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Innovative partnerships lead to special needs housing community **pg. 18**

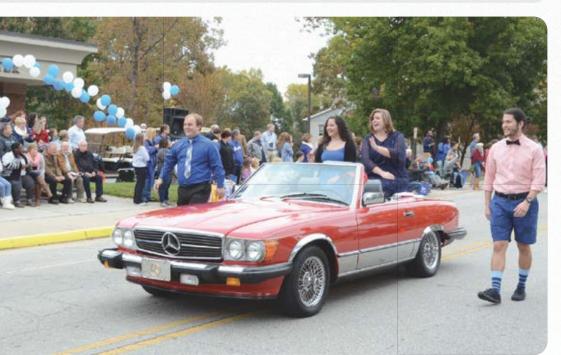
DR. JO ANNE LYON

An interview with our Spring Commencement speaker pg. 26 ISSUE #9 Spring/Summer 2016

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Save the Date: OCTOBER 21-22

IN THIS ISSUE



SWU Hosts S.C. Area 14 Special Olympics



LORE: SWU's Inventive New Outdoor Program



Tina Collins: SWU Enables Passion for China



Jo Anne Lyon: A Life Championing Justice for All



Athletic Accolades

- **4** Academic Updates
- 8 Inspire the Desire
- 9 SC Region 1 Science Fair Comes to SWU
- **10** Spring Campus Events
- 15 FLAMA: Equipping Hispanic Ministry Leaders
- 18 Special Needs Housing
- **21** Carly Teat: Donation Leads to a Life Saved
- 22 Lisa Sylvestri: The Tech Behind Healthcare
- 23 Morris Davis: Counselor Honored by State
- 28 Why | Give
- **30** Alumni News



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ACADEMIC UPDATES



The Fine Arts Division has had another successful year of serving the area through various musical outreach projects and concerts.

In the choral area, over a thousand middle and high school students came to campus for SWUFest, SWUFest II, and the Upper Region Honor Choir. The state convention of the American Choral Directors Association was held on SWU's campus with over 700 guests in attendance. The SWU Concert Choir enjoyed a memorable Spring 2016 Tour, where they ministered in a Sunday service at Mother Emmanuel Church in Charleston. They also performed in four high schools in the lower part of the state to complete their tour.

The instrumental area featured the SWU Jazz Band in a Fall 2015 Tour, where they performed at seven local high schools and a bilingual service in a Wesleyan Church in Greenville. The annual SWU Jazz Festival brought in jazz bands from four local high schools, as well as the University of South Carolina Jazz Band. The SWU Wind Ensemble performed in a joint concert with the Greenville Concert Band, and was featured in a Sunday service at First Baptist Church of Clemson.

Four SWU students participated in the S.C. Collegiate Honor Choir at the state ACDA convention. Seven students were selected to participate in the S.C. Collegiate Honor Band Festival at Winthrop University, with two students taking top spots in their sections.

The annual Fine Arts Series featured our own SWU students in solo and ensemble concerts throughout the year. Other concerts of note on the series included "Committed," a popular a capella group, the U.S. Army Jazz Ambassadors, jazz flautist Galen Abdur-Razzaq, operatic baritone Sean Anderson, the SWU spring musical, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," the annual Lessons and Carols service, and the Masterworks concert featuring the Mozart "Requiem." •



Both faculty and students in the Humanities Division at Southern Wesleyan University have seen numerous accomplishments and noteworthy activities during this spring semester. English Program Coordinator/ Assistant Professor of English Tim Kirk moved to the dissertation phase of his Ph.D. work and plans to complete and defend his dissertation this summer. Assistant Professor of History Michael Keaton has been named Program Coordinator for the Secondary Social Studies Education degree program. Dr. Lewis Knight has been working with the Fine Arts Division and the School of Business to develop a new degree program focused on the production and business side of the music industry. Professor of History Dr. Ken Myers will be leading a group of 14 participants on an exciting two-week study abroad trip to Greece May 9-23. History major Mikkaela Bailey was awarded a \$2,590 SCICU grant to assist with her honors History project on the Magna Carta's influence on English national identity. History major Zach Ford is delivering his honors presentation, titled "Moonlight and Magnolia: A History of the Southern Plantation," on April 19; Ford is a May honors graduate. The Humanities Division saw 10 of its majors graduating in the spring commencement ceremony. We in the Humanities Division look forward to further accomplishments and opportunities and another exciting academic year in 2016-2017. •



Excitement and anticipation characterized the Division of Religion this spring as final preparations were being made for occupying the new Nicholson-Mitchell Christian Ministry Center. Classes moved into the first building this past January. The final move to the new sanctuary, new offices, reception space, student lounge, prayer room and other spaces is anticipated for summer 2016. The Center was dedicated April 13. In addition, Lilly grant funding for the Fellowship of the Called Youth Theology Institute means focused attention on the development of The Called Summer Camp to be held July 5-14. A weekend Fellowship of the Called event entitled "One" was held April 1 and 2. Also, during this semester a new group of students has been studying urban ministry and participated in the Urban Ministry Plunge May 7-16. Finally, the Division of Religion will graduate its largest class in years. God is at work and the Division of Religion is blessed! •



Staci Johnson, assistant professor of biology, presented her research at the Team Based Learning Collaborative Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, N.M. March 5.

The Science Club has seen an increase in membership and interest this year. A number of members recently visited the CDC Museum and Bodies Exhibit in Atlanta.

Computer science is working with Blue Hill Coffee and Chick-Fil-A, as well as a Texas-based e-commerce company, setting up front end and back end web applications to seek solutions and provide online administration for each.

Paul Jordan is going to Israel to teach and computer students going with him will be looking into the "other Silicon Valley," as in Israel's advanced computer technology.

Computer science has three students working in internships this semester. Two of them are working the technical side of law enforcement and the other is working on handheld device programing.

Ten exercise science students attended the

Southeast Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine annual meeting in Greenville Feb. 18. They had exposure to poster presentations and heard a keynote address, "Response, Adaptation on Neuroendocrine Interfaces with Exercise Stress." Also, the students will now be members of the Southeast Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine. •



The first six courses of the existing BSHS program are being revised to accommodate the new AGS format, implemented in fall 2016. The remaining courses will be revised in fall for implementation in January 2017. Faculty are reviewing the psychology and human services programs with significant changes to both degrees for fall 2017.

The Criminal Justice program added a second full-time faculty member and presented for approval this spring new electives. They are more closely aligning the curriculum with the academic and professional standards of the criminal justice profession.

Sport Management program revisions are planned for fall 2016. A partnership was formed between SWU and Central-Clemson Recreation Center. Under faculty direction, students enrolled in Management in Recreation and Sport (RECR 3023) created and executed a marketing plan designed to enroll students at the recreation center, touting a free membership trial period (typically costing \$80/semester). In the first six weeks, the class achieved 77 percent of their end-of-semester goal of 350 enrollees. This project provided real-world application of leadership and management and gave SWU students much-needed access to recreation and fitness facilities and equipment.

Enrollment in LORE (Leadership in Outdoor Recreation Education) has been strong. Courses include outdoor recreation, wilderness leadership skills, camp and retreat leadership, kayaking, cooperative games and wilderness first aid. In response, a minor in LORE is being developed for students in other majors to more fully participate in the program without committing to the major itself. LORE will support the Division of Religion's Youth Theological Institute this summer by leading the adventure component of the event (backpacking, challenge course, and high ropes elements).

The division recently approved students for participation in three distinct programs. Lyndy Barnes (Human Services) participated in the CCCU Best Semester Program (bestsemester.com) in China and Sadie Wyant (English) plans to attend the CCCU program at Oxford University in fall 2016. Nathan Stegenga (Outdoor Recreation) will be enrolled in the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) this fall (www.nols.edu). •



The School of Business launched a new master of science in management and leadership degree last fall, a 30 credit hour program aimed at developing managers into leaders based on biblical principles, with a focus on practical applications.

Students at the main campus in Central and at the North Augusta learning center, under faculty sponsorship, have started their own ENACTUS groups respectively. These exciting new student-run groups provide entrepreneurial opportunities to improve communities, locally and globally. Drs. Deb Eischen, Raul Chavez and Charlotte Houke are the faculty sponsors who are guiding and leading the students.

The School continues to develop new opportunities for management and accounting internships for its undergraduate students. This spring, Juan Agudelo, a senior business student, was accepted into a paid internship program at BMW working in the area of supply chain management.

The newest member of the business faculty, Dr. August Lee, recently presented at the Academy of Economics and Finance conference in Florida on "Foreign Exchange Market Overreaction." Lee joined the business faculty this past fall and teaches finance courses. Drs. Bill Raynor and Lee Kizer presented at the Academy of Business Research conference in the late fall. Their paper, "MBA Programs in the Reshoring, Robotics and Automated Era," was well received.

SWU's School of Business, Baptist Easley

Hospital, and the Greater Easley Chamber of Commerce are partnering to offer a monthly Brown Bag Lunch Series for local managers and emerging leaders. The program offers a series of current management topics presented by professionals with working expertise in the specified areas and is open to the public. Details can be accessed at www.easleychamber.net/news_events/ •



Dr. Valerie Ramsey, adjunct professor, attended a meeting in Washington, D.C., featuring as speaker Dr. John B. King Jr., acting secretary of the U.S. Department of Education. Also, while attending one session on America's College Promise, Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, made a quick appearance.

