

SWU

m a g a z i n e



The Generous Legacy
of **FAITH NEWTON
HOBSON**
pg. 32



DEPAYNE DOCTOR
Celebrating a phenomenal
woman of God
pg. 34

ISSUE #8
Fall/Winter 2015
A publication of
Southern Wesleyan University

EVERY CAMPUS SHOULD HAVE A HEARTBEAT.

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IN THIS ISSUE



8 Don Campbell: Teaching Barbershop Down Under



16 Warriors Armed for Battle



28 Jim Frye: Living the Dream at Disney



32 Steeped in University's Past, Hobson's Support Ensures Future Growth



34 DePayne Doctor: Celebrating a Phenomenal Woman of God

- 4 Letter from the President
- 6 Academic Updates
- 10 Criminal Justice Program Grows
- 11 Faculty & Staff of the Year
- 13 Champ Squires
- 15 SWU Aids Flood-stricken Areas
- 18 Tennis Complex Dedication
- 20 Facilities Updates
- 24 Operation Freedom's Cadence
- 40 Homecoming
- 46 Alumni News



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Letter FROM THE *President*

SOMETHING IS VERY DIFFERENT THIS YEAR. “No, that is not quite right,” I said to myself... “everything seems different this year.” As I sat on the front row in our beautiful Newton Hobson Chapel and Fine Arts Center on a warm day in August, I reviewed my notes one more time before sharing in Chapel. I looked over my shoulder at the packed auditorium behind me and my thoughts once again were drawn to the verse of the year:

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

ISAIAH 43:19 (NIV)

As I walked on the stage and turned to the audience, I couldn't help myself but to go off script a bit. With a sense of deep joy and excitement that can only come from the Spirit of the Lord, I exclaimed, “God is clearly doing a new thing at Southern Wesleyan University! Record enrollment, record number of students living on campus, exceptional new faculty and staff, new facilities underway, new grants and programs, blessed relationships with the community, and of course the world's MOST AMAZING students!” To that, a deafening cheer broke out, and for me, the new academic year was officially underway!

Yes, SWU is being “made new” right before our eyes. But how did all this begin?

Like many transformations in history, SWU has been building on incredible momentum and the faithfulness of those who have labored before us. As our institutional goals were sharpened, exciting direction and purpose emerged. In our institutional goals, we humbly assert that SWU will:

- expand and deepen our faith impact (building on the rich heritage and foundation of our past);
- create a culture of excellence (invest in ideas, effectiveness and service);
- grow to expand our graduates' influence (more students equals more world impact);
- be generous with God's resources (share our facilities, time and talent with others).

These goals have inspired our next steps and a new vision for SWU! In that vision, we believe our future will be defined by three motivating elements: **Inventive Learning**, **Faith-Filled Community** and **Contagious Generosity**.

First, our assertion is that SWU is perfectly designed to seek new Christ centered educational avenues that will involve experiential learning at all levels for all programs, while innovating new platforms of delivery and connecting with dedicated partners to enrich content and insure state-of-the-art relevance. This is what we mean by inventive learning and it is evidenced in collaborative partnerships with the community, businesses and area hospitals and has stimulated experiential labs like the newly completed Criminal Justice House.

Second, we believe we have been called to create a community that is more than faithful, but rather, faith-filled. The evidence of this overflowing process will be demonstrated by our members being active in community service, by our emphasis on transforming experiences, by our passion to develop leaders and by our deep conviction to reach out to others in love to bring them into a personal relationship with Christ.

Finally, while most colleges wouldn't seriously entertain the concept of generosity tied to an academic community, we expect SWU will be defined by the way we offer our facilities, our talents, our ideas and our resources freely. From the way we care for our students to the way we step up to serve, SWU will carry a message of generosity that we believe will multiply and expand beyond anything we can imagine.

So what is transpiring at SWU that makes everything seem different this year? First, we are on a growth trend that is exciting! Our fall traditional enrollment is amazing and represents a rapidly growing traditional campus, especially in light of so many colleges and universities in the country struggling. In residence life, we have set a new record with the most students ever living on campus... praise be to God! In our adult and graduate program, our Master's in Education is growing rapidly as is our new MBA/Health Care Administration program that is filling a crucial need for hospitals and other health care providers.

And if that is not enough, only a few short months ago, we were awarded an exciting five year, \$1.1 million dollar grant from the Department of Education to support students coming to SWU from families with no previous college graduates, low income environments or those with disabilities... to catapult them to graduation completion. Recent success with Education and Music reaccreditations, major growth in Criminal Justice, Exercise Science and Business and additional exciting grant opportunities feed the momentum as well.

We are also being made new with facility development! Near the end of last spring, we completed a new locker building and dugout at the Connor Baseball Field, started work on bleacher seating for softball, upgraded Ellenburg Lecture Hall, completed the press box, scoreboard and grandstands at the Gilbert Track and Soccer Complex, completed the new Criminal Justice House and the Nicholson-Mitchell Christian Ministry Center is now under renovation! This fall we added an exciting new tennis complex named after one of our alums, Rev. Leroy C. Cox, and also completed a significant quality of life renovation of the South apartment complex. Over the past several months, the Charleston and Greenville learning centers have been through renovations to upgrade the academic environments and provide more student-focused community areas. The Columbia learning center will begin renovations in early 2016, while plans are still being made for the future location of the North Augusta learning center.

A new thing is happening at SWU. God has given us a timeless mission, an inspiring vision, a wonderful location, a strong platform and talented people, and we have incredible potential to realize greater growth and Kingdom influence possibly more than at any time in our history.

What a blessing to be at SWU. What a time to boldly express our unapologetic belief in the Good News of Jesus Christ to a world in need. Thank you for being a part of this incredible university and amazing momentum! May the Lord continue to help us build on the “new thing” happening at SWU every day!



Todd S. Voss, PRESIDENT

ACADEMIC UPDATES



Division of Fine Arts

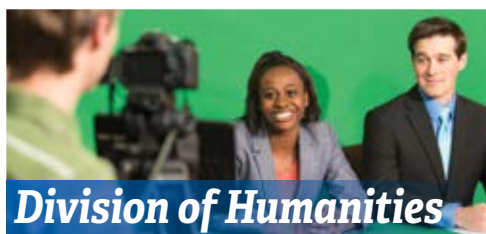
SWU music faculty traveled abroad, leading musical groups, attending workshops and performing on stage, increasing the visibility of the Fine Arts Division and bringing back a wealth of fresh experiences to share with their students this year.

Darryl Jachens, professor of music, attended The Art of Band Conducting and Rehearsing Workshop held in Austin, Tex., June 16–20, sponsored by the University of Texas at Austin Band Department for band conductors across the U.S.

Greg Day, associate professor of music, directed the fifteenth annual Summer Jazz Camp June 23–27. Nearly 50 students spent a busy four days on campus learning from professional musicians. A faculty concert was followed by a Thursday night recording session and a Friday night jam in downtown Central. Day also wrote arrangements and preparing the band for the Centre Stage production of “Swingin’ Country,” presented by the Downtown Professional Theatre Company in Greenville. A highlight of the run was on Aug. 5 when SWU Professor Jane Dill sat in on keyboards for the show!

In May and June, barbershop singing organizations in New Zealand and Australia invited Dr. Don Campbell, professor of music, to present workshops, coach choirs and quartets, and conduct private voice events in New Zealand and Australia (See the magazine article on page 8).

Professor Jane Dill was privileged to travel with SWU’s University Singers on their “Operation Freedom’s Cadence” trip to Europe from May 12–27. (See the magazine article on page 24). Professor Dill is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of such an inspiring journey.



Division of Humanities

The Humanities Division at Southern Wesleyan University is at the center of much activity and numerous accomplishments this fall. Professor David Stubblefield joined the Humanities faculty in August as an assistant professor of English and has been well-received by students, faculty and staff alike. Assistant Professor of Media Communication Lewis Knight is now Dr. Lewis Knight; he successfully defended his dissertation in September at the University of Texas and completed his Ph.D. The new Secondary Social Studies Education program will see its first major—Anna Wilbourne—complete the program and graduate in December. Professor of History Dr. Ken Myers is offering a study abroad trip to Greece for the spring of 2016, seeking to duplicate the success experienced with the 2014 trip to Italy. The Humanities faculty and students look forward to further exciting developments and accomplishments as the 2015–16 academic year continues.



Division of Religion

After planning for several years, the Division of Religion (DOR) is being “Made New” in 2015!

The DOR is in its first year of all new curriculum in “ministry” concentration programs (Christian Ministry, Youth Ministry, Children’s Ministry, Sports Ministry), with several new courses being offered and developed. The first year of the all-new Ministry Practicum program has been completed

with very positive feedback and a significant number of DOR students engaged in summer ministry internships in the summer of 2015. Four new Religion adjuncts have begun teaching, with two of them being graduates of our programs in recent years.

The DOR is also excited about a surge of alumni pursuing graduate education, including Ph.D. studies. Finally, work has begun on the remodeling of the new Nicholson-Mitchell Christian Ministry Center and the Division will soon have a new home! God’s faithfulness is evident as the DOR plans and works toward new opportunities to serve God and the Church. Stay tuned for information about the Fellowship Of The Called event scheduled for April 1 and 2, 2016!

God is doing a new thing!



Division of Science

The Division of Science continues to be one of the largest academic units, with approximately 202 students currently enrolled in eight majors. The Division hired three new faculty members for the 2015–16 academic year: Wale Adeboje, Computer Science; Dr. Patty Hovis, Exercise Science; and Dr. Ashlee Tietje (SWU ’06), Biology. Dr. Rocky Nation and 2015 alumna Leah Johnson published an article titled “Use of a volunteer monitoring program to assess water quality in a TMDL watershed utilized for recreational use, Pickens County, South Carolina” in the Journal of South Carolina Water Resources. In professional development news, Dr. Jean Wan attended the Research on Teaching and Learning Conference in Kennesaw, Ga., in spring 2015. Professor Staci Johnson will present findings from her sponsored research project titled “Use of PollEverywhere.com for Simultaneous Reporting of Team Decisions in the Team-Based Learning Classroom” at the Team Based Learning Annual Conference

in Albuquerque N.M. in March 2016. Dr. Paul Shotsberger presented at the South Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics in Greenville in November 2015. Dr. Walt Sinnamon will attend the SACS Annual Conference in December 2015. In addition, the SWU Regional Science Fair, held in March 2015, saw its highest participation ever. SWU will host the Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Regional Science Fair for 2016, expecting a larger crowd for this event.



Division of Social Science

Dr. Bruce Gay, Ph.D., will join the faculty as professor of criminal justice in January 2016. His professional experience includes 22 years on the faculty of both public and private institutions and 16 years of experience in law enforcement.

Joe Crosby, ABD, joined the faculty in August as assistant professor of recreation and sport management. He has 10 years of experience in community recreation and has coordinated special events for the U.S. Navy and the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Joining the Division as adjuncts this past year are Bridgett Lawrence (Strength and Conditioning), Rebecca Moore (Introduction to Intercultural Studies), Jameka Nedwards (Criminal Justice courses), Laneisha Searls, (AGS BSHS courses), Maggie Turner, (Family Studies), Judge Eddie Welmaker (Retired), (Criminal Law) and Lisa Williams (AGS BSHS courses).

Dr. Daryl Couch co-authored the university's Fifth Year Interim Report to SACSOC. In June, he participated on the review team of 11 institutions for the Commission's Compliance and Reports Committee meeting. Dr. Steven Hayduk completed his first textbook, "Practical Statistics: A Gentle Introduction to Data Analysis." Assistant Professor Emily Germain attended the national NCAA Conference in Washington D.C. and two Conference Carolina's meetings as the university's faculty athletics representative. Associate Professor James McDonald is now a qualified rifle and pistol instructor, having completed additional NRA certification training.

Associate Professor Mildred Williams will present a paper at the National Organization for Human Services conference in Charlotte in October.



School of Business

The School of Business is offering a new 30 credit masters in management and leadership degree, both in online and face-to-face format. This program is designed for current and aspiring leaders in a variety of organizations and focuses on key areas of management integrated with the best leadership practices. Initial responses have been very positive. Two onsite cohorts and one online cohort started during Fall Semester.

Dr. Lynn Brown-Bullock, program director for the MBA and MBA with Health Care Administration Concentration, was appointed as a senior examiner for the national Baldrige Performance Excellence Program. Dr. Kelli Horne received her doctorate in business administration with a concentration in accounting. The school is working on applying for accreditation through the Accreditation Council of Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). This strategic step will help the school's quality and improvement efforts and provide recognition for teaching excellence in the classroom.

