

# SWU

m a g a z i n e

## **MATT LEROY & LOVE CHAPEL HILL:**

A MISSIONAL COMMUNITY  
REACHING AN ECLECTIC TOWN

## **A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES: AN INTERVIEW WITH MICKEY RICKMAN**

Issue #5: Spring/Summer 2014





*Coming this fall*  
TO SOUTHERN WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

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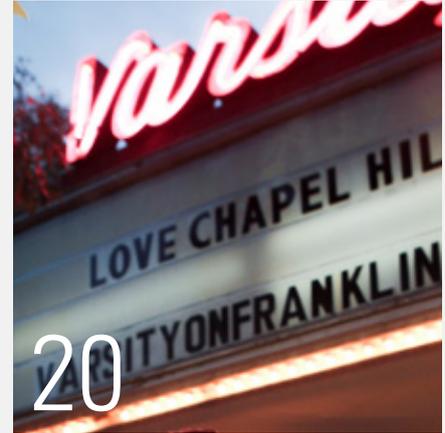
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# SWU

m a g a z i n e

Issue #5: Spring/Summer 2014

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times a year by the Office of  
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# STUDENT-RUN BUSINESSES

*Not just internships, but real life experiences*

By Dr. Todd S. Voss, President



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*“With a generous grant from a family foundation as an important seed fund, a new coffee house is being launched.”*

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When both my son and daughter were working on their four-year degrees, they had several opportunities to enhance their classroom learning by taking advantage of hands-on internships. They grew deeply by something I believe each and every student should experience while working on a bachelors degree. Internships result in stronger application in and out of the classroom, better grades and greater success after graduation in landing that first job or graduate school acceptance. Most majors at Southern Wesleyan, of course, have internships and real life experience built into the curriculum, and for that I am so thankful. However, I think it is time for universities to offer even more.

I am delighted to share that Southern Wesleyan is embarking on a new way to offer real life experience while serving a growing campus at the same time! Beginning this year, our first of many on-campus internship opportunities are being launched! For example, as we contemplated opening the P.B. Wood Golf Practice Range, we designed the operation to be run by students. Paid student intern managers are now gearing up for a busy summer by building a customer base and learning skills related to purchasing, accounting, marketing and operations in making this “open to the public” range a viable business enterprise.

Our second student operation is now being prepared for the fall. With a generous grant from a family foundation as an important seed fund, a new coffee house is being launched. This expanded and well-equipped operation will

be managed by students who will apply what they have learned in the classroom to the practice of running a major business on campus. With the support of Pioneer College Caterers and the dedication of our Physical Plant, Blue Hill Coffee & Tea Co. will be the largest student operation to date. The name has significant meaning. “Blue” is in support of our historic school color and the way our campus community makes up Team SWU, and “Hill” is a reference used for decades by alumni as in “The College on the Hill” or “College Hill.”

These paid coffee house student interns will gain important leadership skills, experience a myriad of real life business challenges and results, and recognize the importance of key business qualities, including teamwork, thoroughness, cost control, marketing, customer service, product consistency, hiring and training, and contingency planning, just to name a few.

The purpose of the new coffee house is to offer a significant internship operation, enhance the sense of community at SWU, offer a high quality product and experience and create a comfortable large venue for events and activities for the entire campus. This student-operated business is designed to be self-supporting with revenue over expenditure being slated for student scholarships. So the next time you are on campus and you use the Golf Practice Range or buy a cup of coffee, remember, you are supporting student-run internships and all the education they provide!



# FACULTY PROFILE:

## LISA HALL-HYMAN



Dr. Lisa Hall-Hyman, a member of Southern Wesleyan University's fulltime education faculty since 2012, teaches courses within the Master of Education in Administration and Supervision program. She actively serves as a member of the Marketing Committee, School of Education NCATE Committee and Cultural Diversity Committee.

Hyman has served in administrative roles at school districts across the state. She was a curriculum specialist at Williamsburg County Schools; university development representative/site supervisor for Grand Canyon University; assistant principal at Irmo High School; director of personnel for Calhoun County School District; and assistant principal at John Ford School in the Calhoun County School District. She was also director of special services for Greenwood School District 50.

Hyman earned a BS in political science from South Carolina State; a master of education degree in teaching skills and methodologies from Cambridge College, Boston; and a doctor of philosophy degree in educational administration and supervision from the University of Southern Mississippi. She also holds a South Carolina School Administrator certificate from The South Carolina Department of Education.

Hyman is a member of the South Carolina Association of School Administrators and Palmetto Teachers Association. She attends Bibleway Church in Columbia and often volunteers to work with the youth of Pine Grove AME Church in Irmo.

### WHY DO YOU LOVE TEACHING AT SWU?

The joys received from seeing a student expand their knowledge and grow in the Lord makes all the effort, all the time, and all the energy worth it!

Within the SWU School of Education, I have the awesome opportunity to teach principles and best practices surrounding the field of education. More importantly, teaching at SWU provides me with a platform for modeling Christian values and sharing how the teachings of Christ impact our daily lives. I am aware of the outstanding reputation of Southern Wesleyan University and believe in its mission to transform lives by challenging students to be dedicated scholars and servant-leaders who impact the world for Christ. I recognize that, in addition to the excellent faculty, staff and university support available at SWU, we serve

the most impressive group of graduate and undergraduate students in South Carolina. It is a privilege to work at Southern Wesleyan University and a blessing to serve.

### WHAT IS DISTINCT ABOUT YOUR PROGRAM/DEGREE?

The School of Education offers an array of nationally accredited teacher licensure programs. While I primarily work with graduate students, our department is dedicated to promoting educators who demonstrate scholarship within a Christian ethic of care at the graduate and undergraduate level. We maintain high academic standards and encourage living a values-based lifestyle. Former students have often commented on their experiences gained while enrolled within the School of Education. They share how far-reaching the impacts of those experiences are on the

lives of students and uphold the SWU reputation for providing quality teacher licensure programs across the state of South Carolina.

### DESCRIBE A TIME WHEN YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WORK DIRECTLY WITH STUDENTS THAT HAS LED TO POSITIVE ACADEMIC OUTCOMES.

Several of my former students have graduated from SWU and are now practicing administrators in many school

districts across the state of South Carolina, including Tamara Turner, assistant principal, Lexington School District Five; Audrey White, assistant principal, Richland School District One; and Steve Senf, transportation supervisor, Lexington County School District One.

As I teach, I am mindful to remain a diligent, competent servant of Christ. I count the accomplishments of my students as blessings in meeting the needs of others and praise God for the wisdom, strength and gifts He has given us all.

## SWU NAMES McLENDON DEAN OF SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Dr. Sandra McLendon has been appointed as dean of the School of Education at Southern Wesleyan University.

Since July 2013, McLendon has served as acting dean. McLendon has been on the Education faculty at SWU since 2007. Prior to serving as acting dean, she was the associate dean for the School of Education from 2009-2013.

“Dr. McLendon offers incredible experience, amazing connections and a wealth of ideas to move our already widely acclaimed education program to even greater heights,” said Southern Wesleyan University President Todd Voss. “I could not be more pleased that she has enthusiastically accepted this appointment. Students are already benefiting from her outstanding leadership.”

McLendon earned her Ed.D. in education administration from Nova Southeastern University; a certification in curriculum and supervision from the University of North Carolina, Charlotte; a MLS from the University of North Carolina, Greensboro; and a BS in English from Erskine College. McLendon holds South Carolina certification for secondary English; media specialist, K-12; secondary supervision; and secondary principal.





## SWU SERVES

University students, faculty, and staff rolled up sleeves for Day of Service. Approximately 200 volunteers, including students, faculty and staff, went to a dozen sites across Pickens, Oconee and Greenville counties for the second annual Day of Service March 18.

**01.** Kia Tillman, left, and Olivia Bush, right, clear brush at The Potter's Place in Central during Day of Service March 18. Tillman is a freshman criminal justice major from Calhoun Falls, and Bush is a freshman from Indian Rocks Beach, Fla.

**02.** Keonna Palmer, right, assists in food distribution at Gleaning House Ministries in Pickens. Palmer is a senior human services major from Easley.



## GRANDPARENTS DAY

**01.** Billy and Jo Ann Davis start off Grandparents Day with their granddaughter, Anna Bross, center. The Davises are also alumni of Southern Wesleyan and Billy is a member of the board of visitors. Anna, an English education major, is the daughter of Jim and Angie Bross of Franklin, N.C., and the granddaughter also of Dr. James and Barbara Bross.

