

# SWU

m a g a z i n e



SWU accepted as a  
full member of NCAA  
Division II  
pg. 14

**BREAKING GROUND**  
Change and fresh ideas abound  
as SWU continues to grow  
pg. 6

**ISSUE #10**  
**Fall/Winter 2016**  
A publication of  
Southern Wesleyan University



*Therefore, if anyone  
is in Christ,*

THE NEW  
CREATION  
HAS COME

*The old has gone,  
the new is here!*

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

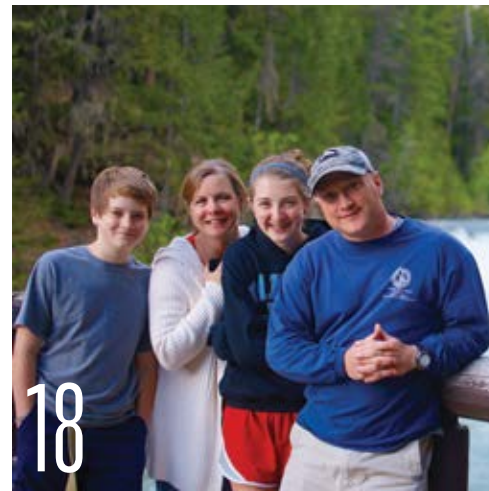
# IN THIS ISSUE



6 Breaking Ground on a New Living and Learning Community



14 SWU Welcomed as Full Member of NCAA Division II



18 Rouse Legacy Lives On



21 Michelin Funds SWU Graduate's Environmental Project



24 Fill the Hill 2016: Warrior Homecoming

- 4 Letter from the President
- 5 Campaign to Preserve Part of SWU History
- 9 Taking Campus Safety to the Next Level
- 10 Academic Updates
- 12 Faculty & Staff of the Year
- 13 The Called Summer Camp
- 16 Helping Students, Alumni Clarify Career Calling
- 20 Anne Fulcher: Serving Her Community
- 22 James Bross: Career as a Calling
- 26 Starting Homecoming on a Positive Note
- 30 Alumni News



Southern Wesleyan University is a Christ-centered university offering a traditional college experience at our main campus in Central, South Carolina, as well as evening and online programs. Evening programs are offered at the main campus as well as regional education centers across the state located in Charleston, Columbia, Greenville, and North Augusta.

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**SWU**  
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# LETTER *from the* PRESIDENT

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I GREW UP IN A relatively young neighborhood with plenty of vacant lots. I loved to see a new house or two being built each year, and back then there were no safety barriers that precluded a curious kid from checking on the progress. The smell of newly turned soil was unmistakable, and some nights I could even get a hint of that fresh dirt from my bedroom window!

Those memories have come rushing back this year as that same smell has permeated many parts of the Central campus with the construction of the new residence hall, outdoor amphitheater and work on new parking lots. To me, dirt moving means fresh ideas coming to fruition. It means change. It means growth.

We are so thankful to God for what is happening at SWU. Our enrollment trend in the traditional program is nothing short of remarkable with the largest residence hall occupancy in history, and a growing Full Time Equivalency enrollment (FTE) that is outpacing our predictions each year. Plus exciting renovations now completed in the Adult and Graduate Studies (AGS) Program in three of our four sites signal new ideas for curriculum and even future site expansion.

Our sense is that God is positioning SWU to be the inventive leader in the South. To be faith-filled and serve with contagious generosity. If you have not been to one of our AGS sites, or to the main campus in a year, it's time to take a road trip. If you come to Central, let me know, and I'll treat you to coffee at Blue Hill Coffee & Tea and let you know about some of the other exciting developments just around the next bend. Yes, I can almost smell that dirt being turned too!



Dr. Todd S. Voss, UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT



# SAVING *Childs Hall*



***Childs Hall has been an integral part for 70 years of SWU's 110 year history.***

Childs Hall has been home to many students across the years with a multitude of memories housed within its walls. One of the oldest structures still standing on the Central campus, Childs Hall, constructed in 1947, has stood the test of time very well. To ensure it lasts 70 more years, Southern Wesleyan's Office of Advancement launched a new \$1.5 million micro campaign in October to breathe new life into this historic residence hall and ensure a high quality living environment for future generations of students to enjoy.

Renovations to Childs Hall will include improvements to living space, transforming traditional rooms with hall bathrooms to new "suites," each containing two rooms and one bathroom. There will be a total of 48 beds following renovation.

Additional improvements include new

common spaces, a redesigned first floor lobby and new lounge, as well as a study room for each floor. Also being planned is an observation patio and beautification of the grounds surrounding Childs Hall. New heating and air-conditioning will be installed throughout the building, as well as new windows and enclosed stairwells at each end of the building. When completed, the renovations will open more residence space for increased enrollment so that students won't have to be turned away for lack of rooms.

For details about making a gift to support this effort and the many available naming opportunities, contact Dr. Lisa McWherter, vice president for advancement, at (855) 644-5008 or email [lmcwherter@swu.edu](mailto:lmcwherter@swu.edu). Online giving and more details about Childs Hall are also available at [www.swu.edu/childs](http://www.swu.edu/childs).





# SOUTHERN WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY BREAKS GROUND ON LIVING AND LEARNING COMMUNITY

SOUTHERN WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS broke ground Aug. 30 on a new four-story living and learning community to be constructed along Wesleyan Drive on the Central campus.

More than just a place for students to sleep, the new residence hall represents for President Todd Voss a dream come true that's been 30 years in the making. Dr. Voss, who has overseen several residence hall projects at various universities where he has served, had a vision for a living and learning community that would provide an inviting environment for nurturing relationships, spiritual growth and academic success.

"This new concept will rock this state and make such a difference in the lives of our students at Southern Wesleyan," Voss said. "I believe that this is the kind of building that will increase student satisfaction, student retention and student involvement in deep and meaningful ways."

"The new residence hall will bring energy, excitement and it's also going to provide outstanding amenities and community spirit," said Dr. Joe Brockinton, vice president for student life.

Dr. Charles Joiner, chairman of Southern Wesleyan's board of trustees, said that the new residence hall represents a partnership that "will not only change this institution for the better; it will give this institution life for growth in the future that we never would have had otherwise."

In addition to single, dual and triple occupancy suites for 243

students, the 67,000 square foot residence hall will include 17,000 square feet of space devoted to amenities, including a large lobby with a bistro and ample gathering space, a classroom, fitness rooms, a theatre and a conference room. Also included will be laundry facilities, a large balcony deck, a park-like courtyard and a large parking lot.

Southern Wesleyan is partnering with Mainstreet Student Living of Carmel, Ind., for this new project development. Mainstreet® encompasses the investment, development and management sides of student housing. Mainstreet Student Living representatives were present for the groundbreaking, as were the building's architect, Kevin Scully of Design Collaborative Architects and Engineers, and Joel Davis of J. Davis Construction, the builder.

"What better place to transform lives than here at Southern Wesleyan University? It's not just about the physical student room, it's about the community space and enticing students to get together to collaborate and socialize with one another," said Justin Farris, managing director of Mainstreet Student Living.

The project, which represents a \$9.3 million investment, will create numerous jobs and expand Pickens County's economic impact footprint.

"Southern Wesleyan seeks to continually reinforce three pillars of uniqueness – inventive learning, faith-filled community and contagious generosity," said Dr. Lisa McWherter, Southern Wesleyan's vice president for advancement. "This new facility on SWU's campus will



be conducive in exercising these institutional characteristics.”

McWherter recognized elected officials and their representatives at the city, county, state and national level who were present at the groundbreaking, praising them for their spirit of partnership.

Sen. Larry Martin of Pickens said “It will mean a lot to Pickens County as this university continues to grow and prosper and particularly with your emphasis on faith and in the Lord and on all it means to us as individuals.”

“I think that this new residence hall is going to be a game changer for Southern Wesleyan University,” said Rep. Gary Clary of Pickens District 3. Rep. Brian White of Anderson District 6 said, “I’m glad Southern Wesleyan was not afraid to take that leap of faith to do what God has called us to do.”

Pickens County Councilman Trey Whitehurst said that Voss “has taken a vision, reached out to the community and gotten everybody on board.”

“This really comes down to ‘being for the students.’ You’ve got to sell it to the students. You’ve got to sell it to mom and dad,” said Philip Mishoe, Central town administrator.

For student Morgan Haney, a sport management major, resident assistant and student-athlete who took part in the groundbreaking, Southern Wesleyan has been transformative.

“If it wasn’t for the community, I wouldn’t have been able to experience God’s love through other people, which I really needed. I thought I would just come here as an athlete but I found so much more throughout the residence halls and the students and faculty.”

“Now it’s time to build our future students’ ‘exciting, responsibility and discipline-forming, relationship building and spiritual growth developing home away from home,’” said Ben Hochhalter, president of Southern Wesleyan’s Student Government Association.

SWU expects to welcome student residents into this completed facility in August of 2017.