The third edition of "The Connector" newsletter was released in Spring/ Summer 2015 and the theme is Career Management. This edition can be accessed online at swu.edu/business.

Brad Persons, salesforce development manager for Michelin North America and a December graduate, shares, "My experience and journey with the masters degrees with SWU has been awesome. I feel like a walking testimonial when I speak with other Michelin employees and individuals in the community. God has blessed me with a new promotion this year. I believe the hard work and lessons learned through the SWU program helped me achieve the position I hold today. It is amazing the places God can take you! My hope and prayer is that you will continue to have great applicants and graduates over the years to be a part of the growing SWU family."



School of Education

Susan Finley, professor of education, was selected to serve on the S.C. Department of Education Rubric Development Team, which is charged with guiding the development or selection of a rubric measuring teacher professional practice within the Expanded ADEPT Support and Evaluation System. Finley was also selected as a reviewer for the Commission of the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation.

Dr. Mona Thornton, associate dean, was appointed to the Continuous Improvement Commission of the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) as an alternate, serving a four-year term. CAEP governs more than a thousand educator preparation programs.

SWU's School of Education was approved to offer Read to Succeed graduate-level courses. Four courses will be offered for endorsements in Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education and one for the Read to Succeed endorsement at middle and secondary school levels. The courses satisfy requirements mandated by Read to Succeed legislation requiring S.C. teachers to complete the literacy endorsement.

Damon Qualls, a 2013 MEDAS graduate, and, at the time a fifth-grade teacher at Alexander Elementary School in Greenville, was invited to participate in DonorsChoose.org's Partnership Summit this past May in New York. Qualls, who has been recently hired as assistant principal at Berea Middle School, discussed his experiences of presenting best practices across the state of South Carolina at various state conferences.

The School of Education now offers a BS in early childhood and family studies, which will prepare graduates to work with young children and their families in a variety of non-public school settings. In the interdisciplinary program, students will acquire the values, knowledge, skills and dispositions within a "Christian ethic of care" necessary to positively impact contemporary families in early childhood and family studies. Degree graduates can qualify for jobs in Head Start or jobs in public or private schools or family service organizations.

Down Under

SWU professor brings barbershop to the other side of the world

DON CAMPBELL, professor of music at Southern Wesleyan University, travels the globe keeping the art of barbershop harmony alive and well.

Though born in the U.S., barbershop singing is now multinational and enjoyed by both male and female singers as they join voices to create pure harmony. Through Harmony University, Campbell has traveled to many countries, including Scotland, the Netherlands and Canada.

In May and June 2015, Campbell and his wife Karen traveled “down under” to work with choruses and run workshops for directors and singers.

Jill Rodgers, one of Campbell’s former Harmony University students and currently director of education for Barbershop Harmony New Zealand (BHNZ), invited Campbell to travel across the Pacific to work with the choruses and their directors.

In addition to Rodgers, Campbell also worked with Charlotte Murray, a teacher at Tawa College in Wellington, New Zealand.

Campbell’s first stop was Auckland, New Zealand, where he worked with the City of Sails Chorus. He also traveled to Christchurch and to Wellington, New Zealand’s capitol. He then traveled to Australia, working with choruses and directors at Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane and Hobart, a city on the island of Tasmania, an Australian state. Campbell spent two to three hours working with a choir from Tawa College group who was rehearsing for regional competition for The Big Sing, a New Zealand nationwide competition.

At Christchurch, Campbell worked with a choir at Linwood

College, composed mostly of low-income Polynesian students.

“They had a new choir director. This was a new choir and they really didn’t know how to act, but we had a terrific time with them. I got them to understand what they could do. The kids came up to the teacher afterward and said ‘Nobody ever comes here.’ She had tears in her eyes because she saw what those kids could do and what she needs to do to help,” Campbell said.

Campbell explained that New Zealand’s colleges are actually counterparts for American high schools, and universities are equivalent to American colleges and universities.

“The plan for these workshops was to have singers and directors come and we would work with both of them in different aspects of what they need to have learned. I would work with the whole group, working on breathing and matching vowels, choral techniques,” Campbell said. “We would be all together and I would break out with the directors. Charlotte is a presentation coach—that means how one visually shares a song. Jill did more work with chorus sound, while I was teaching the directors how to be better directors.”

Working with various groups to improve their sound presents interesting challenges to Campbell, who says he never knows what is going to “hit” him when the singing starts.

“It’s much like a doctor walking into the patient in a waiting room and doing the same thing with voice lessons,” Campbell said.

Barbershop harmony is an American form of singing with American pronunciation. Campbell uses American broadcasting as a guideline for pronunciation—speaking in a manner similar to people in his home state of California.

Campbell explained that a number of directors are not professional musicians or teachers—directing for them is a hobby.

“We teach them how to be better at their hobby,” he said.

There was also plenty of time for sight-seeing, as the Campbells visited Australia’s Sydney Opera House, observed the Southern Cross, a constellation visible in the Southern Hemisphere, and visited New Zealand’s Hobbiton, where the “Lord of the Rings” and “The Hobbit” trilogies were filmed.

At this point in his long musical career, Campbell is living his dream. When asked about retirement, he said, “I don’t see in scripture where it calls for you to retire. I think God reassigns you.”

Don Campbell with his wife, Karen, in front of the Sydney Opera House in Australia.



SHARING THE STAGE WITH 'COMMITTED'

Southern Wesleyan University students Byron Smith (third from left) and Allen Williams (standing beside Smith) got the opportunity of a lifetime, sharing the stage with Committed, the R&B/Pop singing group who won Season 2 of the NBC hit musical competition "The Sing-Off." Their performance, which was mostly a cappella, blended rhythm and blues, gospel, contemporary worship and jazz selections during their concert Oct. 26 at the university's campus in Central. Smith is an elementary education major from Greenwood and Williams is a music education major from Seneca.



Spring 2016 **SWU FINE ARTS SERIES**

The Spring 2016 Fine Arts Series will feature a wide variety of events, from a world-renowned jazz flautist to a Pops concert, and a Masterworks concert of Mozart's "Requiem" to a stage production of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown". There will be something for everyone!

VISIT SWU.EDU/FINEARTS FOR A COMPLETE SCHEDULE



CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM GROWS

Southern Wesleyan University's Criminal Justice degree program has grown nearly 100 percent over the past two years.

In just five years, the program has grown from 16 majors to 75 and James McDonald, coordinator of Southern Wesleyan's Criminal Justice program, hopes to see that number increase to 100 by next year.

McDonald came to Southern Wesleyan in 2012 after spending more than 18 years in criminal justice and also heading the criminal justice department at Greenville Technical College.

"It's clearly exceeded my expectations," said McDonald, who didn't know what to expect when he was initially approached about guiding the criminal justice program at Southern Wesleyan nearly four years ago. Along with growth comes a stretching of resources, being remedied by the recently opened Criminal Justice House, which will provide more space for classes and labs. The program also just hired Dr. Bruce Gay as a new fulltime faculty member. With 22 years of academic experience and 16 years of law enforcement experience, Gay will start in January.

McDonald looks at a display of graduates'



photos on the wall, recounting where they are now. One recent graduate serves at the Simpsonville Police Department, while another graduate recently went to work for the Greenville County Sheriff's Department. Another is applying to Secret Service.

Another graduate works with probation and parole for an area agency, while another just got out of the military and is looking for a law enforcement job.

The program rests on three foundations that set it apart from other criminal justice training—a dedication to emotional, physical and spiritual growth among its majors. One recent graduate of the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy realized the impact that her health and fitness course from SWU had when she completed the academy's emotional survival training after they gave just a four-hour talk. She noted that Southern Wesleyan spent a whole semester on the same topic.

"The application-centered curriculum of the Criminal Justice program and the dedication of Professor McDonald caught my eye from the start," said Erin Harrison, a criminal justice major who hopes to join either local or state-level law enforcement. "We talk about what we have learned and how it is relevant to our future careers with a professor who truly cares and wants us to succeed."

Above: Criminal Justice majors outside the Criminal Justice House on Southern Wesleyan's campus. Left: Criminal Justice majors receive firearms training at a nearby shooting range with Professor James McDonald.



FACULTY & STAFF OF THE YEAR

"Since Thomas came to SWU I have been amazed at how much he has grown professionally. He is always willing to help and is quick to resolve problems. He is a real asset to the IT Department!"

MELANIE GILLESPIE, director of financial aid

"Thomas is a class act! He has gone above and beyond to provide great customer service and he does it with a smile. He is truly TEAMSWU at it's best!"

CHRIS WILLIAMS, director of athletics

"Thomas does not hesitate to tackle any problem that comes his way and quickly finds solutions. In addition to his responsibilities as a computer support specialist, Thomas provides support to our enterprise services department by creating complex queries and reports for many of our departments on campus. We are extremely proud that he is part of our team."

MIKE PREUSZ, director of information technology

STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR



Thomas Parham

SYSTEMS ANALYST

FACULTY MEMBER OF THE YEAR



Emily Germain

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

"Ms. G is one of the most inspiring people I know. She always encourages me to try harder and be better in everything I do. She genuinely cares about my success in and out of the classroom, and I couldn't imagine my college experience without her!"

ELIZABETH EDGE, senior, neuropsychology major

"Professor Germain teaches us that success comes from hard work and determination, and she exemplifies that on a daily basis. It has truly been a gift being able to study under such a wonderful role model, professor and woman of God."

LIZ KEOWN, senior, psychology major

"When I was a student, I knew Emily taught in a unique way. Her courses were very challenging, but they were designed to stretch us, and they helped us learn more than we thought possible. Emily became more than my professor, she became my mentor, my confidant, and most of all my friend."

KAITLIN MESSICK, general manager, Blue Hill Coffee & Tea Co.

SWU AWARDED \$1.1 MILLION GRANT

Southern Wesleyan University will receive \$1.1 million in federal funding over five years that will benefit select groups of students, providing them with resources that will help them to realize their dream of a college degree.

The TRIO Student Support Services grant will provide Southern Wesleyan with \$220,000 per year for the next five years to serve 140 students each year who are first-generation college students, students with disabilities and students from low-income families.

University administrators call this grant a “game changer” that will offer these students an array of resources to help them succeed academically and complete their degree programs.

According to University President Todd Voss, the grant “will change the fabric of how we serve our students,” noting that almost 50 percent of Southern Wesleyan’s students would qualify to participate in this program. Nationally, according to past research from the National Center for Education Statistics, on average, less than 30 percent of students

in these groups graduate from college after attempting coursework.

“To acclimate to a college environment, these students simply need designed tutoring, testing support, advising support, and study skill development to move them to a new level of comfort and success; this grant provides all of those things. Can you imagine the impact that can be made when a college has the support systems to move this group from a low retention rate to a high retention rate with this grant? Simply amazing,” Voss said.

According to Joe Brockinton, vice president for student life, the grant enables the university to hire a director, two advisors and a part-time secretary to oversee the program. Students in the program will develop an Individual Student Success Plan that guides them in their effort to achieve success in their college experience. These students will also be exposed to financial counseling, career advising, study teams, mentoring and cultural experiences.

“We’re going to have people on deck who can help them survive and also thrive in this environment,” Brockinton said, adding that

the federal grant has been successful at other institutions in improving the retention and graduation rates of students who participated in the program. Melissa Browning recently joined the Southern Wesleyan University staff as director of Student Support Services and the university is filling additional staff positions.

Brockinton noted that receiving the grant is a miracle that almost didn’t happen.

“After months of waiting, we received a letter that we were not funded. The DOE selected 978 colleges, most of whom were existing programs all over the United States,” Brockinton said. “But the letter indicated we were in a small ‘funding band’ of colleges who received enough points to be considered for a reserve of funds still available if we indicated our desire to be considered.”

Southern Wesleyan responded to the DOE asking to be reconsidered. They were notified by U.S. Senator Lindsay Graham’s office and U.S. Representative Jeff Duncan’s office that SWU was selected in the “funding band” round for the grant.



Melissa Browning in the new Student Support Services office.

CHAMP SQUIRES

Graduate sees life obstacles as a blessing for ministry

WHEN CHAMP SQUIRES receives his religion degree at Southern Wesleyan University's commencement this month, he looks forward to impacting his world, but also is looking back on more than two years of fellowship and camaraderie unique to the Central campus.

When Squires came as a transfer from Spartanburg Methodist College, he knew he wanted to continue his educational journey at Southern Wesleyan University.