**02.** Asia Peppers of Seneca enjoys breakfast with her grandparents William Peppers Sr., Johnnie Mae Peppers and Hazel McWhorter, right. Pictured left of Asia is her mother, Donna Peppers. Asia is an elementary education major.





# SWITCHFOOT IN THE HOUSE

The Grammy Award-winning band, Switchfoot, played to enthusiastic fans Feb. 23 at Newton Hobson Auditorium on Southern Wesleyan University's campus in Central. Kopecky Family Band, a Nashville-based Indie-Rock group, opened the concert with their unique sound. The concert was part of Switchfoot's Fading West Tour.

Photo credit: Photos by Susan Lloyd



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# THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE

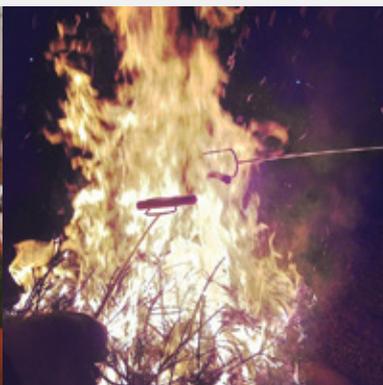
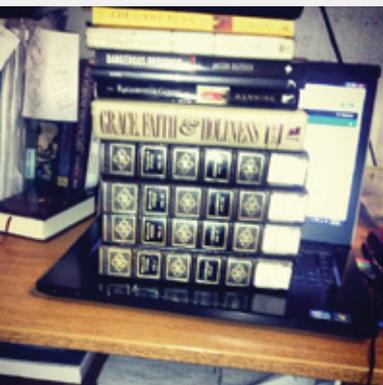
C.S. Lewis' land of Narnia came to life on the stage of Folger Fine Arts Auditorium during March at Southern Wesleyan University in Central. This year's musical production, "Narnia," followed the four Pevensie children as they passed through the wardrobe into an enchanted land of talking animals, where Aslan, the lion, is ultimately triumphant over the evil White Witch and her minions. The cast included students, along with faculty, children of faculty and staff and volunteers.

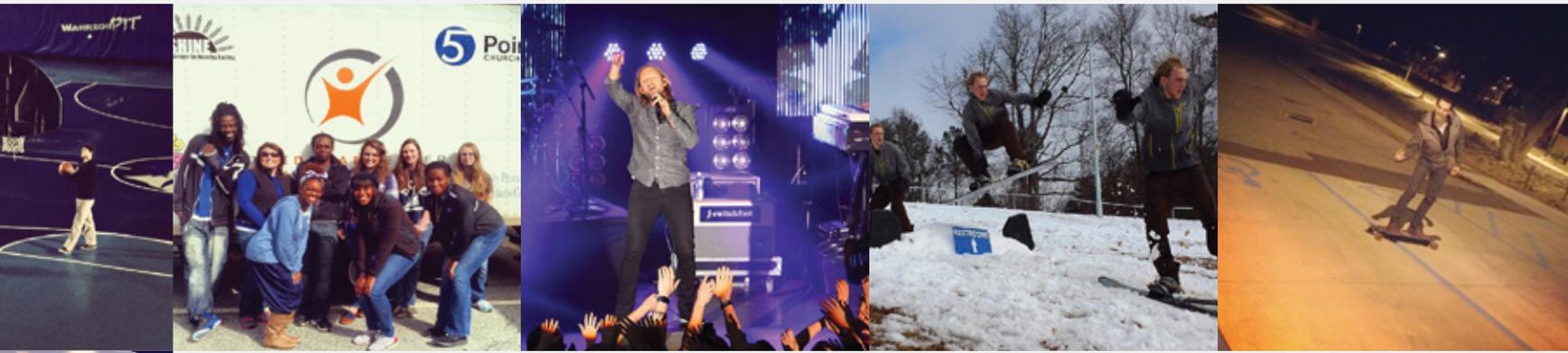


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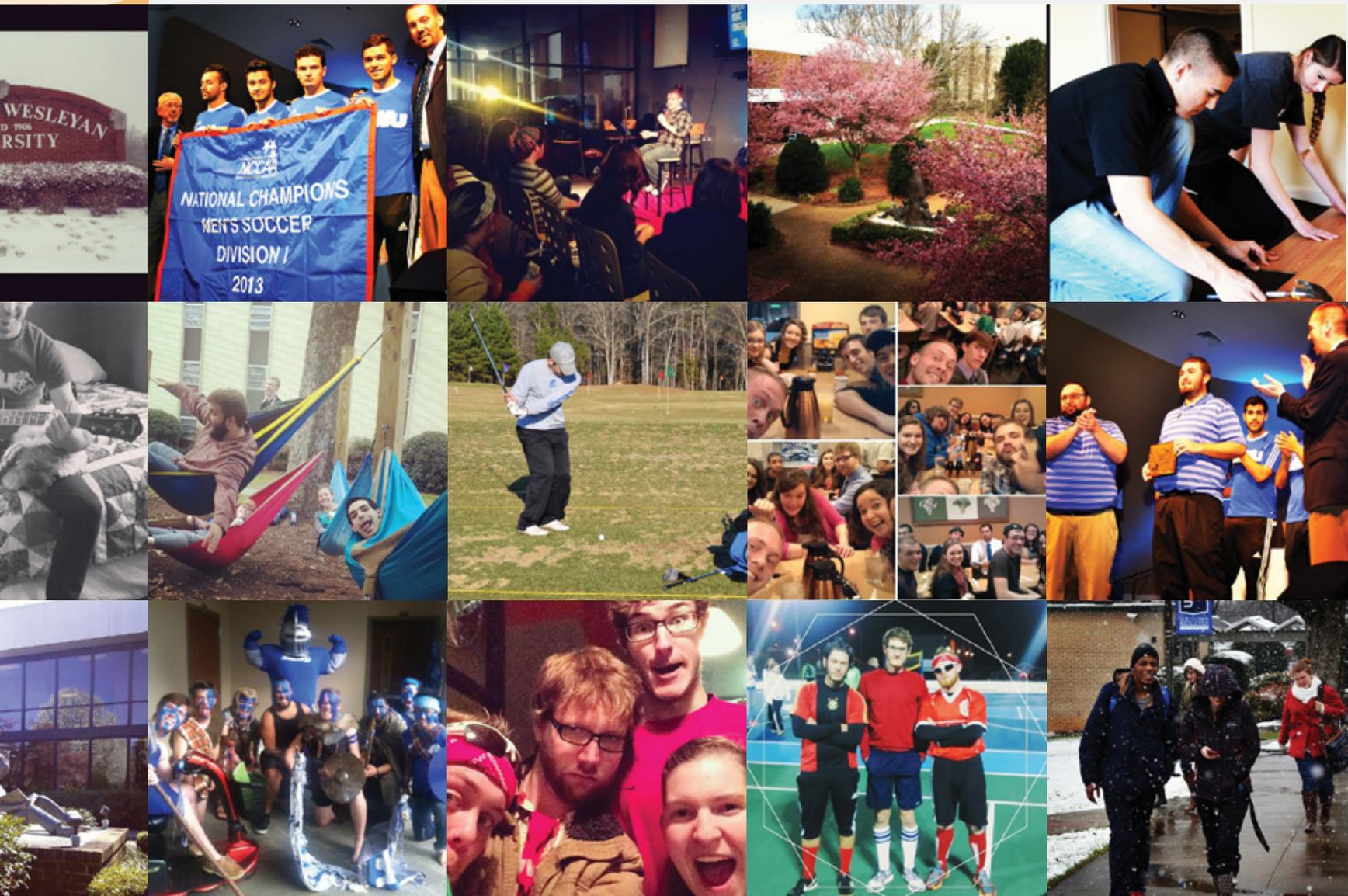




# #SWULIFE

Student Instagram photos from Spring Semester 2014

Follow [@swu\\_edu](https://www.instagram.com/swu_edu) or search [#swulife](https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/swulife) on Instagram for more SWU photos



# CELEBRATING CHAMPIONS

The Southern Wesleyan University Men's Soccer Team was recognized as National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Champions. The team claimed the first soccer national title in school history, defeating Lee University 1-0 in the NCCAA Championship game in Kissimmee, Fla. Dec. 7.





Southern Wesleyan University Director of Athletics Chris Williams, left, presents a plaque recognizing the achievement of Head Men's Soccer coach Camilo Rodriguez. He was recognized for leading his team to an NCCAA national championship in December and was also named NCCAA Men's Soccer Coach of the Year.

