under Dever's tutelage, Hasel remained one he would never forget.

## The Dever Collection

Two years after graduating from Arizona, Hasel came to Southern's School of Religion. Jack Blanco, the dean of the school, had a dream of starting an archaeological museum, and in the course of events, Hasel was encouraged to contact his former professor at Arizona. Though agnostic, Dever was impressed with Southern.

Dever expressed this by placing his Near Eastern Collection of ancient artifacts, which were no longer being used by Arizona after the closure of its archaeology program, in Southern's Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum. Together with other donations and acquisitions, this collection became one of the largest and most complete teaching collections of Near Eastern artifacts in North America.

Even as he made this loan, Dever began to contemplate sharing with Southern something that would exquisitely complement his artifact collection: his personal library, one of the most extensive in the field. Although many other universities were also vying for this same collection, Dever selected Southern as the recipient.

"His decision sent shock waves through the academic community," remembers Hasel. "People wanted to know why Dever would place the museum collection and his library at a small institution in the rural hills of Tennessee."

Oddly enough, Southern's status as a Christian university had been very influential in Dever's decision. "The major support for archaeology work in Israel and Jordan comes from conservative and evangelical circles where the Bible is still taken seriously," says Dever, "and no one is more serious and committed about archaeological study in the Middle East than Adventists."

## Collections to Study

What Dever liked most about the prospect of leaving his legacy with Southern was that by doing so, he could be confident his collection

would remain in use—not in storage.

"To me it's important now that my materials help place the next generation, because the future belongs to them," says Dever.

The daunting process of cataloging the library to make it easily accessible for study is already under way, and with the help of both

**"The Lord had his hand in this transaction completely."**

paid staff and volunteers, Hasel plans to have it completed by November.

There is much to catalog. Weeks' collection brought a wealth of Egyptology materials, and Dever's brought around 840 volumes; complete sets of 12 major journals; between 10,000-15,000 slides; and many out-of-print final reports of excavations in Jericho, Megiddo, Lachish, Hazor, Gezer, and many other locales.

Some of these resources have been out of print for more than 100 years. As a result, they can cost around \$4,000 for a set of volumes or \$1,500 for a single volume. These books are so

valuable because they are often printed only once and in such small quantities that only libraries and the elite in the academic community are able to acquire them.

Students of all skill levels can benefit from the library, whether they are studying depictions of existing sites, perusing depictions of sites whose inscriptions have been worn away by natural erosion, or using the resources to see where their archaeological finds fit into the big picture of what has been already found and understood from the past.

"Where do you go to get resources like these?" Hasel says. "Harvard, Chicago, the University of Pennsylvania—they're all top-notch schools, but now we no longer have to travel to Boston or Chicago to study these things. I believe Providence has been involved in this whole process. This library makes Southern a powerhouse for Near Eastern Archaeology in the southeastern United States."

With the aid of the William G. Dever Research Library, Hasel is confident his students will be able to make a lasting contribution to the field of archaeology—a contribution that will help confirm the Biblical record and help the world better understand the Bible as we eagerly await Jesus' return. ✧





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—Robert Wearner, retired pastor and teacher

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# Where Imagination Comes to Life

by Jaime Myers, senior English, history, and international studies major

The School of Visual Art and Design's art gallery was packed. Visitors squeezed past one another to get a glimpse of what was hanging on the walls—human cells. These 21 mixed-media abstract paintings were created by Zach McDonald, '08, for his senior fine art show.

"The art gallery is the heart of the school," says Giselle Hasel, assistant professor and gallery curator. "It sets a standard of quality for the department, and it's a great venue for the School of Visual Art and Design to interact with the community."

Spacious as the gallery is, it would take great ingenuity to display the scope of the school's work within this space. Such is the challenge the COLUMNS staff faced when attempting to squeeze all the department does into one page. Readers, your imaginations may come in handy here.

## Graphics

*Imagine earthy stripes of color with white-line images of fruits, vegetables, and grains.*

What began as a friendly class competition turned into a whole new visual identity for the Village Market. Assistant Professor Randy Craven split his packaging design class into groups, and each designed a new logo for the Village Market. The Village Market then chose the design it liked the best. Winning team member

Isaac James, '08, also created an entire corporate identity guide, which details how the logo is to be used. Through projects like this, students gain practical experience in this diverse field.

## Interaction

*Imagine looking at a display of animated grass. The grass stands at attention until you move on to the next piece of art. Motion sensors on the ceiling catch your movement, and the grass rustles in sync as if you were in a real field.*

Drawing on a core of graphic design and digital media, interactive media students learn about the innovative ways that people interface with convergent technologies and how to use these technologies aesthetically. For example, to create the field of grass, students and faculty used a projected animation, which responded to movement detected by motion sensors, to create an interactive work of art.

Some of the projects that interactive media students have worked on include designing interactive websites, video games, museum displays, and interactive music-making displays. Exhibits similar to the field of grass, including chimes that sounded as a visitor walked past and a game

in which a visitor ran back and forth moving a bucket to catch falling balls, were demonstrated by Assistant Professor Ken Willes at the NASA Ames Research Center for Yuri's Night.

## Film

*Imagine an unseen voice giving directions as a gawky teenager sits in front of a photo backdrop. As a camera shutter is heard, the moving color picture becomes a black-and-white portrait.*

This is the opening of *Yearbook*, produced by senior film production major Philip Sherwood. *Yearbook* was among several films by Southern students and alumni at the SONSscreen Film Festival in California, where Philip's piece received the Best in Fest Award.

In addition to short student projects, the school strives to provide the opportunity to work on an inspirational feature film project during the summer every two to three years. The School of Visual Art and Design's

production company is exploring scripts for its next feature film project, all while facing the contingencies of logistics and funding.

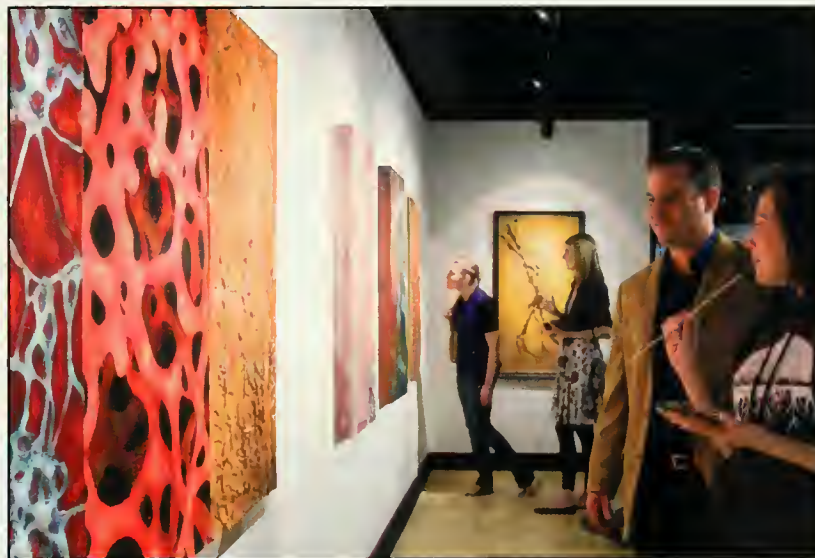
## Animation

*Imagine a fluffy sheep chasing a butterfly across a field into dark woods.*

While film production majors would struggle to make a live sheep and butterfly behave, animation majors can create loveable characters without the need to let them out to pasture. *Lost Sheep*, an animation based on the parable of the lost sheep, was created as a collaborative project by animation majors under the supervision of Assistant Professor Aaron Adams. The four-minute animation took 64 weeks to polish to completion.