"I knew as soon as I stepped on campus 'this is where you're going to be and you're going to love it. It's going to be a perfect fit. That proved itself multiple times,'" he said.

Squires grew up in a loving Christian home in the small town of Alcolu, S.C., situated between Columbia, Sumter and Manning.

"All of mom's side of the family were Baptist and Methodist pastors; I was raised Methodist, Squires said. They had a high influence on me spiritually. That kind of family dynamic put that in perspective."

People who get to know Squires are blessed by his warmth, energy and enthusiasm. Squires' sees his Cerebral Palsy as a blessing, not a curse.

"I've had people come up to me and ask me multiple times 'if the Lord was standing in front of you and He said do you want to be healed, what would your response be?' My response has always been the same and will always remain the same—'Okay Lord. If this is your

will, then do it. But if you're doing this so that your glory might be revealed, then I'm okay with it.'"

He adds that his Cerebral Palsy isn't likely to get worse or intensified.

"Even if it was to get worse, I find it to be a process of being totally thankful for the trials, because the trials are what makes us who we are," he said. "I heard somebody say one time 'the people who have the strongest faith are those who have been through the most difficulty.' I think that's true."

Squires also credits attending Boy's State as a high school student for instilling in him the importance of leadership, transparency and the tenacity to get things done. He sees Southern Wesleyan as a place with a focus on helping each student in his or her spiritual journey.

"I don't care if you're 22, I don't care if you're 19 or 18. You're still growing in your understanding of who God is and what He's calling you and me to do," he said.

Following graduation, Squires is weighing his options.

"There are two things I am passionate about—one is ministry and two is politics. Just realizing that the Lord's given me a real heart for ministry and a heart for sharing my personal story," Squires said.

Whatever he ends up doing, Squires looks forward to sharing life with people he has yet to meet—a quality that he has demonstrated well in Southern Wesleyan's campus community.



SWU GOSPEL CHOIR EXTENDING ITS MINISTRY

With an energetic, urban gospel vibe, the Southern Wesleyan University Gospel Choir ministers God's love wherever they go.

According to Dr. Justin Carter, associate vice president for student life and an advisor to the choir, God continues to open exciting new opportunities for the choir.

Carter has seen the Gospel Choir reorganized as its members experience spiritual growth.

A few years ago, SWU student Chynna Rae Douglas sought to bring the choir back. Betty Walker, a university admissions counselor who passed away a few years ago, led an earlier gospel choir.

Carter helped grow the choir from a discipleship group to an official student organization. He said the choir began with just a few singers and no musicians—and they knew one song, which they sang a cappella in chapel. Douglas soon found musicians willing to accompany the singers. A couple of times a year, the choir would go and sing at the home churches of choir members. They would eventually be visiting a different church nearly every Sunday. During Spring Semester 2013 the Gospel Choir had their first concert at Folger Fine Arts Auditorium, which attracted about 50 people.

"God opened doors for the choir. It's not like we've done any sort of promotions or advertisement. We just are presented with opportunities when we go out and sing," Carter said.

In early 2014, Rev. Joe Moss, a member of Central's town council who also conducts a prison ministry, invited the Gospel Choir to lead musical worship in a Sunday worship



Patrick Hampton directs as the Gospel Choir leads worship during a September chapel on the campus in Central.

service at Pickens County's correctional facility. About a hundred prisoners attended, and two of them gave their lives to Christ.

As the choir members minister, they are blessed also.

"For me, Gospel Choir is a way to mix having fun with praising God and I get to do it with some of the coolest people," said Miranda Hill, a religion major from Goldsboro, N.C.

Danny Hall, a special education major from Seneca, plays keyboard and serves as the choir's musical director. He says the Gospel Choir is like a "second family" and is a welcome escape from the pressures of his studies.

"We're coming here, we're having fun and we're praising God—that's two things I love to do," Hall said.

Shy'Keya Wimberly, a criminal justice major from Smith Station, Ala., loves coming to Gospel Choir practice after dinner, saying "before I came here, I ate. I'm physically full. Now I'm coming to get spiritually full."

Curtis Burkhalter, who was raised on the mission field in Brazil, says being in the Gospel Choir gives him a "neat experience" exposing him to a uniquely American form of worship and culture.

"I get a lot of joy and fun out of singing different kinds of music with different kinds of people," said Patrick Hampton, a secondary music education major from Spartanburg who is the choir's voice director.

Carter and Rev. Dave Tolan, SWU's missions mobilizer, are currently organizing a trip that will take the choir throughout Haiti. They are currently raising support for 15 choir members' travel expenses plus the purchase of musical instruments and sound equipment they will donate to a local church. SWU's Sigma Delta chapter raised more than \$300 at a car wash in September, and Carter said choir members plan several fundraisers and a letter-writing campaign to raise additional funds.

For details about the SWU Gospel Choir or to donate, contact Carter at 864.644.5144 or email jcarter@swu.edu.

HURRICANE JOAQUIN

SWU, surrounding community, come to aid of Allen University

Southern Wesleyan University donated more than 11,000 bottles of water to Allen University, an institution affected by a boiled water advisory issued by the city of Columbia following widespread flooding in the area.

Southern Wesleyan officials realized that clean drinking water has been difficult to obtain in the state's capital city and, with assistance from South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (SCICU), immediately mobilized efforts to provide assistance to students, faculty and staff at Allen.

Southern Wesleyan employees, along with several individuals, churches and businesses, donated generously to meet Allen's need. ALIVE Wesleyan Church in Central donated water and Gatorade. Water donations also came from Bethany Wesleyan Church, Spartanburg; Baptist Easley Hospital; Greenville Health System/Palmetto Health, Central Walmart and the Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce.

The donated water quickly filled one of Southern Wesleyan's larger trucks to capacity, so additional water was put in a university van. Southern Wesleyan employees Ken Alexander and Joey Turner transported the



Allen University students help SWU staff unload the Southern Wesleyan University truck.

water to Allen University Oct. 8.

Mike LeFever, president/CEO of SCICU, says water problems in the Columbia area could drag on for many more days and is appreciative of this water donation.

"What a terrific outpouring of love by SWU and the many associated with

collecting water for Allen University. Ken and Joey were great ambassadors. The Allen community is very thankful," LeFever said.

Southern Wesleyan University President Todd Voss praised those from the Central area and across the Upstate for their generosity in meeting Allen University's urgent need.

"Our hearts go out the Allen University and their wonderful students in the midst of this drinking water challenge. Knowing the Upstate had so few issues with the storm, we felt we were in position to help this partner school in any way we could," Voss said. "Our staff, area business colleagues, and sincere friends showed up in record numbers to provide for this need. I couldn't be more pleased with this outpouring. Our prayers are with Allen and we hope to keep this relationship strong over the good days ahead."

"The Allen University campus is thankful for this blessing of kindness and service leadership. It is heart warming to know that the students and staff thought about Allen University and then acted on those thoughts. We thank SCICU for their assistance in this activity as well," said Dr. Lady June Cole, Allen University's President.

Both Allen University and Southern Wesleyan University are SCICU institutions.



From left: Joey Turner, Rev. Ken Dill, Pat Hickey and Delton Mahaffey of Baptist Easley Hospital, Ken Alexander, Ethan Cashwell, and Charlie Fine, a 2013 alumnus.

WARRIORS ARMED FOR BATTLE



WHILE ENGAGED IN INTERCOLLEGIATE COMPETITION, players battle their opponents with a clear goal.

While any coach wants to see a winning team of dedicated athletes, not all coaches concern themselves with a competition that goes on away from the playing field—not a competition where a championship title is at stake, but a competition where individual hearts are at stake.

At the heart of Southern Wesleyan University's athletics program is a desire that all athletes come to know Christ as their personal savior and also a desire to come alongside them and disciple them as they mature spiritually.

"This is your battleground," said Charles Wimphrie, head men's basketball coach, during a Bible study with his players. "Understand who you are. Understand why God put you here with us. That's a lot to think about. You've got a lot of things coming at you from one side and the other," Wimphrie said.

For Wimphrie and other Southern Wesleyan coaches, prayer and Bible study are an integral part of their team's preparation, as are regular practices.

Chris Williams, Southern Wesleyan's director of athletics, wants coaches and players who are

driven to be successful and win games and conference titles, but he's quick to add "I would really like somebody who wants to win their souls for Christ, which is a championship."

"Everything's not rosy. We're not all put together. We've got issues," Williams said. "But our goal is to use our platform of sport to give others the opportunity to know Christ in an imperfect world."

During monthly meetings with coaches, Williams emphasizes four areas—spiritual development, academic success, athletic excellence and community outreach.

"If all of these things line up, I believe that at some point God blesses you with a successful season on the scoreboard," Williams said that while winning a national championship is great, honoring God through these other areas comes first.

Charles Wimphrie, head men's basketball coach, leads a Bible study for student-athletes.



A women's basketball player attended an afternoon Bible study with Greg Thiel, men's and women's cross country and track coach. She shared with a room full of runners that she has decided to make Jesus Christ her savior. Thiel related that she said a simple prayer, "God help me!"

"It's about the greatest prayer you can have," Thiel said. "This whole book is a love story; it's a search and

rescue story.”

“When you’re young, you don’t fully understand everything you know is true, and you get to a certain point in your life where you need Him. I got to that point. It just really hit home for me in how I need Him,” said Kasey Howard, a student-athlete.

Through Bible studies and prayer time, Amy Barton, a member of the women’s track team, said God became real to her. “I knew that God loved me, but I didn’t actually take it to heart and believe it was real,” Barton said. “I didn’t believe He loved me with all of my faults and everything to do with my past.”

Jemiah Wimphrie’s faith has a lot to do with the way he plays basketball.

“Without God, my ability to play the game would be nothing. As I grow in my faith my talent on the court rises, and I hear God say ‘Be humble and honor me in all you do and watch the greatness that comes.’”

“I’ve realized that gift of playing this game gives me the opportunity to interact with my teammates and classmates and be a reflection of Christ,” said Ebby Kamara, a member of the Men’s Basketball Team.

John Davis, head women’s basketball coach, shared news that one of his players, an international student from the Netherlands, asked Jesus into her heart. “Our team had five salvations on Friday—three seniors, two sophomores! What a great way to send them off for Fall Break,” Davis said.

Corey Morrell, head women’s soccer coach, started a Sunday night devotional with his team during Fall Semester. At the start of Fall Break, five of Morrell’s players accepted Christ as savior. Joey Maxon, head men’s and women’s golf coach, holds a study every other week where members of the Men’s Golf Team get together with members of nearby Clemson University’s golf team to for Bible study.

“We have really good participation with anywhere from 8-12 players in attendance between the two teams,” Maxon said. “My wife Elizabeth holds a study for our women’s team at exactly the same time on Wednesday evenings. At times she’s had every single player on our Women’s team attend. We find it to be a great system and I know that all of our players look forward to it!”

Student-athletes have numerous opportunities to live out their faith. Julia Reininga, head volleyball coach, said that when she went on a mission trip with her team to Costa Rica two years ago they decided to bring along extra money to feed a village there for an entire month. Reininga then thought of a tent city in nearby Greenville and the homeless population there. Her team began to take them meals prepared by the university’s dining services. They also have been getting help from the golf and softball teams, along with assistance from members of Williams’ family.

Maggie Jones, a freshman on Reininga’s team, said that taking these meals to the homeless has opened her eyes.

“Watching them refuse to even take another bag of food really makes me stop and realize how grateful I should be,” Jones said.

A big part of a student-athlete’s spiritual battle is how to deal with images perpetuated by a multibillion-dollar sports industry of how a successful player looks. Holding up a smartphone, Williams said, “Everything’s marketed to us ‘It’s about you.’ You can blame it on social media, you can blame it on EA Sports, video games, you can blame it on ESPN, but everything is marketed to be about you and how awesome you are. The concept of athletics is opposite of that.” Williams continued that humbleness and being part of the team are important.

“Be happy for someone else’s success and celebrate with them, so that when you have success, it’s not shallow and hollow,” Williams said.



“When you’re young, you don’t fully understand everything you know is true and you get to a certain point in your life where you need Him. I got to that point and it just really hit home for me in how I need Him.”

KASEY HOWARD, Guard, Women’s Basketball



“I want to play the game in a way that brings to light the greatness of who God is. That means never taking a play off and giving my all, keeping a positive attitude, no matter how good or bad I’m playing and doing things differently so that The Lord stands out more than me.”

JUSTIN BREW, Outfielder, Baseball Team



“I love the time of fellowship and conversation we get to have. And even though they’re the ones receiving food, I feel like they’re doing so much for us. More than we are doing for them!”