Zach Moore, center, was recognized by Southern Wesleyan University as 2013 National Champion for men's golf by the NCCAA during a chapel Feb. 3 at the university's campus in Central. Pictured with Moore, at left, is SWU Head Men's Golf Coach Doug Wilkinson and, at right, is SWU Director of Athletics, Chris Williams.



# SWU DEDICATES NEW TRACK & FIELD COMPLEX

Southern Wesleyan University dedicated the Joe R. Gilbert Track and Field April 9. Cameron Gilbert, Joe's son and donor for the track's naming, joined University President Todd Voss, Director of Athletics Chris Williams, Board of Trustees Chair Charles Joiner, Town of Central Administrator Phillip Mishoe, and Pickens County Council members (Vice Chair) Tom Ponder, Jeff Martin and Trey Whitehurst in a ribbon-cutting for the new complex.

The \$1.1 million facility includes a 400-meter, eight-lane track surrounding the future soccer field. Also included are dual runways for the long and triple jump, two shot put rings, two distinct pole vault areas, javelin throw, hammer throw and a discus area, according to Greg Thiel, Southern Wesleyan's head track coach.

"Today this track and field adds to the forward momentum of the growth of our university and to the NCAA Division II transition that we're currently in," Williams said, adding that future plans include hosting of high school track and field competitions and conference, state and national championships.

Cameron, also father to Shelby Gilbert, a sophomore on Southern Wesleyan's NCCAA regional championship Women's Basketball Team, described his father as a Christian man with a strong work ethic, a great love for his family and a passion for higher education and collegiate

sports. Despite having an eighth-grade education, Joe believed education is an equalizer. Cameron added that Joe missed only five or six out of Shelby's nearly 400 basketball games while she was growing up.

"Dad would have been very happy and very proud that his granddaughter chose SWU," Cameron said. "Joe Gilbert would have been very proud to have his name associated with this university."

"This is a new beginning in so many ways," Voss said. Joiner stressed that community involvement defines the role of the university in constructing the Track and Field complex.

"This is His track and field complex, and because it is His, it's our pleasure to share it with all," said Lisa McWherter, SWU's vice president for advancement.

Whitehurst praised the efforts of Voss, saying, "What you guys have is not just a track; you've got a leader who has grabbed this university by the horns and taken you on a glorious trip."

Olivia Bush, a student-athlete on the Track and Field Team, thanked supporters of SWU athletics for making the inaugural track season possible.

"If someone were to see our facilities for the first time, they would have never guessed that we were only a first-year program," Bush said.





# TRACK & TENNIS DEBUT

The men's and women's track teams began practicing on Southern Wesleyan's new track and field complex in January. This past spring, the team has competed in local, regional and national competitions. At the NAIA National Indoor Meet, the Warriors sent three qualifiers in the first season of competition. The women placed 10th and the men placed 14th at the NCCAA National Indoor Meet at Bourbonnais, Ill.

The men's and women's tennis teams kicked off their inaugural season Feb. 15 with a match against Middle Georgia's JV team at Nettles Park in nearby Clemson. Their road matches have included opponents Loyola, Spring Hill, Brenau, Spartanburg Methodist and William Carey. While both teams are gaining experience, highlights included victories for the men's team over Loyola and Spring Hill. Fundraising efforts are underway to construct a new tennis facility along Clayton Drive, opposite the new Track and Soccer Complex. The U.S. Tennis Association provided complimentary support for the facility's design.

**Opposite:** Southern Wesleyan University dedicated the Joe R. Gilbert Track and Field April 9 at its Central campus. Cutting the ribbon, from left, are Jeff Martin, Pickens County Council; Todd Voss, SWU president; Trey Whitehurst, Pickens County Council; Phillip Mishoe, Central town administrator; Tom Ponder, Vice Chair, Pickens County Council; Charles Joiner, SWU board of trustees chair; Cameron Gilbert, donor and son of Joe Gilbert; and Chris Williams, director of athletics.

To make tax-deductible contributions in support of Warrior Athletics and facilities, please contact Dr. Lisa McWherter at [lmcwherter@swu.edu](mailto:lmcwherter@swu.edu) or 855-644-5008.



After nearly four decades of service on the Southern Wesleyan University faculty, Dr. Mickey Rickman is retiring at the end of this academic year. The son of former university president Dr. Claude R. Rickman, Mickey spent many of his formative years growing up on the Central campus.

*Mickey Rickman's graduation in 1966 from Central Wesleyan College. From left – Evelyn Rickman, his mother; Mickey Rickman; Cary Rickman, his brother; and Claude Rickman, his father*



# *A Lifetime of Memories:*

## *An interview with retiring professor, Dr. Mickey Rickman*

### ***Tell me about your father.***

“Dad was in the Navy during WWII; in fact, he was involved with D-Day on the battleship, *Texas*, laying down fire for the soldiers as they stormed the beaches in Normandy. He came here in 1946 and became academic dean. In the early '50s, we went to Chapel Hill during the summer for him to get his master's degree at the University of North Carolina. In the mid '50s he moved the family there to pursue his doctorate. Back on campus, we lived in Childs Hall, where he was dean of men at the same time he was dean of the college and a professor. Back then, you did what needed to be done. I think he taught everything from history, which was his love, to Bible. Later, he was elected president. After he retired, he was assistant to the president and director of alumni affairs. My mother was also dedicated to the college, serving as registrar for many years. I remember coming in from the local schools to do homework in their offices.”

### ***Tell me about life on the Central campus.***

“I was two years old when my mother and I joined my dad here; my sister and brother were born later. All three of us graduated from CWC (SWU). I can remember growing up in the end apartment of the war surplus “VetVille” — about where the science classroom building is now. Dr. Don Wood's family, along with many other friends, lived in VetVille, too. We explored all the woods around here. This was a great place to grow up around great people. From childhood up, I was included in campus activities, student and faculty trips, and lots of cultural and religious activities.”

### ***Share memories of when you were a student.***

“When I was a freshman, we lived in Childs Hall in the RA's apartment as a family. Dr. Paul Wood came back from graduate school the year I entered college and was my biology teacher. Then Dr. Martin LaBar joined the faculty and took me all the way through my science major. There was a group of us wanting to get some math courses, but there was no math major at the time. So they brought a Clemson professor here to teach calculus and differential equations. I took just about all the science and math they offered. I enjoyed our choir trips and many other activities. I met Betty Sue Johnson during my junior year. Her father was attending a board of trustees meeting. I asked him to buy some candy for the junior class. He agreed to buy if I would give it to his daughter. I did, and the rest is history! We've been married for 45 years!”

### ***What was it like taking a class with your Dad as professor?***

“I took a course, the Gospel of John, under him. Dad was a good teacher. I got no preferential treatment! Fortunately, there was no conflict. I guess I was doing what he wanted me to do. He could really relate to students and was well-liked by them.”

## ***Do you remember the McDonald Hall fire in 1962?***

“I remember it well. I was a classmate of the two freshman co-eds that lost their lives that night. We worked through that tragedy. I helped with building the new replacement, Stuart-Bennett Dorm, which was put up in two stages. The ground floor and first three floors were the first stage, and that was done in about six months. It was amazing how Senator Strom Thurmond along with (Congressman) William Jennings Bryan Dorn helped expedite red tape and funding so that it was built and occupied in record time!”

## ***What happened after you graduated?***

“I graduated in 1966 but continued to be in the community. My folks had moved out of Childs Hall and built a home on the edge of the campus during my senior year, so I continued to stay at home until Sue graduated. I taught at Pickens High during those two years and began graduate work. We were married in 1968, and I also taught some courses for Central Wesleyan, the Pickens County Adult Education Program, and a course for the University of South Carolina. After completing my master’s from Clemson University, I came here on the faculty full-time in 1972. Then our beautiful daughter, Stephanie, was born, and soon after, I started a doctoral program at the University of Georgia.”

## ***What made you decide to be part of the faculty?***

“It was kind of natural. They needed a math teacher. I had what they felt they needed at that time. Drs. Paul Wood and Martin LaBar were instrumental in hiring me. Early on, I thought I might go into medicine or some area of science. I interviewed at Oak Ridge Laboratories and was encouraged to get involved in their nuclear research. I believe God redirected me here. I’ve been here 38 years fulltime. Many of those years, I taught summer school and courses in the Adult Studies Programs, too. To help students, to be in academia, to develop a math major, to direct the SWU-Clemson University Co-Op Program for 20-plus years, to make a difference with God’s help here has been a rather ideal opportunity and place to serve.”

