125 Years of Changing the World
Meet 125 Southern alumni who have made a difference | page 10
More than 50,000 individuals have attended Southern, and each has uniquely impacted the world. In honor of Southern’s 125th anniversary, here are 125 Southern alumni who made a difference in the world.

From pulling weeds to grading papers, student workers are an integral part of Southern. Not all jobs are glamorous, but each one gives students the opportunity to gain valuable experience.

One of the fastest-growing hobbies in North America, birding wouldn’t be what it is today without the influence of several Southern alumni.

Southern is able to offer scholarships to a majority of students, thanks to a variety of generous gifts—from estate planning and endowed funds to corporate sponsorships.
Southern believes in opening doors so more and more young people can enroll to experience the life-changing environment that leads to personal transformation and readiness for careers, ministry, and service.

Braxton Young, junior computer systems administration major, visited some of the highlights of the greater Chattanooga area, sharing them in alphabetical order.

“Oldest baby getting on a plane to @SouthernNews for a college scouting trip. Where have the years gone?”
— Joan Breonstra, associate speaker for the Voice of Prophecy and author, @southernusa

“It’s nice to see the students of @southern Adventist University clearing the park on this national holiday. #MLKDAY”
— Jason Hipscat, community member, @jaclyn_hipscat

“Just got to talk with a @SouthernNews alum who worked on Project Gemini, Surveyor Program, and other ‘classified things.’ How cool!”
— Kenny Tangan, ’08, Advancement employee, @k_tangan88

“Puerto Rico: Day 6. First school performance and also a nice evening concert. #orchestra”
— Thyrell Smith, sophomore marketing major, with Amanda Reed, junior psychology major, @thyrell_smith

“On the last day of VBS, the 50+ Peruvian children rushed all of us, screaming ‘GRACIAS!’ and gave us all hugs…. The biggest thing of all was that these children were so happy. They lived in shacks the size of my room…. The happiest children I’ve ever met. I’d go back to Peru all over again just for the children.”
— Mia Spicer, junior nursing major, @mauvelousmia

“Student Name, ‘00
Alicia (Wood) Harding, ’05
Harding recently moved to Riverside Farm Walmart. Okay, just for produce. I miss this produce! Better than a Super Walmart. Okay, just for produce. I miss my Valentine made me a delicious home-cooked Peruvian meal
My Valentine made me a delicious home-cooked Peruvian meal
— Abner Sanchez, attended, and Edely Sanchez, ’09

Connect with Southern Adventist University:

website: southern.edu
You Tube: youtube.com/SouthernAdventistUniversity
Facebook: facebook.com/SouthernAdventistUniversity
twitter: twitter.com/SouthernNews
instagram: instagram.com/SouthernAdventistUniversity

For more than a century, Southern’s students, employees, and alumni have prioritized serving others, making it a way of life. From everyday activities such as helping an elderly neighbor to larger-scale events such as going on a mission trip, each person becomes the hands and feet of Jesus to the world. In celebration of Southern’s 106th anniversary, the university aims to collect a total of 125,000 hours of service by the end of 2017. All are welcome to contribute. Visit southern.edu/125 to participate and check progress.

“Just got to talk with a @SouthernNews alum who worked on Project Gemini, Surveyor Program, and other ‘classified things.’ How cool!”
— Kenny Tangan, ’08, Advancement employee, @k_tangan88
Nursing Simulations Provide Real-World Experience

Beginning last year, Southern’s School of Nursing added an additional type of simulation to its curriculum: an intensive care unit (ICU) multiprofessional interprofessional collaborative practice simulation. This learning experience includes undergraduate students from nursing, theology, and pre-med, as well as social work and acute care nurse practitioner graduate students.

“Simulation is an excellent way to provide real-life experiences in a safe environment,” said Barbara (Davis) James, PhD, ’75, dean of the School of Nursing. During this interprofessional simulation, students take what they learned in the classroom and apply it in the skills lab, which is transformed into an eight-bed ICU with mannequins and volunteer “patients.” To make the experience as real as possible, additional chaos and complexities surrounding the patients’ families is integrated into the training. Students complete three-hour shifts, which include an orientation, the hands-on simulation, and a thorough debriefing. During the hands-on segment, nursing students provide care for their “patients” while the acute care nurse practitioners and pre-med students make rounds and order diagnostic tests and treatments.

Social work graduate students act as case managers, patients, and family members, and theology majors offer spiritual support.

“The simulation was critical to my development of rapid assessment and critical thinking skills in an ICU setting,” said Katie Mayfield, junior nursing major. “Working in a hospital environment can be intimidating because you’re handling the lives of real people, while the simulation lab allows for a helpful ‘safe space.’”

After conducting two simulations of this kind, the School of Nursing hosted the local chapter of the Tennessee Organization of Nursing (TONE) and showed a video of the simulation. The group congratulated Southern on this innovative and high-tech teaching methodology.

“I was greatly impressed by the operation, the multiple layers of complexity and people, and the depth of the disease processes covered,” said William Crowe, president of TONE.

Southern’s nursing faculty plan to continue these simulations every semester due to the positive outcomes and the rave reviews from students.

“Simulation-enhanced intra- and interprofessional education provides a powerful opportunity for students to engage in patient care in cooperation with other health professionals,” James said. “We are pleased and proud to provide such relevant interactive experiences for our students.”

The fully-accredited School of Nursing enrolls more than 1,200 students pursuing degrees ranging from associate to doctorate.

—Oksana Wetmore

During simulations, Southern’s nursing students face real-life scenarios in an ICU setting.

Southern Offers New Political Science Major

Students interested in law and government careers will soon have a major tailored for them. Southern’s History and Political Studies Department will begin offering a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science this fall.

Professor and chair of the department, Kris Erskine, PhD, said many students have expressed an ongoing interest in the major.

“The department as a whole is excited,” Erskine said. “This is such a fundamental part of what a department like ours should offer.”

Political science was previously available only as a minor. This new major will equip students with a wide range of skills, not only sharpening their critical thinking and analytical aptitude, but also advancing their ability to communicate verbally and through writing.

Students will engage in core political science classes while further enriching their learning in a specific area of their choice, including political theory, American politics, comparative politics, or international relations.

Shannon Martin, assistant professor of both political studies and global community development, said the areas of focus are designed with the students’ futures in mind. After graduation, students will be equipped to work nationally and internationally or to further their education through graduate school.

Martin said the department conducted extensive research while creating and developing the degree. By comparing political science programs offered at other private and public universities, the faculty sought to create a competitive and holistic program for Southern students.

—Jeffrey Martin

The faculty sought to create a competitive and holistic program for Southern students.

by the numbers

58,124
Total graduates and attendees of Southern Adventist University since 1892

216
Boxes of Cracker Jacks handed out on January 25 (1925) in celebration of Southern’s 150th anniversary

3,850
Hours of service given during Southern’s MLK Community Service Day

36
Varieties of vegetarian meat substitutes served on campus

9,654
Student check-ins at Hulsey Wellness Center during the month of January

72
Hours spent reading the entire Bible out loud during Ancient Wars Marathon
Interactions with David Nelsen, PhD, assistant professor in the Biology Department, leave an impression on students. Inspired by the care he showed them, both in and out of the classroom, a group of six junior biology majors—Pablo Huerfano, Aaron Keiser, Nicholas McCall, Gus Moretta, Alphie Rotinsulu, and Gus Suarez—found a way to give back to the professor who had given so much of himself to them.

Student Guide

While in the classroom, Nelsen views himself as a guide rather than a teacher. He believes that students learn the most during quiet study time and, therefore, the professor’s job is to provide the student with the necessary tools to succeed.

“I present the information with plenty of examples and connect new knowledge to previous knowledge using practical application,” Nelsen said.

Prior to teaching at Southern, Nelsen studied at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where he received a degree in biology. He then studied at Loma Linda University (LLU), where he received his doctorate in biology. While at LLU he focused his attention on the study of spiders and venom, particularly black widows and how they utilize their venom. Nelsen developed a love for research that he hoped to one day share with his students. Shortly after graduating from LLU, Nelsen accepted a job at Southern.

“It was a dream come true,” Nelsen said.