MEGAN WIDENER, Senior Setter, Volleyball Team (Talking about team’s ministry to the Homeless)



“I’ve realized that gift of playing this game gives me the opportunity to interact with my teammates and classmates and be a reflection of Christ.”

EBBY KAMARA, Forward, Men’s Basketball Team



“Because we know it’s so real, we expect the Holy Spirit to show up. I get so pumped to come to these (Bible studies). You really just trust Him and He shows up every time and answers all our questions profoundly and perfectly.”

OLIVIA BUSH, Track and Field

SWU DEDICATES TENNIS COMPLEX

In 2012 Southern Wesleyan University faced the challenge of building a new men's and women's tennis program without the facilities essential for intercollegiate competition.

On Oct. 28, the university dedicated the complex with a ceremony inside Nicholson-Mitchell Christian Ministry Center, overlooking the tennis complex.

The facility is being named for Rev. Leroy C. Cox, a SWU alumnus who served numerous Wesleyan congregations and recently passed away. His family's generous support is helping to make the tennis complex a reality. Dr. Thomas Cox honored the memory of his father, Rev. Cox, by gifting to the university in this meaningful and lasting way.

Thomas, a pediatric dentist and SWU alumnus, shared about how his father was known for his friendliness and optimism.

"He would pick out the positive things about others," Thomas said, adding that there

was a balance to his father's optimism. He recalled telling his father that he pitched a shutout and hit two home runs at a baseball game, to which Leroy responded "that's great son. I'm so proud of you," and then quoted scripture to his son, "But let him that thinketh he stand take heed lest he fall." Thomas reflected on how that verse helped him in the midst of dental school.

SWU President Todd Voss said the tennis complex will benefit not only the tennis teams but also students and tennis enthusiasts in the surrounding community. He added that building a tennis complex also follows through on a NCAA recommendation as the university continues in its membership process as a new conference member.

"These courts are not ours. These courts are meant for this community—this town, this county, this region—these courts are meant to be used," Voss said. Dr. Charles

Joiner, chairman of SWU's board of trustees, expressed gratitude to the Cox family for leaving a legacy.

Chris Williams, director of athletics, said that the tennis complex "demonstrates forward momentum of our athletic program." He thanked the U.S. Tennis Association (USTA) for their involvement in this project. He also praised the city of Clemson for allowing the teams to use Nettles Park for matches and practices. Dr. Lisa McWherter, SWU's vice president for advancement, and Williams thanked Passpointe Engineering, J.W. White Consulting LLC, Fowler Corp., Competitive Athletic Surfaces, Baseline Sports, Metrocon and Southern Wesleyan's physical plant—all instrumental in the \$560,000 project.

"This tennis complex is just one example of how our Heavenly Father has called us to be a contagiously generous institution," McWherter said. "This complex will be open

At the Rev. Leroy C. Cox Tennis Complex dedication. From left: Dr. Lisa McWherter, Dr. Thomas Cox, Leroy's son, and Dr. Todd Voss, SWU president.





Tim Newton, right, expresses his appreciation for having one of the complex's tennis courts named for him by his sister.

to the public, accessible to our friends with disabilities and special needs, as well as to our youth."

Two tennis courts within the complex were named—one in honor of Tim Newton, an avid tennis player who grew up at the Central campus and whose family has close ties to the university; the other court was named in honor of Dr. Joe Brockinton, SWU's vice president for student life.

Newton grew up in Central and learned

to play tennis on the campus as a child. His tennis playing roots are grounded at SWU. Newton expressed thanks to his sister, Faith Newton Hobson, for her contribution to name the court for him. He also recalled getting to know Leroy, who was about the same age.

"Leroy made you feel like you were the most important person he had met when he was talking to you," Newton said.

Brockinton, himself a former member of

Asbury University's Tennis Team, was surprised by the honor given him by the university and his family members. He commented that tennis helped him to learn what it meant to compete and to win.

SWU Tennis Coach Darrell Jernigan said he now has a platform for a Christian witness.

"There's energy in this room. There are changes to come," said Mac Martin, mayor of Central, expressing gratitude for the town's partnership with SWU.

A future phase, dependent on donor funding, will add to the complex a championship court, complete with "court specific" spectator seating. This dedication event was hosted by SWU's Advancement office. For details about the Rev. Leroy C. Cox Tennis Complex or about future expansion at SWU, contact McWherter at 864.644.5006 or email lmcwherter@swu.edu.

The Rev. Leroy C. Tennis Complex was made possible by amazingly generous donors, to include: Trustees; Faculty & Staff; Town of Central; City of Clemson; Pickens County; Dr. Thomas Cox and Family; Faith Newton Hobson and Family; Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce; Metrocon; Tim Fowler; Competition & Baseline Sports; Passpoint Engineering; Jonathan Catron & his SWU Teams; Brevard Wesleyan Church; Ameristar Commercial, Inc.; USTA Guidance; Numerous Friends of the University.

HAITHCOCK HONORED

For her volunteer service at The Reserve at Lake Keowee during the 2015 BMW Charity Pro-Am, SWU alumna Sherry Haithcock ('78) was honored as 2015 Volunteer of the Week. Haithcock volunteered on behalf of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). Pictured from left is Morgan Fields, program manager of S.C. Charities, Inc. (SCCI); Bob Nitto, president of the SCCI board of directors; and Haithcock. BMW Charity Pro-Am is sponsored by SYNEX Corp.



RENOVATING THE REGIONAL CENTERS

Over the past several months, the Charleston and Greenville learning centers have been through renovations to upgrade the academic environments and provide more student-focused community areas.

The Columbia learning center will begin renovations in early 2016, while plans are still being made for the future location of the North Augusta learning center.



Charleston

Southern Wesleyan University's Charleston learning center at Faber Place recently received a facelift. A newly decorated lobby welcomes current and prospective students. Classrooms feature desks with

built-in laptop power connections. In addition, there is a new computer lab, student break room, student reception/lounge area and offices for area staff.

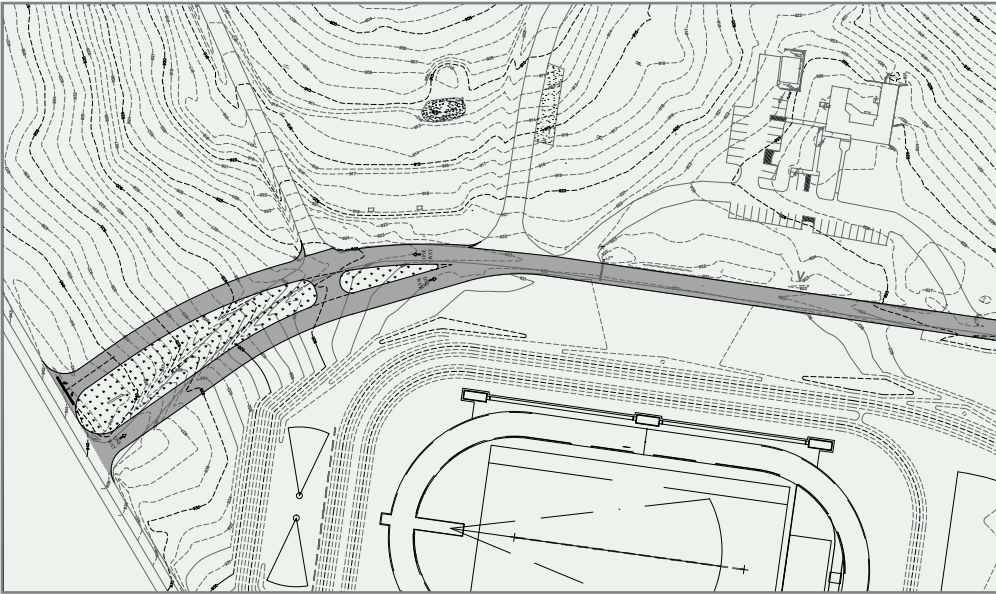


Greenville

Southern Wesleyan University's Greenville learning center moved in November to its new location at Park East office park, located just off Independence Boulevard at 150 Executive Center Drive, close to

Roper Mountain Road and the I-85/I-385 interchange. New facilities include classroom upgrades, community study areas, and an inviting outdoor courtyard. Classes began Nov. 2 at the new location.

CAMPUS PROJECTS



NEW UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE AT S.C. HIGHWAY 93

Southern Wesleyan University is moving closer to the final step for a new entrance boulevard at S.C. Hwy. 93, supported by state and county road improvement funds. This will help the university better accommodate traffic entering the campus for athletic events, particularly large buses.

NICHOLSON-MITCHELL CHRISTIAN MINISTRY CENTER

Renovations are currently taking place within the Nicholson-Mitchell Christian Ministry Center, the new home for Southern Wesleyan University's Division of Religion. Building A, which houses a large assembly area, conference room and meeting/classroom spaces, is nearing completion. This building is familiar to many as the original First Wesleyan Church, which more recently became Alive Wesleyan Church. Alive Wesleyan is currently located approximately two miles off campus.





LEROY C. COX TENNIS COMPLEX

Construction of phase one is now underway. When completed, the tennis complex will include six USTA-designed lighted “SWU Blue” tennis courts. A future phase dependent upon donor funding will consist of a championship tennis court, complete with spectator seating.

INTRAMURAL FIELDS

New fields along S.C. Highway 93, adjacent to the track and soccer complex, will be the venue for lacrosse and various kinds of intramural sports.



VARSITY FIELD SPECTATOR SEATING

Concrete has been poured behind Varsity Field's backstop, upon which metal bleachers were placed, offering ample seating for fans following SWU's softball team.

MITCHELL STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Located in the Jennings Campus Life Center, the Mitchell Student Support Services facility houses Federal TRIO program offices, where students can now access resources that will help them realize their dream of a college degree. The TRIO Student Support Services grant will serve 140 students each year who are first-generation college students, students with disabilities and students from low-income families.



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OPERATION FREEDOM'S CADENCE

THE UNIVERSITY SINGERS' sphere of influence got a bit larger as they sought to touch the lives of service men and women in new ways and new places.

The musical ensemble from Southern Wesleyan University, already known for its musical outreach at churches and military chapels in several states, traveled to Germany and Italy in May 2015, where they performed at military hospitals and other installations.

The tour, named Operation Freedom's Cadence (OFC), grew out of a heartfelt desire to expand The University Singers' support for men and women in military service. For Rev. Gail Kerstetter, The University Singers director and SWU's director of music ministry and outreach, and her husband, Rev. Bob Kerstetter, SWU's director of worship and discipleship, it's a labor of love influenced in no small part by how chapel services positively impacted their son Devin, who actively serves in the military. Initially, God opened the doors for The University Singers to travel to military installations across the Eastern

U.S. and to Washington, D.C.

Dr. Gary Carr, military endorser for The Wesleyan Church and a former military chaplain, played an instrumental role in making an overseas trip a reality. Carr is grateful to all who financially supported OFC and is "overwhelmed" by the accolades received during the trip.

"The impact of seeing the team actually getting on the plane and giving 100 percent effort every day throughout the entire tour was incredibly uplifting," said Carr.

"The time leading up to the trip was definitely a faith test for us all. We had no clue if the money needed for the trip would come in on time," said The University Singers member Ryan Hendricks. "The only thing we could do was to trust that God would provide and that He will take care of everything for us. He definitely did!"

According to Gail, troops and chaplains were "genuinely grateful" for their visits.

"We had great conversations with those serving. We hugged their



The University Singers in Garmisch, Germany. From left: Rev Bob Kerstetter, Lauren Schaupp, Zach Ford, Kaleigh Bray, Ryan Hendricks, Katy Dyches, Tanner Lambert, Kaitlin Mosley,

necks and prayed over them,” Gail said. The University Singers shared an uplifting musical repertoire to troops hospitalized at Landstuhl Medical Center, while Marine Cpl. Chris Peck, also a Southern Wesleyan student, presented his powerful testimony drawn from his tours of duty overseas.

“We were escorted through the halls by a sergeant who strategically placed us to sing so more than one patient at a time could hear,” Gail said. Seeing a group from South Carolina was a taste of home for some. One soldier had her laptop open, waiting for a church service from Florence, S.C., to come online. As the ensemble sang, she was clapping and moving to the music, getting teary-eyed. Nearby they prayed for another patient from Liberty, S.C.

“I couldn’t be more proud of my team. Every time they sang, they did so with passion and power.”



Cameron Tarrant, Caitlin Gardner, Noah Cromer, Rev. Gail Kerstetter, and Cpl. Chris Peck.