## ***Tell me about your doctoral work.***

“I had applied at the University of Georgia, but hadn’t been very serious or aggressive about pursuing a doctorate. Out of the blue one day, I got an offer for a teaching assistantship from the head of the department. If we were going to offer majors from an accredited program, I needed to have a doctorate, so I accepted it. The college gave me unofficial leave of absence to complete it, and God provided miraculously for us during those years. I returned ABD (all but dissertation) so my





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### IMAGES

01: Mickey & Sue as students

02: Mickey Rickman (center), and Rickman's family in Asheville

03: Former president Dr. Claude R. Rickman

04. Sue & Mickey Rickman in front of the  
Claude R. Rickman Library

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daughter could begin first grade in South Carolina and did my dissertation study here while I was teaching. UGA prepared me well for developing our mathematics programs at SWU.”

### ***What are some of the changes you’ve seen over the years?***

“I’ve seen significant changes. The college was much smaller, and I knew everybody on faculty and most of the people who attended. My graduating class had 29 students. Dating required faculty supervision. I’ve worked under five different presidents, and I believe each of them was God’s man for the challenges they faced. I saw the demolition of

historic old buildings and many new buildings constructed — in fact, I helped tear down two and build one. When the landmark administration building was torn down, some were sad because it was Central College to them. It was an exciting time when CWC became SACS accredited in the early ’70s, and I remember when we became the first private college in South Carolina to welcome African Americans as students. I was especially proud when our math education program was unconditionally accredited by NCATE. A big game changer was the development of the adult graduate programs LEAP and later AGS. Now, we have great anticipation and momentum going into NCAA. Through all the changes, though, the university has always remained true to its mission and purpose.”

### ***What makes SWU unique?***

“I love the place because it’s home to me. I love everything about SWU — what it means and what it’s doing. It’s a community where people not only care about academics, but care about each other and want to make a difference in the world. I’m glad I’ve been privileged to be a part of it for almost all my life!”



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# MATT HEROY //

## LOVE CHAPEL HILL

**Q:** How were you called into the ministry?

“I was called to ministry at middle school youth camp in North Carolina. I was such a shy kid that my one goal for the week was to go without being noticed by anyone. I just wanted to blend into the background. But God wouldn’t overlook me. He spoke to my heart in a way I still can’t explain, but I’ve never been able to deny. My life has never been the same since that summer night in the North Carolina hills.”

**Q:** How did Love Chapel Hill start?

The true answer to that question goes back generations, but I’ll give you the short answer. I grew up in Chapel Hill. My Dad planted a church there when I was 10. That place worked its way into my heart in an unshakable way. After college I dreamed of moving back to plant a new church in the heart of its vibrant, creative downtown.

While at Asbury Seminary, Sarah and I lived in a duplex next to Justin and Jeanine Simmons. We became fast friends and started sharing that dream together. They were courageous and crazy enough to move with us to help plant this church. Jason and Amber Tuggle and Derek and April Hastings joined our team as well.



Daniel Sircar, 2012

Derek and I were roommates at SWU. It's so crazy to think about our late nights in the dorm dreaming about the future. And here we are, shaping the future as we go. This team is so incredible. If not for their hearts that burn for Jesus and people, there's no way we would have survived this journey.

**Q: While some churches focus on the suburbs, you take your mission to the streets and call yourself a quirky church plant in downtown Chapel Hill. What makes Love Chapel Hill unique?**

We actually aren't unique. LCH is a small part of a much larger story that God is writing in our community. We hope to be an authentic expression of the Kingdom where He's planted us.

We practice intentional incarnation, rooting ourselves at the heart of our city. From the start, we were drawn to Franklin Street, the historic and cultural hub of our town. So we meet in The Varsity, an iconic movie theatre and local landmark. We open our doors and put our coffee and bagel bar out on the sidewalk for anyone passing by. On

most Sundays our congregation includes young families and professionals, artists and academics. But about 60 percent of our crowd is made up of college students and 10 to 15 percent are homeless friends. It makes for a beautiful, eclectic collision of life.

**Q: What are some examples of individuals meeting God through Love Chapel Hill?**

Allison was a college student who didn't think 'this whole God thing' was for her. Now she is starting a transitional employment bakery called 'Made With Love,' designed to help people break the cycle of homelessness. Just last Sunday she preached her first sermon. It was inspired and inspiring.

Sandy is a 70-year-old who left the church for 30 years. The first Sunday she decided to try again, a homeless man fell asleep on her shoulder. Her response was, 'I'm home.'

Grant was homeless and is now a core volunteer, the first smiling face when you come through the door. Almost everyone thinks he's one of the pastors. In so many ways, he is.

Caleb and Luke are filmmakers. They create moving art, beauty that provokes response. Madysen is a middle schooler. She helped start our youth group, serves the children almost every week and helps lead several of our love missions each year. Denise works at a local restaurant. She recently sat down to pour out her heart to us and ask for prayer. She calls us her pastors. She's never been to our church.

**Q: You're in a college town, but there are also those in the streets. What are unique challenges to Love Chapel Hill's ministry?**

We want to practice 'radical hospitality,' to create a culture where the outsiders are the insiders and the forgotten are the first thought. The local homeless population has found a home with us. We get to do pastoral visitation by simply walking down the street. Their presence with us is such a rich and humbling blessing.

But we don't have a homeless ministry. We have a church family and our homeless friends are an integrated part of that family. We screw up and fall short and fail in our attempts to serve. But we're trying to navigate those difficulties and asking for



grace. We refer to it as a logistical nightmare and a dream come true.

We lean heavily on strategic community partnerships, connecting our friends to professionals and veterans in the field of social work. We know we are small and our resources are short. So we lean on trusted, tested partnerships to meet needs.

**Q: Tell me about ways you engage people in your community, and also about services and activities.**

We are intentional about engaging our community throughout the week in a variety of ways. Here's just a few ways that this happens...

'Strangely Warmed' is our winter coat collection. We take racks of clothes out on Franklin Street and give them directly to the homeless. People can also drop in any Sunday morning and choose from the rack. Most don't stay for church and that is completely fine. It is not a marketing trick or bait and switch.

'One Thing' love missions... Every month we do at least one thing as a congregation to creatively express the love of Jesus to our town. From free holiday portraits to a Valentine's party for the women's shelter to a pop-up picnic on the campus quad.

- Outdoor worship services every May (in honor of John Wesley's field preaching)
- Community concerts featuring local artists
- Bi-weekly downtown prayer walks

- Fighting human trafficking
- Baptisms in a local creek followed by a celebration at a local store & grill
- Bible studies that meet in downtown restaurants
- Even our kids lead the way through Operation Christmas Child and walks to fight childhood hunger

**Q: Where do you see Love Chapel Hill going in the next few years?**

We will continue to live out our mission. Our name is our mission: Love Chapel Hill with the heart of Jesus. We can't wait to see where that takes us. And we will help plant churches in other major college towns and cultural centers across North Carolina and the United States. We are often told that reaching college students and homeless people for the Kingdom is not sustainable. They are right. But it's also not sustainable for the Church to continue to lose over 60 percent of young people between the ages of 18 and 30. We're trying to do something about it, here and beyond. Who is willing to help us?

**Q: How do you feel SWU and its professors helped you as a student?**

My years at SWU provided me with incredible friends that still play a meaningful role in my life. Professors like Dr. Bob Black, Dave Tolan and Ken Dill poured into me in a way that is still bearing fruit. I know that they believed in me, and continue to. Their voices of encouragement formed a solid foundation for following God's call in ministry.

A photograph of a middle-aged man with grey hair, wearing a dark blue suit jacket over a light blue button-down shirt. He is sitting at a dark wood desk, smiling warmly at the camera. His hands are resting on the desk. In the background, there is a wood-paneled wall, a bookshelf with several white binders, a framed document, and a lamp with a black shade. A maroon leather office chair is visible to the right.

# EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS ACUMEN SHARPENED IN HR PROGRAM AT SWU

John H. Dickey, Senior Vice President and Chief  
Human Resources Officer of Hill-Rom Holdings

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## “Success has a lot to do with good decisions and good timing.”

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For John H. Dickey, an up-and-coming executive in Charleston, choosing to earn a degree from Southern Wesleyan University was a sound decision. He enrolled in the adult evening program, taking classes at the university's Charleston and Columbia learning centers. He earned his bachelor's degree in human resource management in 1994.

Dickey credits Southern Wesleyan for helping him sharpen skills in writing, communication, interpersonal integrity, strategic thinking and complex problem solving — all skills that continue to help him become more effective as an executive.