Making Connections

During his first year at Southern, Nelsen taught general biology as well as a general biology lab. He believes that students learn the most during quiet study time and, therefore, the professor’s job is to provide the student with the necessary tools to succeed.

“I present the information with plenty of examples and connect new knowledge to previous knowledge using practical application,” Nelsen said.

Prior to teaching at Southern, Nelsen studied at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where he received a degree in biology. He then studied at Loma Linda University (LLU), where he received his doctorate in biology. While at LLU he focused his attention on the study of spiders and venom, particularly black widows and how they utilize their venom. Nelsen developed a love for research that he hoped to one day share with his students. Shortly after graduating from LLU, Nelsen accepted a job at Southern.

“It was a dream come true,” Nelsen said.

Giving Back

As Huerfano, Keiser, McCall, Moretta, Rotinsulu, and Suarez talked with Nelsen at the beginning of this school year, they learned that his wife would be having a second child in January of 2017. They decided that they wanted to give him a very special gift.

“We wanted to show our appreciation for him as well as congratulate him on his new baby girl,” Keiser said. As college students without much money to spend on a gift for the baby, they decided to give him the gift of their time, as Nelsen had previously done for them.

The young men stopped by Nelson’s office, bringing with them a box of diapers and a card. Inside the card was a coupon book with vouchers for two free hours of babysitting from each of them.

“It was really cool of them to do that,” Nelsen said. “My wife was very happy and excited, since she knows most of the guys who offered their child-care services.”

The Nelsens’ daughter, Olivine, was born on January 15. Since she is still a newborn, the new parents are choosing to wait to redeem their coupons from the students until she is older. However, the young men continue to approach Nelsen, excitedly asking about when their services will be needed.

As Nelsen has become more involved in the Biology Department at Southern, he is thrilled to not only get to know students and fellow professors, but also to share his passion for science and research. He recently started a medical toxicology class in which he and his students study venom and poison. Nelsen continues to show Christ’s love through his interactions with students, and in return, they are paying it forward.
More than 50,000 individuals have attended Southern, and each has uniquely impacted the world. From working in the White House to teaching first-graders, from serving as healthcare administrators to building tiny homes, each has left an important mark. In honor of Southern’s 125th anniversary, here are 125 Southern alumni who made a difference in the world.

**Rochelle (Phimon) Kilgore, 1904**
A pioneer in Adventist elementary education in the South and in Nebraska, she also spent 25 years at Atlantic Union College, where she guided the English Department, directed the school’s job placement service, and worked closely with its alumni association.

**John Francis Wright, 1911**
First a minister and evangelist, he became a lifelong church leader, serving as president of the Alabama and North Texas conferences, president of the Cape Conference in South Africa, president of the Southern African Division, and later as a vice-president of the General Conference.

**Robert Ellsworth Cowdrick, 1923**
With many years of experience in horticulture, he served on the committee that created the Adventist hymnal that debuted at the 1985 General Conference Session. He also contributed to the Companion to the Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal.

**Robert H. Pierson, 1933**
For 46 years he ministered around the world in various church roles, including as the General Conference president; he also wrote hundreds of articles and about 30 books.

**Lettie (Sibley) Collins, 1936**
She spent more than 25 years as a missionary teacher in Colombia, Guatemala, and Puerto Rico.

**Charles E. Aebi, 1939**
As a public educator, he traveled to 49 states and 79 foreign countries.

**Pierce Jones Moore, Jr., 1939**
The governor of North Carolina honored him with The Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award in 2011 for his record of extraordinary community service.

**Elise (Landon) Buck, 1941**
Dedicating her life to music education, she championed the use of music as part of multicultural education in Russia and China. She was also president of the International Adventist Musicians Association (IAM) from 1992 to 2009 and was elected to the National Guild of Piano Teachers Hall of Fame.

**Pansy (Parker) Dameron, 1944**
For her dedication as a teacher and principal, she was elected to the Education Hall of Fame in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**Anna Ruth (King), 1926 and O.D. McKee, 1928**
The couple founded McKee Baking Company in 1904, which eventually became the nation’s largest independently owned snack cake company.

**Frank Jobe, 1929**
A pioneer in taking the Adventist message to the South and in Nebraska, he also spent 25 years at Atlantic Union College, where he guided the English Department, directed the school’s job placement service, and worked closely with its alumni association.

**Mary Elam, 1951**
As the registrar at Southern from 1953 to 1993, she established the department of Institutional Effectiveness and Research on campus and advocated for women in leadership and management positions.

**P. William “Bill” Dysinger, 1951**
After working with Native Americans in Montana and Arizona, he served the U.S. State Department in Cambodia. He then spent 28 years in teaching and administration at Loma Linda University, where he helped found the School of Public Health. He was the first physician to advise the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) on its health programs around the world, and he has visited more than 160 nations.

I n the spring of 1892, 23 students took their seats in a rented room above the general store in Graysville, Tennessee, for the first time. Though small, this class marked the beginning of what is today Southern Adventist University. Many things have changed in the last 125 years, but the core values of placing God first, nurturing students, and serving others have never wavered.
Robert E. Bowers, 1957—Recognized by the Chattanooga Trial Lawyers Association for his “outstanding and unselfish contributions” to improve public health and access to healthcare in his community, he created a program that provides healthcare services donated by more than 500 doctors to the underserved and uninsured in Hamilton County. A retired orthopaedic surgeon, he was president of the Tennessee Medical Association and the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Medical Society.

Harold Johnson, 1958—For decades he served as a volunteer chaplain at Florida Hospital in Avon Park, Florida, and for Civil Air Patrol units. He also produced a weekly evangelistic radio program that aired in his community for a number of years.

Juanita (Jones) Hamil, 1958—She published an inspirational book, From the Daughter of the King, as well as a children’s book, Free Birdies. Her work as an artist, author, graphics technician, and fine-arts painter has been featured in magazines, books, and syndicated columns for many years.

Donald Hall, 1961—After earning a doctorate in physics and a master’s degree in music, he blended the two passions and became a painter and produced a television program with her husband called “Windows of Hope” and served as the mini-series coordinator for The Quiet Hour. He also served as a vice consular at the U.S. embassy in Kigali, Rwanda, for two years.

Bill Wood, 1966—He directed youth camps throughout the North American Division before serving as the NAD Youth Ministries director.

Robert Potts, 1966—An influence in higher education, he served as chancellor of Arkansas State University, chancellor of the North Dakota University System, and president of the University of Alabama.

Susan (Rozell) Pettibone, 1966—She taught in India before serving as a missionary in Africa for 32 years with her husband, Don.

Allen Steele, 1967—After pioneering Adventist World Radio, he was elected chairman of International Communications Research for Evangelization, a consortium of Christian broadcasters.

Gary Cunelly, 1967—Besides providing pastoral care for more than 1,000 members scarred in 12 military wars, he also served as a director in the office of the Chief of Chaplains at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

Phil Garven, 1970—He was active in denominational service as a health and physical educator included teaching at Southern for 37 years as dean of the School of Physical Education, Health, and Wellness.

Vikki (Heath) Murphy, attended “Outstanding Business Woman of the Year” in 2001 by the American Business Women’s Association and “City of Orange Citizen of the Year” in 2004, she also received the “Good Scout” award from the Boy Scouts of America.

Jim Herman, 1967—He established and organized the Student Missions program for Southern and served as a pastor for many years.

Edwin M. Shafer, 1968—With more than 20 years as bishop of the Adventist Church, he was internationally renowned for treatments and cures of tropical diseases and has been honored by James Hopkins, Loma Linda University School of Medicine, and the American Public Health Association.

Dwight Nelson, 1973—He is senior pastor of Pioneer Memorial Church in Barrie, Ontario.

Carl Pedersen, 1974—As vice president for finance and technology at radio station WLU, he oversees all fundraising, alumni relations, and technical systems. In 1994 he received the Corporation for Public Broadcasting’s Program Gold Award for Outstanding Technical Achievement, the highest public radio award given.

Eva Lynne (Zollinger) Disbro, 1974—McKee Foods’ vice president for human resources for more than 20 years, she broke a 96-year tradition when in 1998 she was named the first woman to chair the board of Chattanooga Manufacturing Association, the oldest group of its kind in the nation.