# At a Glance

**67,000 square feet**

**Houses 243 students**

**Single, dual, and triple occupancy suites**

**Lobby with bistro and gathering space**

**Classroom, fitness rooms, a theatre and a conference room**

**Laundry facilities**

**Large balcony deck**

**Park-like courtyard**

**Stay updated with construction progress at [swu.edu/construction](http://swu.edu/construction)**

Breaking ground, from left, are Jonathan Catron, SWU physical plant director; Ben Hochhalter, SWU Student Government Association president; Phillip Mishoe, Central town administrator; Sue Rickman, SWU trustee and SWU Alumni Board member; Joel Davis, J. Davis Construction; Dr. Todd Voss, university president; Justin Farris, managing director, Mainstreet Student Living; Dr. Charles Joiner, SWU trustee chairman; Rep. Brian White, Anderson District 6; Trey Whitehurst, Pickens County councilman; Morgan Haney, a SWU sport management major and resident assistant; Dr. Joe Brockinton, SWU vice president for student life; and Kevin Scully, architect, Design Collaborative Architects and Engineers.





## OPEN AIR VENUE AN INVITING SPOT FOR OUTDOOR EVENTS



A new amphitheater, located between Nicholson-Mitchell Christian Ministry Center and Newton Hobson Chapel and Fine Arts



Center was completed at the end of summer. This outdoor facility has already become an inviting space for concerts and other outdoor

events. Pictured is singer/songwriter John Tibbs performing on the amphitheater stage.

## Interested in a vibrant 55+ living community?



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For more information, please contact Dr. Lisa McWherter at 855-644-5008 or [lmcwherter@swu.edu](mailto:lmcwherter@swu.edu).



## TAKING CAMPUS SAFETY TO THE NEXT LEVEL

In an effort to make our campus safer, Southern Wesleyan University hired a director of campus safety, Brad Bowen, left, to oversee all aspects of Southern Wesleyan's campus safety program. Bowen is a former county deputy and Army MP and has been teaching in a criminal justice program at an area technical college.

According to Dr. Joe Brockinton, vice president for student life, Bowen's role includes developing training programs for faculty, staff and students that will enhance the SWU community's awareness of safety along with procedures and policies to follow in case of emergencies.

"SWU has also entered into an agreement with the Central Police Department that will provide an on-duty officer to patrol the campus as part of a regular security rotation," Brockinton said. "These improvements will provide additional confidence in the safety of the SWU campus."

As of Aug. 1 this year, Southern Wesleyan's campus safety office became staffed on a 24/7 basis, according to Bowen. In addition to Bowen and Central Police Dept. officer Greg Taylor, right, there are six security officers.

"There's a common misconception that we're just here to write parking tickets," Bowen said. "I want to emphasize the fact



that we're here for many other things. We're here to provide services. If your battery's dead, we'll provide a jump off. If somebody needs to be let into a building because they forgot their keys, we can assist with that. We are also responsible for evaluating and addressing the safety and security needs and concerns of the SWU community."

Bowen also noted that he started a Campus Safety page on Facebook to share news and safety tips, as well as communicate with students, faculty and staff.

In addition to evaluating potential safety issues, Bowen is making an effort to build relationships he hopes will ensure that the university will continue to be a safe environment. He also plans to organize training programs that will be available to students, faculty and staff to better prepare them for various types of emergencies. He also plans to visit Southern Wesleyan's education centers across South Carolina to assess potential safety issues and provide training and other resources.

## RAYMOND AND MARY ANN PHAUP - MANAGERS, EAGLES REST BED AND BREAKFAST

Rev. Raymond and Mary Ann Phaup are the new managers for Eagles Rest Bed and Breakfast, but are no strangers to Southern Wesleyan University's campus in Central.

The Phaups met while enrolled at Southern Wesleyan University when it was known as Wesleyan Methodist College. At the time, Raymond was enrolled at the college and Mary Ann was a high school student during the later years of the high school at Southern Wesleyan. After going home to Alabama to finish her high school education, she returned to Southern Wesleyan, enrolling as a freshman. Raymond and Mary Ann first met during a spring choir tour.

Raymond, who is originally from Farmville, Va., studied Bible and Religion at Southern Wesleyan, then after graduating in 1962 went on to serve for more than 50 years in ministry to The Wesleyan Church.

He is a nephew of B.H. Phaup, who once led the Wesleyan Methodist denomination and played a major role in leading the church's merger with the Pilgrim Holiness Church in 1968.

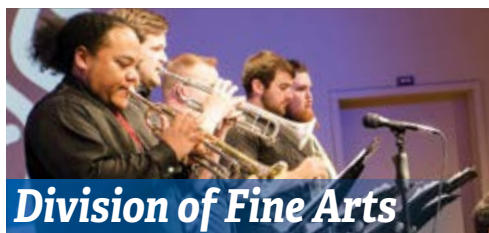
Mary Ann, who is originally from Birmingham, Ala., also had a sister, Jean Munyer Nesnow, who attended Southern Wesleyan.

Eagles Rest is located adjacent to the President's House at the Central campus, in a peaceful wooded area. In addition to having four comfortable guest rooms, Eagles Rest is also used for retreats, small group sessions and other events.

"It's like a family atmosphere. Guests have access to the downstairs portion of the house, and it's reasonable compared to hotel rates," Raymond said.



# ACADEMIC UPDATES



## Division of Fine Arts

The Fine Arts Division's ensemble scholarship program continues to grow, with record enrollment in the choir and wind ensembles as well as the jazz band, due to outstanding work by faculty to recruit students through clinics at area high schools, an annual jazz festival for high school and middle school musicians, jazz camp, SWUFest and work with the "Arts for a Lifetime" program in Greenville.

The division hosted several outstanding events, including a concert by the a cappella group "Committed"; an intercollegiate choral festival, "Musica Ecclesia"; a church choir festival; and a Christmas favorite, the Lessons and Carols service.

Degrees being developed include a worship degree (with the Division of Religion), a computer infographics degree with music concentration and a music/recording arts degree.

Dr. Don Campbell served as dean of Harmony University, the International School for the Barbershop Society, held at Belmont University in Nashville. Campbell also continued his work as president of the S.C. chapter of the American Choral Directors Association.

Prof. Greg Day organized another successful jazz camp, where enrollment continues to climb each year. The jazz campers gained practical performing experience and were able to spend an evening in a recording studio.

This past summer, Prof. Jane Dill was accompanist for the Concert of Hope Choir in Anderson. This choir rehearses in the summer and performs a concert in the fall which is the main fundraiser for the Cancer Association of Anderson.

Dr. Darryl Jachens worked over the summer to prepare for another season as conductor/music director of the Greenville Concert Band.

Fine Arts hired three new adjunct music faculty: Joseph Beverly, clarinet instructor; Margaret Giglio, bassoon instructor; and Wesley Day, aural fundamentals and theory tutor. ♦



## Division of Humanities

Assistant Professor of English Dr. Chad Chisholm took part in his second mission trip to Chevak, Alaska, an endeavor overseen by Alaska Mission for Christ and aimed at ministering to the ethnic Alaskan peoples in a region near the Bering Sea. Assistant Professor Tim Kirk and his wife took part in a mission trip to Haiti sponsored by Alive Wesleyan Church of Central, S.C. Professor of History Dr. Ken Myers led a group of 14 on a two-week study abroad tour of Greece in May, visiting ancient historical sites, including Athens, Delphi and Olympia. History major Mikkaela Bailey used her SCICU grant money for research in England over the summer for her honors project on the English national identity. Zach Ford, a spring 2016 History graduate, began a career as a tour guide in historic Charleston, S.C. Anna Bross, a fall 2015 graduate in English Education, served as an intern at Disney World during spring 2016, then began in the fall as an English Language Arts teacher at Pickens Middle School.

The Humanities Division had a number of its majors graduating in the fall commencement ceremony and an even larger number in spring 2017. ♦



## Division of Religion

The Division of Religion is celebrating! With the move into the second building of the Nicholson-Mitchell Christian Ministry Center, the dream is being realized daily and momentum continues.

The division had overall steady growth, with 42 majors and eight minors, for a total of 50 for the first time in several years. The division graduated 12 students in May and

replaced them with 18 new majors.

The division started a new Christian Worship concentration. New courses are being offered; Ministry in Cultural Context in the Fall Semester and Foundations of Worship will be offered during the Spring Semester.

The division hired a new full time faculty member dedicated to teaching general education Bible courses. An additional four new adjunct faculty members were hired to help with general education Bible and Religion courses. The division also had a great fall retreat early in September.

The division also accomplished completion of the first Lilly Grant funded camp, "The Called Camp," in July. The division also completed its second Urban Ministry Plunge in May, with significant and life-changing hands-on learning opportunities for Religion majors. ♦



## Division of Science

The Division of Science hosted an inaugural Math Olympiad and will continue to sponsor the Region 1 Upper South Carolina Science Fair in the spring.

The division is represented strongly in the Honor's Program, with many student projects receiving South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (SCICU) funding. Ben Hochhalter is an intern for the U.S. Air Force Academy's Sports Medicine Team on a project "The Effect of Differing Concussion Impact Locations on Symptom Longevity." Two Biology Education seniors passed the Praxis Biology Exam; one scored so high as to rate distinction.

Mark Cromer, a 2015 biology/premed graduate, entered the Medical University of South Carolina and reports that Southern Wesleyan's Science Division provided him an excellent foundation for his medical education.

Dr. Ashlee Tietje, assistant professor of biology, has published papers; also the second half of her dissertation was accepted for publication in *Oncology Reports*. Dr. Patty Hovis,



associate professor of exercise science, made a presentation to the American Society of Biomechanics in Raleigh, N.C., Aug. 2-5, 2016.