Five years after acquiring Support Systems International (SSI), company executives recognized Dickey's effectiveness in interpersonal and leadership skills, and the doors of opportunity opened. He was promoted to Director of SSI's Human Resources Group in Charleston. At the time, Dickey worked in a different business segment in the Midwest and had acquired extensive experience from running sales and service operations in several cities and effectively dealing with labor issues. Dickey, describing himself in those days as a “multi-million mile traveler,” looks back and feels blessed to have been promoted to a director role; however, due to the ever-changing business environment was desirous of expanding his executive HR skills.

When Dickey heard about Southern Wesleyan (then known as Central Wesleyan College), he learned about a new program titled LEAP (Leadership Education for Adult Professionals), an innovative new adult degree program that was being introduced for the first time. Dickey enrolled.

“I was in the very first class. I thought, ‘Wow!’ The program marketing was so specific, it was like a dream come true — the evening and weekend class structure was uniquely aligned with my demanding business schedule,” Dickey said, adding that the curriculum, hours and programs provided a doable pathway for him to earn a degree in HR.

“I knew that if I had not gone on to get a four-year degree, I would have been displaced,” Dickey said.

For Southern Wesleyan's President Todd Voss, hearing Dickey's story is an inspiration in itself.

“There are times in life when one's need intersects perfectly with God's timing, and this was certainly the case when

John started his degree at SWU,” Voss said. “I have been so impressed with the way John views his work and his ministry to his employees. He has created a culture of support, service and innovation at Hill-Rom that may be the best I have ever seen in any organization anywhere.”

Dickey is currently senior vice president and chief human resources officer at Hill-Rom Holdings, a leading worldwide manufacturer and provider of medical technologies and related services for the healthcare industry. Hill-Rom's comprehensive product and service offerings are used by hospitals and other healthcare providers around the world.

Dickey also serves on the board of directors for the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, who recognized him as the 2008 HR Professional of the Year. Dickey serves as an Advisor for Purdue University's College of Technology. He was also honored at Purdue with the Distinguished Alumni Award. He also serves as a board member for the Margaret Mary Community Hospital.

“More than anything, the LEAP program made it possible for an executive like me to get experience with other advanced adult learners,” Dickey said. “SWU provided a springboard in my career and for me to go on and earn my graduate degree.”

Looking back, Dickey appreciates the high standards his professors set forth in the classroom.

“The Southern Wesleyan University college experience was, I believe, a much more accelerated learning program as compared to other colleges and universities,” Dickey said, adding that “high level” assignments such as “deep dive business projects and a required thesis” also helped him make a smooth transition into graduate work.

At the same time, God used his experience at Southern Wesleyan in a way he values to this day, including several credit hours of religion classes that continue to have life-changing benefits for Dickey.

“Until I entered SWU, I hadn't read the Bible — I had read verses. I would work at night on the plane reading my New International Version Bible,” Dickey said, adding that personal Bible study provided a foundation in his life, one that created for him energy, drive and an understanding and a purpose.

# DISCIPLINE & LEADERSHIP DEFINE SWU GRADUATE'S EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

A lifetime of influential teachers inspired Rasheem Neloms to be an educator. “When I went to college, that was my mission — I guess just working with the kids and getting to interact with them academically and with physical activity,” Neloms said.

Neloms, who has taught eight years at Military Magnet Academy, located in the Charleston County School District, feels privileged to witness his students learning and gaining maturity in a military setting modeled after the Citadel. His service at Military Magnet Academy earned him the distinction of being named Teacher of the Year for 2013-14.

The school, located in North Charleston, meets in a building similar in appearance to the fortress-like, turreted buildings on the Citadel's campus a few miles away. Its mission is to achieve academic excellence, develop citizenship and to promote self-discipline in a military environment.

“At our school, all the kids are required to take ROTC. They wear a uniform every day and have formation and parades,” said Neloms, who teaches social studies classes to grades 9-12. This includes world geography, world history, government and African-American studies. He also serves as an advisor for student government, as well as for the school's National Honor Society Chapter, Beta Club, Academic Bowl and Quest team. A group of his students took on a project to help some area citizens who were having difficulty figuring out the electronic voting systems now used at polling places. In this nonpartisan activity, the students worked mainly with elderly citizens, passing out sample ballots to prepare them for voting.

When he was doing undergraduate work as a Citadel cadet, Neloms would visit Military Magnet Academy weekly and train students in drilling. Neloms recalled that this was

when the school was first established. This was one of several military disciplines that continues to provide the framework for the North Charleston school's educational program.

Neloms has also taught at various schools in the Charleston County School District. His wife Amie, who is currently director of guidance for the Charleston County School District, was once a guidance counselor at Military Magnet Academy. When not teaching, Neloms likes to coach soccer and his son's soccer team. He has also coached football and wrestling.

Neloms graduated from Southern Wesleyan University in December 2013 with a master of education degree in administration and supervision and has a goal of one day being a principal. He feels that Southern Wesleyan has prepared him well as he advances professionally. He has also been instrumental in recruiting two coaches at Military Magnet Academy to enroll in degree programs at Southern Wesleyan's Charleston learning center at 4055 Faber Place Drive. According to Neloms, Southern Wesleyan is the only place offering a program they can balance with their work schedules and coaching.

“The courses allow you to get more practical application of what administrators will do — practicums, internships, activities, looking at budgets. I was able to be more ‘hands-on’ with administrators,” Neloms said. For his practicum, Neloms assisted administrators at Military Magnet.

Neloms' advice to anyone considering a teaching career is focused on finding a calling to education.

He said, “If you were a millionaire — and you could do anything, would you still want to be a teacher? Do you have the passion?”



## Laurie Morton Baynard has been surrounded by music all of her life.

She grew up in Westminster, S.C., as part of a musical family where parents, grandparents and siblings were all devoted musicians. Her twin sister, Nikki, would frequently accompany Laurie on her clarinet — something both would continue to do together as Southern Wesleyan University music majors.

Baynard describes her father as an “insanely talented” guitarist and musician and recalls how, as a little girl, she would listen as her mother played “Whistle While You Work” on the flute she played in school.

“By the time I reached my junior year of high school, I knew that I wanted to play my flute as a career. At that time, I didn’t even know if such a career existed; but it became my mission,” she said.

While she was studying for her doctorate in flute performance at the University of Georgia, Baynard learned about auditions for the band. After she sent in her résumé, she was given a spot in an audition that proved to be as rigorous as that of any major orchestra. She learned that she was one of 50 flutists from across the country auditioning for a single spot.

“I approached this audition with lots of practice and prayer, especially knowing that most of my competitors were coming from the top conservatories in the nation,” Baynard said. “I had no idea how my training from SWU and UGA would compare — it was all in God’s hands.”

Winning the audition after two days of rounds and multiple eliminations was one of Baynard’s most humbling moments.

As the principal flutist for the United States Coast Guard Band, Baynard has played at high-profile events across the nation. Her biggest honor was to perform in the parade at the second inauguration of President Barack Obama. One of Baynard’s most memorable highlights came as she marched past the reviewing stand.

“It was at that moment that every single band member started standing a little taller,” she said. “I looked out of the left corner of my eye and saw the Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Robert Papp, saluting alongside

President Obama as we marched by. I was one of the lucky few who got to be a part of that event, and I am forever grateful for the experience.”

As part of the Coast Guard Band, Baynard has performed across the nation at venues that include Avery Fisher Hall in New York and the U.S. Capitol Building.

“It is like a dream every time I go into work. God has blessed my musical career immensely,” Baynard said. “I spend my days performing with 55 of the most phenomenal musicians I have ever encountered.”

Baynard is grateful for how Southern Wesleyan prepared her professionally and spiritually. She recalls preparing for a musical comprehensive exam in which students must list every piece of music they learned. During the exam, a professor would call out the name of a musical piece, which the student had to perform in their presence. Baynard thought it would be impressive to make a large list and include all selections she had played.

“That day, I confidently stepped out on stage to perform my jury selections, only to hear Prof. Greg Day call out, ‘Let’s hear Etude No. 25.’ At that moment, every ounce of color fell from my face and I started to feel my knees shake,” Baynard said. Following an unsuccessful performance, Day told Baynard she would have not been hired if this were the audition for an actual job.

“I learned a hard lesson that day, but it shaped my professional development and preparation more than I can even imagine,” Baynard said.

She and her husband, Tim Baynard, also a Southern Wesleyan graduate and also an accomplished musician, live in Uncasville, Ct., close to New London, where the band is based. Tim’s résumé includes conducting Clemson University’s drumline and he is currently full-time drumline instructor for Central Connecticut State University, the Coast Guard Academy and Montville High School.

“I admire him so much with everything he has going on, yet he still finds a ton of time to be an amazing husband, and certainly stands proud as my number one fan,” Baynard said.