William B. Broome II, 1974—As a military chaplain at the Pentagon, he ministered to the nation’s top military commanders, regardless of denomination or beliefs.

Dave Weigley, 1977—He is president of the Columbia University Conference and chair of Washington Adventist University’s Board of Trustees.

Tom Fogg, 1977—With more than 40 years of denominational service, he is currently the principal A.P. Whaling Elementary School in Collegedale.

Robert Benge, 1977—Currently dean of Southern’s School of Physical Education, Health, and Wellness, he has served for 40 years as a health and physical educator.

Becky (Norskov) Weigley, attended the Southern Union College in 1981, and she and her husband, Dave, ‘77, were the first American evangelists to visit Russia in more than 70 years. They led a team conducting meetings in seven large cities along the Volga River.

Jim Ingersoll, 1973—He served as an educational associate director for secondary education on the Southern Union and aided in the development and implementation of the Adventist EDGE initiative.

Darryl and Cheryl (Stuyvesant) Hosford, 1989 and 1985—Their Hosford Web Service designed the Net ’98 website as well as the Youth Bible Lessons online.

Kevin Rice, 1986—With more than 20 years of experience, he runs his own ophthalmology practice in Memphis, Tennessee.

Jeffrey Kuhman, 1983—He worked as a White House physician, serving George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

Ron Bunch, 1983—As a student at Southern, he began faking computers, eventually opening ComputerConnection in Chattanooga.

Rhonda Jeannine Hanson, 1984—Taught Bible and English at Hope Adventist Academy and bible colleges in Moscow, Russia, where she worked with the International Teachers Service of the General Conference.

Donna (Lynn) Lee, 1985—Partner in the civil defense firm Tan-Wagner LLP in Portland, Oregon, where she defends physicians, nurses, dentists, chiropractors, dentists, pathologic doctors, and other healthcare providers in malpractice lawsuits.

Terry Cantrell, 1985—He has traveled the world as an international producer/director for WJLA, producer/director of ASI Video Magazine, and line producer for its WJLA Television, Breath of Life, Lifestyle Magazine, Voice of Prophecy, and many other programs and series.

Kevin Davis, 1986—As you can imagine, he’s been all over the world as an international producer/director for WJLA, producer/director of ASI Video Magazine, and line producer for its WJLA Television, Breath of Life, Lifestyle Magazine, Voice of Prophecy, and many other programs and series.

Jeffrey Kuhman, 1983—He worked as a White House physician, serving George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

Ron Bunch, 1983—As a student at Southern, he began faking computers, eventually opening ComputerConnection in Chattanooga.

Rhonda Jeannine Hanson, 1984—Taught Bible and English at Hope Adventist Academy and bible colleges in Moscow, Russia, where she worked with the International Teachers Service of the General Conference.

Donna (Lynn) Lee, 1985—Partner in the civil defense firm Tan-Wagner LLP in Portland, Oregon, where she defends physicians, nurses, dentists, chiropractors, dentists, pathologic doctors, and other healthcare providers in malpractice lawsuits.

Terry Cantrell, 1985—He has traveled the world as an international producer/director for WJLA, producer/director of ASI Video Magazine, and line producer for its WJLA Television, Breath of Life, Lifestyle Magazine, Voice of Prophecy, and many other programs and series.

Kevin Davis, 1986—As you can imagine, he’s been all over the world as an international producer/director for WJLA, producer/director of ASI Video Magazine, and line producer for its WJLA Television, Breath of Life, Lifestyle Magazine, Voice of Prophecy, and many other programs and series.

Jeffrey Kuhman, 1983—He worked as a White House physician, serving George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

Ron Bunch, 1983—As a student at Southern, he began faking computers, eventually opening ComputerConnection in Chattanooga.

Rhonda Jeannine Hanson, 1984—Taught Bible and English at Hope Adventist Academy and bible colleges in Moscow, Russia, where she worked with the International Teachers Service of the General Conference.

Donna (Lynn) Lee, 1985—Partner in the civil defense firm Tan-Wagner LLP in Portland, Oregon, where she defends physicians, nurses, dentists, chiropractors, dentists, pathologic doctors, and other healthcare providers in malpractice lawsuits.

Terry Cantrell, 1985—He has traveled the world as an international producer/director for WJLA, producer/director of ASI Video Magazine, and line producer for its WJLA Television, Breath of Life, Lifestyle Magazine, Voice of Prophecy, and many other programs and series.

Kevin Davis, 1986—As you can imagine, he’s been all over the world as an international producer/director for WJLA, producer/director of ASI Video Magazine, and line producer for its WJLA Television, Breath of Life, Lifestyle Magazine, Voice of Prophecy, and many other programs and series.

Jeffrey Kuhman, 1983—He worked as a White House physician, serving George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

Ron Bunch, 1983—As a student at Southern, he began faking computers, eventually opening ComputerConnection in Chattanooga.

Rhonda Jeannine Hanson, 1984—Taught Bible and English at Hope Adventist Academy and bible colleges in Moscow, Russia, where she worked with the International Teachers Service of the General Conference.

Donna (Lynn) Lee, 1985—Partner in the civil defense firm Tan-Wagner LLP in Portland, Oregon, where she defends physicians, nurses, dentists, chiropractors, dentists, pathologic doctors, and other healthcare providers in malpractice lawsuits.

Terry Cantrell, 1985—He has traveled the world as an international producer/director for WJLA, producer/director of ASI Video Magazine, and line producer for its WJLA Television, Breath of Life, Lifestyle Magazine, Voice of Prophecy, and many other programs and series.

Kevin Davis, 1986—As you can imagine, he’s been all over the world as an international producer/director for WJLA, producer/director of ASI Video Magazine, and line producer for its WJLA Television, Breath of Life, Lifestyle Magazine, Voice of Prophecy, and many other programs and series.
Christopher Hulin, 1991 – He serves as dean and program director at Middle Tennessee State University’s School of Anesthesia located in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Mark McKenzie, 1991 – As a medical doctor, patients have sought his care at The McKenzie Center for Internal Medicine in Chattanooga, Tennessee, for 15 years.

Franklin Farrow, 1993 – Co-founder of Independent Healthcare Properties, LLC, he was named Chattanooga’s “Outstanding Philanthropist” by the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

James Dittes, 1993 – One of 80 educators nationwide to be chosen as a national fellow with America Achieves Fellowship for Teachers and Principals, he served a 2014–2015 fellowship with Teachers for Global Classrooms and blogs regularly about teaching ideas, the paperless classroom, and education issues.

Luc Sobot, 1993 – He recently served as APIA country director in Laos and has also served that role in Georgia and Timor-Leste.

Paul Evans, 1993 – Director of the Intelligent Systems division at Southwest Research Institute, he helped develop a robotic device for a NASA project called SEFlow, which aided scientists in exploring what is beneath the ice layer on Europa, the sixth moon of Jupiter.

Joseph Eunkwan Choi, 1995 – As a Hollywood brand strategist, she wrote the book One Face: Shed the Mask, Own Your Value, and Lead Wisely.

Joseph Eunkwan Choi, 1995 – As a Hollywood brand strategist, she wrote the book One Face: Shed the Mask, Own Your Value, and Lead Wisely.

John P. Sterner, 2001 – As a freelance voice actor, he has provided character vocal work for a variety of animated and live-action projects, including Moana, Wreck-It Ralph, Big Hero 6, including Inside Out, and Frozen.

Hans von Walter, 2012 – While a biochemistry major at Southern, he planned third in the Jeopardy! College Championship, taking home $25,000 in cash winnings.

Jason Neufeld, 2010 – While a student at Southern, he created five line applications to teach music theory and skills. He sold more than 40,000 apps, including a popular fretboard trainer app that reached the top 150 overall paid apps distinction. He now works at Google as a senior software engineer.

Julie Vincent, 2012 – She is the chief nursing officer for Kettering AdventHealth Care.

A. Allan Martin, 1990 – As an associate professor at Andrews University, he received the National Council on Family Relations’ Certified Family Life Educator designation.

Jeff Grange, 1990 – President and CEO of Symons Ambulance in Southern California and associate professor of emergency medicine at Loma Linda University Medical Center, he invented Advanced Emergency Geographic Information System (AEGIS), which lets emergency service professionals check traffic and weather and see which hospitals are accepting patients and where helicopters and ambulances are located.