Now, animators are working on a new collaborative animation project titled *The Rock in the Road*. When student animators aren't working on collaborative projects, they keep busy completing short animations, like cartoons, video game characters, or visual effects for films.

If imagining isn't enough for you, you can see some of this work (including *Lost Sheep*; *The Yearbook*; and the end-of-the-year art show, featuring the best of student artwork of 2008-2009), at [art.southern.edu](http://art.southern.edu). ✧



Southern Chaplain Brennan Kirstein and his wife, Brandy, admire the cellular art of Zach McDonald.



## School of Nursing Group Travels to Peru

A group of students and professors from Southern's School of Nursing, along with volunteer dentists and other community volunteers, traveled to Iquitos, Peru, last spring to provide health care and education to Peruvian residents.

Though the School of Nursing has been organizing spring break mission trips since 1970, this is the first time a group has gone to Peru. Another group traveled to Nicaragua.

The nursing students were able to provide much-needed medical care to the residents of poverty-stricken Iquitos.

The group saw about 1,200 patients, treating dehydration, pains, tooth decay, wounds, growths, and other minor problems as well as some major problems.

They were even able to bring hearing to a girl who hadn't had use of one of her ears for about four years.

"This girl's ear had been impacted with wax for so long that she could not hear," says Nursing Professor Shirley Spears. "It was so joyous to bring the gift of hearing to someone."

In addition to caring for others, the group experienced the culture of the area. Students, staff, and community volunteers traveled on the Amazon River by boat, camped out in the jungle, went for hikes, and played with the animals of the area, including squirrel monkeys and snakes. The group also participated in different Sabbath services and was asked by the locals to have special music.

"It was so worth it to be able to help so many people," says Heather Blake, senior nursing major. "It made me feel humbled to see the things I did. I would go back in a heartbeat."



ABOVE: Southern nursing students joined local Adventist church members for Sabbath worship services at this church in San Andres, Peru.



RIGHT: Dianne Phillman, a dentist who joined the Southern group, helped brighten the smiles of Peruvian children.

~ Natalia López-Thismon

## New Home Visitation Service Gets Nursing Students Involved in the Community

Senior nursing majors Lindsay and Meghan Goreki stood in the kitchen of the elderly woman's house preparing a nutritious supper for her. Earlier that day, they had helped the homebound woman clean her entire house. At a previous visit, the three had sat together talking about the illness that kept the woman's husband in the hospital.

The twin sisters were part of the Community Health Nursing class, taught by Sylvia Mayer, associate professor in the School of Nursing. At the beginning of the winter '08 semester, Mayer started her students on a new program called Door 2 Door, a free home visitation service.

As part of the class, students learned how to care for people holistically by visiting with and assessing individuals in their homes. Whether by helping an individual set up an exercise program, taking blood pressure, or setting up a meal plan, the students learned to assist the patients on a different level than if they were in the hospital.

"I want them to use the experience that they have had," says Mayer, "but I want them

to use it with interaction, finding out where the person is, who they are, what they need—and then help to support the person that they meet toward a better level of wellness."

Many students felt nervous going into homes to help people they hadn't met before, but the patients were glad to have the students there.

"We found that most people were very lonely," says Gabe Nobles, senior nursing major.

As time passed the students and their patients grew very close. "We became like her adopted granddaughters," say Lindsay and Meghan.

When the woman's husband passed away, the two were there to find someone to stay with her.

"God put us in her pathway," says Lindsay, "because she wouldn't have had anybody else to help her."

~ Suzanne Ocsai

## Upcoming Events

"Faces of Power" archaeological exhibit	October 8-May 3
Alumni Homecoming	October 23-26
Hulsey Wellness Center Grand Opening	October 26
Dever Library Opening	November 5
PreviewSouthern	November 13-14
Symphony Orchestra/Organ Concert	November 16
Thanksgiving Break	November 26-29
Christmas on the Promenade	December 2
Christmas Break	December 18-January 4

## Dorm Donation Days on Campus Benefits the Samaritan Center

As students across the nation tried to stuff an entire semester's knowledge into their brains, some grappled with another year-end question: What am I going to do with all the stuff in my room?

The Samaritan Center, a local Seventh-day Adventist social service agency, provided a solution for Southern students who found themselves in this quandary. The solution was Dorm Donation Days.

"As students were moving out, we parked our truck smack dab in the middle of campus, ready to haul donations away," says Samaritan Center Director Tony Dahlberg. In three days, three truckloads of items were hauled to the center.

These student donations helped the center

meet East Hamilton County's surging demands for social service assistance.

"Southern has fostered an environment of

community-mindedness," says Dahlberg. "It seems fitting that the farewell gift students leave is donations to bless people in need." ~ Angela Baerg



Dorm Donation Days provided an opportunity for students to put their discarded items to good use.

## Southern Student Donates Bone Marrow to Leukemia Patient

While completing her associate degree in nursing, Jenny Blanz, '08, learned she was a potential bone marrow donor for a

50-year-old male with leukemia. Her first thought was about the pain that would be involved in donating, but then she mused, *If I have the opportunity, why not just do it?*

As Jenny went through the many required tutorials, consent forms, and options, she didn't feel scared. But the night before the surgery, Jenny began to feel fearful.

"I burst into tears that night

when I started imagining all the worst-case scenarios," recalls Jenny. "All I could do was pray for the man who would receive my donation."

Months after her surgery, Jenny continued to feel a pain that she describes as like being kicked by a horse. Yet she had heard no news on how the man was doing. She became annoyed as every time she bent over, the nagging pain reminded her of the man she knew nothing about.

Finally Jenny received a phone call letting her know the man had just been released from the hospital and gone home to the family.

An hour later, that pain in her back returned. But this time, she wasn't irritated.

"I'd never been so happy to have pain in my life!" she exclaims. "The first thought that came to me is, *I saved someone's life, and this pain is so worth it!*"

~ Natalia López-Thismón and Lori Futcher



Jenny Blanz was accompanied by Assistant Professor of Nursing Jaclynn Huse, who teaches about bone marrow donation in one of her classes. "The whole experience was so incredible and humbling as we realized that her bone marrow could really save someone's life," says Huse.

## New Construction Management Degree Offers Hands-on Experience

The Technology Department is known for preparing students for hands-on careers. In keeping with this reputation and Southern's principle of serving, the department has resurrected the construction management degree.

The new construction management degree

will include opportunity for hands-on experience and have many other components the previous degree didn't offer, such as business courses to help prepare students for the possibility of owning their own construction company.

"All the programs that we teach," explains

Walters, "enable you to run your own business."

The construction management degree, like every degree offered by the Technology Department, promises to prepare students with the ability to not only find a job when they graduate but also be able to create jobs for others. ~ Suzanne Ocsei



## Southern's New Treasurer Makes Mission a Priority

While sitting upon a grassy knoll, Jesus taught that where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Fast-forward 2,000 years to Southern Adventist University's campus and you will find Southern's new senior vice president for Financial Administration, Tom Verrill, living this principle.

### Discovering the Ministry

Verrill grew up in rural Maine, where he spent many summer days playing sports in a large open field cleared by his father. He soon discovered that baseball wasn't the only thing he enjoyed. He loved math—and was good at it.

Leaving for Atlantic Union College (AUC) in the fall of 1983, Verrill studied accounting

During Verrill's junior year, Segar recommended Verrill as a summer intern for the Atlantic Union office of the General Conference auditing service. From there, he began climbing the ladder within the church until he was the Southern New England Conference treasurer.

As his career progressed, Verrill never lost his passion for ministry, a passion he and his wife, Carole, share. "Ministry is a really big part of how we see our lives," says Carole, who is now part-time children's pastor at the Colleagele Church, "and we're big proponents of getting involved in ministry."