The division received funding for new equipment, including a Monark bike, which exercise science majors will use for submaximal VO<sub>2</sub> testing; An ultrasound unit; electrophoresis chambers and the “Blue Digital Bioimaging System.”

The biology/premedical major continues to be the largest major; however, exercise science has grown quickly and has begun advertising for a Ph.D. faculty member to begin in August 2017.

The division welcomed Dr. Tingting Han as an assistant professor of chemistry and Dr. Jeff Mohr, associate professor of biology.

The division is looking at possible new undergraduate and graduate programs, including health professions majors and a master's in biology/life science. ♦



Several of the Division's academic programs are undergoing revisions to be implemented in the fall semester of 2017.

The Division has approved changes to the Criminal Justice program to align its curriculum closely with professional standards. The Psychology program is being revised to strengthen the set of core courses to include lab components in most areas and provide specialization concentrations.

A minor in LORE (Leadership in Outdoor Recreation Education) is being developed. Directed by Dr. Roger McKenzie of the Division of Religion, LORE has led groups of students through the low and high challenge courses during the summer and early fall. With the assistance of faculty members and several student leaders, nearly 300 individuals – SWU students and outside groups – have experienced the ropes course.

The Education Advisory Board ([www.eab.com](http://www.eab.com)) is assisting the division in conducting an extensive market research project regarding the future of the Human Services degree program. The research was intended to determine the market for human services graduates, the desirability of professional accreditation and the demand for online delivery of coursework.

Social Sciences faculty are in the process of reviewing the findings and conducting a survey of current SWU students regarding their perceptions of the existing BSHS program with the goal of making program change recommendations to the College of Arts and Sciences to be implemented in the traditional and AGS program by fall 2017.

This past spring, Social Science faculty members led Day of Service projects at Clemson-Central Recreation Center, Golden Corner Food Pantry, SWU Criminal Justice House, LORE Center, Our Daily Rest Homeless Shelter and Asbury Hills Camp.

For the second year in a row, a social sciences faculty member was named faculty member of the year. In 2015, Assistant Professor of Psychology Emily Germain, received the honor and in 2016 Associate Professor of Criminal Justice James McDonald was awarded the distinction. ♦



Both the undergraduate AGS program and the graduate MBA and MSML programs have undergone redevelopment into the new semester model of 7-week courses, replacing the previous 6-week approach. Eventually all classes within these programs will be using either a 7-week hybrid format and/or be delivered entirely online.

Dr. Raymond Attawia joined the full-time faculty in August, teaching graduate economics. Dr. Deb Eischen and Dr. Raul Chavez continue developing Enactus at Central, assisting students with efforts to create a viable small business initiative to be presented in a regional competition. In early 2016, two accounting students volunteered in the Pickens County United Way VITA program (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance), assisting low income families with free tax preparation and filing help.

Business faculty continue their collective efforts, led by Dr. Lynn Brown-Bullock, program director for the MBA and MBA-Health Care, for accreditation through the Accreditation Council of Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). The School of Business has been granted candidacy status and could complete the process within a couple years.

The Spring/Summer 2016 “Connector” newsletter was devoted to Business Networking. The Fall/Winter 2016 edition will focus on Women in Business and Education.

Two May graduates started graduate programs at Clemson University; Michael Bate in the MS in Accounting program and Lisa Simmons in the MBA program in Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

After almost five years as Dean of the School of Business, Dr. Jeannie Trudel will leave in December for a position with Excelsia College in Australia. Trudel's program and curriculum development while strengthening graduate and undergraduate faculty has been critical in helping to solidly position the school as it moves towards ACBSP recognition. ♦



Dr. Lisa Hall-Hyman attended the CAEP training from the South Carolina Department of Education in June. The CAEP training qualifies Dr. Hall-Hyman to be a State-level Reviewer for CAEP accreditation visits.

Dr. Lavinia Anderson, Dr. Tracy Hall, Dr. Kim Jedlicka, and Dr. Jennifer Wagner attended NIET training from the South Carolina Department of Education in June to qualify as enhanced ADEPT evaluators and trainers for the School of Education Pre-Clinical and Clinical graduates.

Dr. Sandra McLendon presented on “Charting the Path to Create an Assessment Culture: Assessment for Busy Folks” at the Leadership in Higher Education Conference held in Atlanta, Oct. 6-8.

The Early Childhood and Family Studies program will begin in spring 2017 in the online format for Adult and Graduate Studies.

The School of Education welcomes two new faculty members: Dr. Tracy Hall, the coordinator of field placements, recently retired from Greenville County Schools where she had vast experience working with administration and first-year induction teachers. Dr. Kim Jedlicka, a special education professor, retired from Oconee County Schools where she worked with Human Resources. She has experience in administration and as a special education teacher and coordinator. ♦

# FACULTY & STAFF OF THE YEAR

“He continues to encourage me to be the very best me that I can be and serves as a daily inspiration in my life.”

**DREW CARSON**, senior, criminal justice major

“Mr. McDonald gives us the courage to believe in ourselves and in our judgment, but most importantly, he always encourages us to seek God's wisdom.”

**LAVORNNE TAYLOR**, senior, criminal justice major

“I love the way he takes time out of his day to help you with assignments you don't understand, and he comes out and supports students who are athletes.”

**KIA TILLMAN**, senior, criminal justice major

“His hard work to promote, love and develop a major not only teaches how to be in law enforcement but how to be a Christian example in law enforcement.”

**ERIN BOLT**, 2016 criminal justice graduate

## FACULTY MEMBER OF THE YEAR



**James McDonald**

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE AND FORENSIC SCIENCE

## STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR



**Danita Jones**

SENIOR ACADEMIC COORDINATOR,  
CENTRAL

“Danita Jones is a committed and dedicated individual who works tirelessly for students in both the undergraduate and graduate programs she advises.”

**DR. SANDRA MCLENDON**, dean, SWU School of Education

“Danita is a wonderful SWU team member. I love working with her. She is very responsive, quick to help and always kind to students and faculty alike. The light of Christ is evident in her life and interaction with others.”

**DR. JEANNIE TRUDEL**, dean, SWU School of Business

“Danita is a lighthouse to many adult students who are negotiating the storm of ‘going back to school.’ For many faculty, she is also the face of the AGS program in Central. Danita answers our questions, finds the help we need, and points us in the right direction... and she always does it with a smile.”

**MICHAEL KEATON**, associate professor of history



# THE CALLED SUMMER CAMP

*Exploring multiple facets to serving in ministry*

A group of high schoolers spent 10 days exploring what it means to be called by God into ministry during The Called summer camp at Southern Wesleyan University.

For many, the camp represented a major milestone along a journey already begun as a church youth or under the guidance of a mentor.

The camp was organized in tracks – Adventure, Missional Outreach, and Worship – according to Dr. Roger McKenzie, a SWU religion professor and camp leader.

Campers learned valuable aspects of ministry in a variety of ways, ranging from a backpacking trip on the Foothills Trail to street ministry in Atlanta. Teamwork was also evident on SWU's high ropes course, where while being suspended high off the ground, campers learned to put their trust in others. The Worship Track involved planning a church service and also participating in the services of a nearby megachurch.

Justin Huffman traveled to the camp from St. Louis, Mo., a calling into ministry strongly on his heart.

"I grew up in church; I just never really got it. I didn't have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ until I moved churches," Huffman said. "I grew with my youth pastor

and have a personal relationship with Christ now. [The youth minister] brought me to camp the first year I started going to that church and it just broke my heart."

"It was incredible to see students open their hearts to the current issues of our world and work to take a scriptural perspective on the issues," said Casey Shearin, a SWU student helping lead the camp. "It was amazing to see students line up their passions with ways to serve others."

Camp leaders included Rev. Stephen Tolan, youth pastor at Kernersville Wesleyan Church, Kernersville, N.C.; Rev. Dave Tolan (Stephen's father), missions mobilizer with Global Partners and Missionary in Residence at SWU; Dr. Mari Gonlag, chair of SWU's Division of Religion; Dr. Bob Black, Southern Wesleyan religion professor; Rev. Bob Kerstetter, SWU director of worship and discipleship; and Rev. Gail Kerstetter, SWU's director of music ministry and outreach.

Guest speakers, including Derik Idol of 12Stone Church and Derrick Mars of Miami, gave their unique perspectives on



Laila Pesayanavin of Walkertown, N.C. tests her skills on Southern Wesleyan University's high ropes course.

Derik Idol, high school pastor of 12Stone Church in Lawrenceville, Ga., leads a session in Alive Chapel of the Nicholson-Mitchell Christian Ministry Center



following God's call.

"This is to be a launching pad for you," McKenzie said to the campers before they departed from Central. "Go home, find your altar; find that place where you can be with God and encounter Him and continue to grow."

Details about the camp are available at [www.swu.edu/thecalled](http://www.swu.edu/thecalled) and another camp is planned for summer 2017. For details, contact McKenzie at (864) 644-5685 or email [rmckenzie@swu.edu](mailto:rmckenzie@swu.edu). Donors are also needed to sponsor future camp participants. For details on sponsorships, please contact Dr. Lisa McWherter at Southern Wesleyan's Office of Advancement at (864) 644-5013 or email [lmcwherter@swu.edu](mailto:lmcwherter@swu.edu).

The Called Summer Camp is made possible through a grant from the Lilly Foundation, part of its commitment to identify and cultivate a cadre of theologically minded youth who will become leaders in church and society.