Christopher Hulin, 1991 – He serves as dean and program director at Middle Tennessee State University’s School of Anesthesia located in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Mark McKenzie, 1991 – As a medical doctor, patients have sought his care at The McKenzie Center for Internal Medicine in Chattanooga, Tennessee, for 15 years.

Franklin Farrow, 1993 – Co-founder of Independent Healthcare Properties, LLC, he was named Chattanooga’s “Outstanding Philanthropist” by the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

James Dittes, 1993 – One of 80 educators nationwide to be chosen as a national fellow with America Achieves Fellowship for Teachers and Principals, he served a 2014–2015 fellowship with Teachers for Global Classrooms and blogs regularly about teaching ideas, the paperless classroom, and education issues.

Luc Sobot, 1993 – He recently served as APIA country director in Laos and has also served that role in Georgia and Timor-Leste.

Paul Evans, 1993 – Director of the Intelligent Systems division at Southwest Research Institute, he helped develop a robotic device for a NASA project called SEFlow, which aided scientists in exploring what is beneath the ice layer on Europa, the sixth moon of Jupiter.

Joseph Eunkwan Choi, 1995 – As a Hollywood brand strategist, she wrote the book One Face: Shed the Mask, Own Your Value, and Lead Wisely.

Joseph Eunkwan Choi, 1995 – As a Hollywood brand strategist, she wrote the book One Face: Shed the Mask, Own Your Value, and Lead Wisely.

John P. Sterner, 2001 – As a freelance voice actor, he has provided character vocal work for a variety of animated and live-action projects, including Moana, Wreck-It Ralph, Big Hero 6, including Inside Out, and Frozen.

Hans von Walter, 2012 – While a biochemistry major at Southern, he placed third in the Jeopardy! College Championship, taking home $25,000 in cash winnings. Later he was a successful contestant on both Who Wants to be a Millionaire and Wheel of Fortune. He graduated in 2016 from Loma Linda Medical School.

Hai Vu, 2014 – He is a senior Android developer for DJI, a leading consumer electronics company.

Jamie Howell, 2014 – She started a one-woman school on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

Dillan Forsey, 2015 – As a freelance filmmaker, he was the producer for The Grey, a short film that took home Best in Fest and Best Dramatic Short from the SOnScreen Film Festival.

Seth Hill, 2016 – Founder of SWAYY® Insulated Hammocks, he also co-founded Adventurer Mountain Missions, which uses innovation to reach the mountainous regions of the world with the Good News.

Note: This information is accurate to the best of our knowledge and is not intended to be comprehensive. Everyone has a story to share, and we would love to hear yours. Email columns@adventhealth.edu or call 423.245.2056.
From pulling weeds to grading papers, student workers are an integral part of Southern. The university employs at least half of the student body in approximately 1,250 jobs. Not all jobs are glamorous, but each one gives students the opportunity to gain valuable experience.  

Sierra Emilaire
Southern Accent Editor
While most people on campus are asleep at 2 a.m., Sierra Emilaire is usually fully alert. She reads, catches the latest news, and finalizing content for the Southern Accent. Emilaire, junior English major, is editor-in-chief for the Accent. As such, she manages a team of student writers, editors, designers, and photographers as they produce the weekly student newspaper. Emilaire aims to capture and report the moments that people might otherwise miss. “It is worth the stress and the sleepless nights because we are the student voice,” Emilaire said. “This is also laying a foundation for my future career.”

With Emilaire’s passion for news editing and her strong work ethic, she has poored herself into the editor role. In the process she has learned that “a positive work environment produces positive results.” — by Michael Steinke

Stephen Wade
Software Programmer for CIRC
Every day Stephen Wade, senior computer systems administration major, gains real-world experience as he writes software for Southern’s Center for Innovation and Research in Computing (CIRC). The center’s goal is to enhance student learning by engaging in development projects for actual clients.

With his laptop, Wade could work from anywhere, but he mostly chooses to work in the School of Computing with his boss, Michael Babienko, CIRC lead programmer and analyst.

“I appreciate that CIRC allows me to learn on the job,” Wade said. Whenever he runs into a snag, he is able to take time to research a solution or ask Babienko for assistance.

“What I really enjoy about working for CIRC is that every project I finish is going to be used and appreciated,” Wade said. “Once I graduate, I will have experience writing software and will understand project management.” — by Abigail King

Delaney Harris
Head Lifeguard at Hulsey Wellness Center
Unlike many college students, Delaney Harris, sophomore psychology and missions double major and lifeguard at the Hulsey Wellness Center, has had the same job since her junior year of high school.

Her interest in water safety began at the age of 8. Harris was on her cousin’s back in a pool and, without warning, he tossed her off. Harris thrashed around and quickly figured out how to keep herself afloat. Her mother then arranged her own pool, and quickly figured out how to keep herself afloat. Her mother then arranged for formal swim lessons, starting her down the road to becoming a lifeguard.

“I’m really glad she did, because now I am the head lifeguard at the pool, and I love my job,” Harris said. “It’s so much fun!”

As head lifeguard, Harris’ duties include watching those in the pool and on the deck, maintaining the facilities, and interacting with visitors. Harris also enjoys teaching swim lessons.

“I like watching people’s faces light up when they learn a new stroke,” Harris said. “The responsibilities of that job have taught me leadership skills and so much more.” — by Tierra Hayes

Diadem De Guzman
Tutor at Spalding Elementary School
Teachers at A.W. Spalding Elementary School may refer to her as an “angel,” but Diadem De Guzman is just doing her job. As a junior elementary education major, she tutors second-grade and third-grade students.

This job not only provides De Guzman with opportunities to put her college classes into practice, but it also prepares her to work in the education field after graduation. For example, the math methods course that she is currently taking teaches her different strategies to effectively explain math problems to students.

“Working as a student dean allows me to minister to the guys, and it’s very rewarding.” — by Oksana Wemore

Jeremy Holt
Talge Hall Student Dean
Jeremy Holt, senior business administration and pre-dentistry major, is the Talge Hall Student Dean.

Jeremy keeps an eye out for students that working in a healthcare setting is “too low” for a person to do. As a problem solver, he has learned how to handle it. “It is worth the stress and the sleepless nights because we are the student voice,” Emilaire said. “This is also laying a foundation for my future career.”

With Emilaire’s passion for news editing and her strong work ethic, she has poored herself into the editor role. In the process she has learned that “a positive work environment produces positive results.” — by Michael Steinke

Stephen Wade
Software Programmer for CIRC
Every day Stephen Wade, senior computer systems administration major, gains real-world experience as he writes software for Southern’s Center for Innovation and Research in Computing (CIRC). The center’s goal is to enhance student learning by engaging in development projects for actual clients.

With his laptop, Wade could work from anywhere, but he mostly chooses to work in the School of Computing with his boss, Michael Babienko, CIRC lead programmer and analyst.

“I appreciate that CIRC allows me to learn on the job,” Wade said. Whenever he runs into a snag, he is able to take time to research a solution or ask Babienko for assistance.

“What I really enjoy about working for CIRC is that every project I finish is going to be used and appreciated,” Wade said. “Once I graduate, I will have experience writing software and will understand project management.” — by Abigail King

Delaney Harris
Head Lifeguard at Hulsey Wellness Center
Unlike many college students, Delaney Harris, sophomore psychology and missions double major and lifeguard at the Hulsey Wellness Center, has had the same job since her junior year of high school.

Her interest in water safety began at the age of 8. Harris was on her cousin’s back in a pool and, without warning, he tossed her off. Harris thrashed around and quickly figured out how to keep herself afloat. Her mother then arranged her own pool, and quickly figured out how to keep herself afloat. Her mother then arranged for formal swim lessons, starting her down the road to becoming a lifeguard.

“I’m really glad she did, because now I am the head lifeguard at the pool, and I love my job,” Harris said. “It’s so much fun!”

As head lifeguard, Harris’ duties include watching those in the pool and on the deck, maintaining the facilities, and interacting with visitors. Harris also enjoys teaching swim lessons.