Leading out in children's Sabbath School and small Bible study groups in their home, the Verrills built a foundation of service, not only for themselves but also for their children: Christina, 18; Katie, 16; and Andrew, 13.

### Ordained for Service

Verrill's passion for the ministry side of accounting eventually led Halvard Thomsen, then president of the Southern New England Conference, to recommend Verrill as the Southern New England Conference's evangelism coordinator.

"Because of the commitment to soul winning and ministry that he demonstrated in his life and the way

he handled church finances," says Thomsen, "it was clear that he was intent on finding any way he possibly could to use church resources for outreach."

The conference took notice, and it wasn't long before Thomsen recommended that Verrill be ordained.

"I was thrilled," says Kim Johnson, under-treasurer for the Florida Conference and Verrill's primary spiritual mentor. "I do not believe that pastors are the only ones who can receive a call from God, and it is very appropriate for someone in Verrill's leadership position to have their ministry confirmed through ordination."

The day ordination took place proved to be a moving and emotional time for this dedicated, soft-spoken man.

"It was very humbling," says Verrill, "to have

pastors, administrators, and peers come put their hands on you and pray for the Spirit to be poured out on you as you lead—you never feel worthy of this."

### Following the Call

Two years after his ordination, Verrill received a call to be the treasurer of the Florida Conference. When Verrill stepped in, the conference was facing a fiscally troubling time. Guided by knowledge he gained through financial experience and his strong desire to see spiritual growth happen, Verrill and his team were able to set the conference back to solid ground.

"Verrill's role as a conference officer gave him the opportunity to influence the thinking of individuals and the administrative committees that he is associated with," says Johnson. "I remember specifically the time when he suggested that the Florida Conference executive committee take time at each meeting to study and explore various aspects of God's vision for the church."

Five years after moving to Florida, Verrill received another call—this time from Southern.

The search committee reviewed many names," says Southern President Gordon Bietz. "It became clear that Verrill's broad experience in church finance, as well as his personal commitment to the mission of the church and school, would be a significant blessing to our leadership team."

Coming to Southern, Verrill was reminded of his own college days and how he worked his way through school. "I pretty much paid my way," Verrill says. "I understand the pressures of balancing your studies, work, and finances."

As a result, he is sensitive to the stresses that financing a Christian education can create. Because of this sensitivity, he seeks to enrich the lives of students by allotting funds to areas that will best help them succeed in college.

"It's beyond the numbers," says Verrill. "There's a relational side."

Verrill's commitment to Christian education and helping young people obtain it is becoming more than evident as he settles into his new position. Already he is demonstrating his passion for investing the funds he manages into the treasures that hold his, and Southern's, heart—the students.

~ Suzanne Ocsai



Tom Verrill combines his love of ministry with a love for numbers in his new position as Southern's vice president for Financial Administration.

and business administration. His years there proved to be pivotal, leading him to the woman he would marry, the career path he would choose, and the development of a passion for ministry that would transcend all he would ever do.

While taking classes from Jim Segar, former professor at AUC and former chair of the Business Department at Southern, Verrill learned to view the ministry aspect of financing as integral.

"As I see it," says Segar, "we are stewards of someone else's funds and ultimately are stewards of God's funds, and if we use them wisely, to the best of our ability, then God will multiply them."

Segar not only led in the classroom, he was a great example and mentor to this dedicated student. "He really set a tone for me as I looked at my future," says Verrill. "He had a very spiritual application to whatever work he did."

## KeyTrain Helps Students Prepare for Workforce

In keeping with Southern's goal of helping students succeed both in college and the workforce, Learning Success Services is implementing a new learning application called KeyTrain into Academic Power Tools (a class required for all students who score lower than 18 on the ACT).

KeyTrain covers work skills that employers are looking for in employees such as good skills in reading, mathematics, locating information, and more. Computerized tutorial sessions on each topic are divided into levels one through five. Throughout the semester students work on KeyTrain assignments until they reach level five.

Alan Artress, '83, developed KeyTrain in an effort to increase the level of practical skills that individuals in the workplace possess.

"There is a gap between the workforce skills and what we are learning in college," says Januwoina Nixon, director of Learning Success Services. "We are trying to build a bridge between those two so that when students leave college they have the skills that are needed for any job."

Nixon began incorporating KeyTrain soon after learning about the program, making Southern the first four-year college in Tennessee to adopt KeyTrain for its students.

After students complete KeyTrain, they can

take their instruction a step further to receive the National Career Readiness Certificate. This certificate is recognized and highly respected at many employment establishments across the country." ~ Suzanne Ocsai

## New Emergency Alert System Debuts on Campus

The first campus-wide test of Southern's new Emergency Alert System occurred this spring. The system allows emergency text or voice-mail messages to be sent to the phones of students, faculty, and staff who have signed up to receive alerts. "We want to have the most up-to-date, rapid way to communicate in case of an emergency," says Marketing and University Relations Director Ruthie Gray.

The messages, which were custom written for multiple potential emergency situations, are preloaded into the system. This allows the messages to be sent with the touch of a but-

ton, saving time and possibly lives.

In addition, administrators can send special questions and have the receivers send a reply to the questions. For example, if an earthquake shook the campus, messages could be sent out that ask: "Are you safe?" or "Are you trapped?" When the receiver sends his or her reply, it will be instantly visible to team members, who, with the help of emergency crews, could respond to the situation with speed and precision.

"Southern is not immune from the disasters of our world," says President Gordon Bietz. "It is important that we be prepared." ~ Jaime Myers

## Homeschooler Wins National Robotics Competition

When 14-year-old Andrew Donesky showed up in the Iles P.E. Center with his team (The Brick Boys) and a LEGO® brick robot to participate in the Southern Challenge, something was different.

Yes, he had entered this competition twice before, and yes his team had won each time. But this year, a win would mean a trip to the nationals—a trip he'd always turned down before in order to go on an annual mission trip with his family.

Every year, he made up his mind quickly. "I won't be able to make it," he'd say as he was

handed the invitation for nationals. "I'll be on a mission trip."

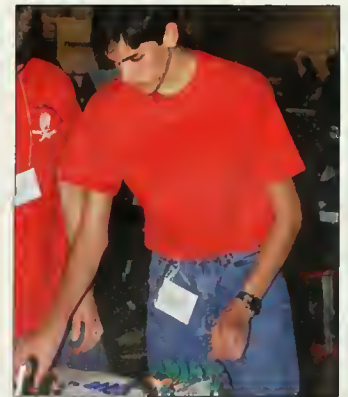
Sure enough, the Brick Boys not only won but achieved a perfect score in the Robotic Mission, which has never before been achieved by any team in Southern Challenge history.

Because plans to move permanently to the mission field meant there would be no summer mission trip on the Donesky itinerary, Andrew finally accepted the invitation for nationals that came with the Southern Challenge win.

Andrew's first and only trip to the nationals

ended on a happy note when on May 12, Andrew and the Brick Boys won the competition.

"I think it was one of the happiest ways to go out," says Andrew. "It was exciting—we'd made it there, and it was our final accomplishment." ~ Suzanne Ocsai



After three Adventist Robotics League Southern Challenge wins, this summer was Andrew Donesky's first participation in nationals.

## Computer Science Program Receives ABET Accreditation

The bachelor's degree in computer science recently became the first and only computer science program in Adventist higher education to be accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET, Inc., the recognized accreditor of college and university programs in applied science, engineering, technology, and computing. This internationally recognized accreditation demonstrates that Southern's

computing program meets quality standards formulated by the computing profession in conjunction with a number of technical societies.