In partnership with the state, the student teachers, under the direction of Prof. Susan Finley, are currently piloting an evaluation model that blends on-site and videotaped observations. Candidates and observers watch the videotaped lesson, interacting throughout with shared feedback. To enhance the quality of the video, the candidates use a swivel-based camera that tracks their movement through Bluetooth technology via the students' cellphones.

Congratulations to Dr. Mona Thornton, associate dean, on her reappointment to the CAEP Commission for a four-year term, Jan. 1, 2016 – Dec. 31, 2020. She was originally appointed last fall as an alternate commissioner. At the Fall 2015 meeting, they voted to give the four alternates regular status. She attended the CAEP Accreditation Council meeting April 29 – May 3, 2016 in Bethesda, Md.

Dr. Thornton also attended the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Conference in Las Vegas this past February. The conference focus was meeting the increasing demands of professional practices by answering tough questions and making tough choices.

Professors Susan Finley and Marianne Vanderford, along with Dr. Mona Thornton represented the School of Education at the Board of Trustees dinner April 13. They discussed trends and practices that impact teacher preparation today. •

SWU HOSTS S.C. AREA 14 SPECIAL OLYMPICS



The Special Olympics came to Southern Wesleyan University April 6, taking place at the Joe R. Gilbert Track and Field. Special Olympics kicked off with an opening ceremony, then more than 400 athletes showcased their talents in events that included standing long jump, softball and tennis ball throw, 100-meter walk and run, 50-meter walk and run, 50- and 100-meter assisted walk and run, wheelchair races, and 200-meter and 400-meter runs. Young Athletes, a Special Olympics group for athletes under the age of 8, participated in activities such as bowling, bean bag toss, tennis ball throw and several other events.

This was the first Special Olympics to be hosted at Southern Wesleyan, and the 38th year of Area 14 hosting Spring Games.

Area 14 Special Olympics provides year round athletic training and competition in a variety of well coached Olympic type sports for all individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities by providing them with continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, express courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills, and friendships with their families and the community. Athletes from districts 1–4 of area 14 participated in the games.



OUTSTANDING STUDENTS IN COLLEGIATE Honors band

Southern Wesleyan University was wellrepresented in the S.C. Collegiate Honors Band at Winthrop University Jan. 23. These students performed with their peers from schools of music at colleges and universities across the state. Pictured from left: Jordan Hanner, Tad Day, Ryan Mosley, Krissy Dyches, Katy Dyches, Ariail Lankford and Julianna Phillips.

Hanner is a senior from Anderson; Day is a sophomore from Pendleton; Mosley is a senior from Central; Krissy and Katy Dyches are seniors from North Augusta; Lankford is a sophomore from Easley; and Phillips is a sophomore from Piedmont.



SWU PLAYS KEY ROLE IN DEVELOPING TEACHER Leader Endorsement

Many teachers who demonstrate leadership skills in South Carolina schools are rewarded with administrative positions in a school or school district, but that's not necessarily the only valid outcome, and not all teachers want to leave the classroom.

Teachers who are engaged in leadership and wish to remain in a classroom setting have an option available to them though the Teacher Leader Endorsement, facilitated through Southern Wesleyan University's School of Education, approved by the state legislature and adopted by the State Board of Education.

Southern Wesleyan's School of education developed this endorsement as part of its master of education degree in classroom leadership. The Teacher Leader Endorsement offers different avenues for educators to provide guidance, whether through peer mentoring of newer teachers or coaching in areas such as technology, according to Dr. Sandra McLendon, dean of the university's School of Education. Prospective students can either be currently enrolled in the master's program or they may drop into the core and take the courses, provided space is available.

"Teacher Leaders help move the schools from the top-down concept of leadership that most schools and administrators have used in their organizational structures. In the teacher leader model, leadership becomes distributed among the majority stakeholders – teachers," McLendon said.

McLendon added that in most instances the trend towards the teacher leadership role

is actually initiated at the state level. Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Kansas, Illinois and Louisiana instituted Teacher Leader positions by establishing criteria for endorsing, certifying, licensing, or credentialing teachers as teacher leaders.

"Several states have embraced the importance of the Teacher Leader concept to assist teacher colleagues to positively impact student learning," McLendon said. "With the adoption of the Teacher Leader endorsement, South Carolina would be in the vanguard of states that are transforming educators into education entrepreneurs or 'edupreneurs' who have a huge impact on the opportunities for South Carolina students."

For details, visit swu.edu/medcl or call 864.644.5557 or 1.877.644.5557.

INSPIRE THE DESIRE By Dr. Deb Eischen, associate professor of business

In a world that has no shortage of challenges, there are a number of solutions that can be applied to solve the problems and meet the needs of an ever-demanding society.

A significant number of innovators possess a heartfelt desire to create a better product, provide a needed service, and/or offer a new and improved approach to a product or service design. One of the challenges for creators/innovators is "taking the first step" in making their vision a reality. How many times have you had an idea concerning a product that could help people to live a more enriched life or alleviate some of the stress that they are experiencing, only to find that someone else had the same idea and acted upon it? Whether it's a product or a service that provides a technological solution to a problem or need, or helps to alleviate a societal problem such as homelessness, the creator/innovator often needs guidance, a framework to develop a business strategy and someone to fan the flame of desire.

The good news is that innovation and incubator centers have been established throughout the country. Within the city of Pickens, the Pickens Innovation Center has been instrumental in providing inspirational services to entrepreneurs focused in the area of technology innovation. There are many schools offering classes in entrepreneurship in a way that helps innovators to embrace their desire to offer the world a product or service that satisfies needs and solves problems in creative and significant ways.

Southern Wesleyan University recently offered an entrepreneurship class that focused on "social entrepreneurship." The class began with an identification of societal problems that were written on balloons. As part of the learning process, the students chose the problem most closely associated with their individual desire and passion to address. The end result was the creation of a product or service that addressed the societal need in a creative way. Dr. Todd Voss, Southern Wesleyan University president, said, "I'm not sure how the fear of failure replaced the American spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship, but at Southern Wesleyan University and the Innovation Center, fear is not welcome! Edison once said 'I am not discouraged, because every wrong attempt discarded is another step forward.' In that spirit, we welcome ideas, celebrate tenacity, and offer an environment where innovation can once again lead."

The true excitement in either the innovation center, or the university classroom, is "fanning the flame of desire" that exists within the entrepreneurs as they move toward the place where their passion and their purpose in this life come together in meaningful and significant ways.

In addition to serving on Southern Wesleyan's business faculty, Eischen is an advisory board member for the Pickens Innovation Center, Pickens, S.C.



The social entrepreneurship class led by Dr. Deb Eischen, seated in front of her students.

SWU HOSTS SC REGION 1 SCIENCE FAIR

Southern Wesleyan University hosted the S.C. Region 1 Science Fair March 11, featuring projects presented by 131 students in grades 3-12 from Anderson, Laurens, Greenville, Oconee and Pickens Counties. The 2016 fair was historic due to the reconsolidation of Regions 1A and 1B, which had hosted separate fairs for more than 20 years.

The fair provides an opportunity for all students who are interested in science and technology to pursue their personal areas of interest and display their research as a presentation in a public competitive forum. Due to the support of the SWU Science Division and many generous sponsors, students from across the region are invited to participate with no entry fees required.

Students were provided the chance to compete for cash awards and other prizes, including a \$500 SWU Scholarship. All students in attendance received a Certificate of Merit from the South Carolina Academy of Science, a t-shirt, and collection of coupons from area businesses.

High school winners are eligible to participate at the South Carolina Junior Academy of Science competition in April. In addition, students from Southside High School were invited to compete at the State level for advancement in the Stockholm Junior Water Award competition hosted by WEASC in Columbia this June.

Southern Wesleyan University faculty, staff and students volunteered in a variety of capacities to allow the event to operate. Employees of Duke Energy, NCEES, Hill Electric Company, and Southern Wesleyan University, as well as community volunteers, judged the students' entries. Southern Wesleyan Science Club members also gave demonstrations of various science concepts in breakout sessions on the Central campus.

"Southern Wesleyan University is greatly appreciative for the generous sponsors that made the event registration free for all student participants," said Dr. Lisa McWherter, SWU vice president for advancement. The South Carolina Region 1 Science Fair sponsors include Wells Fargo, ServPro, Volunteer Benefits, Nano Cleaning Solutions, Visit Clemson, Palmetto Physical Medicine and private and anonymous donors.



ABOVE: Callie Williamson, a homeschool student, practices dissecting in the biology lab. BELOW: A student readies his exhibit before judging begins.

Planning is already underway for the 2017 South Carolina Region 1 Science Fair to be held on Friday, March 10, 2017. All students in South Carolina Region 1. which includes Abbeville, Anderson, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Oconee, and Pickens counties, are invited to participate. Please visit our website (www.swu.edu/sciencefair) or contact Staci Johnson, Director at (864) 644-5256 or sjohnson@swu. edu to learn more about entering student projects, volunteering at the fair, or lending your financial support to the event.



"YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, **CHARLIE BROWN**"

This year's spring musical was the Broadway classic "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," based on the popular "Peanuts" comic strip.









FOTC AT SWU

"One Life. One Calling. One Purpose" was the theme for Fellowship of the Called, held during April in the Nicholson-Mitchell Christian Ministry Center. Below, Charlie Collins, pastor of Denton Wesleyan Church in Denton, N.C., joined other ministers on a panel about spiritual growth.





DAY OF SERVICE

On March 15, Southern Wesleyan University students took time out from their class routines to reach out into the surrounding community for a day of cleaning, organizing, repairing, landscaping and reaching out to young and old—all in the spirit of Christian service.

During the university's annual Day of Service, 235 students joined 33 members of the faculty and staff to engage in projects at 23 sites across the Upstate.

Participation this year was up over last year, according to Dr. Justin Carter, Southern Wesleyan's associate vice president for student life.

SWU students Jade Fernanders, left, and Krissy Dyches plant some flowers at the Richard M. Campbell VA Nursing Home in Anderson during Day of Service March 15. Fernanders is a forensic science major from Gaffney and Dyches is a recreation and sport management major from North Augusta.

______ **GRANDPARENTS DAY**

Southern Wesleyan University students spent some quality family time with loved ones while sampling campus life March 18 during Grandparents Day.

On the third Friday of each March, the university's Advancement Office invites grandparents, family members and guests of students to come to the Central campus for Grandparents Day, an activity-filled day devoted to making memories.

There were opportunities to take a bus tour of the historic Central campus, courtesy of Clemson Area Transit; attend classes together and dine together at the University Dining Commons; shop at the SWU Bookstore; grab a hot or cold drink at Blue Hill Coffee & Tea Co.; have photos taken with the SWU Warrior; and attend the spring musical

"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."

Grandparents Day also offered informative seminars, including a "Provide and Protect" seminar by Sam Head of Carolinas Wealth Management. Also, Dr. Bruce Gay of the university's Criminal Justice program gave an engaging presentation "Misconceptions and Myths in Criminal Justice," and Dr. Debra Eischen of the School of Business presented "It's a New Day: The Workplace of 2016."

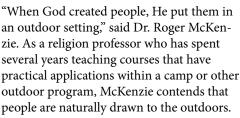
Brandon Bower of Kernersville, N.C., enjoys lunch with his grandfather Jeff Strack. Bower is a freshman majoring in religion.

SWU student Dynestee Fields, right, joins her sister Triniti and their grandmother Sicero Allen for a photo with the SWU Warrior.





Innovative SWU program is literally 'out in the open'



McKenzie, along with Dr. Daryl Couch, who teaches backpacking and recreational games and chairs the university's Social Sciences Division, have worked together to develop a multifaceted program that would provide opportunities to participate in various outdoor adventure and skill-building activities. Faculty also involved in outdoor programs include Dr. Rocky Nation, professor of biology, and James McDonald, coordinator of the Criminal Justice degree program.

Southern Wesleyan enjoys a close proximity to an abundance of natural areas, which includes several lakes, the Appalachian Mountains and the world-renowned Jocassee Gorges Wilderness Area. Not far beyond the campus are excellent areas for kayaking, and the Foothills Trail is an excellent area for hiking and backpacking.

Southern Wesleyan recently created its Leadership in Outdoor Recreation Education (LORE) program. LORE serves as an umbrella over the university's outdoor education programs and facilities, which include an academic concentration in outdoor leadership, Southern Wesleyan Outdoor Orientation Program (SWOOP), an outdoor club, and challenge (ropes) courses that are used for training in leadership and team-building.

The outdoors has always been a significant part of Nathan Stegenga's life. Stegenga, the son of a state park ranger and a junior pursuing a degree in Recreation and Leisure Services, has learned leadership hands-on.

"I have been responsible for planning and leading many different trips for fellow students, from backpacking to rock climbing to whitewater rafting," Stegenga said. Stegenga will be the first Southern Wesleyan student to enroll in the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS).

"A NOLS graduation certificate is handsdown one of the best things an aspiring outdoor leader can have on his or her resume," Stegenga noted.

Krissy Dyches, a rising senior and a Recreation and Sports Management major in the

Pausing at a waterfall are SWU Outdoors Club members Krissy Dyches, Julia Joyce, Christian Daza, Maggie Boyd, Christian Luna, and Kat Friccull.



Above: 2015 SWOOP participants before their trek along the Foothills trail. Below: Mike Lieberman gets a boost on the climbing wall from teammates Truston Whiteside, Jamaral Kearse, Antonio Walker, Tomas Suska, Jordan Wallace and Dwayne Bryant.



Outdoor Leadership concentration, developed a lifelong love for the outdoors hiking with her dad in the North Carolina mountains and working as a camp counselor.

"My time as a camp counselor really helped clarify that for me because I was able to use outdoor recreation to help kids grow and to share my faith with them. There is something about the outdoors that is so conducive to personal growth," Dyches said.

A house at the end of Nicholson Drive that belonged to the late Dr. Herb and Virginia Dongell was renovated and turned into the LORE center, a place where classes could meet and gear used in outdoor classes and programs could be stored. The LORE center is also at the gateway to the Hundred Acre Woods, a large tract of wooded land owned by the university that contains the low ropes and new high ropes course. This land also serves as a natural habitat for wildlife and features hiking and bicycle trails.

The ropes course allows groups to experience many of the same benefits of an extended backpacking trip in a much shorter time. The new high ropes course, completed this spring, contains a "postman's walk," "giant swing" and "leap of faith." McKenzie notes that the challenge courses are valuable tools where participants learn about trust, overcoming fear and teamwork. Two additional elements will be constructed, one in 2017 and another in 2018.

McKenzie wants to see the challenge course benefit not only Southern Wesleyan students but also groups from churches and schools. So far, the university's various athletic teams and summer ministry teams have utilized the challenge course for training and two Wilderness First Responder (WFR) courses have taken place at the LORE center and Hundred Acre Woods.

"I have benefited spiritually by realizing I shouldn't take the nature all around us for granted," said Bradley Coker, a rising junior from Lyman majoring in Religion. "I've learned how to enjoy it and to help other people enjoy it. All of this will help me in the future when I am in ministry, at a camp, or even at work."

For information about LORE, contact Dr. Roger McKenzie at rmckenzie@swu.edu or call 864.644.5227.

GRANT TO BENEFIT MINISTRY PROGRAM FOR YOUTH

Southern Wesleyan University received a \$316,866 grant to establish the Fellowship of the Called Youth Theology Institute, part of Lilly Endowment Inc.'s High School Youth Theology Institutes initiative.

This initiative seeks to encourage young people to explore theological traditions, ask questions about the moral dimensions of contemporary issues and examine how their faith calls them to lives of service.

The Fellowship of the Called Youth Theology Institute at SWU is a 10-day summer intensive institute where high school students: 1) will dive deeply into the Holy Scriptures; 2) will examine within the Wesleyan tradition the social issues and moral challenges of our day; 3) will help them define their unique callings to service, and, in the language of contemporary, ministry-minded youth, help their callings "stick"; and 4) help these committed youth determine options for full-time engagement in ministry.

The institute's director is Dr. Roger McKenzie, professor of religion for youth ministry and spiritual formation and coordinator for outdoor education at SWU.

The Institute, open to rising high school freshmen through recent high school graduates will be held July 5-14 at SWU. Detailed information and online registration is available at www.swu.edu/thecalled.

"The university has been offering just such an institute since 2002, though on a smaller scale. The experience gained in that annual endeavor will profoundly enhance the effectiveness of the expanded Institute," said Dr. Lisa McWherter, SWU's vice president for advancement.

SWU President Dr. Todd Voss said, "With our 110-year heritage of preparing young people to serve as pastors, missionaries, evangelists, youth workers, church planters, parachurch and Christian organization leaders, the possibilities are almost endless for this program in assisting high school students to follow their call to ministry. We are very thankful to Lilly Endowment for its commitment to investing in the next generation of faith-filled leaders so they can have an impact on the world."

SWU is one of 82 schools in 29 states and the District of Columbia participating in the initiative.

"These colleges and universities are well-positioned to reach out to high school students in this way," said Dr. Christopher L. Coble, vice president for religion at the Endowment. "They have outstanding faculty in theology and religion who know how to help young people explore the wisdom of religious traditions and apply these insights to contemporary challenges."

The Endowment is giving \$44.5 million in grants to help a select group of private fouryear colleges and universities around the nation to create the institutes. The grants are part of the Endowment's commitment to identify and cultivate a cadre of theologically minded youth who will become leaders in church and society.

An additional grant to the Forum for Theological Exploration will establish a program to bring together leaders of the high school youth theology institutes, fostering mutual learning and support.

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly Sr. and sons J.K. Jr. and Eli—through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly & Company. The Endowment exists to support the causes of religion, education and community development. Lilly Endowment's religion grantmaking is designed to deepen and enrich the religious lives of American Christians. It does this largely through initiatives to enhance and sustain the quality of ministry in American congregations and parishes.