“For me to be able to share my story with like-minded military people has been an amazing experience,” said Peck, who served in Iraq. “My deployment experiences have made me who I am today. Without them my testimony would not be what it is. While there is a lot of pain in my past, I get to see how people can relate to my experiences and have an experience with Christ themselves,” Peck said.

“I couldn’t be more proud of my team. Every time they sang, they did so with passion and power. We ministered to packed houses and one night to a group of only three people; however, the delivery was the same every time,” Gail said. “The night we sang to only three people, we were so blessed by the message of the songs; we all fought back tears.”

They also sang and ministered at churches, including Evangelical Christian Baptist Church of Pordenone, Italy. Kay Wilcox, a woman the ensemble met when they sang in Florida, divided time between Florida and Italy. Wanting The University Singers to minister to her home church in Italy, Wilcox made some connections and, as a result, two Italian Baptist congregations came together for the Pordenone concert. Gail recalled that the people of the church were standing outside on the church steps waiting for them to arrive.

“Most of the congregation only spoke Italian—but it didn’t seem to matter. They shook their heads in affirmation at each song, listening intently to every word. I believe the Holy Spirit did the interpreting in their hearts. Chris gave his testimony through an interpreter that night. When he told how Christ transformed his life, the interpreter could hardly continue,” she said.

At the Department of Defense School in Aviano, Italy, The University Singers sang to approximately 400 students and teachers, presenting a program they compiled, “America’s Songbook,” featuring American music ranging from country to Broadway.

“Cheers and shouts from Kindergarteners to the seniors in High School rang throughout the room,” she said, adding that many in the audience asked group members for their autographs on the University Singers postcards they received.

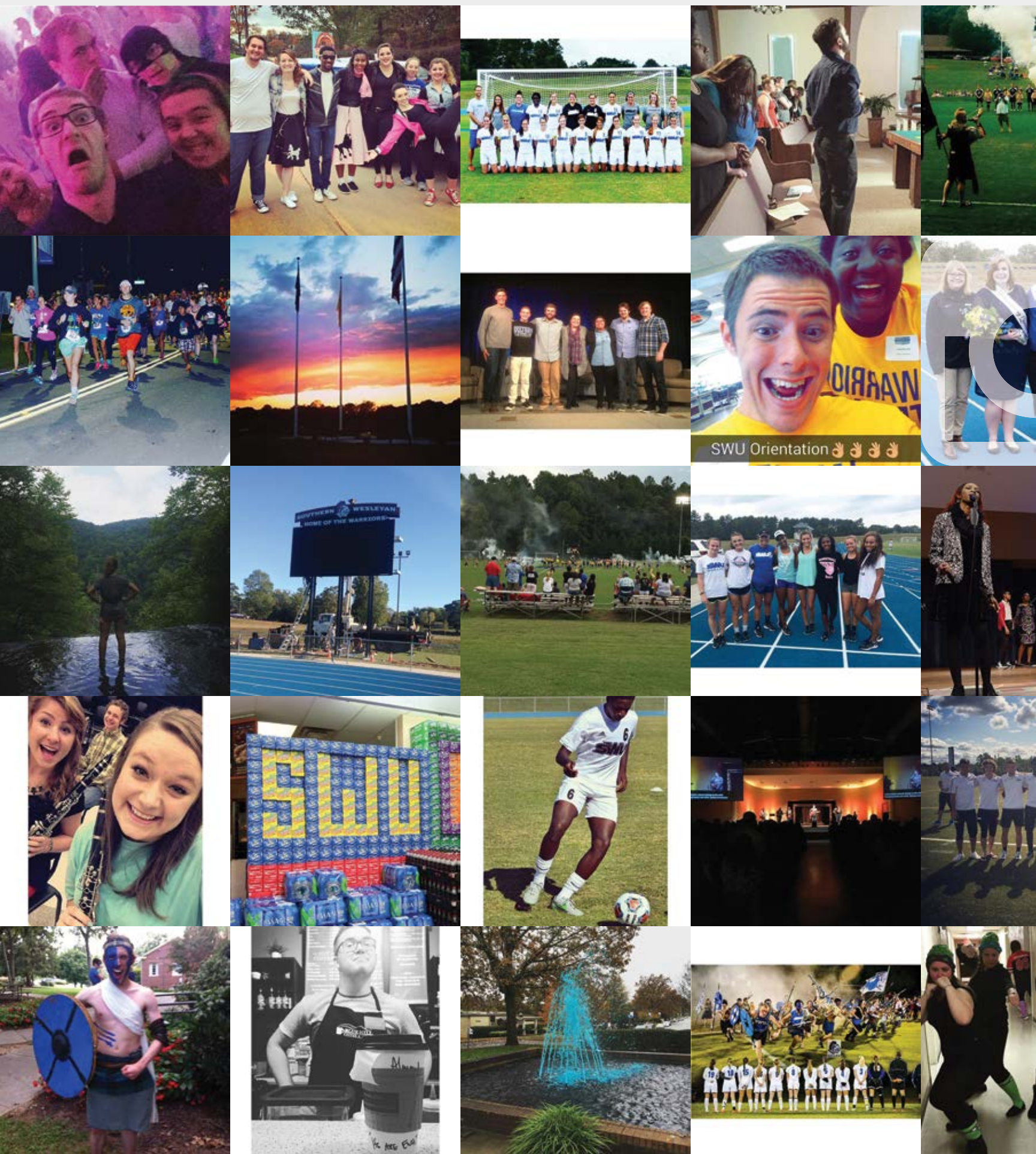
“Receptive hearts clearly joined together in worship, making for a beautiful and truly precious evening,” said The University Singers member Kayleigh Bray.

A highlight of the tour came on their last night, when the ensemble was invited to sing for the Marines at the American Embassy. After making their way through the embassy’s tight security, they performed for 30 minutes after a dinner and met the U.S. Ambassador. Another highlight of the trip took place at Naples Naval Base where, in the base’s food court, The University Singers performed for the commander, who became visibly moved by their singing.

Carr traveled with The University Singers, along with Rev. Ken Dill, university chaplain, and his wife Jane, who chairs the university’s Fine Arts Division. Writing, photographing and making videos were a small group of SWU media communication majors, led by Dr. Lewis Knight, the program’s coordinator.

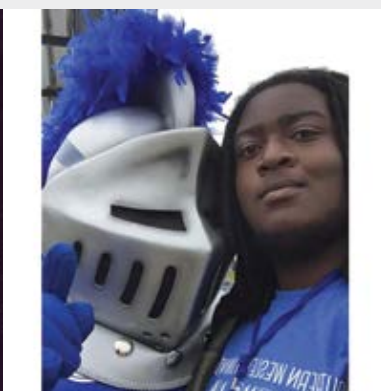
“The scenery was fabulous and will forever be remembered; However, the faces of our troops and their children are permanently imprinted on our hearts and minds,” Gail said. “I doubt that any of us will ever look at an American Flag again without thinking of who is keeping our shores safe so that we can be called the land of the free and the home of the brave.”

To find out more about OFC, go to swusingers.org to read the blog and view photos and videos. To view The University Singers’ travel schedule, go to swu.edu/universitysingers.



SWU Orientation 🙌🙌🙌🙌

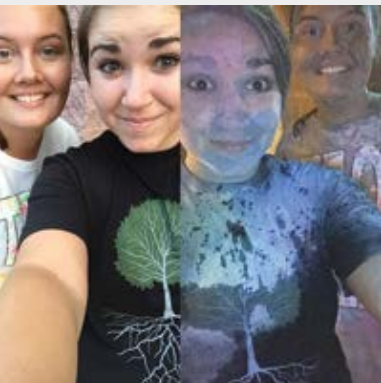
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#SWULIFE

Student Instagram photos from Fall Semester 2015

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LIVING



ING THE

DREAM

Disney communications manager credits SWU for spiritual, professional transformation



“I always knew I wanted to write.”

AS A COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER for Disney, Southern Wesleyan University alumnus Jim Frye ('91) is pursuing his dream professionally at a place many seek to find a job but few get selected.

From a young age, Frye drew out stories daily on a chalkboard, concocting tales and drawing them in his own comic strips and books.

“I always knew I wanted to write,” said Frye, who at 10 years old would practice writing novels on his Mom’s manual typewriter.

“There were three things that made me want to write: my early love for Marvel comic books—my adoration of the animated films from Disney and my absolute geek-love affair with the movie *Star Wars* (1977),” he said. “The fact that all three of those things now sit in the place I work is an unbelievable dream-come-true for me.” (Both Marvel and Lucasfilm/*Star Wars* were purchased by Disney in the last few years).

Frye also cherishes skills he developed as a SWU student and his relationships with faculty and friends. Living close to SWU and having friends in The Wesleyan Church, he visited the campus at Central and concluded it was the right fit.

“The professors at SWU got behind me and shoved me that

direction, especially Dr. Gloria Bell and Professor Nancy Stone, who led the English department at that time,” Frye said, adding that, as a student, he was pushed to refine his research and composition skills.

“I remember back then I thought I was hot stuff because I tested out of freshman English, but then I hit Prof. Stone’s class and failed my very first research paper,” Frye said. “I had to re-learn what I thought I already knew, and Prof. Stone and Dr. Bell literally squeezed the vise grip on my writing until it got to where it needed to be. And I thank them for it.”

Looking back on friends and teachers who lived out “an active, growing and vibrant faith,” Frye said he came alive spiritually as a SWU student.

After graduating, Frye spent a couple of years teaching, but through his experiences in developing newsletters and other publications for a nonprofit, he went into writing fulltime as a communications director with a chamber of commerce, then moving into work at magazines, where he eventually became a managing editor. He then went to Disney World in Florida for a couple of years, but returned to magazines, writing and traveling for a watersports and lifestyle magazine.

Still, Frye had an urge to do something different. Seeking to make a career out of writing for films and working in the entertainment industry, he took a leap of faith and headed west to Hollywood, eventually entering Walt Disney Studios to pursue screenwriting.

Frye now works in a department called Disney Corporate Creative Resources, where he says a typical day is split between “umpteenth different clients.”

"In the morning I could be drafting articles for our internal news magazine, then by lunch I'm creating presentations for the Corporate HR leaders. In the afternoon I'm scripting videos, and before day's end I dive headlong into our external Disney fan club magazine called Disney twenty-three (D23.com)," he said.

"The world of Hollywood is a weird but awesome adventure."

Managing the Star Wars edition of the fan club magazine his department publishes, Frye draws from his knowledge of the iconic movie franchise and—to his delight—gets to talk with some Star Wars actors and creator George Lucas.

In addition to his work at Disney, Frye spends almost every day after work writing and developing screenplays and TV scripts,

working with a writing partner and work-shopping ideas through 906 Communications Group (906communications.com).

"The world of Hollywood is a weird but awesome adventure. Everyone out here is working their "day job" en route to something else. It's great work, but I'm humbled by this opportunity and I give God thanks for His provisions," Frye said.

Frye's advice to college students is to get a summer job or internship that will look good on a résumé after college. While competition is high for most good jobs, he says at Disney, there are between 100 and 500 resumes for every job.

In addition to internships, Frye suggests taking on leadership roles, including student government or managing a student publication. He urges anyone entering some sort of creative field to develop good writing skills and stay on top of current trends, including learning how to communicate in video production, web writing and print, and mastering social media.

"The most important piece of career advice I can give anyone is 'Be nice.' Be the person with whom others want to work," Frye said. "You can have all the skills and talent in the world, but if no one wants to work with you, you may as well head home. Re-read Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, especially His beatitudes. He gave golden nuggets of advice that will carry you through your career. And your life."



FAITH NEWTON HOBSON

Steeped in University's Past, Hobson's Support Ensures Future Growth

GROWING UP ON "COLLEGE HILL," Faith Newton Hobson amassed plenty of memories of what is now Southern Wesleyan University. Her family ties read like a history of the institution then known as Wesleyan Methodist College.

Faith attended Wesleyan Methodist in high school and college, then went on to become a beloved educator and close friend to the university. Former Southern Wesleyan President David Spittal said that Faith's story is intertwined with the story of the university.

"Faith is a perfect name for this wonderful lady. From my very first meeting, she became one of the most positive people I have ever known and a frequent personal encourager. As a highly recognized teacher in Tuscaloosa, Ala., hundreds of students through the years hold her in high esteem for the same positive encouraging spirit. Faith Newton Hobson was energetic, fun and always ready to be at the center of the action," Spittal said. He added that an anonymous donor supporting construction of a new chapel and university fine arts center admired Faith and wanted the facility to be named for her when it was completed in 2008.