“I like watching people’s faces light up when they learn a new stroke,” Harris said. “The responsibilities of that job have taught me leadership skills and so much more.” — by Tierra Hayes

Diadem De Guzman
Tutor at Spalding Elementary School
Teachers at A.W. Spalding Elementary School may refer to her as an “angel,” but Diadem De Guzman is just doing her job. As a junior elementary education major, she tutors second-grade and third-grade students.

This job not only provides De Guzman with opportunities to put her college classes into practice, but it also prepares her to work in the education field after graduation. For example, the math methods course that she is currently taking teaches her different strategies to effectively explain math problems to students.

“Working as a student dean allows me to minister to the guys, and it’s very rewarding.” — by Oksana Wemore

Jeremy Holt
Talge Hall Student Dean
Jeremy Holt, senior business administration and pre-dentistry major, is the Talge Hall Student Dean.

Jeremy keeps an eye out for students that working in a healthcare setting is “too low” for a person to do. As a problem solver, he has learned how to handle it. “It is worth the stress and the sleepless nights because we are the student voice,” Emilaire said. “This is also laying a foundation for my future career.”

With Emilaire’s passion for news editing and her strong work ethic, she has poored herself into the editor role. In the process she has learned that “a positive work environment produces positive results.” — by Michael Steinke

Stephen Wade
Software Programmer for CIRC
Every day Stephen Wade, senior computer systems administration major, gains real-world experience as he writes software for Southern’s Center for Innovation and Research in Computing (CIRC). The center’s goal is to enhance student learning by engaging in development projects for actual clients.

With his laptop, Wade could work from anywhere, but he mostly chooses to work in the School of Computing with his boss, Michael Babienko, CIRC lead programmer and analyst.

“I appreciate that CIRC allows me to learn on the job,” Wade said. Whenever he runs into a snag, he is able to take time to research a solution or ask Babienko for assistance.

“What I really enjoy about working for CIRC is that every project I finish is going to be used and appreciated,” Wade said. “Once I graduate, I will have experience writing software and will understand project management.” — by Abigail King

Delaney Harris
Head Lifeguard at Hulsey Wellness Center
Unlike many college students, Delaney Harris, sophomore psychology and missions double major and lifeguard at the Hulsey Wellness Center, has had the same job since her junior year of high school.

Her interest in water safety began at the age of 8. Harris was on her cousin’s back in a pool and, without warning, he tossed her off. Harris thrashed around and quickly figured out how to keep herself afloat. Her mother then arranged her own pool, and quickly figured out how to keep herself afloat. Her mother then arranged for formal swim lessons, starting her down the road to becoming a lifeguard.

“I’m really glad she did, because now I am the head lifeguard at the pool, and I love my job,” Harris said. “It’s so much fun!”

As head lifeguard, Harris’ duties include watching those in the pool and on the deck, maintaining the facilities, and interacting with visitors. Harris also enjoys teaching swim lessons.

“I like watching people’s faces light up when they learn a new stroke,” Harris said. “The responsibilities of that job have taught me leadership skills and so much more.” — by Tierra Hayes

Diadem De Guzman
Tutor at Spalding Elementary School
Teachers at A.W. Spalding Elementary School may refer to her as an “angel,” but Diadem De Guzman is just doing her job. As a junior elementary education major, she tutors second-grade and third-grade students.

This job not only provides De Guzman with opportunities to put her college classes into practice, but it also prepares her to work in the education field after graduation. For example, the math methods course that she is currently taking teaches her different strategies to effectively explain math problems to students.

“Working as a student dean allows me to minister to the guys, and it’s very rewarding.” — by Oksana Wemore
Back in the 1960s, students Jim Tucker, ‘62, Nat Halverson, ‘63, and Benton Basham, ‘66, worked alongside each other in the broom factory on Southern’s campus. They were paid by the piece, not by the hour, and over time they developed a friendly rivalry to see who could be the most productive. Then one day something happened that gave their competitive spirit a new focus.

A flock of birds landed outside the window, and Basham eyed them through his binoculars.

"See those birds?" he murmured thoughtfully. "What are they?"

"I don’t know," Halverson shrugged. "Some kind of sparrow, I guess."

"Just look!" Basham pushed the binoculars into his hands. Halverson peered through them, first reluctantly and then with increasing interest. The birds’ were a beautiful gradient of color, ranging from reddish-brown at the head to a purplish-blue with a bright yellow band at the tail.

"They were the most remarkably dressed birds I’d ever seen," Halverson remembers 40 years later. "Those Cedar Waxwings were my first sighting. After that, I was hooked."

Birdwatching Breaks

From then on, breaks at the broom factory became birdwatching bonanzas. The three students would dash off to the woods along the nearby creek to see who could spot the most birds before their agreed-upon time was up. As the son of two birdwatchers, Tucker’s first childhood memory was of watching a White-breasted Nuthatch on a birdfeeder. He was thrilled to find two new friends who shared his interest. The three friends’ love of the game pushed them to improve their skills, and soon they were good enough to recognize the birds around them just by their calls.

Tucker, Halverson, and Basham became deeply involved with the Chattahoochee Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, making friends from all over the area. Several times a year, the members would divide the county into various sectors, split off into groups, and birdwatch all day. Then in the evening they would regroup for what they called “the countdown” to list the birds they had observed and, for fun, determine who had spotted the most.

After the three friends graduated from Southern, they went their separate ways. Basham pursued further education and became a nurse anesthetist, and Halverson and Tucker went on to teach in the Seventh-day Adventist school system. But there was one thing they never left behind: their insatiable, contagious love of birdwatching.

Through their passion and dedication, each would help to mold the birding world as we know it today.

Inspiring Young Bird Lovers

The broom factory was not just a job for Halverson; it was also where he met his wife, Margaret (Richardson) Halverson, ‘70. In Margaret, he found not only an amazing life partner but also a fellow bird lover. She assisted her husband as he became deeply involved in many scientific bird-banding research projects that involved catching birds, marking them with an identifying band around the leg, and then releasing them to be tracked in the future. The Halversons spent many years teaching at Standifer Gap Seventh-day Adventist School and integrated their avian knowledge into the curriculum there. They gave their students the opportunity to have tactile involvement with bird banding, an experience that resonated with many, including Carl Swafford, ‘75, now dean of Graduate Studies at Southern, who never thought he would be interested in birds.

"I loved bird banding because I could hold the bird in my hand," Swafford remembers. "We tagged birds and tracked their travels throughout the seasons. Many of them were seen more of his wildlife images at momentsofprovidence.com"
Inspiring The Next Generation

Edgar Grundset became a birding icon at Southern. As a biology professor, he spread his passion for nature and birding to his students for nearly 40 years. Through his ornithology class and spring break birding trips to Florida (during which students routinely identified at least 150 bird species), many people caught his enthusiasm for the sport. In his honor, Southern hosts the annual E.O. Grundset lecture series.

The love of birding is still being nurtured at Southern. When David Hollie, ’14, arrived on campus to study biology, he already had an interest in birds. However, as a student he spent two summers in the Smokey Mountains doing bird research and discovered that he wanted birding to be more than a hobby—he wanted it to be his career. Since earning his biology degree, Hollie has combined his two favorite passions—travel and field research. His work with birds has taken him from Texas to Australia and many places in between.

This fall Hollie looks forward to starting his graduate research and studying the effect of forest management on breeding birds in the Missouri Ozarks.

“I am continually impressed by the amazing complexity and diversity of birds,” Hollie shares. “They are an amazing window into the mind of our Creator.”

The Birth of the American Birding Association

Tucker always loved fellowshipping with other bird lovers. For him, shared interest easily overcame age barriers. While at Southern, he was the youngest member of the Chattanooga Chapter of the Ornithological Society and became president at age 21. When he moved to Florida to teach, he joined the Florida Audubon Society and became president of the Orange County chapter. There he continued doing counts with his new friends and also became deeply involved with the movement to save the forests, swamps, prairies, and lakes. The members of the Audubon Society had a wonderful time together but faced a recurring challenge: they couldn’t get the youth on board.