EXPERIENCE CAMPUS FIRSTHAND THROUGH THE EYES OF A SWU STUDENT!

A DIFFERENT KIND OF MURCLECE

Monday, September 19, 2016 • Friday, October 21, 2016 • Monday, November 7, 2016

REGISTER ONLINE OR CALL TODAY

FLAMA AT GREENVILLE

SWU hosting program that equips Hispanic ministry leaders

Rev. Frankie Rodriguez has a contagious enthusiasm for spreading the love of Christ to the growing Hispanic population in the Carolinas.

Rodriguez, a native of Puerto Rico who moved to the U.S. as a teen, is grateful to Southern Wesleyan University for providing its Greenville learning center as a strategic location to prepare leaders who are reaching out to Spanish-speaking people.

"We are delighted to host FLAMA and watch how God is using this group to impact the Hispanic community," said Brice Bickel, regional director of enrollment and academic services at SWU's Greenville learning center. "Frankie's passion and desire to minister to the Hispanic community is inspiring. SWU desires to transform lives and serve our communities."

As the Hispanic ministry leader of The Wesleyan Church, Rodriguez works with more than a hundred Hispanic churches from California to the Carolinas. He's quick to point out that there is more to the Hispanic community than people who emigrated from Mexico. While Mexico represents the largest Hispanic population, many also come from Colombia.

"We also reach out to Uruguay, the Caribbean, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Venezuela and Peru," Rodriguez noted, adding that there is great diversity within the Hispanic community, yet in Christ "We're all one body."

FLAMA (Spanish for "Flame"), a program within the Division of Education and Clergy Development of The Wesleyan Church, helps Spanish-speaking ministers receive theological training. Locally, these ministers come to Greenville from across the Upstate as well as the Hendersonville, Asheville, and Greensboro/High Point areas of North Carolina.

Two types of classes are offered: Intensive sessions that take place on Fridays and Saturdays and seven-week classes that meet for three hours, one day per week. Course topics include spiritual formation, leadership and administration, Bible (New Testament and Old Testament), holiness, supervised



ministry, pastoral ministry and pastoral epistles.

One of the professors, Orvan Link of Walhalla, has been involved with church planting in Dallas, Tex.; Norcross, Ga.; and Greenville. Link teaches several courses, including Old and New Testament, Homiletics, and courses devoted to spiritual growth, evangelism and leadership. For Link, the Greenville learning center's environment is one where his students feel motivated to a higher level of participation and involvement in the subject matter.

Gabriel SantaMaría, who recently completed FLAMA, said that without the program it would not have been possible for him to start a prison ministry at Tyger River Correctional Institution. He added that the program has benefited him in his work with Hispanic congregations in Greenville, Norcross and other locations.

"I have found so much in the assigned reading, new information, encouragement, and live examples of what it means to live for the Lord," SantaMaria said.

"The greatest need in our Hispanic community is to come to know the Word of God—what the Bible is all about," said María Eugenia Catano, one of the program's students. "They must make the switch from the figures of Christ to the Living Lord. The FLAMA classes are helping us to be more effective in this work."

Another student, Alvaro Verdejo, says that God is calling him to become more involved in Hispanic ministry. FLAMA has aided Verdejo's spiritual growth and helped him realize opportunities to reach out.

"The urgent need that I see in our Hispanic community is knowledge of God's Word. They have not read the Bible nor have they been introduced to the Bible story, and for that reason they do not know who the real Jesus is, what He has taught us much less what He has done for us," Verdejo said.

"SWU has bent backwards to help us in many ways, whether there are 25 to 30 students or four to eight students," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez pastors El Camino Wesleyan Church, a Hispanic outreach in the Greenville area, along with his wife Deysi, a Southern Wesleyan alumna.

For details about FLAMA, contact Rodriguez at Frodr81@hotmail.com or go online to wesleyan.org.

MEN'S SOCCER

2015 NCCAA Champions



Southern Wesleyan University won its second NCCAA National Championship in three years with a 2-0 victory over Bethel College.

Ruben Rodriguez made 12 saves in the game. He was also the starting goalie for Southern Wesleyan in the 2013 NCCAA Championship game, where he had four saves and also helped the Warriors post a shutout.

"So proud of the boys and all the hard work they have put in this

VOLLEYBALL

WIN NCCAA

SOUTH REGION

season," said Warriors Head Men's Soccer Coach Camilo Rodriguez. "It was an awesome game against a very good and organized Bethel team. I am blessed to be a part of this family."

Southern Wesleyan went undefeated in the tournament as they defeated Bethesda University 3-0 and Southwestern Christian 2-1 in pool play. They won the rematch against Southwestern Christian in the semifinals 2-0. They only allowed one goal in the entire tournament.



The Southern Wesleyan University Volleyball Team won the NCCAA South Region for the second consecutive year with a 3-0 sweep of Warner in the region championship Nov. 21 at Emmanuel College. With its fourteenth 3-0 win of the year, the Warriors moved to 20-6 on the season, continued a four match win streak, and clinched a berth to the NCCAA National Tournament.

"I'm really proud of this team," exclaimed head coach Julia Reininga. "We came out a little rusty after having two and a half weeks off, but we were able to get going midway through the first set. Warner was a very tough team and our defense stepped up big today. I'm so happy for this team."

Sarah Hughey was named MVP and to the First Team All-Region team while Megan Widener and Paige O'Connor were also selected to the First Team. LiberoMilica Stamenic was named to the Second Team while Reininga was named the NCCAA South Region Coach of the Year.

The Warriors fell to No. 4 seed Oklahoma Baptist in the semifinals of the NCCAA National Tournament Dec. 4 in Kissimmee, Fla.

WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD RANKED SECOND IN THE SOUTHEAST



Kira Emmett (left) and Alana Grant (center) representing SWU at the Orange and Purple Classic.

Southern Wesleyan women's track & field team is ranked second in the Southeast region in the USTFCCCA regional rankings after Week Two of the indoor track season.

REGION

The Warriors received 297.07 points, 94.69 more points than last

week's poll. Southern Wesleyan was 112.16 points behind the number one team in the poll Queens University. They are one of three Conference Carolinas schools in the polls.

PHASE 1 OF TENNIS COMPLEX COMPLETED

Southern Wesleyan University's Women's Tennis team plays Limestone College in a home match April 4 at Rev. Leroy C. Cox Tennis Complex, on the Central campus. The complex saw its first match March 4 when the Men's Tennis Team played the University of Findlay on the lower courts. Now all the courts are open with ample seating for appreciative Warriors fans.





An illustration of the proposed north elevation of the special needs housing. Credit: Michael Sheriff, Acanthus Architects, LLC.

SPECIAL NEEDS HOUSING COMMUNITY COMING TO SWU CAMPUS

On March 14, Southern Wesleyan University, along with the Disabilities and Special Needs Boards of Pickens and Anderson Counties and The South Carolina Board of Disabilities and Special Needs announced the development of the initial phase of a special needs housing community representing a new type of collaboration, which will yield a living/ learning community that will prepare its residents with special needs and disabilities for more independent lives.

The \$1.7 million initial phase of the community consists of 9,371 square-feet of ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) compliant apartment-style living space to be built on 3.4 acres of university property located between Wesleyan Drive and College Street.

Included in the Phase I project design is one four-bedroom unit, seven two-bedroom units, two one-bedroom units, staff facilities and common space. Also included will be a one-quarter mile walking trail and a covered van drop-off. Southern Wesleyan President Dr. Todd Voss said the project supports the university's vision for inventive learning and contagious generosity.

"With March being Disabilities and Special Needs Awareness Month, we thought this was an ideal time to make this announcement," Voss said. "These apartments will house special needs friends along with Southern Wesleyan University students to serve as mentors in the process of preparing our friends for independent living and work."

Elaine Thena, executive director of Pickens County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs, said that the special needs housing community will offer "all kinds of opportunities" for people with special needs and disabilities, including access to Catbus (Clemson Area Transit), providing a means to go shopping, to the movies, and other places without having to rely on someone else to take them there.

Tyler Rex, executive director of Anderson County Disabilities and Special Needs Board, said that the housing community represents a continuation in improvements to the way people with special needs and disabilities are being served.

"There will be 11 friends with disabilities and special needs living side by side with nine students initially in phase one. One day hopefully a student involved in this program will say this program is wonderful, but we can do better; we can go to that next step; I don't know what that next step is, but I'm confident someone who's going to be touched by this program will have that vision and say 'we can do a little better."

Dr. Lisa McWherter, Southern Wesleyan's vice president for advancement, outlined the architectural site and structural floor plan renderings for the first of three phases of the community as well as the many benefits its residents will realize by being integrated into the Southern Wesleyan University community. In addition to being paired with a Southern Wesleyan student mentor, additional opportunities McWherter outlined include dining, mingling and relaxing in the dining commons and university coffee shop, utilizing university athletic facilities, attending athletic and fine arts events, working on or off campus thanks to Catbus access, enjoying student and community activities like homecoming and area festivals, and becoming a part of music and performance groups.