During the accreditation process, the computing program underwent comprehensive, periodic evaluations conducted by teams of volunteer professionals working in industry, government, academia, and private practice in the field of computing. These evaluations focused

on, among other things, the program's curricula, faculty, facilities, and institutional support.

"The message this accreditation sends to current students, potential students, parents, employers, and postgraduate institutions is clear," says Richard Halterman, dean of the School of Computing. "Southern is committed to providing a quality academic experience for its students." ~ Lori Futcher



## AACU Meets at Southern

Southern Adventist University hosted the Association of Adventist Colleges and Universities (AACU) this spring. The association brings the presidents from the 15 Adventist colleges and universities in North America together for collaboration.

One of the outcomes from the meetings was a declaration to inspire graduates to practice the “way of Christ” through the following:

- God’s transforming grace
- careful, logical thought about ideas and faith
- wholeness as physical, intellectual, and spiritual beings
- educated servant leadership in community and congregation
- the pursuit of truth and the pleasure of learning
- authenticity toward self and others
- life work as a divine calling
- compassion, peacemaking, and stewardship of God’s creation
- the blessing of the Sabbath rest
- hope for the future as a basis for witness and action

As the meetings concluded, participants agreed that they had enjoyed their time at Southern. “Thank you, on behalf of all of us who have attended the meetings,” said John McVay, president of Walla Walla University. “The hosting of the event by Southern has been first rate.”

~ Suzanne Ocsai



Building and maintaining a fire was one of the challenges in the adventure race.

## Student Volunteer Firefighters Win Adventure Race

Southern was a hub of activity from the evening of April 12 into the early morning hours of April 13 as students climbed, ran, and even flew at various points on and around campus.

The second annual Dusk 'til Dawn Adventure Race included challenges such as zip lining off the library, climbing Wright Hall, and exploring the Student Park Cave.

This year, the addition of a helicopter brought a buzz beyond that of its engine as it took participants to and from a nearby farm. Many participants who had never flown in a helicopter said this was their favorite part of the event.

“This race is the one of the greatest things that Southern does,” says Rika Gemmell, '08,

who was on the 2007 winning team. For her senior year, Rika helped operate one of the race’s challenges instead of racing. “I wanted to give other people a chance to win,” she jokes.

Covered in mud and smiles, those who won the 2008 race arrived at the finish line at 2:41 a.m., about 4½ hours after the race began. The winning team was made up of four Southern students who also volunteer at Tri-Community Fire Department. Winning team members were Jeff Richardson, '08; senior outdoor education major Stephanie George; Brandon Otis, '08; and junior outdoor education major Casey Walter.

“This was a well-rounded experience,” says Brandon. “We got to do things we wouldn’t have otherwise experienced.”

~ Lori Fletcher

## Southern Alum Creates New Teen Magazine

As co-founder and editor of a by-teens-for-teens magazine called *Chattanooga Teen Scene*, Melissa Turner, '05, is empowering teens in the Chattanooga area.

“*Chattanooga Teen Scene* is the voice of Chattanooga’s teens,” says Melissa. “It opens a window to their world, their ideas, and their talents.”

The magazine was launched in the fall of 2007 and currently has a circulation of 15,000, with its primary distribution in local public and private schools.

The magazine operates within a policy of giving teens a constructive way to express their opinions.

“Teens need a voice,” says Melissa. “They

are very capable, very talented, very creative, and they have something to say. We just need to take the time to really listen to them and join in the dialogue.”

In addition to her work with *Chattanooga Teen Scene*, Melissa is the editorial assistant for *Chattanooga Magazine* and the editor of *EnviroLink*, an annual supplement to *Chattanooga Magazine*.

“My education at Southern was a great starting point for my career,” says Melissa. “It challenged and grounded me spiritually and ethically. That is the exciting thing about graduating from a college like Southern—knowing that you are prepared to meet that daily continuing education.”

~ Jaime Myers



Melissa Turner is co-founder and editor of *Chattanooga Teen Scene*.

## University Purchases Local Spalding Cove Apartments

On September 14, Southern purchased the Spalding Cove Apartments for \$2.6 million at a public auction. The 28-apartment complex is located less than a mile from the campus and connected via the Collegedale Greenway. The apartments will be transitioned to house married and graduate students as current residents choose to move to other housing.

"The purchase of the Spalding Cove apartments will allow us to continue our enrollment growth," says Tom Verrill, vice president for financial administration. "This fall we reached our maximum housing capability, and administration, along with the Board of Trustees Executive Committee, felt this was an opportunity we could not pass up at this time."

Southern has grown steadily from around 1,600 students 12 years ago to more than 2,700 students this fall. Record-breaking enrollments have been posted for the last nine years. The university has increased its housing capacity

over the last decade by adding a wing to the men's residence hall and constructing eight on-campus apartment buildings.

"We have a residential philosophy that we call a living-learning environment," remarks Gordon Bietz, president of the university. "It is

our desire to provide housing to students either on campus or within a very close proximity so that they can enjoy the benefits of the full educational community." Currently two-thirds of Southern's student population lives in housing provided by the university.

~ Vinita Sauder



The purchase of these apartments will help Southern meet the housing needs created by the university's continued growth.

## Southern's Film Program Purchases Cutting-Edge Camera

The RED ONE™ digital cinema camera has been making a splash all over the film industry, and now Southern Adventist University has one.

The new camera, which School of Visual Art and Design acquired this summer, accepts standard cinema lenses and accessories, and it shoots the highest-quality video available directly onto an onboard hard drive or compact flash card. In the past, filmmakers have typically preferred traditional film cameras because the quality was superior; however, the RED is revolutionizing the industry's perception of film versus digital.

Famous movie directors and Academy Award winners such as Peter Jackson and Steven Soderbergh have been using this camera to record some of their more recent projects.

Assistant Professor David George became familiar with the RED camera this summer while working on a short film project in which the digital camera was used.

"I was amazed at how closely it mirrored the workflow of shooting on film but with a much lower price point," he says.

George is excited to put the new camera to use in Cinematography class this fall.

"In class, students will be able to learn dynamic focusing techniques much better with this camera because of its shallow depth of field and ability to use cinema lenses and accessories," George predicts. "And at the end of the day you have high-resolution, high-dynamic-range data."

Ultimately, George hopes that film students will be able to use the camera for another feature film for the big screen.

~ Natalia Lopez-Thismon



The RED ONE camera shoots the highest-quality video available directly onto an onboard hard drive or compact flash card.

## Southern Sees Continued Enrollment Growth

For the ninth consecutive year, enrollment numbers broke records at fall registration. Southern's doors opened to 2,777 students—137 students more than last year. This marks the 13th year of continuous growth.

Southern's uninterrupted growth can be seen not only in increased enrollment but also in the expanding of its campus facilities including the new Hulsey Wellness Center, scheduled to open in October, and Florida Hospital Hall, the new nursing building that will accommodate Southern's quickly expanding nursing program.

"Thanks to some generous friends and support-

ers, we are now able to offer these new facilities to our students," says Vinita Sauder, vice president for Marketing and Enrollment Services.

This year, undergraduate enrollment is up by 97 students and graduate enrollment is up by 40. In addition to total headcount, the number of full-time equivalents is up 69 overall.

"Enrollment has increased over the last decade by more than 1,000 students, allowing the university to expand its curriculum, its facilities, and its faculty and staff," says Sauder. "Students are choosing Southern because of our high-quality living-learning environment."

~ Natalia Lopez-Thismon



## Students Lead 4,561 to Baptism

This summer, 87 students conducted evangelistic meetings in four locations as part of the summer evangelism program of the Evangelistic Resource Center.

Sent to Ghana, Tanzania, Guatemala, or South Carolina, Southern students—most of whom had never preached a sermon before in their lives—led 4,561 people to be baptized.