A young woman with her hair in a bun, wearing a dark blue Coast Guard uniform with red piping and a gold button, is shown in profile playing a trumpet. The background is dark and out of focus.

Coast Guard  
Band a dream  
come true for  
SWU graduate

Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Cory J. Mendenhall

# A LOVE SONG TO THOSE WHO SERVE

University Singers, a vocal ensemble of Southern Wesleyan University students, travel for 10 weekends each semester to minister in song at churches, schools and conferences.

Beginning in 2012, the singers sang at various military bases, offering their vibrant musical ministry to the troops and personnel attending worship services. According to Dr. Gary Carr, director in the Education and Clergy Development Division of The Wesleyan Church, Southern Wesleyan University's Spiritual Life offices are working in close cooperation with religious ministries departments on bases throughout the region to bring "fresh music and authentic personal testimony of hope and transformation through faith in Jesus."

They are led by Rev. Gail Kerstetter, who along with her husband, Rev. Bob Kerstetter, have a son serving in the military. Gail, who directs the singers, believes the Lord opened new doors of opportunity to minister to the men and women who serve in the military.



"In 2010 my husband and I waved goodbye to our only child — our son, Devin — as he entered basic training at Ft. Benning, Ga.," Gail said. "Each week we awaited the one phone call permitted the recruits should the drill sergeants allow. Most of those calls came on Sunday afternoons after Devin had been to chapel in the morning. He was always so eager to tell us what the messages were about and how amazing it was to see the other recruits sing boldly their praises to God and how many were so receptive to the gospel."

The impact of the chapels on Devin's life made a strong impression on the Kerstetters, and God began to plant a seed in their hearts that would lead to connecting their ministry with service personnel. Not knowing how to do that, they began praying. Then Carr, a retired Navy Chaplain who at the time was on Southern Wesleyan's administration, became the liaison between the University Singers and the military.

"We have seen more than 4,800 recruits and marines say 'Yes' to Jesus in the last year and a half," Gail said. "Our team has stood in the company of those who said they would sacrifice their very lives to protect and defend our freedom as we offered hope from the One who sacrificed His life to save theirs!"

"Some of their faces will never leave my mind because I just thought, 'these are the men and women who are going to fight for my freedom so that I can fearlessly make known the Gospel of Jesus Christ,'" said Lambert, a member of the University Singers from Roanoke, Va.

Whitney Steele, a recent alumna of the University Singers now living in Charlotte, noticed a passion for worship in the base chapels not normally seen among civilians.

"You can see how hungry they are for that connection and to know God is there for them; they have somebody who cares for them," Steele said. "I also think that they are looking for peace and what they are getting ready to go into is war. They are so ready for something that settles them down, that can be that calm in the chaos."

"It is remarkable that, after every concert performance,

inquiries to the University Singers websites spike with unparalleled interest,” Carr said. He added that when the University Singers performed recently in Washington D.C., they were warmly welcomed at the U.S. Naval Academy Chapel for the morning worship service, attended by the academy commandant, assistant commandant, midshipmen and their families.

A highlight of their trip was to sing at a conference of senior denominational executives from more than one hundred denominations representing the faith and traditions of every ministry throughout the Armed Forces. The standing ovation, uproarious applause, and encore performances "brought the house down," according to Carr. The conference director, Dr. Jack Williamson, remarked that in the past 20 years, the conference had never had such a remarkable musical performance that could arrest the attention and stimulate such a profound expression of

faith of all members gathered from all religious traditions. Leaders from the large mainline denominations (including key members of the National Association of Evangelicals) remarked how thoroughly blessed they were to meet the group and hear their powerful sound as well as their message.

Referring to Hebrews 12:1, Carr said, “To all those who have heard their message, their music, and responded in faith to Jesus Christ at their concerts, the names and places are recorded in eternity, surrounded by a great cloud of cheering witnesses.”

NOTE: Specific bases or units are not mentioned or allowed to be photographed as part of Southern Wesleyan’s mutual agreement with them to protect the security of our armed forces personnel.



# SWU PREVIEW DAYS

## SPEND A DAY AS OUR GUEST AND EXPERIENCE WHAT MAKES SWU UNIQUE.

Most experiences can't be described in words and photos. We don't expect you to be convinced to attend Southern Wesleyan University without seeing it for yourself. That is why we want you to discover campus life and the special community we have here at SWU. We offer several visit opportunities so you can have the opportunity to experience life on our campus.

### UPCOMING VISIT DAYS

Friday, June 20, 2014  
 Monday, September 29, 2014  
 Friday, October 24, 2014  
 Monday, November 3, 2014

Register at [swu.edu/visit](http://swu.edu/visit)

**SOUTHERN  
 WESLEYAN  
 UNIVERSITY**

[www.swu.edu](http://www.swu.edu)  
 877-644-5556

# SOUTHERN WESLEYAN IS A WORTHY INVESTMENT

*Advancing With Planned Giving Options — Focusing On Generosity*

By Dr. Lisa McWherter, Vice President for Advancement

Southern Wesleyan University has a rich heritage built upon prayer and faithfulness to our Heavenly Father. Many SWU Magazine readers have personally experienced this richness as a current or former student, faculty, staff or board member and know exactly the specialness of which I speak. Other readers may not have personally experienced what it was, or is, like to have a direct affiliation with SWU and are just now pleasantly learning about what makes this university special.

In numerous and positive ways, SWU is being reinvented! SWU has always been and will always be a Christ-centered institution. The university's alumni and longtime friends can be assured that the specialness of SWU is only being amplified. One way SWU is being reinvented is the degree to which the university is engaging with the world for the benefit of students. SWU is actively connecting and partnering with a broader base of friends for the purpose of realizing the university's rich potential.

Southern Wesleyan is reaching that potential through the power of generosity. As a core value, SWU is becoming a more generous institution; this is truly a distinctive characteristic that sets us apart from the pack. Every day, effort is being invested in giving back to the communities we serve and reflecting the spirit of Christ in creative ways.

Your generosity is depended upon to ensure SWU's ability to be a generous institution. SWU was founded 108 years ago. One hundred and eight years from now, SWU will still be educating students in Christ's name and preparing them to impact the world for Christ in their chosen profession. Neither your bank account nor mine was in existence 108 years ago, nor will it likely be in another 108 years; however, our investment today in the work of SWU will still be paying dividends for students, the lives of those they touch and for the Kingdom. Now I would call that a worthy investment!

Recently, I heard that most individuals only consider

gift-giving to charities from one-seventh of their assets. Regardless of the specificity of that statistic and more specifically, the point being — friends tend to only think about the gift(s) they could give based upon what they may have liquid in a checking or savings account. That's the natural inclination and a good place to start the thought process, but if your heart is urging you to be more generous, like it is for SWU, there is great news!

SWU is pleased to now offer a wider array of gifting options from which to choose when thinking about how to support the Christ-centered work of Southern Wesleyan University. **We invite you to visit our new planned giving website ([myplannedgift.givingplan.net](http://myplannedgift.givingplan.net)) where you will find detailed explanations of several gift planning options.** If you do not have Internet access, please call us toll-free at 855.644.5008 and we'll gladly provide information to you in the manner you prefer.

Friends, on my desk sits a plan for \$35 million worth of advancements and improvements for SWU ready to be brought to life. My question to you today, is what part of SWU's Christ-centered, student-focused, Kingdom glorifying work do you want to support that will positively impact the world?

Gifts of any amount are sincerely appreciated and greatly valued. Literally, every single dollar helps! Thank you in advance for choosing to uplift SWU with your generosity.

**Please send in your tax-deductible gift today in the postage-paid return envelope provided here in the SWU Magazine, or you may give online at [swu.edu/giving](http://swu.edu/giving). Your gift is essential in realizing the blessed and bright future of Southern Wesleyan University.**

With any gift-related questions or for more information, please call our office toll free at 855.644.5008 or email [lmcwherter@swu.edu](mailto:lmcwherter@swu.edu). Thank you for your generosity and for your worthy investment that will positively impact our students and the world, for Christ!

# NICHOLSON-MITCHELL UPDATE

By Dr. Bob Black

The university has built several buildings since its first students attended class in white-clapboard Smith Hall back in October of 1906. Alumni still reminisce about Grimes Hall (1916), the fabled “Ad Building,” which served as the campus landmark for over 50 years. Housing turned the corner with McDonald Hall (1942), they say, and Rickman Library (1975) was the school’s first million-dollar building. Today’s campus footprint on College Hill would certainly amaze those opening-day students of 108 years ago for whom the entire school was contained within four walls.