"Southern Wesleyan University's commitment to friends with disabilities and special needs runs deep. We welcome these friends into our community with open arms," McWherter said.

Dr. Beverly A. Buscemi, executive director of the South Carolina Board of Disabilities and Special Needs, called this project "a major next step" toward serving the special needs community in a more integrated way.

"We can help create those social ties that bind; this is a perfect example of that because the relationships that are formed as a result of this housing project," Buscemi said, adding that beyond just providing housing, the project will provide a place where social interaction and developing relationships will enrich the lives of both the special needs and disabled residents but also the students.

District 6 Rep. Brian White (R-Anderson) chairman of the house ways and means



An illustration of the proposed west elevation of the special needs housing. Credit: Michael Sheriff, Acanthus Architects, LLC.

committee, praised the project as an example of forward thinking related to serving citizens with disabilities and special needs.

"This part of the world is trailblazing, and we've been trailblazers for quite some time. I don't think you get enough credit for that," White said.

Recognizing retired T.L. Hanna Coach Harold Jones and James "Radio" Kennedy, who were present for the announcement and whose story became a major motion picture, White gave an example of the coach's forward thinking decades ago. Another example White gave is how Walgreens took a gamble to employ people with disabilities when they developed a distribution center in Anderson County.

"Anything we can do from a state aspect, we're here to help you and get out of your way. You all know how to do it better than we do," White said. White also praised Clemson Area Transit for the role they will play in providing transportation for the housing community.

"This really warms my heart to see this innovation, this collaboration between government and a private university to enrich lives of others, to bring these individuals with special needs on campus, for them to be able to interact with students, faculty, community members," said District 3 Rep. Gary Clary (R-Pickens).

District 5 Rep. Neal Collins (R-Pickens) said "What I'm really excited about is who is really going to benefit from this – it's going to be the students here at SWU and the culture at SWU."

This public announcement was well attended with almost 200 people present and was hosted by Southern Wesleyan University's advancement office. With questions, or for more details, contact Thena at 864.644.2500.

Pictured from left, Elaine Thena; Rep. Neal Collins; Rep. Brian White; Dr. Beverly Buscemi; Rep. Gary Clary; Dr. Lisa McWherter; and Tyler Rex.

President Todd Voss speaks about how the special needs housing community supports the university's vision for inventive learning and contagious generosity.





SWU DEDICATES NICHOLSON-MITCHELL CHRISTIAN MINISTRY CENTER



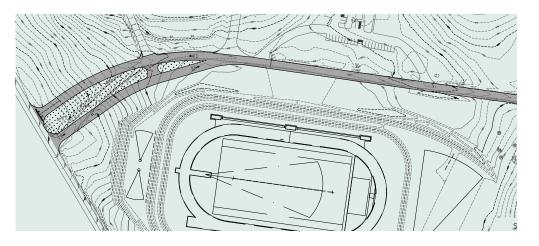
Dr. Robert Black gives remarks during dedication ceremonies for Nicholson-Mitchell Christian Ministry Center at Southern Wesleyan University April 13. Black is a co-chair of the center's fundraising campaign with Rev. James Wiggins (seated right of Black). Pictured on the platform from left are Black, Wiggins, Dr. Mari Gonlag, chair of the university's Division of Religion; Dr. Don Campbell, professor of music; Dr. Todd Voss, university president, Dr. Lisa McWherter, vice president for advancement; and Rev. Ken Dill, associate vice president for spiritual life and university chaplain.



Those assembled for the dedication of Nicholson-Mitchell Christian Ministry Center April 13 at Southern Wesleyan University sing the hymn "How Firm a Foundation," which was sung during the first chapel service on the first day of class 110 years ago. Southern Wesleyan's administration and board of trustees joined Wesleyan denominational officials, church pastors from several Wesleyan districts, faculty, staff, students and the surrounding community to fill the ALIVE chapel of the Nicholson-Mitchell Christian Ministry Center for the ceremony. The center is the new home of the Division of Religion.

BOULEVARD UPDATE

The South Carolina Department of Transportation approved the engineering plan for a project to transform Clayton Drive from the main entrance of Southern Wesleyan University off S.C. Highway 93 to become a safe, inviting boulevard. Also, the remaining C Funds needed to commence the project were granted. The town of Central, Pickens County and the State of South Carolina committed more than \$550,000 to the project that will make the intersection safer, offering dedicated lanes for turning and more room to accommodate large buses that daily enter the campus.



FACEBOOK PAGE RESPONSE LEADS TO A LIFE SAVED

"Excuse ме, ма'ам. I just want to let you know that I was indeed a match for your husband."

That was the life-changing text message Carley Teat left for Sandy Reiff, the wife of a Georgia man desperately in need of a kidney transplant.

Teat, who graduated in May with a human services degree, learned about Bret Reiff, a 57-year-old man, while looking at a Facebook page set up by Kristi Callaway, "Our Daddy Needs a Kidney."

Callaway had initially set up the page to help her husband, Georgia police officer Raleigh Callaway, receive a kidney transplant. After Raleigh had a successful transplant, the grateful family continued to use the page to "pay it forward" for others in need of transplants.

"(Bret) was the very first story presented on their page. I remember I was at the beach when I first saw it," Teat said. For the next two weeks, Teat felt convicted in her heart to

get tested for Bret. Teat recalled Sandy telling her "I'm just not ready to bury him yet" and it broke her heart. Without the transplant, Bret

ABOVE: Carley Teat waves to Bret Reiff as she is wheeled toward the operating room at Emory University Hospital.

BELOW: Bret and Sandy Reiff with Bret's "Angel," Carley Teat, center.





"The more I got into it the more peace I felt."

would likely live on just a few more months, according to Teat.

"When I saw this couple, it burdened my heart; It ate at me," Teat said. But when she initially reached out to Bret and Sandy, they said she was too young and thought she wouldn't make it through testing.

"My parents at first thought I was crazy and that it was a phase, but realized I was going to do it then really stepped up," Teat said, adding that her mother became supportive of her decision.

After about five months of testing, Teat was found to be a match for Bret.

"The more I got into it the more peace I felt," said Teat, who initially had reservations about donating a kidney.

"I met the recipient a week before the transplant. It was like we had that bond and it went really well," Teat said.

The surgery took place Nov. 3, 2015 at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta.

"People tell you this is a major surgery. I would do it again in a heartbeat but I think I'm healing just fine," Teat said not long after the transplant surgery.

"She is truly an angel in my heart," Bret said about Teat to an Atlanta TV reporter doing a story about the transplant.

Teat continues to keep in touch with Bret and Sandy, who continue to welcome her into their home and their lives.

<u>Lisa Sylvestri</u>

SWU graduate keeps track of technology behind health care

As a system MANAGER at AnMed Health, Lisa Sylvestri, a 2007 business management graduate of Southern Wesleyan University, is playing an instrumental role in bringing a new system into place that will ensure a continued high quality of health care.

She says the system, called Statit piMD/PPR, is a scorecarding and profiling system for organizational and physician metrics. According to Sylvestri, the technology behind AnMed Health's operations has an important role, primarily relating to care quality and patient safety, in addition to helping provide meaningful data for decision-making within a hospital with 3,500 employees.

Sylvestri was the first person hired as a data analyst by AnMed's nursing department 23 years ago. Changes in government and payer requirements over the years have exponentially increased the complexity of handling a hospital's data since Sylvestri first came to AnMed Health.

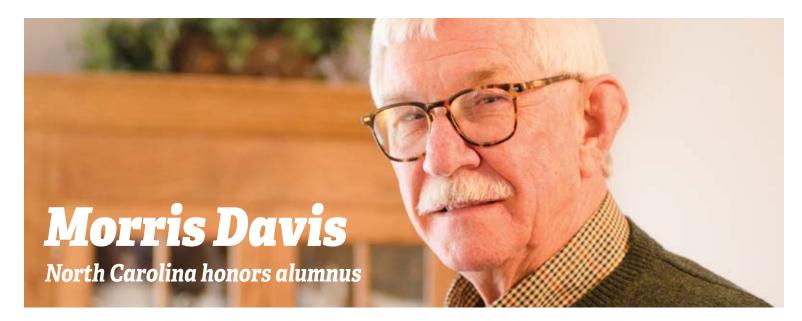
"Just about everything we do in the hospital has to be documented and measured in some way, shape or form. As it relates to quality of care, efficiency of care and patient satisfaction, our bottom line is dependent on it," she said. "I worked in the patient care department my first 10 years, primarily with management staff, gaining extensive knowledge of medical and clinical information and what's important in creating a successful healthcare system."

"Another key software system AnMed Health has invested in is called Xerox" Midas Care Management—essentially a giant data repository that serves most departments throughout the organization with powerful reporting capabilities," Sylvestri said, adding that the system enables them to produce information that helps AnMed improve its quality of care. An important area Sylvestri noted was being able to track services to patients who know little or no English.

"To identify the greatest needs within that patient population, we were able to provide data to help us restructure how we scheduled bilingual staff and other services to support these patients in a clinical setting and to ensure equity of care," she said.