In 1968, Tucker moved to Texas to pursue his doctorate. He missed his buddies back East, so on a whim he put together a little newsletter chronicling the adventure of his birdwatching friends around the country. He cranked out 12 copies on a ditto machine and mailed them with a letter asking for feedback and suggestions. Not long afterward, he was bowled over by the enthusiastic response he received—both in ideas and names to be added to the mailing list.

“I laughingly called it Birdwatchers Digest, Volume 0, Number 0,” Tucker recalls. “One of the best suggestions I received was to change the newsletter’s name to ‘Birding.’ A friend of mine had heard the term used in England, but it hadn’t been used in the United States up to that point.”

After its debut as the title of the next issue of the newsletter, the term “birding” rapidly entrench itself in popular U.S. vernacular. Birding had the foundation for what would later become the American Birding Association (ABA). Its goals were to informally connect passionate birders, to communicate the latest bird identification techniques, and to establish the name that would surpass. Unfortunately, bad luck left them at 183. Still, they had a thrilling and memorable time trying.

Basham’s ambitious didn’t end there. In 1998, he set out to break the “Big Year” world record. He invited 125 birders to his home in North America. Eventually, with the help of rare-bird Internet blog updates, his record was surpassed. Still, at that time and with the resources Basham had, his achievement was incredible. Even now he remains a hero of the birding community.

Southern Birders

Jessica Winters Clifford, ’00

Clifford’s favorite sightings were the Elegant Trogon in Southeast Arizona and the Himalayan Monal, the national bird of Nepal, while she was overseas as a student missionary. She has started taking her two young children on birdwatching expeditions, as well. In 2016 they visited Argentina, where they saw Magellanic and Gentoo penguins and got to watch them roost.

Carl Swafford, ’75, graduate dean

One of Swafford’s favorite expeditions was to the Bering Sea, where he saw Emperor Geese soaring against the backdrop of the Aurora Borealis. Another was his birding trip to the Yungas Road in Bolivia, the “most dangerous road in the world.” In 1981, Swafford and Chris Haney, ’81, set the record for a Big Day in Tennessee, sighting 154 bird species in a single day. They held the record for 10 years.

Cathy Lockwitz, ’15

In the 1980s, Lockwitz worked as Basham’s executive secretary and had no interest in birds. Over time, however, due to the influence of Basham, his son Jeff, and Haney, she became a serious birder and eventually served as treasurer of the Orange County Ornithological Society, Chattanooga Chapter, for 12 years. Her favorite sightings include the White-collared Seed-eater, Willow Ptarmigan, Blue-footed Booby, and even one bird that Basham doesn’t have on his list—the Red-footed Falcon!

Jasmin Duany, senior biology major

Taking the ornithology class taught by Keith Snyder, PhD, chair of the Biology Department, was Duany’s first exposure to birding. In the past, most birds looked the same to her; viewing them through binoculars opened her eyes and helped her learn to distinguish their differences. Her favorite sighting so far has been the Eastern Bluebird.
Unlocking Their Futures

Southern is able to offer scholarships to a majority of students, thanks to a variety of generous gifts—from estate planning and endowed funds to corporate sponsorships. Donors and students alike receive blessings from witnessing how these tools of financial grace help build educational bridges for the next generation of church and community leaders.

Neither was a surprise. Students receive blessings from witnessing how these tools of financial grace help build educational bridges for the next generation of church and community leaders.

Currently, 80 percent of Southern students receive financial aid, with more than $12 million awarded each year in scholarships and grants from Southern. While that is a lot, additional funds are needed. The $14 million boost to the endowment will help more students pursue an Adventist education with less reliance on student loans.

Serve Others, Help Yourself

Jordan Morris, sophomore computer science major, came to campus in a leap of financial faith. He knew he wanted to study computing but had no idea how to fund his education. The energy and enthusiasm were there—he applied for multiple jobs and scholarships—but the numbers still weren’t adding up. Around that same time in 2015, Southern was pilot testing the Promise Grant program. This work-study scholarship, fully funded through the generosity of local businesses and friends of the university, gives Southern students every possibility to stay enrolled, thanks to the program’s above-average hourly wages.

“The money from Promise has been a huge help, but what has had a larger effect on me was seeing firsthand all of the good things that are being done for the community,” Morris said. “I actually volunteer with La Paz now even when I am not getting paid, because it is such a blessing. This experience will always stay with me, and it has also opened my eyes to new career possibilities. As a computer science student, I knew I wanted to work in a technological field, but now I can see the value of my major in helping people get ahead.”

Recently, a visitor burst into tears in her office recently, Student Finance Counselor Faith Anderson felt as if she were meeting her future self. She came by to check up on her finances one last time, and when a visitor burst into tears in her office recently, Student Finance Counselor Faith Anderson felt as if she were meeting her future self. She came by to check up on her finances one last time, and Anderson told me that because of Southern, her life would never be the same.

“Southern is focused on how we can increase our scholarship dollars and other forms of financial aid, with more than $12 million awarded each year in scholarships and grants from Southern,” said Lucas Patterson, communications and foundation relations manager. “Unlocking Their Futures—when a visitor burst into tears in her office recently, Student Finance Counselor Faith Anderson felt as if she were meeting her future self. She came by to check up on her finances one last time, and Anderson told me that because of Southern, her life would never be the same.”

Renewed Emphasis

Although the details are always unique, like the students themselves, stories of transformation and gratitude resonate with faculty and staff on campus. That’s why Southern’s Board of Trustees voted in February to make Southern’s endowment the largest component of the university’s $50 million Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning (see details, page 23), boosting the endowment by $14 million.

“Southern is focused on how we can increase our scholarships to help students access the tools that unlock their future,” said President David Smith, PhD. “And we are committed to doing so as affordably as possible.”

2014. The remaining funds will cover campaign expenses. More than $36 million in cash and pledges have already been raised during efforts that began in 2013. Chris McKee, ‘88, campaign chair, attributes the campaign’s encouraging progress to a tightknit Southern community that connects around a common goal.

“Fundraising is simply the process of sharing the university’s vision with people who care about it,” McKee said. “I praise God that so many people care deeply about Southern, support the university’s values, and believe in the vision for the school.”

Visit southern.edu/webelieve to learn more.

Spring 2017
know I want to do that in a way that interacts with and helps as many people as possible.”

It Takes a Village

Although the overwhelming majority of students on campus are Seventh-day Adventists, corporate sponsorships from local businesses have provided a significant boost to scholarship funds. SouthEast Bank—with 11 locations in Middle and East Tennessee, including one in Ooltewah—provides four $7,000 scholarships to Southern students annually. Over the years, its contributions have totaled approximately $350,000.

When the partnership began, bank administrators envisioned the funds freeing up students to experience college more fully, with less time spent working and worrying about finances. Testimonials show that to be true.

“I was prepared to work a lot on campus and take out student loans, but because of this scholarship I have not needed to borrow any money since I started at Southern,” said Caitlyn Bartlett, senior marketing major. “You can imagine the reaction at my house when I found out about it. My family and I cried and thanked the Lord for His blessings!”

Supporting Each Other

Students employed in Southern’s Call Center spend a lot of time talking on the phone with alumni. The stories they hear of how God continues to lead in graduates’ lives, along with the generosity that donors often display, has proven inspirational. Student workers recently created the Advance- ment Family Call Center Scholarship Fund, supplying $500 in tuition assistance for one of their peers.

Although contributing to the fund was optional, call center workers were eager to help a fellow student and contribute to a cause beyond their own needs. Victor DeRose, a junior marketing major and call center shift leader, is one of the students who made a gift.

“It always feels good to give when you have the right reasons,” DeRose said. “Plus, we wanted to create an opportunity for students callers to understand the process and importance of giving.”

Sometimes the right reasons even taste good and leave a warm feeling in your soul. Since 2013, the Papa John’s Pizza location at Four Corners in Collegedale has offered a large, one-topping pizza for $6.99 to Southern students and staff who order online using a special promotional code. What makes this deal extraordinary is that even at such a highly discounted rate, 15 percent of each sale goes to the Merit Endowed Scholarship Fund on campus. Contributions resulting from this partnership continue to rise each year, with more than $3,700 added to Southern’s endowment in 2016 alone.

“Either our students are really excited about supporting Adventist education, or they really love pizza,” said John Willis, residence hall assistant dean. “I genuinely believe it’s a bit of both.”