Few buildings have meant as much to the university and its vision for the future as the new Nicholson-Mitchell Christian Ministry Center — and we don’t even have to “build” this one! The goal is to raise \$1.4 million for the purchase and renovation of the iconic stone church building on our campus, converting it to a state-of-the-art center for ministerial formation.

It’s called a “Center” for a reason. All of the programs of the Division of Religion will be housed there, as will a

number of new outreach ministries. Geographically it’s located at the center of the campus; more importantly, it stands at the center of the university’s mission. You might even call it a command center, to borrow a military term — but the command it will address is the one about making disciples (Matthew 28:19, 20). From this Center will emerge future leaders who will be charged with that sacred mission.

To date almost half of our goal has been contributed or pledged. Half-way is not good enough, though — not with so much at stake for the next generation of Christian Ministry. We can’t afford to fail and need your tax-deductible contribution to ensure the success of this worthy campaign. Thank you for sending your contribution today!

**You can help! See [www.swu.edu/NMCenter](http://www.swu.edu/NMCenter) for details, or call 864-644-5008. The toll free number for more information is 855.644.5008.**



# ALUMNI AWARDS

Southern Wesleyan University honored its outstanding graduates during their annual Alumni Awards Luncheon April 12 on the university's campus in Central.



Recognized were (from left), student-athletes alumni Debbie Holcombe ('87) (Volleyball) and Alicia Pratt Zorn ('95) (Softball); Gareth Lee Cockerill ('66), Alumnus of the Year; Charity Prosser ('11), Professional Excellence, School of Business; Lindsey Torgerson ('09), Young Leader; and Brian Swords ('95), Professional Excellence, School of Education. Not pictured are John ('01) and Joe ('06) Atcheson, who both received awards for Professional Excellence, College of Arts and Sciences; and Uzzie T. Cannon ('94), a student-athlete alumna (Women's Basketball).

## ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR – GARETH COCKERILL

Gareth Lee Cockerill ('66) received an honor unique among Biblical scholars when his commentary on Hebrews joined a celebrated commentary series, which for decades was the work of renowned scholar F. F. Bruce. Additionally, Cockerill contributed to several books, and also published articles and book reviews in publications about Biblical research, interpretation and missiology. He graduated from SWU with a history degree. He served as a missionary to Sierra Leone, West Africa, for three terms alongside his wife Rosa. Cockerill then joined the faculty of Wesley Biblical Seminary in Jackson, Miss., where he currently serves as vice president for academic affairs and professor

of Biblical interpretation and theology.

## PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE: COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES – JOHN ATCHESON, JOE ATCHESON

Brothers John ('01) and Joe ('06) Atcheson both earned their pre-medicine/pre-dentistry degrees at SWU and earned doctor of dental medicine degrees from MUSC. After completing dental school, John worked at Keowee Family Dentistry and Joe worked at Oconee Dental Associates. Joe also practiced dentistry at Eastside Family Dental Care in Anderson. In August, 2012, John and Joe came together and opened their own dental practice in Six Mile. The brothers both serve on the SWU Board of Visitors and have been consistent donors even during the years they were paying to go to medical school.

## PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE: SCHOOL OF BUSINESS CHARITY PROSSER

Charity Prosser ('11) was put in charge of STAND (Stop and Take a New Direction), an innovative drug enforcement program focused on guiding local drug dealers into legitimate work. STAND caught the attention of NBC News, who sent Journalist Lester Holt in 2013 to interview Prosser and her partner for a special edition of Dateline. Currently a sergeant with the department, Prosser enrolled at SWU's Charleston learning center and earned her bachelor of science in management degree. She recalls valuable training that built in her confidence as she put together operations plans and SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) presentations.

## PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE: SCHOOL OF EDUCATION BRIAN SWORDS

Brian Swords ('95), is currently campus director at the Easley Campus of Tri-County Technical College. He also serves as an adjunct professor at SWU, where he teaches education courses at the graduate level. He recently received Tri-County's Presidential Medallion for Staff Excellence and was also elected to the board of the School District of Pickens County. Swords has chaired the Easley Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and is former president of the South Carolina Association of Continuing Education. He also became a member of the Alumni Board and the university's Board of Visitors.

## YOUNG LEADER AWARD – LINDSEY TORGERSON

Lindsey Torgerson ('09) competes internationally as a member of Team USA, having earned a bronze medal Aug. 10 at the International Triathlon Union (ITU) World Championship in Ottawa, Canada. Torgerson also competed in the USA Duathlon National Championship, a qualifier for the 2014 World competition in Spain. While at SWU, she was a member of the 2007 NCCAA

Championship Warriors Women's Basketball Team. Since her graduation from SWU, Torgerson has competed in endurance events, including the 2012 ITU Long Course Duathlon in Switzerland, where she won a silver medal. She is a fitness service manager with Gold's Gym International and recently landed a sponsorship with Dallas-based 2Quick Carbon Technology.

#### **ATHLETICS AWARDS**

SWU Athletics reaffirmed the dedication, accomplishments and passion for three Warriors by rededicating the retirement of their jersey numbers.

#### **Uzzie T. Cannon – Women's Basketball - #32**

An Appalachian State transfer, Cannon became an impact player who was a proficient scorer and rebounder. She led the Warriors to a significant 9-point victory over USC-Upstate, which was then ranked fourth nationally. Cannon finished her career as the all-time leading scorer with 1,453 points and as well as the all-time leading rebounder with 971. She was selected the Palmetto Conference Player of the year in 1992, and in 1993 was selected as the NAIA District 6 player of the year. Cannon was selected second team NCCAA All-American in 1994 and was inducted into the inaugural class of the Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005.

#### **Deborah L. Holcombe – Volleyball - #5**

Deborah Holcombe ('87), a member of both the volleyball and softball teams, led the volleyball team to the NCCAA National Championship tournament in 1985 and 1986 and was selected as a first team NCCAA All-American in both 1985 and 1986. After graduating from SWU, she returned to the university in the mid 1990's as a faculty member and coach of the softball and volleyball teams. In 2005 Holcombe was inducted into the inaugural class of the Athletic Hall of Fame. She was named 2013-14 Teacher of the Year at James F. Byrnes High School, one of the state's largest high schools, where she teaches physical education.

#### **Alicia F. Pratt (Zorn) – Softball - #12**

Alicia F. Pratt Zorn ('95) was already a top-ranked volleyball and softball player when she came to SWU. During her time as a Warrior, she was a setter for the volleyball team, but her area of dominance was in softball. In her freshman year, she threw out 33 of 37 attempted base stealers. Zorn was named as second team NAIA All-American and first team All-American. She was named the NAIA District 6 player of the year in 1992, co-player of the year in 1993 and player of the year in 1994. Zorn was inducted into the inaugural class of the Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005.

## WHY I GIVE

Speaking of his fight against slavery in Congress, John Quincy Adams once said "Duty is ours, results are God's." Duty is almost a foreign word now in our culture, the idea that it is simply right and proper for individuals to give their time, talents, and treasures for no other reason than because they are a human, a leader, or in our case, a Warrior. "It comes with the territory," as the phrase goes. There are many reasons why I give to Southern Wesleyan University, but most of them can be simplified into that one word: Duty.

When I was a student, Southern Wesleyan became the family I desperately needed during my four years. In addition to a transformative, Christ-Centered education, the Lord graciously provided loving mentors and dedicated friends here on College Hill to shape me into the servant leader and lifelong learner I am today. For these gifts I am thankful, and for these gifts, I give. Duty moves me to support the family, the band of Warriors which has given so much to me, simply because it is right, fitting, and proper that I do so.

I also give because I am a leader. As a leader, I consider it my duty to support my alma mater sacrificially. The Lord himself set this standard of servant leadership, the chief duty of the shepherd being that he gives his life for the sheep.

I would like to encourage all of us to ponder our duties, the things we do because they are right, fitting, and proper, and how we might "do our duty," to the Warrior family. By taking it upon ourselves to give sacrificially, we will partner with God in this holy enterprise of creating dedicated scholars and servant leaders who impact the world for Christ. I leave you with a final quote from John Quincy Adams:

"To furnish the means of acquiring knowledge is...the greatest benefit that can be conferred upon mankind. It prolongs life itself and enlarges the sphere of existence."