Sylvestri noted that AnMed Health emphasizes higher education for its employees. She learned about Southern Wesleyan's adult evening program when a representative from the university came to AnMed Health. She enrolled with the help of tuition reimbursement offered by the hospital. Looking back on her education at Southern Wesleyan, Sylvestri feels her economics classes helped her to look more closely at the business end of health care. Knowledge she gained from taking a statistics class has been valuable to her as she analyzes data and works with statistical process control software. Also, Sylvestri recalls how her public speaking class helped her gain the skills she relies on to do presentations—many times at national conferences.

"I was able to juggle work life and school life without having any kind of negative impact. I didn't feel that I had to give up anything," Sylvestri said.



WHEN NEWS BREAKS about a deadly vehicle accident or a family burned out of their home on a cold, dark night, the focus is often on the victims and their loved ones. Firefighters and other first responders are recognized for their important role in saving lives, but after they return from such an emergency call—for even the most experienced men and women—the time comes when they must sort out often heart-wrenching experiences. To whom do they turn?

For more than three decades, Morris Davis has sat down and "talked out" these experiences with firefighters.

Davis, a Southern Wesleyan University graduate, was a minister of music and youth under Pastor Raymond Phaup—also a SWU graduate—at Brevard Wesleyan Church. While serving at Brevard Wesleyan, Davis began preaching fairly regularly with Pastor Phaup's direction. This was after having preached for several years while serving as a Wesleyan missionary in Zambia. He returned to Southern Wesleyan to do his ordination work and in 1993 he was ordained at Brevard Wesleyan instead of at District Conference.

"That year I was the only ordinand and they allowed me to be ordained at Brevard Wesleyan," Davis said.

Phaup, who was serving as Brevard Fire Department's chaplain, began to ask Davis to go to the fire department as a substitute, which he would do many times. When Phaup left Brevard Wesleyan, Davis became the church's interim pastor. Brevard's fire chief also asked Davis to serve as chaplain.

"I was always working with the firemen and their reaction and what they had to deal with emotionally," Davis said. "I remember specifically one time that there had been a bad wreck out on the highway between Brevard and Rosman. The wreck was so bad that our firemen had to pull out children who were dead. That was hard on most of the boys. If there was a fire and there was an extraordinary problem, such as a death or a family burned out or something like that, then I was called."

Upon his retirement as chaplain, Davis was presented with The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, one of North Carolina's most prestigious awards, for his exemplary service to the state and the community.

Prior to Davis' service to his church and community, he entered Southern Wesleyan University in 1959 after spending his freshman year at the University of Alabama. Following his graduation in 1962, Davis did his graduate work at Alabama, then went on to North Carolina, where he worked first as a high school librarian and then a public librarian.

Davis recalled meeting Vinelle Phillips at a youth camp during the summer between his sophomore and junior year while traveling with the College Quartet that summer. They eventually started dating six years later, then got married in 1967 and had two children: Morrey, their son, and Marna Rowe, their daughter. The Davises have four grandchildren.

Following his years as a librarian, Davis and his wife traveled to Zambia, where as Wesleyan Missionaries they taught at Choma Secondary School in Zambia.

"The work in Zambia was one of the most rewarding seven years of my life," Davis said. "We didn't have money but we weren't poor; we had a good life in Zambia." Choma, a boarding school established in 1968, had grown to 900 students by the time the Davises arrived. One of his students at Choma, Dr. Alfred Kalembo, currently serves as the National Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church in Zambia. Davis also began preaching while in Zambia.

Davis' ties to SWU run strong. Four of his sisters and he and his two brothers attended both/either the college and/or high school at the then-named Wesleyan Methodist College/Central Wesleyan College. Those siblings are Hardie Davis Medders (deceased), Maebelle Davis Eargle (deceased), Naomi Davis Hughey, Earline Davis Rickman Lovin (deceased), Charles Davis and Moody Davis. A total of seven children out of eleven attended SWU. Three did not attend and one sibling died at just nine years old. Many of his nieces and nephews have graduated from SWU. Both of Vinelle's parents graduated from SWU in the 1930s.

When asked if Davis could list all of his family connections to Southern Wesleyan, he quipped, "yes, if you have all day because there's a great number of us!" When he wrote a book about his family in 2005, Davis counted 32 who had gone to Southern Wesleyan at that point. That count now stands at 47 family members. Davis added, "My family is indeed blessed to have been associated with SWU for the past 71 years as students, board members, professors, vice president, and loyal alumni." In gratefulness, the family has established a scholarship at SWU in memory of their parents, The John Lee and Tarva Davis Scholarship.



Hollywood is taking notice of China's growing appetite for entertainment and is increasingly marketing to its 1.3 billion residents. At the same time, an increasing number of American movies are featuring Chinese actors, some of whom turn to Liberty, S.C. native and 2011 Southern Wesleyan China Studies graduate, Tina Collins.

FOR MORE THAN FIVE YEARS, Collins' livelihood has been working with Chinese actresses, teaching English and coaching them in dialect and dialog.

Collins is an actress in her own right, acting in movies, commercials and television programs. Collins has also become the face of an English curriculum in China.

"There's this little pen that has a screen on it. As you hover over the name of the word, like 'maybe' you see my face come up on the screen and I say 'maybe," she said, laughing.

"What I do for dialect coaching is I sit down with the actresses and talk with them about accent, pronunciation, projection, acting skills, development of character, and just a basic general idea of American postures and movement, because they're working in international films now," Collins said, adding that China now has one of the biggest box offices in the world, with movies such as "Avatar" and "Kung Fu Panda III" becoming hits.

"There's a rule in China that you have to have a Chinese actor or actress in American films shown in China. They have to speak both languages now," said Collins.

Collins' work has also resulted in meeting American stars and principal behind-the-scenes artists, including actor Morgan Freeman and Keanu Reeves. Translating for Michael Kahn, the editor for Stephen Spielberg movies that include "Schindler's List" heightened her appreciation for how good editing impacts a movie. Numerous stamps on Collins' passport show how her work has taken her literally around the world, to places including Australia, England and France—also Hong Kong, Taiwan and Canada.

Collins has also partnered with a Chinese orphanage for medically fragile children, visiting and providing entertainment for the children with a group of actors. She has also provided translating and other help for American families adopting Chinese children. As she keeps in touch with families she's helped over the years, Collins is grateful for the chance to see the children grow and thrive.

As a homeschooled high school student growing up in Liberty, Collins developed a passion for China and the Chinese people, but had no idea where this passion would lead her. Dr. Daryl Couch, chair of SWU's Social Sciences Division, recalled how Collins said she interacted with the owners and staff of a local Chinese restaurant to learn Chinese.

As a new high school graduate, Collins took a trip to China and knew in her heart this is where she wanted to be.

"I was there for a month and fell in love with Beijing," Collins said. "As soon as I saw the city, I thought—Wow!—this is my home!"

Before she could realize her dream of working in China, Collins would need a college degree, since education is highly prized by Chinese society. She had already taken a few dual credit courses at Southern Wesleyan during high school, so she considered returning to the Central campus for college. However, she wasn't sure how she would be able to pursue studies in acting, teaching and Chinese.

"I tried to get back to China; I kept trying to sign up for trips and they all failed"

She started at Southern Wesleyan as a freshman attending classes part-time while working part-time jobs and loved serving in a work study at the Alumni Center.

Collins, restless to get to China, began mentally making plans to study abroad.

"I tried to get back to China; I kept trying to sign up for trips and they all failed; Nothing was working," Collins said. "I even had a down payment of \$600 in 2008 for the Olympics and all visas were denied. All my money was gone. I had sort of dragged out the summer not really sure what to do."

With the guidance of Dr. Betty Mealy and other professors, including Dr. Ben Xie, a native of China who joined Southern Wesleyan's faculty, Collins got much-needed guidance. After earning an associate's degree, Collins recalled Mealy's urging her to complete her four-year degree and to accept that maybe going to China wasn't yet in God's timing.

"I really think God used (Betty Mealy) because she convinced me that day that education was very important for Chinese people and my future ministry and for everything I needed to learn still," Collins said.

"A very deep love for the people of China resulted in her learning Chinese and language structures so she would be prepared to move and serve in her beloved China after graduation," Mealy said, adding that her interests in dance, acting, and her love for children prepared her for multiple ways to serve both in the U.S. and China.

Since graduating from Southern Wesleyan, Collins has realized how she was enriched by those later semesters she spent immersing herself in linguistics, drama and literature. Learning the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) and code switching at Southern Wesleyan have helped Collins as she communicates in China. She talked about how code switching worked, giving the example of easily switching from a phone conversation with her mother in English to a conversation with her cab driver in Beijing in Chinese.

"I've been always amazed by Tina's strength, courage and passion for China and its people"

Collins never forgot how professors from different departments worked together to help her realize her academic dreams. She was assisted in creating a specialized major suited to her calling.

"It wasn't that the school was holding me back; the school was preparing me, but I didn't want to wait and I just wanted to be there," Collins said. "Now I get to be there and do all those things I wanted to do."

Collins was also able to study abroad at Xiamen University during the Fall 2010 semester through the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) Best Semester program.