“We are preparing the next generation of pastors, doctors, lawyers, etc. to conduct evangelistic series, because ordained ministers aren’t the only ones who can save souls,” says Carlos Martin, School of Religion professor and Evangelistic Resource Center director. “We want to create a culture of evangelism on campus. We want there to be a feeling that ‘I’m doing my part. I’m actively involved in the great commission.’”

Overcoming stage fright, enduring the rainy season, or working around failed technology were some areas students dealt with through patience and prayer. In fact, facing the unpredictability of the experience has helped strengthen students’ faith, allowed them to see the wondrous ways in which God works, and given students a new self-confidence.

“Preaching and traveling were two things that didn’t come naturally to me,” says Jellique Stephenson, a junior nursing and Spanish major who was part of the evangelism team in Guatemala. “I preached 18 sermons in Spanish, which is not my native tongue, so I was more nervous than usual, and I had to drive an hour-and-a-half to get to the location. I really learned how to be patient and flexible.”

Jashira Nieves, a sophomore nursing major, joined the summer evangelism trip to Tanzania at the last minute.

“I got a call from another girl who decided that she couldn’t go,” says Jashira. “She needed to find a replacement, and I’d always wanted to go to Africa.”

After praying and talking with her mom, Jashira decided to take a leap of faith, and by taking that leap, her faith was renewed. Watching how powerfully people were moved by the Holy Spirit during her sermons, and understanding how the message that she was sharing with others also applied to herself, Jashira decided to recommit her life to God by being rebaptized alongside those she went to save.

Jashira still has a glow on her face as she talks about her experiences in Africa and how

she wants to continue to minister to others.

“I’ve always thought about mission work,” says Jashira. “I went to the Philippines to do some medical work, and I watched how wonderful it was when doctors helped people. Now I know that’s what I want to do; I want to be a missionary nurse.”

This is Southern’s eighth year conducting summer evangelism trips. Since 2001, 392 students evangelists have led 11,844 people to baptism. Theology majors are required to participate in summer evangelism. However, in 2006, the Evangelistic Resource Center decided to open the evangelism trips up to non-theology majors. Now the majority of participants are non-theology majors.



Senior religion major Paulo Tenorio attends a mass baptism after evangelizing in Tanzania.

Southern’s summer evangelism trips are possible through the generosity of private donors, ShareHim, and The Quiet Hour. ~ Jaime Myers

## Building Walls to Bring People Together in Romania

Usually walls are built to create a separation, but that’s not the case when outdoor leadership students are doing the building.

This summer a team of seven such students built walls and other ropes-course elements at Adventist camps throughout Romania, then trained camp staff how to use these elements to instill principles of working together in unity.

The concept of debriefing after an activity was perhaps one of the most important things incorporated into the training.

“Activities can get really frustrating,” explains Ann Reynolds, graduate outdoor teacher education student. “Without the debriefing, the participants won’t even have realized they could have learned something powerful.” ~ Suzanne Ocsai

## Southern Ranked in *U.S. News* Top Tier for Seventh Year

The university is ranked one of the “Best Baccalaureate Colleges” in the South in *U.S. News & World Report’s* 2009 “America’s Best Colleges” edition. This is the seventh year Southern has been listed as a Top Tier college.

Of the 48 colleges and universities garnering the coveted Top Tier ranking this year, Southern was listed as number 31.

To create these rankings, *U.S. News* surveyed 1,476 colleges and universities, which were divided into categories based on Carnegie classification and region. A baccalaureate college is one that focuses on undergraduate education and offers a range of degree programs.

The seven indicators used to assess these colleges and universities were: assessments by presidents at peer institutions, retention of students, faculty resources, student selectivity,

financial resources, alumni giving, and graduation rate performance.

In the area of faculty resources, small class sizes and low student-faculty ratio were looked at favorably. In the *U.S. News* article “How We Calculate the Rankings,” Robert J. Morse and Samuel Flanigan stated, “Research shows that the more satisfied students are about their contact with professors, the more they will learn and the more likely it is they will graduate.”

“This is an area where Southern shines particularly strong,” says Vinita Sauder, vice president for Marketing and Enrollment Services. “In addition to our 16:1 student-teacher ratio and small class sizes, we have professors who are deeply committed to our students’ overall success and therefore engage with them both inside and outside the classroom.” ~ Lori Fletcher

# A Storybook Ending

by Chelsea English, senior English major

Yu Yin and I sat with our backs propped against the foot of my bed in the girl's dorm at Georgia-Cumberland Academy (GCA), where I was serving as a task force worker. In my hands, I held a *My Bible Friends* book. I turned to the beginning and took a breath to start reading when Yu stopped me. "We are supposed to pray before we study Bible," she said in her broken English.

## Culture Shock

Yu had come from China to GCA partway through the first semester. She didn't claim any religion, had never been to America before, and was dropped into an already-in-progress class of about 90 juniors. From her first few days at GCA, she had sought me out, telling me how much she missed her parents and how hard it was to make friends in America. She longed for a close friend to share secrets with but mourned the language barrier that prevented that from happening. Even in the face of a confusing culture, a difficult language, and intense loneliness, Yu always had a smile on her face.

I often helped her with English and religion assignments. I'll never forget trying to explain the meaning of the image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream so Yu could complete her response worksheet. I nearly confused myself more than once.

One day, Yu asked if I would have Bible studies with her. I thought back to the Nebuchadnezzar assignment and gulped. Not only did Yu struggle with English, she had no background in Christianity. I had no idea how to teach someone about God if they lacked even a basic knowledge of Him. Where would I start? Yu viewed everything that went on at school, from eating in the cafeteria to attending banquets, as an opportunity to learn more about the American culture, and I naively assumed that this was simply another cultural difference that she wished to experience. I thought if I could teach her a basic knowledge about the Bible, maybe later on she would want to know God personally.

So I agreed to study with her and promised to be in my room at 6:30 that Wednesday evening to start. Still unsure of how to go about this, I asked Don Keele, the head pastor of the GCA Church, if he had any suggestions. He immediately pointed me toward the *My Bible Friends* series.

"After all," he pointed out, "they were written for children, who don't have very good English skills or a background in Christianity either." I thought it was perfect and borrowed the books from his family.

Yu and I began diligently studying the Bible stories every Wednesday evening, though we never prayed. I was too cautious to bring God fully into the picture, not wanting to push upon her a personal relationship with a God she knew so little about. I would read slowly, with Yu following along intently, pointing out the characters in the pictures and explaining the harder words. At one point I even drew a timeline for her, explaining where Moses, Joseph, and Jesus fit in. Other than that, we simply read the stories together. I would help her with any homework that she brought along with her, and then she would thank me and leave—until the night she reminded me to pray.

## Spiritual Shock

Now I sat on my floor, big task force chaplain out to win souls for Jesus, ashamed that I had neglected something so simple yet so important as prayer. So from then on, we prayed. We prayed for God's blessing as we studied, we prayed for Yu's grandpa, and we prayed that she would make more friends. Sometimes I would pray, lifting up Yu's prayer requests, and sometimes Yu would pray, quietly and sincerely asking the Lord to help her and those she loves. I began to feel more like we were studying about God and not just reading stories.

Now I know that Yu's heart was in it all along. She wanted to know more about the God who created us and who gives us hope. I don't know if praying changed the Bible studies for her, but that was a turning point in my experience. Not long after that, Yu,

who had also been studying with another staff member, publicly joined the family of God through baptism. That summer she headed back to China, equipped with a Chinese Bible to help share her newfound faith with her parents.