# SOUTHERN WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY WELCOMED AS A FULL MEMBER OF NCAA DIVISION II



Southern Wesleyan University announced its acceptance into full membership of NCAA Division II July 20 at its campus in Central. Pictured following the announcement are,

from left, Dr. Todd Voss, SWU president; the Warrior mascot; Chris Williams, SWU director of athletics; and Dr. Alan Patterson, Conference Carolinas commissioner.

SOUTHERN WESLEYAN University has been accepted as a full member of NCAA Division II, as determined by the NCAA Division II Membership Committee and Management Council.

"Our entire campus and surrounding community believe this move to the NCAA is a game changer for our students, our impact and our future together," said Southern Wesleyan University President Dr. Todd Voss.

The Warriors began the process in the 2013-14 school year where

***"This three year membership process has made SWU stronger, better and more unified than ever before."***

they spent two years in the Candidacy Year phase and spent the past school year in the Provisional Year phase. Southern Wesleyan has competed as a transitional member of Conference Carolinas the past two years, but were ineligible for conference awards, NCAA awards, conference championships, and NCAA postseason. The Warriors entered full NCAA Division II membership Sept. 1 and is eligible for Conference Carolinas and NCAA postseason.

"This three year membership process has made SWU stronger,



better and more unified than ever before. I am proud of the perseverance and tenacity of our transition team which includes so many people from many different departments across campus, our local community leaders, our alumni, our coaches and our student-athletes,” said Director of Athletics Chris Williams.

Conference Carolinas has 12 member schools located in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee, including Barton College (Wilson, N.C.), Belmont Abbey College (Belmont, N.C.), Converse College (Spartanburg, S.C.), Emmanuel College (Franklin Springs, Ga.), Erskine College (Due West, S.C.), King University (Bristol, Tenn.), Lees-McRae College (Banner Elk, N.C.), Limestone (Gaffney, S.C.), University of Mount Olive (Mount Olive, N.C.), North Greenville University, (Tigerville, S.C.), and Pfeiffer University (Misenheimer, N.C.).

“The much anticipated membership of Southern Wesleyan University is an attractive addition to Conference Carolinas and NCAA Division II,” said Conference Carolinas Commissioner Dr. Alan Patterson. “The Warriors have demonstrated the competitive spirit, sportsmanship and priority of positive student athlete experiences that distinguish all our members during the last two years of competition within Conference Carolinas.”

During the three-year transition from NAIA to NCAA Division II, Southern Wesleyan has won two National Christian College Athletic Association men’s soccer national championships, a men’s golfer finished first at the 2013 NCCAA National Tournament, and four track and field relay teams and two individuals won national titles at the NCCAA National Championships. The Warriors had 69 NCCAA All-Americans, 52 NCCAA All-Region selections, and 57 NCCAA Scholar-Athletes during that time frame. Southern Wesleyan will keep their membership with the NCCAA as they move into NCAA Division II.

The Warriors join Holy Names University (Oakland, Calif.), Rogers State University (Claremore, Okla.), and Mississippi College (Clinton, Miss.) as the newest members of NCAA Division II. The division’s membership will expand to 310 colleges and universities this fall.

“The NCAA membership process was a pressing journey,” said Assistant Athletic Director and Head Men’s Basketball Coach Charles Wimpfrie. “The last three years has been stringent for everyone involved, but I am gratified to be a part of history at Southern Wesleyan University. The NCAA is a prestigious association and I am delighted that Southern Wesleyan has been accepted as full NCAA Division II members.”

Founded in 1906, the NCAA conducts 89 championships in 23 sports across Divisions I, II and III, with 44 championships administered for women and 42 for men.

The NCAA Division II is a collection of more than 300 colleges and universities that provide thousands of student-athletes the opportunity to compete at a high level of scholarship athletics while excelling in the classroom and fully engaging in the broader campus experience. This balance, in which student-athletes are recognized for their academic success, athletics contributions, and campus and community involvement, is at the heart of the Division II philosophy.

The Division II approach provides growth opportunities through academic achievement, learning in high-level athletics competition and a focus on service to the community. The balance and integration of these different areas of learning provide Division II student-athletes with a path to graduation while cultivating a variety of skills and knowledge for life after college.

# NCAA TIMELINE

## **JUNE 2013**

Southern Wesleyan applies for NCAA Division II membership and receives invitation to join Conference Carolinas.

## **JULY 2013**

NCAA Membership Committee denies application.

## **SEPTEMBER 2013**

NCAA Management Council approves Southern Wesleyan for Candidacy Year One after appeals process.

## **JANUARY 2014**

Representatives of Southern Wesleyan attend first NCAA National Convention.

## **JULY 2014**

NCAA Membership Committee recommends Southern Wesleyan repeat Candidacy Year One, but after appeal, same committee overturns their decision and approves Southern Wesleyan to move onto Candidacy Year Two.

## **JULY 2015**

Southern Wesleyan moves to Provisional status and the final year of the membership process.

## **JULY 2016**

Southern Wesleyan is approved as a full member of NCAA Division II and is eligible for Conference Carolinas and NCAA postseason starting with the 2016-17 school year.



# HELPING STUDENTS, ALUMNI CLARIFY THEIR CAREER CALLING

SOUTHERN WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY's Career Services office assists students and graduates in meeting their individual career planning needs.

Established in 2006, Career Services offers a number of resources and programs to help support and assist learners in preparing a professional, proactive approach to career management.

Career Services' reach recently expanded to include students enrolled in Adult and Graduate programs Southern Wesleyan offers across the state. Ellen Pate, director of SWU Career Services, periodically visits the university's Greenville, North Augusta, Columbia and Charleston education centers. Most of the interaction with the students takes place online, by email or by phone.

Career Services is also working on an efficient way for coordinating internships, helping students, faculty and employers to more easily work through the complexities of a particular internship opportunity. Pate explains, "The new Career Management system launching in Fall 2017 will have an automated communication feature; for example, if a faculty member has 10 emails in the semester to send to student interns or forms they need to complete, the system will automate the process. In this system, student interns can track their hours and communicate with employers and faculty so everyone can be clear about their expectations and professional progress."

In addition to serving students, Career Services works with alumni, whether it's to help update a resume or to help them reach a goal of a job promotion or a successful transition to another employer. Alumni can take advantage of Career Beam, an online resource offered by Career Services at no cost to them.

Career Beam is a comprehensive user-friendly self-paced program available online 24/7 offering resources for clarifying career goals, developing a career profile through self-assessments, developing a professional resume and cover letter, preparing for interviews, developing a network and researching companies and industries all over the country and internationally, using constantly-updated information on millions of companies.



Above: SWU students benefit from a vast array of resources Career Services offers. Pictured from left, Mark Cromer, Ryan Hendricks, Ashley Bowers, and Kaitlin Messick. Below: Ellen Pate, director of SWU Career Services.

Employers will be hosted at Southern Wesleyan University in February 2017 for a Career Networking event to interact with faculty and students. Many employers who are now SWU alumni will participate in a career fair and networking lunch with top-tier students seeking employment.

The Career Center is also partnering with Southern Wesleyan's Alumni Association to

offer an alumni career webinar series, offering a comprehensive video library featuring topics that include writing resumes, using LinkedIn, leadership, professionalism and coping skills in the workplace.

For retired alumni, there will also be webinars devoted to wealth management. The webinars are hosted by national authors and experts such as Richard Bolles, writer of "What Color is your Parachute" and include relevant TED talks as well. New webinars take place each week, then there's a library organized by topics where webinars can be viewed again.

As the Career Services office moves forward, a career services advisory team composed of employers, recruiters, faculty, staff and students will brainstorm on expectations and needs of all students, employers, faculty and staff receiving services, as well as to develop a strategic plan for Career Services that can be scaled according to staff and resources.

Southern Wesleyan's Career Services office wants to play an integral part in assisting students and graduates in fulfilling God's plan for their lives.

For details about Southern Wesleyan's Career Center and its resources, visit [www.swu.edu/careercenter](http://www.swu.edu/careercenter).