"The study abroad programs worked out so that the first semester of my senior year I was able to study abroad in China," Collins said. "I spent the whole summer after graduation with a classmate, Chen Chen, and her family."

Chen's mother and father looked out for Collins as if she were their own child. When Collins faced challenges finding work, Chen's parents were there for her. Collins traveled from Heife, Chen's home, to return to Beijing where she applied to Beijing Business College, where she resumed studying Chinese.

"I've been always amazed by Tina's strength, courage and passion for China and its people," said Chen, who currently resides in Rochester, N.Y. "I am so proud and happy to see her pursuing her dream in acting successfully at a place she desires to be, and more importantly, making a difference there by sharing God's love."

During that time, she gained experience translating and interpreting for Xiamen's Aquatic Sciences and Marine Biology Division.

When home in Beijing, Collins feels blessed to be a part of a large state-recognized Chinese church, where she worships with a number of internationals. She receives a great deal of support from her small group and its leaders who have provided housing, meals, celebrations of American holidays and spiritual support.

Collins returned to Southern Wesleyan's campus this past March to visit those who helped her realize her dreams.

"It was a launching pad for success," Collins said. "That's what this school was for me."



A Life Championing Justice For All

An interview with Dr. Jo Anne Lyon, General Superintendent of the Wesleyan Church

God has used Dr. Jo Anne Lyon in mighty ways as the General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church and founder and CEO of World Hope International. She represents The Wesleyan Church globally while dedicating herself to fighting injustice—championing causes that include human trafficking, world hunger and diseases such as AIDS.

Lyon holds a Masters Degree in counseling, continued graduate studies in Historical Theology

and has been granted several honorary doctorates. She has written several articles and publications, including the book "The Ultimate Blessing" and has served more than 30 years in pastoral ministry. She has been Adjunct Professor of Church and Society at both Indiana Wesleyan University and Asbury Theological Seminary.

Lyon shared her faith journey, reflected on Southern Wesleyan University and shared a glimpse of the future.

When did you know God was calling you into ministry?

I knew God called me probably when I was a child to something for Him. We lived in Oklahoma and it was segregated. I never saw people of color except when people came to pick up our trash. My father said he would take me where they lived, where the pavement ended. I asked, "Why don't they come to our school or our church?"

"They have their own schools and churches," he would say.

I had a call in my heart at that time for a ministry of justice and it just stayed with me. When I graduated from college I knew I was called to teach in the inner city.

In what ways, from your point of view, is Southern Wesleyan University contributing something valuable to The Wesleyan Church? To World Hope? To God's Kingdom?

Students who come from Southern Wesleyan University have an incredibly well-rounded education. It's a comprehensive education. It's an integration of faith and learning. Southern Wesleyan University has captured the causes around the world and is working in those causes with a holistic view. They are not just changing human trafficking but they are also transforming lives. Students have learned how to do the transformation process.

Adult students at Southern Wesleyan University are catching that same DNA as those on the campus. That says a lot to me about your faculty.

Are there some SWU graduates who stand out for the impact they've made?

I think Noelle Stephens (Slagel). I spoke about human trafficking at SWU Chapel a few years ago. Immediately after chapel, Noelle asked 'Can I go to Cambodia and help? She had only a psychology degree but she said "I will babysit the missionaries' children. I'll do anything." She was babysitting and was willing to be a servant. While she was being a servant, the leaders discovered the incredible counseling gift she had and invited her in to work with the clinical psychologists with trafficked victims. Her brilliance and her humility so represents SWU and she continues to minister in that part of the world.

How can Christian colleges such as SWU best help to develop faith-based solutions to meet the challenges of poverty and social injustice?

The history of The Wesleyan Church, the DNA is to reach the marginalized, those without opportunities. God has called us, as His people, to be image bearers. I see Southern Wesleyan University in that context—reaching those who have no opportunities, to become image-bearers of Jesus Christ. Education is considered one of the major factors lifting people out of poverty.

Tell me about your work on the President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships?

They asked, "would you serve?" and I said "yes." We're given the assignment of addressing poverty and inequity and making recommendations to the administration. This is the open door for the faith community to speak to these issues.

Since Human Trafficking became a front-and-center issue, has there been any progress?

Cambodia has made enormous strides. There are now, in every province, special police who deal with human trafficking. The police used to be the perpetrators. There's a bright light—It's not the hidden thing that it was. Prosecutions are taking place—that began to take it down. That's a great hope in Cambodia. In this country, here in Indianapolis this past week, cases were brought and prosecuted. There's awareness—there used to be few cases but people are now bringing them forward. It's been the church that has brought this forward. There's been work on the demand side, focusing on the Super Bowl, training all kinds of people. The church has stepped up. We can't quit.

Looking to the rest of 2016 and beyond, what are your plans for the future?

I'm no longer running for General Superintendent after June. The church has asked that I take on a new role. They asked me to take on this role as Ambassador-at-Large for The Wesleyan Church, which is still being formulated. As a result, I will continue on the various councils and boards such as The World Economic Forum, The Council on Faith, The President's Council, a variety of multi-faith dialogues and various other opportunities as they arise for the face of The Wesleyan Church.



Dr. Jo Anne Lyon speaking at The Gathering 2015.

Why I Give

IT SEEMS LIKE JUST YESTERDAY that I walked across the stage to receive my degree from Central Wesleyan College, but it was actually over thirty years ago. Since that time God has blessed me with jobs that have allowed me to live a comfortable life and to give back. I have been given the opportunity to give to my church, donate to community organizations and contribute to Southern Wesleyan University.

I take the opportunity to give seriously. I want to know that my gift will be used effectively and will bring about positive results. It is important for me to give out of love and not out of a sense of obligation. Winston Churchill once said, "You make a living out of what you do, you make a life by what you give." I want my gift to make a difference.

Contributing to Southern Wesleyan University gives me a sense of satisfaction that students will gain an education in a Christ-centered environment. They will know that individually they are important; and lastly, these students will go out in the world to make a difference on behalf of all of us who give. That is enough to make me want to give annually to my alma mater.

CAROL E. BURDETTE, '82



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ALUMNI news

1936

SALLIE EVATT celebrated her 99th birthday Dec. 3, 2015.

1952

BERNICE CARTER, our oldest alumna, turned 102 Oct. 1, 2015.

<u>1982</u>

1 GSA Business named **RAY A. LATTIMORE** to the list of The Most Influential Leaders in the Upstate. Lattimore is president/CEO of Marketplace Staffing Services, Inc.

CAROL BURDETTE announced her candidacy for the state senate in Senate District 3. Burdette, who is president of United Way of Anderson County and former Pendleton, S.C., mayor, is running as a Republican.

1990

DR. RHONDA LITTLETON joined Connie Maxwell Children's Home in Greenwood as foster care director. She has been serving as a volunteer and trustee for CMCH, and will seek to connect those interested in serving in foster care with the resources they need. Along with members of Simpsonville First Baptist Church, Littleton, then the church's minister of children, helped develop A Home for Me, an organization devoted to the needs of foster children, foster parents, biological parents or children who may be at risk of entering foster care. Littleton was honored in 2012 as an Angel in Adoption by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute in Washington, D.C. She is a psychology graduate.

1992

2 REV. JOY BRYANT, SWU's executive director of alumni and constituent relations, was a member of a group representing the S.C. District on a mission trip to Castries, a fishing village in the Caribbean island of St. Lucia. Three districts of The Wesleyan Church sent teams to St. Lucia, where from Feb. 22-29 they shared the good news of Jesus Christ to residents.

1998

WYFF-TV presented Amy ByrD with a

Golden Apple Award recently. Byrd, who is chorus teacher at Gettys Middle School in Easley, was featured on the Greenville station Dec. 10, 2015. She is married to Darian Byrd ('99), principal of Forest Acres Elementary School, also in Easley.

2004

RUPAL SHAH is now a quality improvement consultant at Boston Children's Hospital in the hospital's Pediatric Physicians' Organization. She was previously employed by Harvard University's School of Public Health as manager of the Fortune Laboratory. An avid runner, Shah crossed the finish line in Tokyo Feb. 28, completing her seventh marathon. Marathons Shah has completed include the New York Marathon and Boston Marathon. Shah is a chemistry/biology graduate whose honors have included Harvard Hero and a Young Leader Award from SWU Alumni Association.

2006

3 DR. PRISCILLA HAMMOND successfully defended her doctoral dissertation, "Wesleyan

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Ministerial Study Programs' Relationship to Ministerial Effectiveness of Pastoral Leaders." Hammond's dissertation was for the Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership at Indiana Wesleyan University. Hammond is a SWU Master of Ministry alumna and a current adjunct professor of business at SWU. She also serves on the Alumni Board. Hammond, second from right, is pictured with her dissertation committee: Dr. Sharon Drury; Dr. Jim Fuller, Chair; Priscilla; and Dr. Bob Whitesel.

2009

4 DAWN BRYANT was named Teacher of the Year at J.D. Lever Elementary School in Aiken. She is a graduate of the M.Ed. program at SWU's North Augusta learning center.