I will never forget what Yu taught me. I learned that it's never our place to question people's motives; I learned to take every opportunity that God sends me to witness; and most importantly, I learned to always pray. For that, I am thankful. ✧



Chelsea English used *My Bible Friends* to give Bible studies to a Chinese student.



# Scholarships for Freshmen

**Freshman Academic Scholarship**  
**\$2,000 to Full Tuition**  
based on GPA and ACT score

**Freshman Leadership Scholarship**  
**\$2,500**  
for students who held a leadership role during their senior year of high school

**Freshman Florida/Georgia State Scholarship Replacement**  
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**Freshman Lightbearer Scholarship**  
**\$2,000**  
for freshmen who graduated from a non-Adventist high school or homeschool after attending for at least two years



Did you know that 94 percent of incoming freshmen receive financial aid—and that nearly \$4 million is awarded annually through Southern's freshman scholarship program?

For complete details about Southern scholarships and other financial aid, call 1.800.SOUTHERN or visit [www.southern.edu/scholarships](http://www.southern.edu/scholarships).



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# A Southern Legacy

The year was 1966. I was a junior English major, vice president of the English Club, and an aspiring writer. As news editor of the *Southern Accent*, I also contributed poems to the annual literary edition of the paper for students to exhibit original poetry, prose, art, and photography.

That spring, fellow writer Ellis Adams, '66, shared his desire to establish a literary magazine. This was exactly what I wanted to hear, since I had long been harboring the same dream myself. After much discussion and many meetings later, we were thrilled when the magazine was approved by administration and became a reality.

We spent hours searching for a name. Someone suggested *Legacy*—a perfect choice for a magazine that, to my knowledge, has remained constant to this day more than 40 years later. It is ultimately satisfying to me that my contribution to student life in the 1960s has survived eight U.S. presidents.

In that other lifetime long ago, in that memorable spring of 1966, my fellow founders and I could not have foreseen nor imagined that our cherished creation would continue to flourish this far into the future, finding a place in the hearts of its creators, contributors, and readers—and assuring that it would truly become a living literary *Legacy*.

~ Barb Brooks, '94 (attended '62-'66)

**Your Southern memories could be in Scrapbook. For the next issue, share your photos and stories of travel.**

Whether a trip for a class, an extracurricular activity, or mission work, we'd like to add these to our Scrapbook. Send your photos and brief stories to COLUMNS, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN, 37315-0370 or email to [columns@southern.edu](mailto:columns@southern.edu).





# 40s

**Jack Parnell**, '44, and his wife, Ruth, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 6 with a four-day family reunion.

# 50s

**Calvin Acuff**, '51, is a retired doctor in Morganton, North Carolina. He volunteers with Habitat for Humanity and at the local soup kitchen. He and his wife have six children and 10 grandchildren.

# 60s

**Geraldine (Donak) Hollis**, '63, retired from Alexandria Health Department in January and now resides in Stanley, Virginia.

**Carole (Branch) McCracken**, '64, is retired in Morganton, North Carolina, where she helps out at North Carolina School for the Deaf.

**Joyce (Cuilla) Hawkes**, '66, is a renal dietitian in Goldsboro, North Carolina. To celebrate her 40th wedding anniversary, she went on a Caribbean cruise.

**Jerry Hoyle**, '66, is practicing psychology in the private sector after 20 years of teaching in the department of psychology at Loma Linda University School of Medicine.

**Ed Reid**, '67, serves as the stewardship director at the North American Division. This summer he taught an intensive graduate course, Principles in Stewardship, at Andrews University.



**Margie (Littell) Ulrich**, '67, recently co-authored the book *Texas Medic*.

**Ted Teeters**, '68, is retired in Walla Walla, Washington, after having taught elementary school for 43 years.

# 70s

**Fred Bischoff**, '72, recently published *Words of the Adventist Pioneers 2008*, in partnership with the Ellen G. White Estate.

**Joan (Murphy) Taylor**, '72, is an anesthesiologist in Naples, North Carolina. She recently attended her daughter's wedding in Aberdeen, Scotland.

**Don**, attended, and **Sharla (Closser) Bogar**, '74, live in Stuarts Draft, Virginia. Don is a clinical pharmacist in Fisherville. Their older son, Andrew, is stationed in the navy at Norfolk. Their younger son, James, lives in Richmond.

**David Paul Moore**, '76, lives in Glendale, California, where he is a printer.

**Nathan Lindsey**, '77, lives in Loma Linda, California, where he is a teacher. Nathan has also illustrated various medical textbooks.

**Jose Bourget**, '78, is co-executive director of Fundacion Mahatma Gandhi in Las Terrenas, Dominican Republic. He and his wife, Annette, started a community foundation, established the only library in town, and hold summer camps and reading olympics for community children.

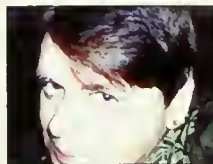


**Beverly (Benchina) Brett**, '78, lives in Highland, California. Beverly is an elementary school teacher and says that she loves to play with her grandchildren, Caden and Skylar.

# 80s

**Iris (Mavden) Shull**, '81, serves as the administrative assistant to the president at the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Maryland. She and her husband, David, are the parents of two sons: Matthew, who recently graduated from Highland View Academy, and Dennis, who recently graduated from Mt. Aetna Adventist Elementary School.

**Catherine (Linrud) Biggs**, '84, makes her home in Walla Walla, Washington, and works as the chief of prosthetics and sensory aids at the Jonathan M. Wainwright VA Medical Center.



**Steve**, attended, and **Shannon (Hale) Johnson**, '87 and '89, live in Harpswell, Maine, with their two children, Wynn, 13, and Haley, 11. After their son was diagnosed with autism, Steve designed and founded an online web application ([iAbida.com](http://iAbida.com)) to help manage the team that their son's needs demands.



# 90s

**Gayle (Koehn) Stevens**, '90, and her husband, John, and two daughters are moving back to Flint, Michigan, where Gayle is teaching at First Flint Adventist School.

**Robert Pittman**, '90, and his wife, Severine, welcomed the birth of their daughter, Emilie Michelle, on Thanksgiving 2007. Robert owns his own commercial litigation practice in Miami.



**Bob**, '90, and **Tanique (Wolfe) Cundiff**, '91, live in Raleigh, North Carolina. Bob is a pastor, and Tanique just completed anesthesia school.

**Evonne (Cottrell) Syvertson**, '91, lives in Colorado, where she spends her time as a full-time mom to her baby girl, Kierstin Antoinette. Evonne and her husband, Carl, are involved with Pathfinders and enjoy camping, backpacking, swimming, and canoeing.



**Quintin**, '92, and **Kimberly (Sigmon) Purvis**, '90, live with their two daughters, Katie and Kaila, in Lansing, Michigan. Quintin is pastor of the Lansing Adventist Church, and Kimberly is the Women's Ministries Director for the Michigan Conference.

**Luc**, '93, and **Anita (Gonzales) Sabot**, '94, have been missionaries in Dakar, Senegal, for the past three years. Luc is president of the Senegal/Mauritania Adventist Mission. On April 7, the couple welcomed a new baby daughter, Sophie Marie-Claude Sabot. Keep up with the Sabots by visiting their website at [blog.sabot.ca](http://blog.sabot.ca).



**David**, '94, and **Marquita (Counts) Klindedinst**, '94, have been married for 13 years and live in Lincoln, Nebraska, with their daughters, 4-year-old Melaney and baby Emiley. David served the Pennsylvania Conference as pastor/evangelist for 7½ years and has been personal ministries director for Christian Record Services in Lincoln, since 2005, when he initiated the creation of its personal ministries department. Marquita works on a contract basis as a registered nurse.