Future Value

As debates continue on a national level about student loan debt and the value of higher education, it’s comforting to know that a tight-knit Southern community is working to provide the tools necessary for students to remove financial roadblocks. Increasing scholarship opportunities is a top priority, not just in The Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning but also in the hearts and minds of alumni and parents of students. Campaign Chair Chris McKee, ’88, father of a Southern student who made a gift, noted, “It always feels good to know that a tight-knit Southern community is working to provide the tools necessary for students to remove financial roadblocks.”

Her True Self

Since birth, Sonya Reaves, ’07, has been surrounded by a mission emphasis. Her parents had served as missionaries in Brazil before she was born, and though she grew up in the States, the mission spirit prevailed. “I grew up hearing about it in stories, hearing my parents speak Portuguese, seeing pictures, and meeting their friends from Brazil,” Reaves said. “I grew up wanting to be a social worker, and in high school I went on my first international trip to Costa Rica.”

Reaves earned a degree in social work and a minor in nonprofit management from Southern. During her time as a student, she went on several service trips. She also spent a year as a student missionary in Santa Barbara, Honduras, working at an orphanage with REACH International.

“I loved it,” Reaves said. “For the first time, I felt that I could live my dream. I was able to learn to speak Spanish, help children, and see a difference in people’s lives.”

Reaves recalls one young girl in particular who had been abused at home. At the age of 6, the girl lashed out at everyone. Reaves made many attempts to show her God’s love while also providing discipline, and over time the child slowly warmed up to her.

“I often wondered if she understood that we loved her and gave her boundaries because of that love,” Reaves said. “I knew that the year I spent working with her wasn’t for nothing. God had big plans for this little girl, and He was getting to her via us, despite our flaws.”

Expanding Horizons

Service became a way of life for Reaves. She volunteered at Ground Zero in New York in 2002, helping people displaced by the events of 9/11, and in Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. After graduating, Reaves traveled to Chad, Africa, and worked at Bere Adventist Hospital for a year.

After returning from Chad, Reaves spent the next eight years doing a variety of jobs: serving as a chaplain at Georgia-Cumberland Academy, being a cook, working at an orphanage in Tanzania, and expanding her comfort zone as a teacher and principal at the Oakhurst Adventist Christian School in California.

Prepared to Serve

“I thought I was done with international work after leaving Tanzania in 2012,” Reaves said. “But I think God knew I needed to work as a principal and teacher for four years so I could have the skills to do my current job. Not a day goes by that I don’t thank God for his wisdom in having me work in California for those years. God’s timing is incredibly perfect.”

Now Reaves works for a company called Raw Impact, headquartered in Australia, and lives in Cambodia. She is the “head of educator,” a position similar to social worker, in which she provides support to many schools in her surrounding area.

“I love my job because there is no normal,” Reaves said. “I am constantly busy, challenging, and having to figure out ways to teach things.”

Reaves routinely encounters many diverse tasks, from helping lead service trips, to coming up with research ideas and managing budgets.

“I love Cambodia,” Reaves said. “I have lived in many places, but this one almost instantly felt like home. The people are incredibly friendly, quick to laugh, and peaceful by nature.”

Ever since her mission dream came to life as a student missionary in Honduras, Reaves has devoted her life to serving others. To her, it is God’s way of helping her see her true self.

“I feel like I am having a mirror held up to my soul,” Reaves said. “Often when working in a new culture, I see myself differently and have to readjust, but I am seeing God work in my life in big ways.”

Sonya Reaves, ’07, loves her work in Cambodia, which is the latest of many places God has called her to serve since graduating from Southern.
Developing Communities
by Oksana Wetmore, business administration and public relations double major

Southern's global community development graduate program equips students around the world with skills to impact international societies. The program's multicultural learning opportunities, practical skills, and biblically grounded curriculum contribute to its uniqueness.

Students work through nine specific, practical skills and competencies, followed by six weeks in the field assessing the innate resiliency of marginalized people groups and constructing a plan to further build the group's capacity. This puts the students' book learning into practice while making a tangible difference to a community in the process.

"We are eager for our church to be professionally prepared and ready to meet the real and urgent needs of our neighbors and communities, both in the United States and abroad," said Sharon Pitman, PhD, Global Community Development Department director.

Hands-on in Tanzania

After Robert "Breck" Lang, '14 and '17, graduated from Southern with a bachelor's degree in nursing, he knew that he wanted to go further in his education and explore the field of global community development through a master's degree.

"I was really interested in refugee migration, so Sharon Pitman helped me find opportunities and ways to go further while continuing my studies," Lang said.

During his field experience, he worked with Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Tanzania to provide food for refugees at Nyaragusa, a refugee camp in west Tanzania. Lang and the ADRA Tanzania team were faced with the task of distributing food to nearly 140,000 people.

"There's something about working with the people that you are trying to serve. Once you are in the heart of their community, you see their resilience, needs, and strong community bond," Lang said. "Working hands-on with the people completely changes how you approach trying to help them."

According to Shannon Martin, assistant professor of global community development and political studies, the program aims to explore self-identified needs in the community rather than imposing nongenetic services upon it.

"Development isn’t an abstract thought," Martin said. "It's a hands-on task that we can work on with communities."

Current students are spread around the world, doing internships with organizations such as ADRA Mozambique, the American Red Cross, and World Vision International in Kenya, as well as locally in Chattanooga.

Opening Opportunities

Southern's goal is to make the program more accessible for working professionals and international residents. For example, students can complete the hybrid learning program online before doing the short-term field work. They can also do the program either part-time or full-time.

Because of this flexibility, Alexon Mwasi, '15, was able to pursue his dreams. As a young boy growing up in rural Kenya, Mwasi discovered his passion for community development when a non-governmental organization came to his village and gave the community the necessary skills to undertake development projects. Eventually Mwasi was given the opportunity to join World Vision Kenya as a senior program manager.

During this time, Mwasi pursued his master's degree in global community development and, thanks to Southern's online graduate program, was able to earn the degree without leaving Kenya. His dream is to influence governmental policies and initiate development that will alleviate poverty—a goal that he is now better fit to accomplish.

Students have done their field work mostly in East Africa, but the Chattanooga area has also been chosen as a future site for a field school. Sites in Lebanon and the Dominican Republic are also being explored.

The global community development team continues to find new ways to accommodate students. This year they began a bridge program that allows undergraduates to complete some coursework before they graduate and then apply for an abbreviated three-semester master's degree. Southern has partnered with Union College and Walla Walla University, offering other undergraduate programs this same accelerated option.

With these changes and initiatives, the Global Community Development Department continues to empower the next generation of professionals to do the work of Jesus while fostering growth and building sustainable and thriving communities.
Southern Bids Farewell to Longtime Professor

Ben McCartney, assistant professor of accounting in the College of Business Administration, announced during the Parents and Family Recognition Ceremony during the Parents Weekend banquet in February that he will retire from Southern at the end of this school year. McCartney, who was born in 1953 in Kentucky, graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1975 with a bachelor’s degree in accounting. He joined the Southern faculty in 1980, where he taught courses in cost accounting and financial management. McCartney served as the assistant dean of the School of Business at Southern for five years and was recognized as the College of Business’ Distinguished Alumnus in 2014. McCartney and his wife, Debra, have two children, a daughter, Alyssa, and son, Adam. McCartney has been married to Debra for 44 years.

Remembrance

Harold S. Johnson, ’53 and ’58, passed away on August 10, 2017. He was born in the Philippines and attended the University of the Philippines before enrolling in the University of Southern California where he earned a degree in chemical engineering. He returned to the Philippines to work for the United States Army Corps of Engineers and later served in the Philippines. He was appointed as a missionary in Sudan, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, and Jordan. Before retiring, he was chaplain at Memorial Hospital in Montclair, California. After that, he served for many years as a volunteer chaplain for several Southern Baptist-related hospitals. Johnnie was preceded in death by his wife of nearly 60 years, Harriet (Dunsmore), whom he married by his son, Stephen. ’58, and his daughter-in-law, Lynda (Magee). ’58, his daughter, Karen Burns, ’67, and his son-in-law, Steve, and in-law, Patrick. ’94, and his grandchildren, Carole Ford, ’87, and their children, the others are Chuck, Mindi, and Steven. Mindi, the only daughter of the world where they both grew up. Both attended Oral Roberts University in Kansas, where Ted pastors the Cody Road Seventh-day Adventist Church in Mobile, Alabama, and Lynnette teaches authentic manhood using tools such as life-long support groups, leadership training, father/ son and father/daughter retreats, and even a regular assembly. Mindi and her husband, Gale (Covrig), ’83, live in Orlando, Florida.