# POSITIVE CAREER OUTCOMES REPORT

December 2015 Graduates | 6 months after graduation

79%

of employed undergraduates reported employment in a position related to their career goals

82%

of employed undergraduates reported employment in a position related to their major area of study

71%

of employed undergraduates reported satisfaction (satisfied or very satisfied) with their current occupation

97%

## POSITIVE OUTCOMES

Working full- or part-time

Enrolled in continuing education

Serving in Military or as a Volunteer

318

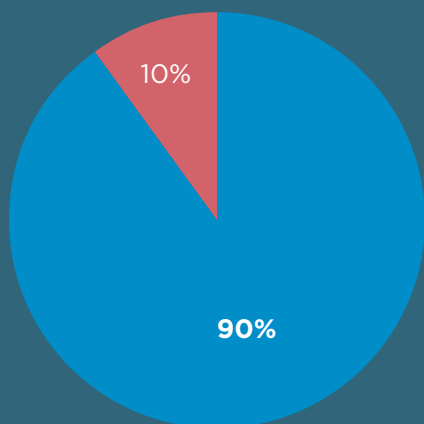
DECEMBER 2015  
GRADUATES

184

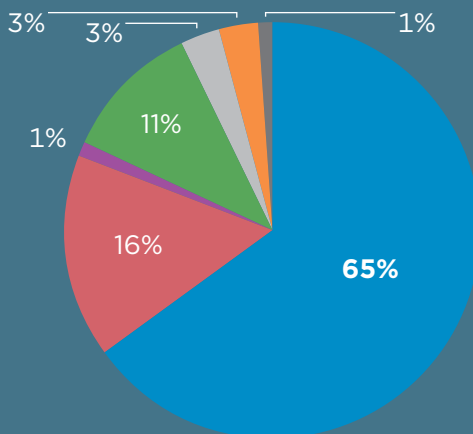
GRADUATES WITH  
VERIFIED OUTCOMES  
(57% knowledge rate)

## PRIMARY STATUS by Degree Level

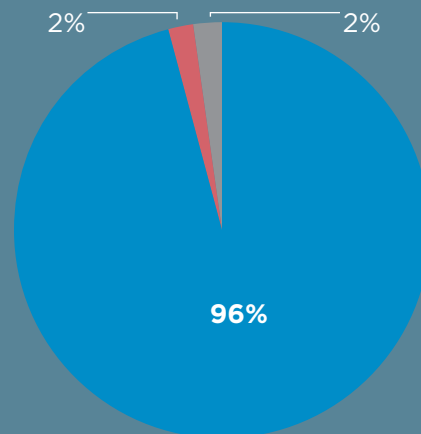
### ASSOCIATES DEGREE



### BACHELORS DEGREE



### MASTERS DEGREE



Working full-time



Working part-time



Enrolling in additional education



Seeking additional education



Engaged in military service



Engaged in volunteer service



Unemployed and seeking employment



Unemployed and not seeking employment

## TOP INDUSTRIES



Education

Health care



Manufacturing

Retail/Wholesale



Real Estate

Banking





# Rouse carries on legacy of giving back to students & alumni

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From left: Taylor, Susan, Paige, and Chip Rouse.

FOR YEARS, Chip and his wife, Dr. Susan Rouse, poured themselves out in Christian love and service to hundreds of students at Southern Wesleyan University.

During the years Chip coached men's and women's cross country, many student-athletes became the Rouse's extended family, as did many students who attended Susan's classes, learning and growing spiritually and professionally.

On Nov. 11, 2014, Susan passed away after two years of battling cancer; but two years later, her legacy still lives on through many students whose lives she touched as a mentor and a caring professor during her nine years of service to the university.

Chip says that Susan loved Southern Wesleyan University and was passionate about her students.

"The ones who really showed up and tried and the ones I still get a note from every once in a while saying 'hey, in medical school I was prepared well by Susan's classes.' She poured her heart and soul into that job and the students," he said. "We go to church every Sunday – we sing this stuff, we pray this stuff, we need to believe it, and if we're

going to believe it, she's in a way better place than we are. We need to trust that and not grieve because truly death was her promotion."

To Mark Cromer, a 2015 biology graduate from Temperance, Mich., currently continuing his studies in medical school, Susan was one of the most inspiring people he has ever met. He studied under Susan as an honor research student, and praised her for her knowledge, wisdom and loving guidance.

"Dr. Rouse was more than just my professor and research supervisor; she was someone who personally invested in my life to ensure that I would be well-prepared and would be able to succeed in my future because I was not just another student to her – I was someone she cared about," Cromer said.

Looking back on his wife's illness, Chip reflected, "In all of that mess there was nothing to hold onto but faith. Money couldn't fix it. I couldn't write a check to fix it. No doctor could fix it. Nothing could fix it. I felt like I was in an ocean bouncing around in those waves with nothing to hold onto."

Susan is remembered through a scholarship set up in her name to benefit future students, though they may not have the benefit of her expertise in neuroscience. A track event hosted at Southern Wesleyan, the Susan Rouse Invitational, hosts runners from colleges and universities across the region at the Joe R. Gilbert Track and Field complex.

Though no longer coaching at Southern Wesleyan, Chip continues his vigorous support of the cross country program. On Sept. 24, he was the honorary starter for the Warrior Invitational. (His only regret that day was that he left behind “Big Red,” the beloved dirt bike he used to follow his team at meets.)

Chip enthusiastically hires graduates to gain real-world experience at three running stores – Gotta Run – across the Upstate that he and his business partner, Chris Disbrow, operate. Gotta Run also offers internships in Clemson, Simpsonville and Spartanburg and has partnered with Southern Wesleyan’s School of Business, where students have interacted with Chip and Chris to formulate marketing plans and learn fundamentals of operating a business.

Chip and Chris first hired Jonathan Dryman, a Southern Wesleyan student and former student-athlete, to manage the first Gotta Run store in Clemson. As Gotta Run expanded into Spartanburg, they put two Southern Wesleyan graduates in charge.

***“Dr. Rouse... was someone who personally invested in my life to ensure that I would be well-prepared and would be able to succeed in my future.”***

“As we decided to open new stores, a huge part of that decision was ‘who could we have that could manage and run those stores and be an extension of us?’ The fact that Joshua Thatcher and Drew Welch were available really kind of made those decisions much easier,” Chip said. Thatcher

now manages the Spartanburg store and Welch manages the Simpsonville store.

“We’ve created this little race car and given the keys to these guys,” Chip said. “It’s a lot of responsibility.”

Welch said that, both as coach and now his boss, Chip is a determined, driven individual with a unique leadership style.

“While being laid back, at the same time he knew how to push us. When it was time for business, he honed that into us,” Welch said, adding that Chip somehow kept a positive outlook despite experiencing personal tragedy.

“A huge thing is being able to trust those guys a lot. I know these guys. We’ve been in the trenches and I know what these guys are made of. It’s a blessing to us that they’re with us,” Chip said.

The Rouse family tradition at Southern Wesleyan continued this year as their daughter Paige began taking dual credit courses during her senior year at Daniel High School and has been accepted to enter Southern Wesleyan as a freshman in the fall.







# Anne Fulcher

## *SWU graduate active in community and dedicated to serving others*

Dr. Tonya Strickland, left, presented Anne Fulcher with the Provost's Community Leadership Award on April 28.

“ENTHUSIASM” and “unwavering devotion to her community” are among many positive traits others use to describe Anne Fulcher of Warrenton, a recent Southern Wesleyan University MSM graduate.

Fulcher has been editing a community activism newspaper called the GVW Report, started last year as a way to help redevelop the towns of Graniteville, Vacluse and Warrenton – an area impacted over the years by plant closures and a deadly chlorine spill that resulted from a 2005 train derailment.

In addition to her work on the GVW Report, Fulcher has written numerous grants for her area that were funded. Also, she volunteers as the community coordinator for the Graniteville Brownfield Project, in which she works with local businesses, churches, and nonprofits on quality of life issues. She also serves on the board of directors for several organizations, including Area Churches Together Serving, Christ Central/Hope Center Graniteville, Masterworks Chorale, Aiken County Family Y, Midland Valley Area Chamber of Commerce, and the GRACE Study.

Fulcher described what she does for the communities of Graniteville, Vacluse and Warrenton as “one big collaborative process.” Part of her job has been to ensure that residents receive the help they need. Since Graniteville recently lost their only physician, Fulcher has been working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and a local federally-qualified community health center to find funding to bring a doctor to the community.

“Graniteville had a disaster situation and a lot of funding was given out and it never quite reached community members. There were a lot of well-meaning people who didn’t follow through,” said Fulcher.

She added that access to adequate healthcare and the need for job placement services are issues for residents displaced by plant closings.

“Generations are left jobless, uninsured, sick and in a tragic way. The other issue is transportation – a lot of people don’t have transportation,” Fulcher said. “One of my big goals after graduating with an undergraduate degree was to serve the underserved in healthcare.”

Fulcher also noted a partnership with Christ Central Hope Center in Graniteville, who has a parcel of land that can be used for a community garden. She wrote two grants for the center. Dr. Lee Kizer, a Southern Wesleyan University business professor, is president of Christ Central Institute.

Fulcher was recently named executive director of Hitchcock Place, a senior living facility owned by Enlivan and located in Aiken that has more than 40 residents and 30 staff members.

“Since graduating, my career path has changed and I’m where I never thought I would be,” Fulcher said. “I feel like God had put me in this position. I had interviewed for a job with another organization in spring and one of the board of those board of directors that interviewed me talked to me about this job.”

She appreciates how her education at Southern Wesleyan’s North Augusta education center has helped her in her new management role.

“I feel so much more confident in this job because I have to do payroll, I have to hire and fire, and I have to look out for well-being for an entire staff and residents,” Fulcher said.

“Seniors are definitely a population who need a voice. Their core values are compassion, humility, excellence, integrity and fun; these values are very important to me as well,” Fulcher said.



# Melissa Wilcox

*SWU graduate receives funding for environmental project*

MELISSA WILCOX, right, a Southern Wesleyan University education graduate and teacher at Powdersville Elementary School, received full funding from Michelin North America on her environmental grant proposal, which will benefit education on sustainability and nutrition.

The \$17,000 grant will help make possible expansion of Powdersville Elementary's bee project as well as development of a raised-bed garden that supports the bee project – all providing an opportunity for hands-on learning that has real-life implications in the community.

Powdersville Elementary was one of only two schools in South Carolina to be awarded an Environmental Stewardship Grant. Michelin awarded six grants in North America during 2016.