**Jeffrey Kovalski**, '95, recently graduated with his Juris Doctorate from Nashville School of Law. Jeffrey intends to practice consumer advocacy law in Tennessee. He is married and has two children: Katelyn and Parker.



**Dave Varner**, '95, is training to manage a group home in Pennsylvania. He and his wife have two children.

**Keely (Kuhlman) Tary**, '97, has returned to Southern to teach in the English Department. She is the fourth generation in her family to teach at Southern, among which were: her great-grandfather **Thomas Steen**, former Education and Psychology chair; great-grandmother **Margaret Steen**, former German and piano instructor; great-uncle **H. H. Kuhlman**, former biology professor; great-aunt **Ramira Steen**, former French professor; and her father, **Henry Kuhlman**, current physics professor.

**Nikki (Oakley) Getman**, '98, and her husband make their home in Allentown, Pennsylvania, with their sons: 3-year-old Owen and 1-year-old twins Carter and Chase.



**Rick Seidel**, '98, is finishing his doctorate at Miami University in Ohio. He and his wife, Irma, have a 3-year-old son, Hayden.

**Nicole (Kurzynske) Viccari**, '98, has completed her service to the U.S. Navy. She and her family plan to settle in Syracuse, New York, where Nicole will be doing a radiology residency. She welcomed a second son in September.



**Dan**, '98, and **Anita (Zinner) Bates**, '00, live in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Dan is looking forward to completing his master's in divinity from Andrews University in December, and Anita is a stay-at-home mom. They welcomed a third daughter into their family in July.

**Elisa Rahming**, '99, has been assistant treasurer at the Florida Conference since May 2007. Prior to that she worked as an accounting manager at BCD Travel and an auditor at KPMG International. She completed her MBA from Georgia State University in 2004.

# 00s

**Kerensa Anne Juniper**,

'01, lives in Cincinnati, where she does contract work for a textbook publisher.

**Jeremy**, '01, and **Marta (Grentz) Wetmore**, '01, welcomed the birth of their first child on February 1, 2007. The Wetmores live in Michigan.

**Marius**, '03, and **Sarah (Matthews) Asaftei**, '03, live in Marietta, Georgia. Marius is pastor for Outreach and Evangelism at the Marietta Adventist Church, and Sarah is assistant director of the Centre for Secular & Postmodern Studies and marketing director of tedMEDIA productions.

**Will Carroll**, '03, has completed a residency in adult internal medicine and taken a position as the director of clinical pharmacy programs at Marion General Hospital. He lives in Indianapolis, Indiana.

**Jyll (Taylor) Skinner**, '03, married Thomas in Aberdeen, Scotland, on October 6, 2007. She is continuing her Old Testament doctoral studies at King's College.

**Paul**, '04, and **Andrea (Vigh) Hoover**, '01, welcomed the birth of a daughter, Ava Jean, on April 2. Paul is director for the Florida Hospital Cancer Institute at two Florida Hospital locations (Ormond and Flagler). The Hoovers live in Ormond Beach.

**Boaz**, '04, and **LaRae (Coleman) Papendick**, '04, have both graduated from Loma Linda School of Public Health.

**Stacey (Beardsley) Rumsey**, '05, daughter of **David**, '69, and **Donnalene (Gerald) Beardsley**, '71, married **Tim**, son of **Greg**, '74, and **Shirley (Voss) Rumsey**, '74, on June 8.

**Brad**, '05, and **Jessica (Winters) Clifford**, '00, live in Loma Linda, California, where Jessica just completed her last year of medical school and is preparing to do a pediatrics residency.

**Jamey**, '05, and **Erin (Johns) Houghton**, '02, welcomed **Callie Michelle** into the world on August 10, 2007.

**Lorelei Winters**, '05, is a student in Loma Linda, California.

**Rob**, '06, and **Heather (Whitsett) Quigley**, '06, live near La Sierra University, where Heather has started work on her master's degree in administration and leadership for K-12 education.

**Daniel**, '06, and **Marla (Robberson) Treiyer**, '05 and '07, live in Loma Linda, California. Daniel is a medical student, and Marla works as a pediatric hematology/oncology nurse at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital.

**Seth**, '07, and **Melissa (Ekvall) Gillham**, '06, married in 2007. The couple live in Loma Linda, California, where Seth is a medical student studying orthopedic surgery, and Melissa is working as a nurse. They recently brought a new member into their family—a dog, Zander.

**Caleb Gillham**, '07, married **Tiffany Canther**, attended, on June 29. The couple live in Loma Linda, California, where they are both medical students.

**Aaron Seaman**, '08, is planning a move to northern Tennessee to be the assistant dean of Highland Academy.

## Remembrance

**Dewitt Bowen**, '42, died on January 13, and wife, **Josie (Newlon)**, attended, died on January 28. They are survived by son, **Bruce Bowen**, attended; daughter, **JoDee Bowen**, '84; and granddaughter, **Andrea (Bowen) Kennedy**, '95.

**John Keplinger**, '43, died on January 31. His wife, **Thyra (Bowen)**, '42, passed away several months later.

**Richard Stanley**, former chair of Southern's Office Administration Department, died on February 1. He is

survived by his wife, **Cora (Rohede) Stanley**, attended; sons, **Richard Stanley Jr.**, '71, and **Raymon Stanley**, attended; and daughter, **Kathy (Stanley) Mather**, '78, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**June (Thorpe) Blue**, '43, who served for years as So-Ju-Conian representative on Southern's Alumni Council, died on February 20. She is survived by her husband, **Clarence**, attended; son, **Clarence Blue**, '73; and daughters, **Ann (Blue) Shaffer**, '74, and **Janette Blue**, attended.

**Norman Peek**, '59, former chemistry professor and audio-visual director, passed away on February 24. He is survived by his wife, **Ava (Sunderland) Peek**, '57; daughter, **Charlene (Peek) Ponder**, '86; and son, **Daniel Peek**, attended.

**Burton Keppler**, '53, died March 6 from renal failure. He is survived by wife, **Dorothy (Parker)**, '51; daughters, **Susan (Keppler) Mullen**, attended, **Brenda (Keppler) Rodman**, '76, and **Karen Keppler**; and son, **Benjamin Keppler**, '91, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Cindy Robinette**, '91, a clinical lab assistant for Southern's School of Nursing, passed away on March 18. She is survived by her parents, **Judie** and **Gary Robinette**; grandmother, **Helene Robinette**; and sister, **Robin Rankin**.

**Gracie (Beaube) Pervis**, '40, died on March 3 in Palmetto, Florida. She is survived by her children, **Paul Jr.**, attended, and **Dorinda (Pervis) Schutte**, attended, as well as seven grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

**Minon Hamm**, '66, passed away on April 4. She taught English at Southern from 1966 to 1980. She is survived by her daughter, **Carol (Hamm) Sommerville**, '73, as well as grandchildren, **Jennifer (Sommerville) Colburn**, '99, and **Cort Sommerville**, '02.

**Alyce (Kelly) Robinson**, '89, passed away on February 10. She is survived by two daughters and a grandson.

**Opal (Miller) Payne**, '32, passed away in Lodi, California, on March 4.

**Arlene (Detamore) Dever**, '55, passed away on July 6. She is survived by her husband, **Homer**, '57, and daughters: **Lorna Dever**, '80; **Beth (Dever) Brandt**, '78 & '80; and **Rhonda Dever**, '85 & '89.

**Charles Elton Davis**, library director from 1968 to 1986, passed away on July 7. He is survived by his wife, **Francis**, and his son, **Eric**, '75.