Faith's parents, Doc Miles Newton and Alma Zula Nalley, moved to Central in order to ensure their children received a solid Christian education.



"My Dad came from the mountainous area of South Carolina," Faith said. "The Nalleys were a big family. She was the oldest of the girls. Uncle Elford was the oldest." Faith's oldest sister, Ethel Newton Childs, was married to John Frank Childs, who was president of Wesleyan Methodist College from 1933-1945. After Childs died, Ethel came to live with Alma, as well as Faith's Aunt Mabel.

Doc and Alma's first house in Central was located on Childs Road, where they lived until it burned in 1930. Their property was near the present site of the University Dining Commons. After the fire, Faith's father renovated the dwelling that was the original structure on the campus. Eventually known as "Rest Cottage," the home was situated at the end of Childs Road where four dorms are located today.

Faith, the 13th of 14 children, remembers playing around the campus and going through the dormitories.

"I couldn't wait to see who all was going to be there," she said. "There was a big water tower. My dad put the tank 30 feet tall—swung it up with horse and tackles to get it up there. That was where the students went to wash their clothes," Faith said. "When the windows were open in the warm part of the year, you could hear students practicing on piano getting ready for a music lesson. Classes would be so anointed there would be shouting; there would always be prayer."

Faith remembered as a barefoot little girl watching Dr. Mullinax conducting a chemistry experiment with his class. “I was watching the experiment when I felt a pull on my hair. The class was concentrating on their experiment. He pulled one strand of my hair and said ‘Class, this child has a gray hair.’ I was four,” she said.

Faith attended grade school at the college, but then also attended area schools offering the grade levels not available for children her age. She ultimately graduated from Wesleyan Methodist College in 1942. Faith married Wallace Hobson after he came home from military service during World War II.

“I never had a date with him, just saw him Sunday morning and afternoon at church and Monday,” Faith said. Faith and Wallace enjoyed 61-and-a-half years of marriage, something she described as “a good life.”

Faith and Wallace both were involved with First Wesleyan Church in Tuscaloosa. Wallace spent years working with the U.S. Postal Service there. His father, W.E. Hobson had served as Tuscaloosa’s superintendent of mail and postmaster. Faith had begun teaching in Tuscaloosa schools, until the end of one year when her principal said she didn’t have a valid certificate and encouraged her to further her education. She ran into difficulty when applying for admission into a teacher education program at the University of Alabama, but was encouraged to seek help from the first woman in Alabama to earn her doctorate. Faith was then able to meet with the university’s dean, Dr. David McClure, who persuaded the registrar to accept her.

Following her acceptance to the University of Alabama’s teacher education program, many Wesleyan Methodist College graduates were emboldened to further their education, and several went on to earn their doctorate.

“This inspired (Wesleyan Methodist College) to work on their accreditation. In less than 10 years, Wesleyan Methodist College was accredited,” Faith said.

Over the years, Faith would continue faithfully supporting Southern Wesleyan University and returning to Central. She also supported efforts to build Second Wesleyan Church’s new home at Issaqueena Trail (Now Trinity Wesleyan Church).



1. Faith Newton Hobson with her husband, Wallace.
2. Faith Newton Hobson (center) at the groundbreaking for Newton Hobson Chapel and Fine Arts Center in 2007.
3. Newton siblings in 1967 – Left to right (front), Ina, Ethel, Faith (second row), Cleo, Tim, Bula, Nate, (third row) Tim, Isaac, (fourth row) Mac, Jacob, Tom, Isaac (back row), Clark, Tom. (Brother, Sam, is not pictured). Jacob, Mack, Clark.

Rev. James Wiggins, a SWU graduate who has served in the development office and as a trustee, got to know Faith and several of her family members when he was a young pastor at Second Wesleyan, which was the Newton family’s church. He recalled how Faith frequently came home to Central for church homecomings and the Newtons included him in numerous family gatherings.

Wiggins added that Faith often gave to campaigns, thinking ahead of ways to continue to invest in the university and its programs.

“Two of the greatest and outstanding attributes of her life are her constant spiritual concern and compassion toward family members,” Wiggins said.

Faith’s name graces the front of Newton Hobson Chapel and Fine Arts Center, which since 2008 has housed the Fine Arts Division and Spiritual Life offices and has been the site of numerous graduations, concerts and special events. She recently made a gift to the university to name a court in the new tennis complex for her younger brother Tim, who began his lifelong love of the sport on college hill.



*A phenomenal
woman of God*

A gifted singer

*An amazing
counselor*

A loving mother

Those are but a few traits describing DePayne Middleton Doctor, admissions coordinator at Southern Wesleyan University's Charleston learning center and an alumna of the university.



DePayne Doctor is pictured with her daughters Hali; Gracyn; Kaylin; Frances Middleton, her mother; Czana Doctor; and nephew Rodero Jones. This was taken at Jones' graduation.

FROM A YOUNG AGE, DePayne Middleton Doctor wanted to serve God and she was doing just that June 17 while attending a Bible study in Emanuel AME Church, where she and others in the Bible study welcomed a young man into their midst, unaware of his intentions.

Soon the world would mourn the loss of Doctor and eight others who became his victims in a mass shooting. In the wake of this tragedy, the Southern Wesleyan community remembered the “Emanuel Nine” and, in particular, a faithful employee who demonstrated Christ-like love and was devoted to her family and church.

“She was a very dedicated mother. Her daughters were on traveling basketball and volleyball teams. When one of her children had to go to Florida, North Carolina or wherever, she would get off and go do that. She was trying to work and accommodate them in their activity to play and do whatever needed to be done,” said Frances Middleton, Doctor’s mother.

Doctor was the middle child of Rev. and Mrs. Leroy Middleton. “She was a person who—when she gets a mind to do things—she does it,” said Leroy, a retired AME pastor. “We could see her moving toward preaching the gospel for the Lord,” he added.

“She believed in the power of prayer.”

Doctor’s sister Bethane Brown recalled how as sisters they would sing together in choirs and at many other places. Another sister, Janethe Magwood, often sang with them.

“Singing the Gospel came naturally to DePayne, growing up with a mother who sang,” Brown said.

After beginning her ministry at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church,

Doctor spoke in January 2015 with Rev. Clementa Pinckney at Emanuel AME Church, then became a part of that historic congregation, where she would continue her training in ministry with the goal of becoming an itinerant elder in the church.

“She went in January and about the second week in January it seemed like she’d been there for years. Rev. Pinckney took her under his arm they would work together,” Leroy said. Leroy said Doctor was planning in September 2015 to go before the bishop to be examined.

“They would listen to her then they would send a recommendation to the bishop and motion her to move on from the third study to the fourth study, but she didn’t get that far,” Leroy said.

Dr. Brenda Nelson, who served in ministry with Doctor for 20 years, called Doctor a “powerful preacher.”

“On June 17 we had prayer together, not knowing it would be our last time,” Nelson said. “She believed in the power of prayer. We had a prayer group of women Saturday mornings.” Nelson said that if Doctor was traveling with her daughters to a game, she would stop to call the group, providing encouragement, exhortation and praying with them. Nelson also recalled Doctor’s “angelic” singing voice.

“She had a desire to impact the kingdom. Her ministry has now impacted the community, state, nation and world. God brought nations and world to her,” Nelson said.

“Always a warm and enthusiastic leader, DePayne truly believed in the mission of SWU to help students achieve their potential by connecting faith with learning,” SWU president Dr. Todd Voss said “Our prayers go out to family and friends. This is a great loss for our students and the Charleston region.”

“DePayne was a very strong woman in her faith and this was truly her guiding post here at SWU with students, colleagues and with raising her four girls as a single mom,” said Leigh Thomson, an admissions coordinator at Southern Wesleyan’s Charleston learning center who worked closely with Doctor. “She had a calmness and serenity

about her when dealing with students which I believed put them at ease about the difficult decisions they were making to take on the commitment of earning a degree. She prayed with the students. She treated each student individually and with respect.

“She was very committed to two things, her God and her daughters.”

For me, she shared caring words when my father was admitted to the hospital with difficulties with cancer which would come to mean more than I could possibly imagine upon her sudden death and my father's shortly after. I will always be grateful for her compassion and words of the Lord to help me heal,” Thomson added.

“I appreciated and admired her bedrock faith that permeated all aspects of her life. Anyone that knew DePayne could tell you she was

very committed to two things, her God and her daughters,” said Dean Grile, senior director for recruitment services. “It was a privilege to be able to spend the short time we had with her in this life and we look forward to being reunited with her in the next one with Jesus.”

Her daughters moved to Charlotte to be with their aunt. Gracyn, the oldest daughter, is a senior at Johnson C. Smith University. Kaylyn recently entered Johnson and Wales in Charlotte, and the youngest daughters are attending Charlotte schools.

Doctor began work in December 2014 at SWU's Charleston learning center.

She received her BA in biology and life sciences from Columbia College and was a swu alumna, having received her master's in management from swu in 1994. She was an experienced grant writer, having worked with local school districts as a consultant. She also worked for local and state agencies in various roles and as data manager/analyst for the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC).

On Oct. 30, Doctor was recognized posthumously with the Professional Excellence Award from the School of Business, accepted on her behalf by her parents.



Doctor at the Charleston Learning Center.

SWU GRAD IS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

For Joey Bryson, education is more than just a career—it's a way of life.

Bryson, a 2003 Southern Wesleyan University special education graduate and a teacher at West-Oak Middle School, embraces the challenges of teaching special education, recalling the difference teachers made in the life of a cousin who had Muscular Dystrophy. Bryson can't recall a time in her life when she didn't want to become a teacher. She realized her calling into education when she was a high school student serving as a teaching assistant in a special needs classroom.

The School District of Oconee County affirmed Bryson's dedication by naming her Teacher of the Year.

"I'm honored and humbled to represent my students and their parents, West-Oak Middle School and the School District of Oconee County," Bryson said, adding that she doesn't take her honor lightly.

"The joys of being a special education

teacher are too numerous to list. The relationship that I am able to establish with my students and their families is something that many teachers never experience," she said. "Teaching my students to focus on their abilities rather than their disabilities, then witnessing their success is a feeling that can only be described as pure bliss."

Bryson believes the greatest challenge of being a special education teacher is being able to find the balance of flexibility and structure in times of chaos.

She enrolled at Southern Wesleyan's adult evening program because it offered her a flexible course of study that allowed for a balance between her education, family life and fulltime work.

"Without the flexibility of SWU's adult evening program, I would not have been able to have achieved my dream of being a teacher," she said. "While earning my degree at SWU, I was able to work with a faculty and participate in classes with students who



understood the meaning of flexibility."

She also credits her education for imparting life lessons that helped her to be more understanding of life's circumstances and the true meaning of fairness.

"Fairness is exhibited when everyone receives what they need in order to reach their fullest potential," she said.

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WARRIOR HOMECOMING

FALL

the

HILL

2015



SWU alumni Bob Cooley of Easley and Billie Faye Harvey of Central wait for the start of the Homecoming Parade along Wesleyan Drive. Cooley, a ministry major and retired minister of music, is a 1973 alumnus of the university. Harvey is a retired SWU employee who received her English degree in 1989 and also attended Wesleyan Methodist Academy, a high school once operated by the university.



Southern Wesleyan University alumnus Matt Tietje ('05) and Kinsley Chapman of Golden Grove Wesleyan Church join others in the 5k "Glow Run" Oct. 30. Although this was the fourth run, it was the first one to take place at night.



Southern Wesleyan University President Todd Voss and his wife Julie crowned Tiana Robbins as the 2015 Homecoming Queen and Kaleb Spaugh as the 2015 Homecoming King. This year's Homecoming moved to the vicinity of the new Joe R. Gilbert Track and Field with lots of food, fun, fellowship, great music and Warriors soccer! Robbins is a special education major from Chesnee, S.C. and Spaugh is a religion major from Hertford, N.C.

Making New Memories

Southern Wesleyan University's 2015 Homecoming Oct. 30 and 31 wasn't only about sharing memories from times past; it was also about making exciting new memories with music, fun and fellowship.

Homecoming started with a "Kickoff Concert" featuring the Rick Webb Family and the University Singers, performing and leading in musical worship on the stage of Newton Hobson Chapel and Fine Arts Center. During the concert, outstanding alumni were also recognized.

"Run2Fall", the SWU Staff Council's 5k run, shifted to a Friday night "glow run" this year, with Alex Pena of Anderson taking first place for the second year in a row with a time of 20:29. The first woman to cross the finish line was Paula Preusz Lemons, 1994 SWU alumna, with a time of 25:17.