"As an environmental engineer with Michelin and an elementary school parent, I was impressed with Powdersville Elementary's efforts toward environmental education. As a result, I simply provided a link between the school's initiatives and Michelin's commitment to environmental stewardship by making the school aware of the funding opportunity and assisting with the application process," said Melanie Barrett, left, environmental engineer with Michelin Americas Research Company.

"We are very grateful to Michelin for their involvement in our school and community and are excited for this new partnership," Wilcox said. She noted that funds will be used to extend the school's problem-based learning.

The first phase of that learning, linked with Powdersville

Elementary's science curriculum, focused on honeybees. Wilcox noted that the grant will fund the installation of raised-bed vegetable and flower gardens.

"We are excited for the possibility of providing our students with real-world learning opportunities through this grant, as well as the community collaboration that it will encourage as well," Wilcox said. "It also provides a wonderful avenue for teaching soft-skills – things like teamwork and compassion that sometimes are difficult to teach

in traditional classroom settings."

Wilcox is grateful for the solid educational foundation Southern Wesleyan provided her when she was an Early Childhood and Elementary Education major.

"I feel that I was well-prepared for the 'real-world' of education, as well as learning to see the child as a whole person – physical, spiritual, emotional, and intellectual being who needs to be treated as such," Wilcox said. "The phrase 'a Christian ethic of care' was emphasized during my time at SWU and became ingrained in me as a pre-service teacher. I hope that it follows me in my work always, remembering that Jesus has first called me to love the students given to me, as well as calling me to excellence in my work and the utilizing of the gifts and talents He has given."

Wilcox says she's grateful for the lessons she learns each day in her classroom.

"Sometimes I think I learn more than my students," she said.

***"We are excited for the possibility of providing our students with real-world learning opportunities through this grant."***



# GRADUATE SEES PROFESSION AS A CALLING

ON JULY 18, James Bross Jr. began in his role as the new CEO of St. Luke's Hospital in Columbus, N.C. Prior to that, Bross was the President and CEO of Angel Medical Center in Franklin, N.C. He also served in leadership roles at Rutherford Hospital in Rutherfordton, N.C., where he was chief operating officer and chief financial officer.

Bross notes that there are a host of health issues prevalent in the South and in communities where he has served in the Carolinas, including high rates of obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer.

"Historically, while we often refer to 'health' care, hospitals have actually been a place for sick care. You went to the hospital because you were really sick," Bross said. "Now we're becoming more the partner in the community to try to do population wellness and prevention. It's a major transformation in the way we think and the way we behave as a health care system."

Bross was a triple-major at Southern Wesleyan, studying accounting, business administration and psychology. He later went on to earn an MBA from The Citadel. While at Southern Wesleyan, Bross served as Student Government Association president and took on several leadership roles. He first became interested in his wife Angie during a Wesleyan camp meeting on the Central campus, and they later attended Southern Wesleyan together. Angie's parents, Billy and JoAnn Davis, are also Southern Wesleyan alumni who started attending when the university had a high school.

Despite a 32 year career in health care, Bross originally wasn't even considering the field – that is, up until his senior year at Southern Wesleyan, known then as Central Wesleyan College. He had interned in a CPA firm and was seeking an accounting position when professor Freda Myers introduced him to Ron Brank, another Southern Wesleyan alumnus who had established himself working as a senior executive in financial services for Hospital Corporation of America (HCA). Brank invited Bross to interview for a position in hospital finance.

"I had interviewed with textile firms and other kinds of businesses in accounting and finance, but when I saw that door opening, I knew that health care was a place I felt like I could serve and really make a difference in people's lives. Ron helped open that door for me," Bross said.

In the summer of 1984, just after graduating from Southern Wesleyan, Bross started CFO training with HCA at one of the company's larger hospitals on the west coast of Florida.

Before moving to Central in 1972, the Brosses lived in several different parts of the country when his parents, Dr. and Mrs. James Bross Sr., served in various forms of ministry and Dr. Bross was doing his master's and doctoral work. Bross recalls how all of the children – he, Suzie (Medders), Joy (Clarkson) and Lisa (Harding) – were born in different states.

"I happened to be born on one of the mission excursions in Albuquerque, N.M., which was the farthest away from the Carolinas of any of us. The rest were born in the Midwest and the Southeast," Bross said.

Growing up as the child of two Southern Wesleyan professors and living near the Central campus, Bross recalls close ties his family made with other families there, including the Tegens, the Nashes, the Foutzes, the Thomases and the Woods. He befriended Jeff Jennings, son of Dr. Ted Jennings, and they were college roommates as



freshmen. He recalls how, as a college professor, his father taught him and practically every other member of the family, including his mother, Barbara, his wife, Angie, and more recently, his daughter Anna. The Brosses are especially excited and proud that Anna became a third generation graduate of SWU in December 2015.

Bross is excited to see Southern Wesleyan preparing a new generation of health care leaders through a new MBA program with a concentration in health care administration. As the groundwork was being laid for the program, he met with Southern Wesleyan leadership, including President Todd Voss, Chad Peters, vice president for enrollment management, Dr. Jeannie Trudel, dean of the School of Business, and Dr. Lynn Brown-Bullock, coordinator of the fledgling program and caught the vision for what they were doing.

"I believe the MBA is a great route for aspiring health care leaders – that's my degree," Bross said. "Recently the health care industry in general is encouraging the MBA as a degree for hospital administration as much as the traditional MHA (Master of Health Administration)."

In spite of changes brought about through increasing government regulation and shrinking health care payments for an aging baby boomer population, Bross sees opportunities for his field in the future and is excited about the increasing role Southern Wesleyan is playing as it prepares future health care leaders.

"There's a whole culture of faith and integration of faith with these caring professions that we value greatly. What hasn't always been the case, but certainly is now, is that we're seeing through Southern Wesleyan University some tremendous growth in the form of new channels for serving the communities we live in," Bross said. For him, leadership in the business of community health care is a calling that fulfills his desire to serve and give to others.

# *Thank You.*

To our generous donors who value the impact of Christian higher education at Southern Wesleyan University, thank you for your self-sacrifice to give to the mission of SWU. Our mission has not changed: we remain dedicated to educating and nurturing students as they seek God's plan for their lives. Your support is an investment in this mission, in Southern Wesleyan, and in the life achievements and spiritual growth of our students.

VISIT [WWW.SWU.EDU/DONORS](http://WWW.SWU.EDU/DONORS)  
*for an online Honor Roll of Donors.*



# Fill the HILL

Warrior Homecoming 2016







## SWU HOMECOMING

Graduates joined students, faculty and staff for a celebration-filled Homecoming weekend Oct. 21 and 22 at Central.

Sarah Sweatt was crowned as the 2016 Homecoming Queen and Ben Hochhalter as the 2016 Homecoming King during halftime at Southern Wesleyan University's Men's Soccer game against North Greenville University. Sweatt is a senior from Myrtle Beach and Hochhalter is a senior biology major from Colorado Springs, Colo.

Southern Wesleyan University graduates celebrating milestones marched up Wesleyan Drive during the annual Homecoming Parade. Class reunions were held for graduation years 1966 and later.

Parade grand marshals were James "Radio" Kennedy and retired T.L. Hanna coach Harold Jones, who were the inspiration for the 2003 hit movie "Radio." Parade highlights included several floats from student organizations, and the winning float presented by the Pickens County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs.





## COMMITTED CONCERT

2016 Homecoming festivities started with a “Kickoff Concert” featuring the Grammy-nominated Acapella group “Committed, season 2 winners of NBC-TV’s “The Sing-Off” on the stage of Newton Hobson Chapel and Fine Arts Center. During the concert, three University

Singers members – Katy Dyches of North Augusta, Caitlin Gardner of Kannapolis, N.C. and Rasheem Simpson of Seneca – shared their vocal talents with the group. “Committed” performed gospel, pop, jazz and more, providing an upbeat start to Homecoming.

# GRANDPARENTS DAY

## 2017

**FRIDAY**

**MARCH 17**

Join us and your grandchildren for an exciting day filled with events ranging from athletic games and fine arts productions, to seminars and more!

# SWU RECOGNIZES 2016 OUTSTANDING ALUMNI



The SWU Alumni Association recognized outstanding graduates Oct. 21 during the Alumni Awards Dinner. Pictured from left: Ross and Donna Collins, who accepted the 2016 Young Leader Award for their daughter, 2011 graduate Tina Collins; Dan Wood, a 1982 graduate, received the 2016 Professional Excellence Award from the School of Education; Larry McAlpine, a 1965 graduate, was named 2016 Outstanding Alumnus of the Year; James Bross Jr., a 1984 graduate, received the 2016 Professional Excellence Award from the School of Business; and Dr. Mark Gorveatte, a 1984 graduate, received the 2016 Professional Excellence Award for the College of Arts and Sciences. At right is Rev. Joy Bryant, executive director of alumni and constituent relations for SWU.

Wood, a 1982 education graduate, is executive director of the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA). Bross,

a 1984 Magna Cum Laude graduate, is CEO of St. Luke's Hospital in Columbus, N.C., affiliated with Carolinas Health Care System. Gorveatte, a 1983 psychology graduate, is currently district superintendent for the Crossroad District of The Wesleyan Church in Indiana. McAlpine, a 1965 graduate, has served as an educator and has been actively involved in WASH, World Hope International's initiative to provide clean water wells and sanitation, as well as to help improve the quality of education and health of hundreds of Haitian children affected by HIV/AIDS. Collins, a 2011 China Studies graduate, works in China's growing entertainment industry, coaching actors in English dialect and dialogue.