**Thelma (Thomson) Hartwell**, '37, died on July 13. She is survived by her twin sister, **Ella (Thomson) Sorensen**, '37, two daughters: **Fran (Hartwell) Robertson**, '65, and **Kay (Hartwell) Carmicino**, '69; a son, **Ray Hartwell**, '78; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

**Thomas Campbell**, a former member of Southern's Board of Trustees, passed away on July 22.

Send your updates: *We'd love to hear from you (and so would your classmates).* Send your updates to COLUMNS Editor, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN, 37315-0370 or email [columns@southern.edu](mailto:columns@southern.edu).



# Finding My Purpose

by Natalia Lopez-Thismon, senior public relations major

My choice of major was tormenting me. Though I enjoyed public relations, I didn't want to use my life to make more money for some rich individual or corporation, and I couldn't imagine what else I could do with my chosen degree.

I normally make small, everyday decisions very quickly and confidently. When I was 9 years old, I decided that I would be on the honor roll by the end of the semester, even though I spoke no English, and I did that. I do what I set my mind to do. I've never felt indecisive, so when doubt came into my mind about something as big as my career choice, I was frightened to say the least.

So I set out assertively to Southern Adventist University's Counseling and Testing Center to take aptitude and personality tests in order to find out what I *should* study instead.

## A Life-Changing Class

Life went on after I took all of the tests that would determine the rest of my career life. On a normal Tuesday afternoon, I headed to a conference room in Talge Hall where we had History of the Holocaust class.

That day, we talked about the inaction of the surrounding communities and the world. The people in the communities around Auschwitz and Dachau saw Jews being taken to the local concentration camps in cramped train wagons daily and never saw them come out. They saw the smoke expelled from the gas chambers, but no one ever dared to ask why. The newspapers in the United States thought the stories of death camps were exaggerated, so they didn't cover them. It wasn't until the end of WWII that the Allies went into concentration camps, in part because the purpose of the camps was generally unknown.

Unknown? I pondered.

Yes, unknown to most of the world, because the people in the vicinity decided to do nothing about it. Unknown because the majority of the world decided to ignore what reports there were. Unknown because no one with authority was brave enough to speak up.

## Overwhelming Frustration

As I thought about what we had learned in class that day, I felt frustrated and motivated to do something about it. It was a feeling so strong that I didn't know how to describe it. I would later learn it's called "holy

discontent" when something that is probably breaking God's heart also breaks the heart of someone who loves Him. God was using this frustration to get me to right a wrong.

After class that afternoon, I made my way to Brock Hall and to the office of the School of Journalism and Communication.

"I'm so frustrated," I told Professor Lynn Caldwell, with my face between my hands. I shared my desire to change my major to something where I would be serving the greater good and how I wanted to do things about injustices such as the Holocaust.

"Are you part of American Humanities?" Caldwell asked, telling me about the national program that certifies professionals to lead nonprofit organizations. I had heard of the program and of the field, but I had never considered the possibility.

## Speaking Up

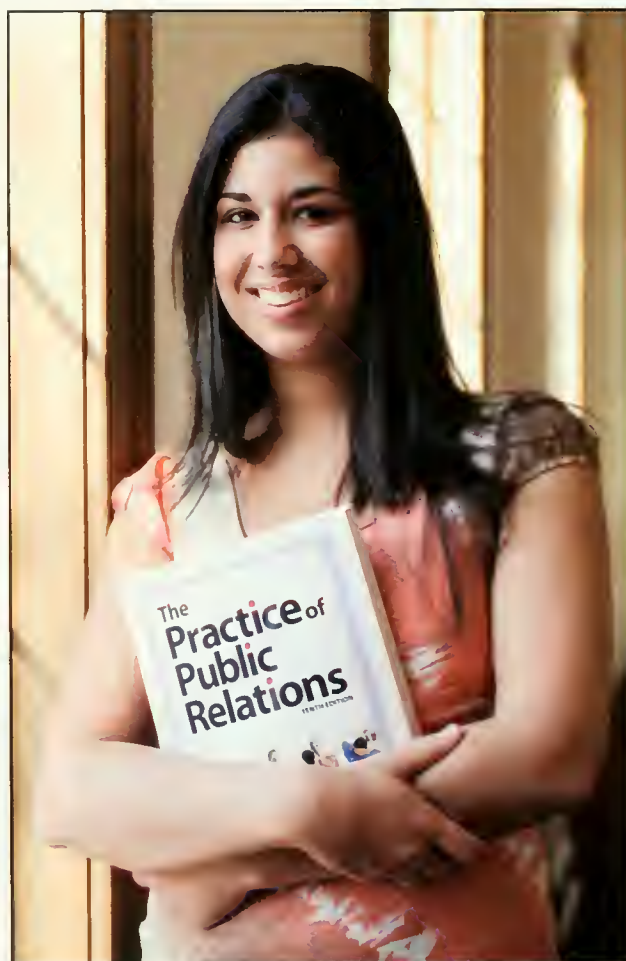
I woke up the next morning ready to receive my test results. I got on my knees next to my bed and cried out to God. Knowing what to do with my life was a huge decision—I just wanted to make the right one. I got ready and stopped by the Counseling and Testing Center. With shaking hands, I opened the envelopes that would tell me what I'd do for the rest of my life. When I arrived at the page with career choices for my personality, I said another prayer and made my way to the list. The first thing I saw was: "1. Public Relations specialist."

I laughed and sighed in relief.

In that moment, everything began

to fall into place. I could live a life of service with my public relations degree. In His infinite wisdom, God gave me exactly what I need to serve Him, and in this case it is public relations skills.

This summer, I started speaking out by working with the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation to help plan the fifth annual Youth Assembly for the United Nations, which trains young people to be the future leaders to help end the world's injustices. Doing work like this, I feel satisfied that I am doing everything in my power so that wrongs like the Holocaust are never kept secret again. ✧



A history class helped Natalia Lopez-Thismon learn that she could practice public relations while fulfilling her God-given life mission.



Gym-masters Girls' Captain Leah Bermudez and Assistant Coach Scott Spicer, '02, practice in the Hulsey Wellness Center's Gym-Masters gymnasium, providing a glimpse of what you can expect to see at Homecoming 2008. A grand opening for the completed wellness center will be Sunday, October 26. PHOTOGRAPHER: Eric Stenbakken



# fit for eternity

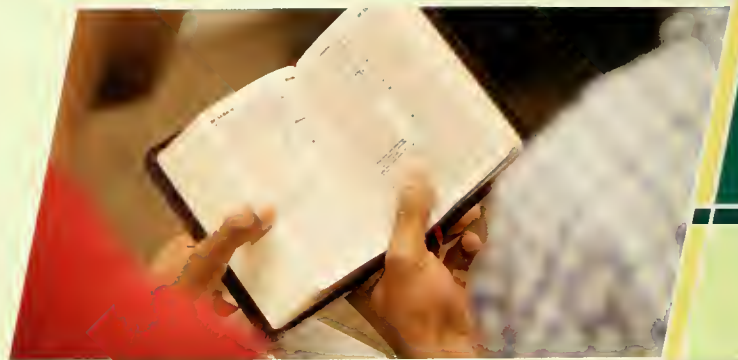
Alumni Homecoming Weekend 2008, Oct. 23-26



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**Run into old friends** from your college days.  
**Jump for joy** at the sight of the new Hulsey Wellness Center.

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- Vespers with Bill Tucker, '68
- Church with Ken Rogers, '78
- Sacred Concert with Todd, '83, and Lisa (Howe) Parrish, '84
- Gym-Masters/Gymnastics Reunion Show
- Southern Shuffle
- Antique and Classic Car Show
- Hulsey Wellness Center Grand Opening
- and much more



For more information, visit [alumni.southern.edu](http://alumni.southern.edu) or call Alumni Relations at **423.236.2830**.



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