Saturday morning began with coffee and doughnuts with the president. SWU 2010 alumnus Rev. Josh Ivy spoke at Homecoming

Chapel, which was followed by a parade up Wesleyan Drive. The celebration then moved to the university's new Joe R. Gilbert Track and Field area for "SWU's, Blues and BBQ's"—a picnic lunch with live music, which continued throughout the afternoon with jazz, gospel, bluegrass and blues.

In Warrior athletics, The Women's Volleyball Team defeated Belmont Abbey College 3-1 Friday night and also defeated Pfeiffer University Saturday evening 3-0. The Men's Soccer Team lost to Pfeiffer 4-1 Saturday while the Women's Soccer Team lost to Pfeiffer 3-0.

Dr. Don Campbell, professor of music, led students and alumni in singing the National Anthem before the men's soccer game. At half-time, Tiana Robbins of Chesnee, S.C., was crowned as the 2015 Homecoming Queen and Kaleb Spaugh of Hertford, N.C., was crowned the 2015 Homecoming King.

SWU RECOGNIZES 2015 OUTSTANDING ALUMNI



Pictured from left are Dr. Vicki Luther, Dr. Ashley Joiner George, Damon Qualls, and Dr. Keith Connor.



University President Todd Voss, left, and SWU Alumni Association President Roger Lampkin, right, with Doctor's parents, Rev. Leroy and Frances Middleton.

The Southern Wesleyan University Alumni Association recognized five outstanding graduates during an awards ceremony Oct. 30 at the Central campus, part of an event kicking off 2015 Homecoming festivities.

Damon Qualls, assistant principal at Berea Middle School and a 2013 Greenville graduate, received the Young Leader Award. Qualls was recognized for his efforts as an advocate for funding educational needs in South Carolina's public schools. He received national attention earlier this year while sharing the stage in New York with actress Yvette Nicole Brown and comedian Stephen Colbert, who announced he was funding \$800,000 in grants for South Carolina schools. Rev. Al Sharpton interviewed Qualls on MSNBC.

Dr. Vicki Luther, chair of the Early Childhood Special Education program at Middle Georgia State University and a 1992 graduate, received the Professional Excellence Award—School of Education. Luther has published in peer reviews and journals and has presented at regional and state conferences. Her research topics include teaching children of

poverty, the importance of early literacy skills and strengthening university-school partnerships. While at SWU in the early 90s, Luther took seriously the university's School of Education theme of becoming world changers, having traveled extensively to countries around the world, including Russia.

Dr. Ashley Joiner George, communications professor at Samford University and a 2007 graduate, received the Professional Excellence Award—College of Arts and Sciences. George continued her education, securing both her master's and Ph.D. in communication studies. Her academic work focuses on the connection between social support and health communication, in patient/provider communication among family members experiencing health crises, and in the mental health context. Joiner, who recently accepted a tenure track position at Samford, credits her parents, Dr. Charles Joiner and Gloria Joiner, both SWU alumni, for encouraging her to advance her studies.

The Professional Excellence Award—School of Business, was presented posthumously to DePayne Middleton-Doctor, a

1994 alumna who was employed at Southern Wesleyan's Charleston learning center. Receiving the award were her parents, Rev. Leroy Middleton and his wife Frances. Doctor, who was among the victims of the Emanuel church shootings June 17 in Charleston, was an admissions coordinator at the Charleston learning center and a 1994 SWU alumna. She was recognized for her love for God, devotion to her family and love of reaching out to working adults to improve their lives through education.

Dr. Keith Connor, retired professor of physical education and longtime athletic director of the university and a graduate of the last high school class at what is now Southern Wesleyan, was named Alumnus of the Year. Connor, who served the university 46 years, held many titles and received many honors, including Professor Emeritus of Physical Education and the baseball field named in his honor. He started both a physical education major and an intercollegiate sports program. He also served as full-time athletic director from 1970 until 2007 while coaching five intercollegiate sports programs.

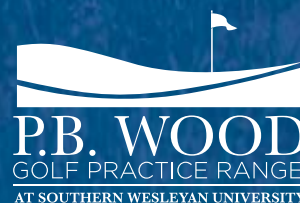
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**SOUTHERN
WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY**

Why We Give

You might look at a couple of retired Professors and think, "Well sure they give to Southern Wesleyan; they've spent most of their lives at Southern." That happens to be true, but it is not the sole reason why we give to the University.

We give to Southern because historically she has had the blessing of God's favor.

We are two of the few people alive who graduated from Wesleyan Methodist Academy (high school), graduated from Wesleyan Methodist College (Jim) and Central Wesleyan College (Barbara), and then were later privileged to serve on the faculty of Southern Wesleyan University. Experiencing God at work in the history of the University beginning in 1952 down to the present time is an important part of why we give. We experienced the initial Accreditation of the four-year college in 1973 and have seen increasing recognition at many levels that is accorded to Southern today.

We give to Southern because it is an academic community sharing God's love.

Between us, teaching a total of 60 years at SWU, we've had a front-row seat watching growth and change in young lives. We've learned that God's love shared through the care of the SWU community goes above and beyond most academic settings. Each professor, staff member, and member of the administration shows God's love toward students, working to integrate faith with living and learning. We have watched youth grow in amazing ways in both their academic progress and their personal lives.

We give to Southern because it nourished and prepared us and our children for life and service, and we are grateful!

Every parent of a college student knows what it feels like to send your child to college and to have very little contact with them. That was our experience even though all four of our children attended Southern Wesleyan University. It's a scary feeling. We had the normal struggles of all college parents with a twist. It doesn't help to hear other faculty talking about your child when you know nothing about the situation! Bottom line is, they were well-prepared for their future careers. Equally important to our family life was that



Seated: Barbara B Bross and James B. Bross.

Standing, left to right: James B. Bross Jr., Suzanne Bross Medders, Joy Bross Clarkson and Lisa Bross Harding.

three of them met their future mates at Southern. Jim Bross, Jr. (Angie Davis) experienced the highest level of administration in hospital management in Franklin, N.C., Suzie Bross Medders (Sam Medders) used her English degree as a basis for her work in communications. Joy Bross Clarkson who began her education at SWU (graduated from a sister university) is currently teaching

language arts in Myrtle Beach, and Lisa Bross Harding (Tom Harding) is a Medical Doctor and practicing in Easley, S.C. Members of the SWU community nurtured them and guided them beyond what we could do.

How can we give to Southern most effectively?

We taught most of our careers at SWU, and our financial means are limited. Nevertheless, a few years ago we started two funds in honor of Bross and Baker parents. These funds support scholarships for worthy SWU students. Other family members and friends added to our contributions, and it pleases us to see students benefit from those funds. Now we plan to venture into a new method of giving back to SWU, this time through planned giving. We already stipulate some of our small estate to be left to SWU, but we hope to add to our giving by setting up an annuity. The annuity will provide a source of income for us, and it will benefit the university later. With the uncertainty of financial investments, we believe that annuity income is secure with SWU. At the same time we hope to leave a lasting legacy that will aid students after we are gone. It is our hope that our limited gifts will be combined with many others to add to the financial strength of this institution that we love. SWU has given so much to us, and, God willing, we want that to continue for students over many years to come.

Join today in ensuring Christian Higher Education thrives at SWU for generations to come. The students today are tomorrow's leaders. Your gifts will continue the essential Kingdom-building work in Christ's name. Please also consider SWU in your last will and testament and make a lasting difference in the lives of others. Visit www.swu.edu/plannedgiving or call 855.644.5008.

ALUMNI | *news*

1956

1 **REV. RUSSELL DREW RODRIGUEZ** ('56) and **EARLENE RUTH SMITH RODRIGUEZ** ('56) of Talladega, Ala., celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 6, 2014 at Bemiston United Methodist Church with 70 family and friends attending from Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama. Graduates of Pilgrim Bible College in Kernersville, N.C., they were married June 27, 1954 in Lenoir, N.C. at Lenoir First Wesleyan Church. Rev. Rodriguez pastored for 55-plus years and did home repairs. Mrs. Rodriguez was a homemaker. Their children are Rev. Ricardo Rodriguez ('79) (wife Joyce ('78)) of Roanoke, Va.; Roxanne R. Skiver ('80) (husband Timothy) of Madison, N.C.; and Raylene R. Harrell ('83) (husband Johnnie) of Kannapolis, N.C. They have four grandchildren: Cary R. Horne ('05) (husband Rick); Brittany Rodriguez ('09) of Roanoke, Va.; and Eric and Elizabeth Skiver of Ohio. Rev. and Mrs. Rodriguez have three great-grandchildren: Noah Alexander Horne and Ava Noelle Horne of Roanoke, Va., and Preston Skiver Watkins of Ohio.

1967

2 Happy 50th wedding anniversary to **WARREN & ESTHER BENNETT**, who celebrated their milestone Aug. 23 with family and also a few close friends. Both are retired from Thomasville, N.C. schools and reside in Sophia, N.C. Along with the anniversary celebration was a reunion of Esther with her roommate Jane Potts. Neither had seen one another in 49 years.

1974

3 **DR. JONATHAN WATTS** ('74) was recently appointed the Humanities and Fine Arts Division Chair at Snead State Community College, Boaz, Ala. He had been serving as director of religious studies at Snead State Community College. Watts also served as their 2015 commencement speaker. Watts is an Oxford Foundation Fellow and was recognized in 2012 at SWU with the Professional Excellence Award in Education.

1976

REV. TERRY ('76) & AMY PENLAND

celebrated the birth of a grandson, Vincent Walter Trapp, born to Lee and Hannah (Penland) Trapp Oct. 15, at 9 lbs. 7 oz. and 21 ½ in. Terry is pastor of Canton Wesleyan Church, Canton, N.C.

1979

LARRY JENNINGS FOWLER ('79) was recently promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force. The son of Darl ('51) and the late Mary Fowler ('51), Larry has served as a chaplain in the Air Force and also pastored for 10 years before entering military service. Darl attended his pinning service in Arizona Aug. 28. Larry resides in Goodyear, Ariz.

1989

DENTON WESLEYAN CHURCH has been responding to devastating news of the closing of a local furniture company by offering services to affected employees. **CHARLIE COLLINS**, ('89), pastor of Denton Wesleyan Church, said they are organizing workshops for résumé writing and interview skills as well as a job fair to connect workers with local employers.



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1991

DAVE HANSEN was recently hired as an adjunct instructor of bioethics at Montcalm Community College. He is also lead pastor of Lakeview Community Church in Lakeview, Mich.

REV. TOM HARDING was the speaker for Spiritual Emphasis services this past September at Southern Wesleyan's Central campus. Harding is senior pastor at Alive Wesleyan Church.

PAULA PREUSZ LEMONS was the first woman to finish Southern Wesleyan University's annual "Run2Fall" 5k run Oct. 30 with a time of 25:17.

1997

DR. RUSSELL J. ZWANKA recently published a book titled "A Marketing Manual for the Millennium." This book was developed to cover the human side of marketing, business and life. Zwanka is on the faculty of the State University of New York at New Paltz School of Business.

2003

THESSA G. SMITH, a business graduate, was named as McCormick County's new economic development director. She has worked for GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission, Inc., in Greenwood, was assistant county manager and zoning administrator for Greenwood County and served three years as a county administrator in Allendale County.

2006

4 Anna Elizabeth Atcheson was born April 23 to **JOE & ELIZABETH PAYSEUR ATCHESON**. Anna is pictured with her parents and proud big brother, Carter. She is the granddaughter of **MARTY ('79) & RUTH ('77) ATCHESON**.

STEVEN L. EVANS has joined the staff of the Laurens County Chamber of Commerce as marketing specialist. He earned his MSM from SWU's AGS program.

DR. ASHLEE TIETJE joined SWU's Science Division in Fall Semester as assistant professor of biology. Tietje recently earned her Ph.D. in biological sciences from Clemson University. She received her BS in biology education from SWU and has been teaching here as an adjunct faculty member since 2013.

2007

5 Congratulations to **KENT & JOY ELLISON** on the birth of Everett Ellison May 6, 2015. Everett is 8 lbs. and 21 inches. Kent is a computer support specialist in IT.

Kristan Sarah Hanson was born June 11, 2015 to **KATHERINE BOWYER HANSON & JIM HANSON**, weighing 7 lbs. 5oz. and 20.25 in. Katherine is residence life coordinator at the Central campus.

MICHAEL LAND, a physical education teacher, was named teacher of the year at Six Mile Elementary School. The teachers of the year are selected by a vote of the staff members at their schools.