Right: 2016 Young Leader Award winner Tina Collins.





# Why We Give



Shelby Jean, Mary Jo and Rachel Simmons

WHEN STUDENTS, especially Christians, are selecting a college or university, they want the most honest, accessible and pertinent information attainable. It is important that they understand the nature and purpose of that institution. College covers a significant portion of life's experiences and lessons. It is an experience that students are most likely never to forget. Knowing what considerations are needed to choose the best school such as academics, quality of life, extracurricular activities and religious emphases, is essential to successful futures. Students may find their passions and life pathway through college experiences.

Southern Wesleyan University is affiliated with The Wesleyan Church and attracts students with combinations of interests, skills and talents and provides a close, friendly and biblically sound learning environment. SWU is dedicated to its students and their futures. The administrators, faculty and staff members genuinely care about students and their progress and are willing to offer assistance in any way possible. Each student can expect personal attention to be given to his/her well-being. This

university is committed to the pursuit of excellence in all its programs, giving special emphasis to Christian principles and values. Christianity is central to life at SWU and students are encouraged to grow in the Lord while working toward earning a degree.

Our parents, John A. and Amanda Simmons, were interested in their children attending schools dedicated to Christian principles, superior academics and a shared sense of local and global community. It is our family's desire to honor our parents with the establishment of an educational scholarship for students who possess academic promise but may have limited financial resources be provided some financial assistance through the Simmons Scholarship. It is hoped that this opportunity will help students who desire to serve the Lord in Christian ministry and/or missions to attend an institution that has a benevolent, supportive and challenging learning experience that leads to a life of meaningful work, significant relationships, and devotion to building up Christ's kingdom. We believe Southern Wesleyan University is such an institution.





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# ALUMNI | *news*

## 1958

**1** **REV. JAMES WIGGINS** ('58), right, presented a plaque dedicating the 2016 Wesleyan Family Camp to the memory of Rev. Marshall Rampey ('51) for his more than 70 year legacy of supporting the annual camp meeting, primarily in the S.C. District. Accepting the plaque is his son, Rev. Buddy Rampey ('69), center, and his wife Joan Rampey ('69), left; and Marshall's daughter Martha Rampey ('12).

## 1966, 68

**2** **CHAPLAIN CARROLL HUTCHESON** ('66) and **FAITH LEH HUTCHESON** ('68) recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Carroll, retired army chaplain, is a chaplain with Market Place Ministries. Faith, a retired educator, is a certified Christian Speaker. She has a program, "Mother Goose with Faith," for women's groups, seniors and children. They have two children and six grandchildren and currently live in Duncan, S.C.

## 1974

**3** **CHARLES TEGEN** ('74) was awarded the 2016 Professional Development Award for his notable and extensive contributions to the

National Association of College and University Business Officers. Tegen is the associate vice president for finance at Clemson University, and the husband of Deanna Tegen ('75), the accounting director in SWU's business office.

## 1984

St. Luke's Hospital, Columbus, N.C., named **JAMES B. (JIM) BROSS** as its new Chief Executive Officer. James is the son of Dr. James Bross, professor emeritus of religion at SWU. Bross has more than 32 years of health care executive management experience.

**4** **KEITH SMITH** received his master of arts degree in political science from Georgia State University in May 2016. Smith, a member of SWU's board of trustees, currently serves as legal counsel for a technology company in the Atlanta area.

## 1987

**5** MicroSurgical Technology of Redmond, Wash., announced the appointment of **JEFF CASTILLO** to the position of president. Castillo began his career at Procter & Gamble, then spent 21 years in a variety of roles and positions at Johnson & Johnson. He earned

his BA in business administration from SWU and also has an MBA from the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business. He is pictured with his wife Krista.

**JONATHAN LEWIS** assumed the position of District Superintendent of the N.C. East District of The Wesleyan Church at the district conference in High Point.

## 1989

**REV. CHARLIE COLLINS**, lead pastor of Denton Wesleyan Church, Denton, N.C., gave the sermon during Baccalaureate services May 5, 2016. Also, Collins' daughter Bethany graduated May 6, 2016, receiving her BA in religion.

## 1998

**GREG YOUNG** ('98) director of corporate and community relations at Belhaven University, was recently recognized by the Atlanta Business Chronicle. Young seeks to increase awareness of the Atlanta campus through relationships with area businesses, churches and nonprofits. Greg and his wife Amanda ('97) serve on Belhaven's staff and are former SWU staff members – Greg as an admissions coordinator in the adult evening program

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and Amanda as a director of admissions.

## 2003

**6** **PATRICK** and **KATIE LORD DAGENHART** welcomed Campbell Tate into the world Sept. 26, 2016. Weighing in at 7 lbs. 6 oz. and 19.5 inches long. Big sister Marlee is in love with her brand new baby brother as well, Patrick reports.

**7** Norah Kathleen Rodriguez was born to **CAMILO** ('03) and **STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ** ('06) Aug. 31, 2016, at 8.7 lbs. and 21 inches. She is named after her grandmothers Nohora Stella Murillo and Kathy Ott. Stephanie is advisor for Student Support Services and Camilo was the head men's soccer coach for several years before assuming a coaching position at Clemson University.

## 2004

**GREG BULANOW**, North Charleston Fire Chief, is helping to lead a statewide effort to collect data from firefighters who have been diagnosed with cancer. The S.C. Firefighters' Association is collecting information for a database that could help firefighters gain access to better benefits and resources.

## 2005

**8** Pate Thomas Furr was born to **ROBERT** ('05) and **LISA FURR** Oct. 3, at 8 lbs. 5.5 oz. and 19 inches long.

## 2006

**MELISSA WILCOX** received full funding from Michelin North America on her environmental grant proposal, which will benefit education on sustainability and nutrition at Powdersville Elementary School. The \$17,000 grant will help make possible expansion of the school's bee project, as well as development of a raised bed garden. The garden will support the bee project and provide an opportunity for hands-on learning that has real-life implications in the community.

## 2007

**CAROLYN SCHMUTZ** is officially an FNP, receiving her board certification. She also received the Graduate Student Award of Excellence for the FNP program. This was awarded based on faculty vote. She plans to start a job in Richmond, Va. at a health center in an underserved area of the city sometime in July. "The job meets everything on my wish list and more! I'm very thankful for my time at SWU and the preparation I received from you all," Schmutz said.

UNITED Church of Dover was awarded the EXPY for Life Transformation during the 2016 EXPY Dinner and Celebration April 26 for church planters of The Wesleyan Church. Participating were Stan Hoover, Lead Pastor **KENNETH WAGNER** ('07), **MARK TENNEFOSS** ('13), Ryan Picone, Ayssa Picone, **NICK MACDONALD** ('13) and Anthony MacDonald.

## 2008

**9** SWU alumnus **DAVEY BLACKBURN** ('08), right, was recognized by the Chicago Cubs baseball team July 30, 2016. Davey is holding his son Weston and is pictured with, from left, Jono Blackburn ('10), Tessa Blackburn ('13), Dave Blackburn and Brenda Blackburn. Also a baseball alum, Davey is the founder of Resonate Church in Indianapolis.

**10** Blaire Tinley Blackwell was born June 6, 2016, to **KYLE** ('08) and **SONYA BLACKWELL** of Westminster. At birth she was 6 lbs. 7 oz. and 19.5 in.

**JONELLE VANDERHORST BUTLER** recently joined the Charleston office of Lee & Associates, a nationwide broker-owned firm, as tenant services coordinator. She received her BSBM from SWU's Charleston education center. Butler is a Charleston native and experienced commercial real estate professional.

**TYSON JOHN** has been named head women's soccer coach for the USC Upstate Spartans. John compiled a 74-23-4 record coaching five seasons at Martin Methodist. At SWU, John earned three all-conference selections as well as three NAIA All-Region First Team awards. John is a sport management graduate.

**11** Finley McKenna Mason was born Aug. 23, 2016, to **AMBER** ('08) and **DERRICK MASON**, weighing 5 lb. 8 oz. and 18 1/2 in. long. A biology graduate, Amber is the daughter of



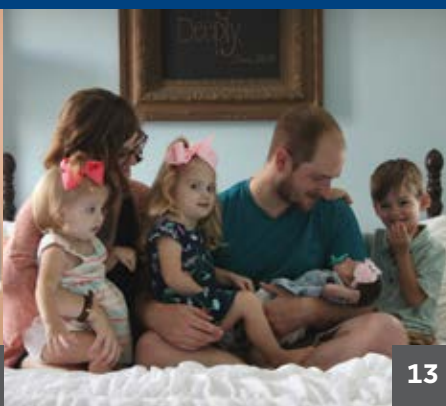




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Rhonda Bracken, SWU accounts payable clerk.

## 2009

**12** Gentry Olivia McKenzie was born July 7, 2016, to **IAN** ('09) and **MORGAN HARPER MCKENZIE** ('07) at 7 lbs. 13 oz. and 21 inches. Proud grandpa is Dr. Roger McKenzie, professor of religion.