5 Victoria Rodriguez was born Jan. 9, 4:06 a.m. to **DEYSI** and **FRANKIE RODRIGUEZ**. Deysi is a music graduate and Frankie is senior pastor at El Camino Wesleyan Church in Greenville as well as the Hispanic ministry leader of The Wesleyan Church.

USA Triathlon reported **LINDSEY TORGER-SON** is the Number One All-American Duathlete for 2015 in her age group. Torgerson is a business graduate and member of SWU's 2007 NCCAA Championship Women's Basketball Team.

6 Solomon Townes Wimphrie was born March 9 to **Byron** and **Brittany Wim-PHRIE**. Solomon is Head Men's Basketball Coach Charles Wimphrie's grandson. Also pictured is Solomon's big brother, Banks, and his big sister, Elynn.

2010

PHILLIP BOYER and his wife Kim were featured on HGTV's House Hunters with their real estate agent, Central's own Joey Martin. In the episode, which aired April 7, the Boyers looked at houses in Central and Clemson. Boyer works at Clemson University. Photo credit: Ken Ruinard, Anderson Independent-Mail.

2011 8 Thom

THOMAS CRANE and wife Judy celebrated their 32nd wedding anniversary in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. on March 3. They had a great time shopping, dining out, racing each other on go carts, taking 4-wheeler rides in the mountains and hand-feeding animals. Thomas is a BSBA graduate.

9 RYAN ('11) and **MELISSA BOLT SEIBERT** ('10) welcomed their new son to the world, Oliver David Seibert, born January 2.

2013

10 JONATHAN MARTIN ('13) and **KRISTEN SMITH** ('12) were married Nov. 21, 2015 at Nicholson-Mitchell Christian Ministry Center on the Central campus. Jonathan is employed by Michelin and Kristen is employed by Southern Wesleyan University.

JASON REESE joined SWU's information technology department April 1 as computer support specialist 1. Reese earned a BS in psychology and he is currently pursuing his master's degree with Robert Webber Institute for Worship Studies. Most recently he was the service supervisor at Pioneer College Caterers, and, prior to that, he was resident director at Eagles Rest Bed and Breakfast.

2014

11 KEONNA PALMER was crowned Miss Pickens County Plus America for 2016. Palmer is a human services graduate from Easley.

MARY ADAMS was hired Dec. 1 as the new site assistant at SWU's Columbia Learning Center. Mary is a three-time graduate of SWU's AGS program, having received her associate and bachelor's degrees in business, and most recently her MBA. Adams has a strong background in medical claims and customer service within the health insurance industry. She will be serving SWU's students and faculty within its evening program in Columbia.

2015

12 December graduate **ANNA BROSS** ('15) got a trip to New York City as a graduation gift from her parents, Jim ('84) and Angie Bross ('85), who traveled with her. A long wait at Times Square paid off for Anna, pictured here



with Ryan Seacrest, host of New Year's Rockin' Eve. She also got on camera briefly during the celebration as ABC televised it live. Anna is now a participant in the Disney College Program at Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

MARK CROMER was accepted into the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) for DO school and the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) for medical school.

13 The North Augusta Chamber of Commerce named **RUSSELL FERNANDES**, a North Augusta MBA graduate, as the Chamber Ambassador of the Year. Fernandes is the call center manager for SRP Federal Credit Union.

ERIK DELGADO, a December graduate, was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Army. His next stop is Engineer BOLC and then off to Sapper School. He's been serving at Clemson Army ROTC as a cadet. Delgado also received his biology degree from SWU.

MIGUEL RESENDIZ and his wife Rosalynd Resendiz are living out Mark 10:45 by helping the new Hispanic Church plant in Seneca, Nueva Vida en Cristo (New Life in Christ).

JAMES TOMASELLO is being featured in videos produced by Edivate, which are seen by an international audience of teachers and administrators seeking examples of excellent teaching and learning. Tomasello, a Charleston MEDAS graduate, comes from Summerville.

COURTNEY WILLIAMS completed the nursing program at MUSC. Courtney is a SWU biology graduate who was also in the honors program.

In Memoriam

The SWU community is mourning the loss of ELIZABETH "LIZ" CRAWFORD, who passed away Jan. 8 following a brief illness. From 1989 to 2014 Crawford worked in Rickman Library on SWU's Central campus, where she mentored hundreds of students. She was also named Staff Member of the Year for 1992-1993. Crawford was a devoted Christian and a member of Holly Springs Baptist Church. Surviving are her husband, Ray Crawford; a son, Chris Crawford (Sherrell) of Anderson; three daughters, Cassie Abernathy (Brad) of Cleveland, Ga., Cindy Holmes (Mike) of Peachtree City, Ga., and Katherine Sudduth (Todd) of Pickens; a brother, Wilton "Punk" Morgan of Lavonia, Ga.; and 12 grandchildren.

KEITH ALAN NAYLOR ('79) of Stone Mountain, Ga., died Jan. 12 at home with his family. He was born Sept. 2, 1957, in Columbus, Ga., to Homer Naylor and the late Sandra Naylor. He first was a standout basketball player at Eastern Wayne High School, graduating in 1975, and was recruited to play basketball for Central Wesleyan College. While in college, he married Nancy Canfield Naylor ('77), and had recently celebrated their 38th anniversary. After graduating, he was recruited by Athletes in Action (AIA) basketball based in British Columbia, Canada. Through AIA, Keith was able to spread his faith around the globe, playing international university and professional teams.

DR. HAL GARDNER ROBBINS JR., ('48), husband of Lillian Andrews Robbins, passed away Jan. 24 at his home in Seneca, S.C. Funeral services were held Jan. 28 at Welcome Wesleyan Church. A native of High Point, N.C., Robbins graduated from our Wesleyan Methodist Academy, was ordained in The Wesleyan Church in 1957 and served many pastorates in Virginia and South Carolina. He was a professor emeritus at Southern Wesleyan University and pastor emeritus of the S.C. District of The Wesleyan Church. Robbins also served in South Africa as a short-term pastor and teacher.

1 MARY WILL THOMAS, wife of E.B. Thomas, passed away Feb. 29. She and E.B. were long-time employees of the university and very active members of the SWU community. "Mrs. T," as she was known to many students, worked at SWU for 16 years until her retirement in 1993 as assistant to the vice president for finance. Rev. Ken Dill, associate vice president for spiritual life and university chaplain, remembers her as loving and caring; someone who "opened her home to students, fed them, and quietly bought them clothes and supplies when there was need. (She was the) true embodiment of the SWU spirit."

2 HARDIE CATHERINE DAVIS MEDDERS

(pictured with Joy Bryant, Executive Director of Alumni and Constituent Relations) of Clemson, S.C., went to her eternal home with Jesus April 3. She was born March 11, 1922 in Chilton County, Ala., the fourth of 11 children of John Lee and Tarva Davis. Medders graduated from Wesleyan Methodist College. She earned a bachelor of science in education from the University of Alabama and a master of arts from Peabody College, Vanderbilt University. Medders taught for 26 years in the Bibb County, Ala., school system. She was married to the late Thomas Glover Medders until his death in 2005. They were long-time members of the Fairview Wesleyan Church, Cottondale, Ala. Medders is survived by her five children: Patricia Etheridge, Thomas Medders, Samuel Medders, Joel Medders, and James Medders; sisters Euelle Bell and Naomi Hughey; and brothers Charles, Moody, and Morris Davis. She is also survived by 13 grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the Davis Scholarship Fund, Southern Wesleyan University, Central, S.C., or Fairview Wesleyan Church.





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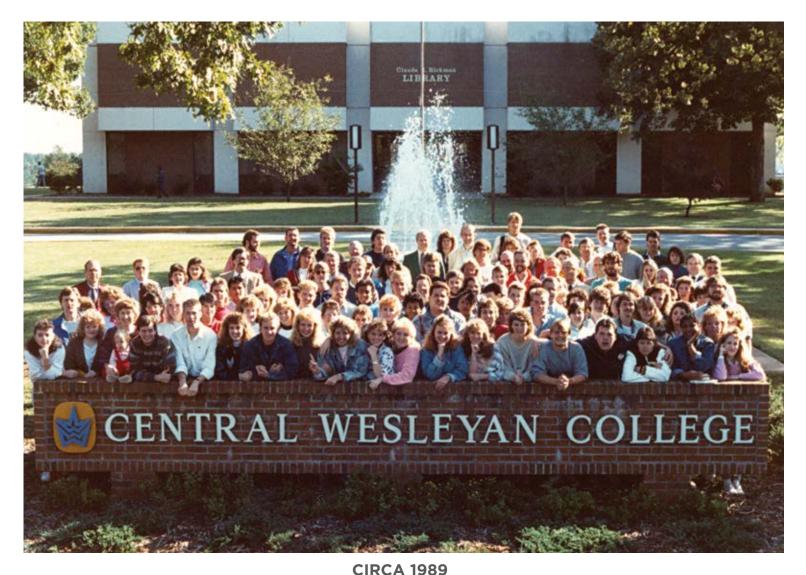
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Can you identify anyone pictured in this group photo taken at the old Central Wesleyan College sign? How many jean jackets can you count?

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