Howard Husergaz, ’53, and his wife, Alberta, (Elphine), attended, not only to have his 60th anniversary at the Loma Linda University School of Medicine—postgraduate convention. They were joined by their daughter, Carol. Their other child, their son, Chuck, ’83, and their daughter, Debra, and their daughter, Stephen, ’91, also attend. Howard and Charlene live in Orlando, Florida.

JoAnne (Wassell) Lefere, ’56, works at Loma Linda University as an observation supervisor, intern for internist and student teachers, as well as medical lab technicians. Her husband, Beauch, ’72, keeps busy tending, volunteering at church, and picking produce from her garden. The couple recently visited Rwanda, where their daughter, Mindi (Lefere) Gigl, ’97, her husband, Scott, ’97, and their three children live. Mindi is missing emergency medicine residence for the Rwandan government, and Scott is a freelance graphic designer and communicator.

Joshua Lewis, ’10, and his wife, Stephanie (Roberts), ’14, are preparing to serve with Adventist Missionaries in Southeast Asia, a part of the world where they both grew up. Adventist Missionaries has asked Joshua and Stephanie to plant churches in an area of approximately 500,000 inhabitants that is home to 80 percent of the world’s unchurched people. They plan to plant churches in more than 70 countries, ministering to more than 70 million people in their lifetime. This is the seventh time he has received the Forum honor, an exclusive achievement awarded to approximately 5 percent of Northwestern’s more than 100,000 alumni. Ted currently serves on the NAD Executive Committee and his purpose is to build relationships with his wife, Elizabeth (Reeder), ’92.

Ted Strunz, ’61, and his wife, Lynnette (Aldridge), ’63, live loving life on the Gulf Coast, where Ted is the financial officer of the College of Business Administration, is a member of Southern’s School of Business Advisory Board and is frequently seen with his wife, Elizabeth (Reeder), ’92.

Sarah Lee (White) French, ’63, died January 10, 2016, in Portland, Tennessee, after a battle with cancer. She was born in 1947 in Greenville, South Carolina, and married Norman French in 1966. She is survived by her husband, Norman; their daughter, Marianne Williams; son, Steven French; ’67; stepson, Raymond French; three stepdaughters, Linda Whitehead, Donna Lemoen, and Wendy Tomson; 11 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Michael Magnusky, ’92, of Atlanta, Georgia, passed away on April 4, 2017, in Jacksonville, Florida, and attended Trinity Christian Academy in Alpharetta, Georgia. He was born in 1967 in the Philippines. He grew up in the United States and was a client success manager for Adventist HealthCare 25 years. He was an asteroid of the Southern Region. He was a fixture in Hulsey Wellness Center while enrolled at Southern and is a client success manager. He covers local government, business, and development stories in East Hamilton County and Rural Mountain for the Community News section. He also writes features and columnists for the Times Free Press. He grew up in the top 10. For his second year in the Southern Region.

Myron Madden, ’16, is working as a staff writer for the Chattanooga Times Free Press. He covers local government, business, and development stories in East Hamilton County and Rural Mountain for the Community News section. He also writes features and columns for the Times Free Press. He grew up in the top 10.
Spanning the Generations

Computing professor Tyson Hall, PhD, and his sons run to catch a tractor hayride on the Promenade as Southern launched its 125th anniversary celebration on January 25. Vintage display tractors, hayrides, and Cracker Jacks—a snack born the same decade as Southern—gave a festive nod to a bygone era. Participants, both young and old, enjoyed the nostalgia as they reminisced about what life would have been like so long ago.

I

Passion

by David Smith, PhD, president

In his book Not a Fan, Kyle Idleman tells of a missionary returning to the United States after 30 years of serving overseas. Taking a bus to his daughter’s home, he had to spend a night in Las Vegas.

Strolling down the famous Las Vegas strip for the first time, he observed the spectacular hotels, heard the loud music, and saw the shiny automobiles. He witnessed the casino games and heard coins spilling from slot machines. Billboards announced famous entertainers, and restaurants showcased exotic foods.

When he returned to his room, he left the light off and opened the curtains. In the stillness of his room, he knelt by the window and looked down at the Vegas strip. Then he gazed into the more impressive lights of the heavens and prayed: “God, I thank you that tonight I haven’t seen anything I want more than I want you.”

What do you want most in life? In Psalm 27:4, David reflects on what the object of our passion should be: “One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.”

Total Commitment

The lives of those whose greatest desire is to be in God’s presence are defined by their passion. Jesus’ true followers live extraordinary lives, risking and doing all for His sake.

In his book Radical, David Platt recounts meeting secretly with a small group of Christian leaders in an Asian country where worshipping God is prohibited and severely punished. Such a meeting could cost them their land, jobs, families, or even their lives. They shared tales of being threatened by the government for gathering and studying the Bible and of their congregants being tortured. One lay pastor said: “I need to know how to lead my church to follow Christ even when it costs them everything.”

The leaders fell to their knees, moved to tears as they prayed: “O God, thank You for loving us;” “God, we need You;” “Jesus, we give our lives to You and for You.” How is it possible to so fully seek one thing—to be in God’s presence and to serve Him no matter what? The answer is simple yet significant—God’s amazing love ignites an all-consuming passion for Him. Being in God’s presence and experiencing His love changes us.

As David states in Psalm 63:3-4: “Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.”

Living in Anticipation

Later in his book, Idleman describes visiting his grandfather’s gravesite with his grandmother. Beside the grave was a marker engraved with his grandfather’s name and day of birth, ready for her date of death to be added. Idleman wrote: “If she were honest she would say she is ready for that day right now. She hasn’t been the same since my grandpa died. They were married almost 60 years. She misses him so much. We stood in front of his gravesite and she talked about feeling lonely. She told me of how she still reaches over for him at night. Sometimes she finds herself calling to him in the other room, just out of habit.

“We stood in silence for a few moments and then she said this: ‘I’m ready, I’m ready to go home and be with...’ and I knew what she was going to say next. She was going to say ‘...your grandpa.’ Of course she was going to say that. He was the love of her life. She loved him more than she loved anything. But she didn’t... What she said was, ‘I’m ready to go home and be with Jesus’” (Not a Fan, pp. 139-140).

Is your greatest passion a longing for God’s presence? If you do not have more passion for knowing and serving God than you do for everything else in your life, ask God to reveal Himself to you, to touch you with His love.

Pursue Him each waking moment. Give Him all your passion. As David states in Psalm 63:3: “O Lord, You are the God who takes delight in favoring me.” How is it possible to so fully seek one thing—to be in God’s presence and to serve Him no matter what? The answer is simple yet significant—God’s amazing love ignites an all-consuming passion for Him. Being in God’s presence and experiencing His love changes us.

As David states in Psalm 63:3-4: “Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.”
HOMECOMING WEEKEND

NOVEMBER 2-5, 2017

IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE:

HIGHLIGHTS

EARLY HIGHLIGHTS
>> 125th anniversary of Southern’s 1892 founding in Graysville

> Time-capsule opening ceremony
> Recognition of the flagpole’s original site

>> Missions Emphasis Weekend

> Reunion for former student missionaries and alumni who have served as missionaries around the world
> International food fair
> Vespers – Parade of Nations pageant featuring international costumes and flags
> Missions Expo – opportunities to mentor students considering mission service
> Southern Serves – Join alumni and students on Sunday morning for a hands-on service project to help relieve local and global hunger

>> Golden Anniversary Class of 1967 Reunion

Honor Classes

Visit us online to view updated Homecoming Weekend information, or contact the office of Alumni Relations directly.

Website: southern.edu/alumni
Facebook: facebook.com/SAUalumni
Email: alumni@southern.edu
Phone: 423.236.2830