## 2010

**13** Ruby Quinn Jolly was born May 22, 2016, to **NATHAN** and **BRITTANY JOLLY**. Landon 4, Zoey, 3, and Aspen, 1, join in celebrating their new little sister. At birth, Ruby was 19 in. and 6 lbs. 7 oz.

North Augusta M.Ed. graduate **GREGGORY YONCE** has been named the 2016-17 Teacher of The Year at Strom Thurmond High School. Yonce currently teaches Mathematics.

## 2011

**NICK LAGROONE** has been promoted to assistant men's basketball coach at Southeast Missouri State University. While at SWU, Lagroone was a member of the Men's Basketball Team under Coach Charles Wimphrie.

**JOSH SHEPARD** was recently named to serve as director of technology for the School District of Oconee County. Shepard has a bachelor's degree in education from SWU and a master's degree in educational leadership and policy studies from the University of Texas. He's also a certified Google trainer, one of few in the area. Shepard assumed his new position July 1.

**JOSH** ('11) and **ADRIENNE SHEPARD** ('09) welcomed Harper Renee Shepard Aug. 14, 2016, at 9:34 a.m., weighing 6 lbs. and 11 oz. Adrienne reports "We are all doing fine and big brother Hudson is absolutely loving her!" Adrienne is a data assistant in SWU's Admissions Office.

## 2012

**DANIELLE BROOME** recently received a promotion at Milliken & Company, a

world-renowned chemical, floor covering, and performance materials company headquartered in Spartanburg. She is being promoted from marketing communications specialist for Milliken Chemical to marketing communications manager for Milliken Specialty Fabrics. She is a media communication graduate.

**14** **ETHAN CASHWELL** ('12) and **CHLOE BRYANT** ('13) were married May 14, 2016, at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Greenville. Ethan serves as coordinator for alumni relations and special events and is a history graduate. Chloe is employed by The Growing Place and is a psychology graduate. She is also the daughter of Jackie Bryant ('79), secretary of the Fine Arts Division.

**COREY CLARDY** earned his doctor of pharmacy degree from Auburn University – Harrison School of Pharmacy. He is a pre-medicine/pre-dentistry graduate.

**PHILLIP FRITTS** has been named senior communication consultant for Mission Health System.

**TIM JOHNSON** was named the School District of Pickens County's 2016 Teacher of the Year. Johnson is a business education and agriculture teacher at Liberty High School. Although he earned an MBA from SWU, Johnson was inspired by his parents, both educators, to become a teacher.

**15** Blakely Savannah Martin was born Oct. 31 at 7:40 p.m. She weighed 6 lbs. 2 oz. and was 18.5 inches long. Proud parents are **JON-ATHAN MARTIN** ('13) and **KRISTEN MARTIN** ('12). Kristen is employed by Southern Wesleyan University as a financial aid associate.

## 2013

**BART** ('13) and **EMILY CONE** had a son, Kipton, born Aug. 7, 2016.

Isobel Katherine Propes was born June 9,

2016 to **CRYSTAL** and **RYAN PROPE** ('13).

**16** **WILL HENDERSON** married **MARY KATHRYN RASH** Sept. 3, 2016, at Christ Wesleyan Church, Winston-Salem, N.C.

**WILL HENDERSON** was ordained June 21, 2016. He is student pastor and marketing director at Christ Wesleyan Church in Winston-Salem, N.C. Originally from Brevard, N.C., Henderson graduated from SWU's religion program.

**17** **DAMON QUALLS**, a MEDAS graduate, was selected as one of 15 South Carolina ASCD (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development) Emerging Leaders for the class of 2016. Qualls, who is assistant principal of Berea Middle School, was named SWU's Education Alumnus of the Year and received the Young Leader Award from the SWU Alumni Association.

## 2014

**18** Charleston SWU alums participated in an Escape Game in Charleston April 14, 2016. They made their daring escape with :50 seconds remaining. **DAN FINNEGAN** ('14) reports, "It was a great team building event and they had a blast!" Pictured from left are Vivian Pinckney, Daniel Pach, Konita Reid, Dan Finnegan, Monique Frasier, Jessica Scott and James McFadden.

**DANIEL STRICKLAND** (SSgt USAF NG SCANG) was accepted to the Nuclear Engineering program at Excelsior College and hopes to earn a commission as a military officer. He is planning to seek either a master of health physics or master of public health upon completion of the engineering program. Strickland is a former VA student who graduated from SWU with a BS in business management.

**19** **JOSHUA THATCHER** married Ashley Sutherland Oct. 29, 2016. Joshua is a business graduate.



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## 2015

**KAITLYN DUNAGAN** had an article published in "Let's Get Lost," a collection of essays geared toward readers interested in adventure or inspired by travel.

**WADE METCALF** has been promoted to billing lead by Tech-24. According to Metcalf, Tech-24 is transitioning through a time of rapid growth. He says his SWU degree "has been the key to opening many doors," giving him a strong career foundation.

**CHAMP SQUIRES** began his studies at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Ky. He is a religion graduate.

## 2016

**ANNE FULCHER** was recently named executive director at Hitchcock Place in Aiken. She's a graduate of the North Augusta MSM program. Fulcher has been honored by SWU and others for her tireless dedication to her community.

**MATT HEERSCHAP** ('16) and **HANNAH ORTEGA** were wed Oct. 15, 2016.

**ANDREW HOCHHALTER** married **CAROLINE HUDSON** June 5, 2016 at Alive Wesleyan Church.

**RHETT KEATON**, a BSBA graduate, is now an inside sales representative for Ulbrich Stainless Steels and Metals, Inc., a global precision re-roller and distributor of stainless steel strip, special metals strip, foil, shaped wire, fine wire, sheet, plate, bar and PV ribbon products. Keaton will also be returning to SWU as an online MSML student.

## FACULTY

Retired SWU faculty member Ken Foutz received a medallion for 50 years of service to The Wesleyan Church from General Superintendent Dr. Wayne Schmidt at the Shenandoah District Conference on July 12.

## IN MEMORIAM

**20 MARGARET SHIGLEY CROWE** ('31) passed into Jesus' arms April 6, 2016. According to her daughter, Marie Crowe Noah, she was just four weeks shy of her 101st birthday. Crowe, who lived in Rome, Ga., was the widow of the late Rev. Charles W. Crowe.

**VIRGINIA MAY DONGELL**, wife of Rev. Dr. Herbert Dongell, retired SWU Religion Division chair, passed away June 3, 2016. Virginia attended Houghton College, Houghton, N.Y., and received her M.Ed. from Clemson University. She taught Latin, English and Biology at Edwards Jr. High School. Her lifelong passion was expressing her faith by composing poetry and music, and by supporting Christian missions at home and abroad.

**DR. MARIE EVATT** ('43) of Central went to be with Jesus May 25, 2016 at the age of 91. An alumna of Southern Wesleyan University and Indiana Wesleyan University, Evatt served with Wesleyan World Missions (Global Partners) as a missionary to Sierra Leone for 25 years. She also provided leadership to the Wesleyan Women's Missionary Society as general secretary from 1976-1989.

**SYLVIA NELL BAILEY GENTRY** ('68) went home to be with the Lord Sept. 1, 2016. Funeral services were held Sept. 4, 2016, at Pickens View Wesleyan Church. A retired teacher, Sylvia directed music and taught Sunday School at Pickens View. Surviving are her husband of 58 years, Rev. Foster Dean Gentry Sr. ('58), two sons, Foster Dean Gentry Jr. and his wife Deana, and Steven Herbert Gentry; one brother, Theodore V. Bailey and his wife Ann; and three grandchildren.

**DR. KEN HEER**, noted preacher, pastor, and leader of The Wesleyan Church, passed unexpectedly May 4, 2016, in Brooksville, Fla. Heer pastored seven Wesleyan churches in Indiana, including College Wesleyan

Church in Marion and Fall Creek Wesleyan Church in Fishers, adding up to 28 years in pastoral ministry. He also served 23 years in leadership roles at The Wesleyan Church Headquarters, including general director of education and the ministry from 1988-1997. He was chief of staff for the Board of General Superintendents at the time of his retirement from headquarters in 2012. After moving to Florida, he served as president of Wesleyan Village in Brooksville and teaching pastor at Brooksville Wesleyan Church.

The SWU community is mourning the loss of **W. MARSHALL RAMPEY** ('51), who went on to be with Jesus May 20, 2016; and his wife Ruth Willene Pressley Rampey ('51), who followed him on May 25, 2016. The Rampeys were married for more than 73 years.

Marshall, who until recently served as chaplain for SWU's Greenville learning center, served the S.C. District of The Wesleyan Church as a pastor from 1949-2003 and in numerous other district offices and duties. He served on the board of trustees for SWU and Kenersville Wesleyan Academy. He also taught in the Spartanburg District 5 public school system and was active in his community.

Ruth was a devoted wife who lovingly supported Marshall during his many years of ministry. She was also a gifted musician, Sunday School teacher and also served as a substitute teacher in Spartanburg District 5 public schools.

The Rampeys are survived by a son, Rev. W. Marshall "Buddy" Rampey, S.C. District superintendent for The Wesleyan Church; a daughter, Martha Ruth Rampey; four grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.



# FROM <sup>2</sup>THE VAULT



## **CIRCA LATE 1930s – EARLY 1940s**

These dapper fellows are participating in that wonderful fall tradition of a game of football. In the background is Smith Hall, the earliest building built on SWU's campus.



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