HAWTHORNE WELCHER, an MSM graduate of the North Augusta learning center, was named director of the Augusta Housing and Community Development Department.

2008

After serving three seasons as the top Lyon College assistant coach for the women and men's soccer programs, **CHRIS BOCANEGRA** was named the sixth head coach in the 12-year history of the Scot women's squad.

DR. VALERIE RAMSEY, a master of ministry graduate, was the speaker for Tri-County Technical College's graduation July 29 at the Anderson Civic Center. Ramsey retired in

2009 as the chief business officer for the College of Health, Education and Human Development at Clemson University. She has also been an adjunct professor at SWU, teaching AGS courses for the School of Business.

2008, '09

6 Preston Lee Stack was born July 10 at 1:26PM to **SAM ('09) & HEATHER EVERHART STACK ('08)**. Preston is 9 lbs. 3 oz. and 21 inches.

2009

JESSICA ANGELI, a biology graduate, works as an early childhood navigator at Matthews House, a nonprofit organization in Fort Collins, Colo., with at risk families who have children from birth through 8 years old. She works with the department of human services and the local school district, advocating for the families and making sure they have the resources to be successful.

7 Kayla Fritts was born to **PHILLIP & MANDI BEDELL ('11) FRITTS** Nov. 4 at 6:30AM, at 7 lbs. 11 oz. and 20 inches. Phillip is a media communication graduate and Mandi is a human services graduate.

KRYSTIN NICOLE ORCUTT ('09) married Trenton Griffith Drafts Sept. 6 in Charleston. Krystin earned her M.Ed. at Southern Wesleyan University's Charleston learning center. She is also a National Board certified teacher at Hanahan Elementary School, part of the Berkeley County School District.

2010

HANNAH CHAPMAN was named Teacher of the Year at Liberty Middle School. Chapman, a music education graduate, is band teacher at the school, which is located in The School District of Pickens County.

JOSH IVY was speaker for Homecoming Chapel Oct. 31 at Southern Wesleyan's Central



campus. He is spiritual formation pastor at 12Stone Church in Lawrenceville, Ga.

2011

8 STEPHEN & KELLY MCKENZIE TOLAN welcomed their new son Roman into the world July 4. Roman is the grandson of Roger McKenzie, professor of religion, and Dave Tolan, SWU missions mobilizer.

REGINA BOLDING HARNED was inducted Sept. 21 into the Pickens Women's Association, a civic organization for women that endorses a variety of projects that enhance the quality of life in the Pickens Community. She is now associate registrar at SWU.

2011, '12

9 TJ RUMLER, ANN SIMMONS and JOHN FAUBERT, all SWU human services students in the AGS program, graduated recently from USC with their master's degrees in social work. Rumler is a December '11 AGS graduate, and Simmons and Faubert are December '12 AGS graduates. All studied in the same Greenville cohort, and all passed the state licensure exam by the National Association for Social Workers.

2012

KRISTEN SMITH returned to SWU as financial aid associate on Aug. 1. She received her BS in human services from SWU in 2012 and worked as a part-time data entry assistant for the admissions office while attending SWU. Following graduation, she worked for the South Carolina Department of Social Services as a human services specialist.

MATT LARGE, a math education graduate, has been named head baseball coach at Wade Hampton High School in Greenville County.

LUKE & ABBIE SAWYER and their family are currently transitioning from doing ministry

with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) in Colorado to beginning the next season with FCA in the Dominican Republic.

COURTNEY WEBSTER THOMPSON & JOSH THOMPSON have a new baby, Fletcher William Thompson, born Sept. 13 weighing 6 lbs. and 13 oz. Courtney was a forensic science major who now works for SLED in Columbia.

2013

GRACIE CLENDENING BLACKWELL began teaching Honors and College Prep Biology at Aiken High School for 2015-'16.

MATT BLACKWELL had already been accepted to dental school in Arizona and was planning on going there. On April 13 he was accepted to dental school at MUSC in Charleston and GRU in Augusta.

2014

10 Tripp Jeremiah Bryant was born July 21 to SWU graduate **BRANDON BRYANT** and his wife **LEXY**, weighing 8 lbs. and 15 oz. Tripp is also the grandson of Rev. Joy Bryant ('92), executive director of alumni and constituent relations and is also the nephew of current SWU student Robbie Bryant.

STEPHANIE JOHNSON, a media communication graduate, began her master's program in agricultural education at Clemson University in the fall.

JENNIFER LAND graduated from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy during a ceremony June 17 in Columbia. She is a criminal justice graduate and is currently employed by the Simpsonville Police Department.

ANDREW WELCH was recently named manager of Gotta Run Simpsonville. He has been employed by Gotta Run for two years, having worked at the Clemson and Spartanburg locations. He began his duties at the new

store in September. Chip Rouse, former SWU cross country coach, and Chris Disbrow started the business. Joshua Thatcher ('14) is manager of Gotta Run Spartanburg and Jonathan Dryman, who attended SWU, is at the Clemson location.

2015

11 MARK CROMER and TORI WANNER were married on July 4, 2015. Mark is a biology graduate and Tori is an English Education graduate.

12 ANDY HILGEMAN graduated from the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy in Columbia Sept. 18. He was hired by the Greenville Co. Sheriff's Office following his graduation from SWU. Prof. James McDonald, coordinator of SWU's criminal justice program, traveled along with several CJ majors to congratulate Andy.

LIZ MCCLEAREN was named principal of Chukker Creek Elementary School in Aiken. McClearen earned her MEDAS from the North Augusta education center this past May. She also has an early childhood education degree from USC Aiken. She has teaching experience at three Aiken County elementary schools, including Greendale for the past five years, where she was named Teacher of the Year.

LAQUANA ALDRIDGE was named assistant principal at Millbrook Elementary School in Aiken. Aldridge earned her MEDAS from the Columbia learning center. She also has a bachelor's degree from Romapo College of New Jersey and a master's degree in divergent learning from Columbia College.

STAFF

Congratulations to **JARED & LAURA TRUDEL** on the birth of Noah Ezra Trudel Sept. 25. Jared is an admissions counselor at SWU. Also welcoming Noah are grandparents **DR. JEANNIE TRUDEL**, dean of SWU's



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School of Business, and **GRANT TRUDEL**, as well as Noah's aunt **ELISA TRUDEL**.

IN MEMORIAM

1937

REV. JOHN JAMES MILLER, a Wesleyan Methodist College alumnus, passed away May 11. He lived in Lake Junaluska, N.C.

1954

FRANKLIN DAVID "FRANK" MITCHELL of Murrells Inlet passed away Oct. 27. Born in Six Mile to the Ernest Martin Mitchell and Laura Kelly Mitchell, he attended Clemson University and SWU and settled in the Greenville area. He worked as a food broker/owner of Consolidated Brokerage/Acosta, before retiring in Myrtle Beach. He was a dedicated servant of the Wesleyan faith and a member of Faith Wesleyan Church in Little River. He served in many leadership positions at First Wesleyan Church, Greenville.

1955

DR. CLIFFORD LOVIN passed away Aug. 16. Lovin also taught history at SWU (then CWC) from 1964-1966. He was also a professor of history at Western Carolina University and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; a veteran of the Army and a member of Groce United Methodist Church.

1967

ALLEN BARRETT died suddenly at home of a heart attack October 25, 2014. An ordained minister in The Wesleyan Church, Barrett pastored for more than 40 years. He graduated from SWU in 1967 and taught school, but felt God's call to preach and returned to SWU in 1970 for more Bible and theology courses. He

graduated from Wesley Biblical Seminary in 1981. He leaves behind his wife Charlotte and two daughters, Denise (husband, Elliott Linhoss; son Barrett), and Gloria (husband, Brandon, and children, Andrew, Joseph, Cecilia).

1969

WILLIAM "BILL" HENRY DILLING III, husband of Marilyn Shigley Dilling, died July 28, 2015. He was born in Gastonia, N.C., to Udine Clark Dilling and the late Austin Dilling. He also received a master's degree in elementary education from Furman University and taught in the Greenville County School System for 33 years, was the 1983 Greenville County teacher of the year, and was one of the top five finalists in the state. He was a faithful member of Mitchell Road Presbyterian Church and, prior to that, Greenville First Wesleyan Church.

1972

REV. MARK EUGENE JORDAN of Asheboro, N.C., died Feb. 21 at Brookstone Retirement Home in Lexington, N.C. Jordan attended SWU, where he received a degree in Bible and theology. He also earned a master's degree of divinity from Hood Seminary in 2009. He was former pastor of Grace United Methodist Church, now Union United Methodist churches. He was also a Wesleyan minister, serving churches in North Carolina at Mocksville, Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Candler, Lexington and Raleigh. Jordan was an EMT and volunteer firefighter, having served as former chaplain of Westside Fire Dept.

1975

REV. STEVE SAUNDERS was killed in a motorcycle accident shortly before noon July 7, near Asheboro N.C. Pastor Steve and his wife Carolyn were scheduled to finish their assignment at the Albemarle Wesleyan Church in the NC East District July 12. Steve and his wife Carolyn are former missionaries and Steve is the son-in-law of former missionaries, Paul (deceased) and Lois Downey.

1994

As the world mourned for nine victims in the wake of the June 17, shooting at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, the SWU community was deeply affected by the loss

of an employee and alumna. **DEPAYNE MIDDLTON DOCTOR**, 49, admissions coordinator at SWU's Charleston learning center, was in historic Emanuel AME Church and was among the shooting victims. Doctor, a 1994 alumna, began work in December 2014 at the Charleston learning center.

1995

BEVERLY PAYNE WILLIAMS died in late June after a 10-year battle with cancer. Williams graduated from SWU in 1995 with a degree in psychology.

2007

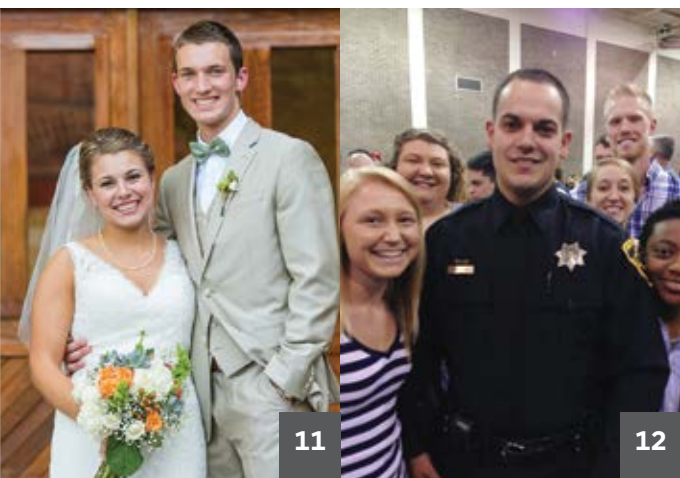
SWU graduate **EMILY McDONALD (TROSTEL) ROHLETT**, a music education graduate, died unexpectedly Oct. 8. Surviving are husband John Michael Rohletter and three children.

GORDON ELWOOD MILLER passed away Oct. 13 in Kernersville, N.C. He received an honorary doctorate degree at Southern Wesleyan University. Miller served as president of Southern Pilgrim College, music director of Christ Wesleyan Church in Greensboro, N.C. and served on the Board of Aldermen for the town of Kernersville.

NATHAN GEORGE died unexpectedly Nov. 18. Nathan and his wife Lauren have been living in London, England. Nathan is also the older brother of SWU graduate Thomas George. Both are graduates of the Division of Religion.

2008

Southern Wesleyan University is mourning the loss of 2008 alumnus **DAVEY BLACKBURN'S** wife following a violent home invasion at their Indianapolis home. **AMANDA GRACE BLACKBURN** was shot during a home invasion on the morning of Nov. 10. She was taken to the hospital, where she died the following morning. Their one-year old son, Weston, who was also in the home, was not injured. Amanda was three months pregnant, according to Dave Tolan, Southern Wesleyan's missions mobilizer and Davey's uncle. A 2008 religion and media communication graduate and member of SWU's Baseball Team, Davey founded Resonate Church after serving as youth pastor at NewSpring Church for four years. The SWU Baseball Team is developing a scholarship in Amanda's memory. For details, contact the university's Advancement Office at 864.644.5006.



From the **Vault**



CIRCA 1940s

Can you identify anyone pictured in this group photo taken outside the old stone church (now the Nicholson-Mitchell Christian Ministry Center) or what the gathering might have been?

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LIVING THE DREAM

SWU graduate gets his dream job at Disney, pg. 28