Ethan J. Cashwell  
SWU Class of 2012

# next weekend's bucket list



**Open to the public • 8 AM - Sunset**

Located on Clayton Street near Highway 93  
at the Central campus

\*Debit/Credit Card Only



# SWU ITALY EXPERIENCE

Southern Wesleyan University students, alumni and guests experienced Italy during a Spring Break trip Feb. 27 through March 9. Highlights of the tour included Pompeii, the Colosseum, the Vatican, Florence and a bike ride through Tuscany that ended at the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Pictured in front of the Pantheon in Rome are Ken Myers (kneeling, center), Southern Wesleyan's Division of Humanities chair and professor of history. Standing behind Myers are, from left, Amy Agosti, Jenn Jacoby, Meagan Williams, Tracy Byrd, Colby Dickard, Drew Welch, Nathan Myers, William Brown, Toby Dukes, Erin Britt, Regina Dukes, Mikkaela Bailey, Corbin Andrews and Breanna Owens. Agosti, Brown and the Dukes are SWU alumni. Not pictured is Prof. Jan Hurndon, art history professor from Southeastern University in Lakeland, Fla.



# ALUMNI NEWS

## 1953, 1976

**01 02 DARL FOWLER** and **SHERRY ALLOWAY**, father/daughter graduates of SWU, also were both judges in North Carolina serving the same seat. Both were honored at the retirement of Judge Alloway, who retired Dec. 31, 2013. Darl and Sherry have been recognized as the only father/daughter to serve the state of North Carolina. Many fathers and sons have been noted in the field of law; however, they are the only father and daughter to hold the highest seats in the land of law.

## 1956

**CHARLES "SONNY" LUSK** of Kennesaw, Ga., was inducted into the Georgia Bowling Hall of Fame in Columbus on Aug. 3, 2013. Sonny has been bowling for 54 years and has served in various capacities with the local and state associations. He is a certified coach, registered volunteer, certified lane inspector and served on the United States Bowling Congress Lane certification advisory committee.

## 1974

**VERA JOHNSON LOWE** of Nicholasville, Ky., was recently appointed by Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear to the Education Commission of the States to serve at the pleasure of the governor. Lowe is the dean of the College of Education at Eastern Kentucky University. The Education Commission of the States (ECS) is an interstate compact created in 1965 to improve public education by facilitating the exchange of information, ideas, and experiences among state policymakers and education leaders.

## 1982

**03 CAROL BURDETTE**, a psychology graduate and chief professional officer for United Way of Anderson County, was named the chair of Ten at the Top (TATT), a non-profit organization created to foster collaboration and planning in South Carolina's Upstate region. She will serve as the organization's chair for the next two years. Burdette served nine years as Pendleton's mayor and also served on the town council.

**DEBBIE HOLCOMBE**, a physical education teacher, was named 2013-14 Teacher of the Year at James F. Byrnes High School. Holcombe is an education graduate and is an adjunct professor for Southern Wesleyan's School of Education. She says the honor is "a testament to the quality teacher education program at SWU." Located in Spartanburg District 5, Byrnes is one of the largest high schools in South Carolina.

## 1983

**CURTIS MORGAN** graduated as a History/English double major. His major professor was Dr. Louis P. Towles. For his senior thesis, Morgan wrote about the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, a Revolutionary War battle in North Carolina. Morgan received a MA in History in 1985, taught at SWU (CWC) as a history instructor in 1985-86, married Katie Powell ('86) and went to work for the federal government. He returned to school in 1992, earned a Ph.D. in Modern European History from USC in 1998, and taught at Midlands Tech in Columbia. He learned that a Charleston area publisher was looking for someone to do a book about



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Gen. Nathanael Greene (general at Guilford Courthouse). While working on that, he completed several publications.

## 1986

**04 CURT LEE (JR.)** was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Middlesex University London in collaboration with London School of Theology. His thesis is titled, “The Symbolism of Holiness: A Hermeneutic through the Philosophical Anthropology of Paul Ricoeur.” Lee is assistant professor of religion and philosophy at Lindsey Wilson College in Columbia, Ky.

## 1994

**DERRICK LEMONS**, a religion graduate, recently was recognized as an outstanding professor by the Student Government Association at the University of Georgia, where he is assistant professor of religion. As a cultural anthropologist, Lemons’ teaching and research are guided by his interest in how religious subcultures intentionally innovate and influence greater society.

## 1995

**05 BRIAN SWORDS**, a business graduate from Liberty, SC, member of the Board of Visitors and director of Tri-County Technical College’s Easley Campus and QuickJobs Training Centers, was named Administrator of the Year at the February meeting of the S.C. Technical Education Association (SCTEA).

## 1996, 2005

**06 AMY CHAMBERS** was united in marriage to Jay Littleton March 21 at the S.C. Botanical Gardens in Clemson. Amy is assistant registrar (Academic Records)

and has been a SWU employee since 1998. She is also a double major, with undergraduate degrees in music and English.

## 1992, 1999

**JAMES D. HAGER II** serves as President/CEO of the Goshen Initiative, Inc., parent nonprofit corporation of the Goshen Community in Promised Land, S.C., which has established the community’s mother house and the Goshen Place Abbey at Cedar Hill Farm, a place of refuge, rest, renewal and restoration for weary, worn, weak and wounded Christians, veterans, clergy, and caregivers. He graduated from SWU with a human resources degree and a master of ministry degree.

## 2000

**ALEX BAXTER** is currently CEO of RGM Group, a digital media company in Santa Monica, Calif. Baxter was a triple major in business administration, history and social studies. He also minored in Internet computing.

## 2003

**MARK CAMPBELL**, who graduated from the Business program at Charleston, recently earned his Ph.D. in Organization and Management from Capella University. Mark is retired from CSX Transportation Railroad Education and Development Institute in Atlanta.

**ALLEN GENITSKI** is the management department program director at Miller Motte Technical College. He graduated with a BSM in 2003 and an MED in 2009.

Isabel Grey Petersen was born to **JUSTIN AND BETH IRVINE PETERSEN** Jan. 31, weighing 6 lbs. and measuring 18.5 inches.



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**CAMILO RODRIGUEZ** was named 2013 Men's Soccer Coach of the year by the National Christian Collegiate Athletic Association (NCCAA).

## 2004

**RUPAL SHAH** returned to Tanzania to work at a rural Tuberculosis Hospital in Kibong'oto, near her hometown of Moshi for three months. Moshi is home for three generations of Shah's family. On April 21, Shah finished the 2014 Boston Marathon. She competed in 2013, but because of the tragic bombings, was unable to finish.

## 2005

**07** Camden Brice Bickel was born Nov. 15, 2013, to **BRITTANY WILSON BICKEL** ('06) and **BRICE BICKEL** ('06). Camden is pictured with his older sister, Sylar. Brittany is administrative assistant to the vice president for enrollment management and Brice is the interim regional director at SWU's Greenville education center.

**08** **JONATHAN BRADY** ('05) and **ASHLEY MORGAN** ('13) married Nov. 23, 2013 at Old Stone Church in Clemson, S.C.

**ASHLEE HOUSER TIETJE**, a biology graduate, co-authored a manuscript titled "MULTIE/mIL-12: A Novel Bifunctional Protein for Natural Killer Cell Activation," accepted for publication in the journal Gene Therapy.

## 2007

**09** James Camden Lewis born on Nov. 21, 2013 to alumnus **JAMES BRANDON** and Olivia Lewis, pastor of Mt. Airy, N.C., Wesleyan church. Proud grandparents are Rev. Daryl and Jeanie Lewis, pastors of Faith Wesleyan, Greensboro, N.C. He is pictured with his sister, Eva.

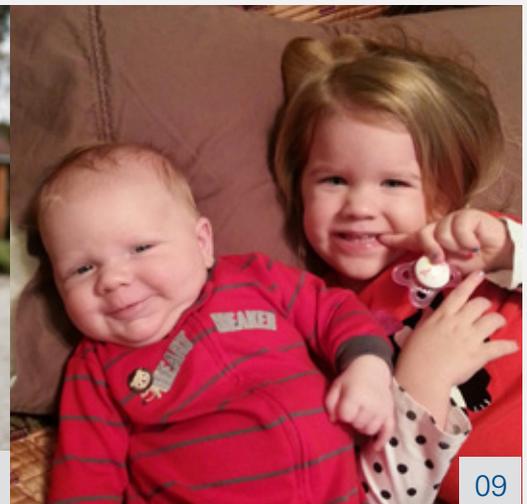
**DAVID PAYNE**, boys' and girls' cross country/track and field coach in Greenwood District 50, was recently named Teacher of the Year for 2013-14. Payne teaches math at Emerald High School in Greenwood and is head coach for the cross country and track and field teams. He is also faculty sponsor for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Payne is in his seventh year of teaching. Payne is among several in his family who are SWU graduates. His sister, Natalie Cloninger, father, Jonathan Payne and his grandparents, Edward and Evelyn Payne, are all graduates.



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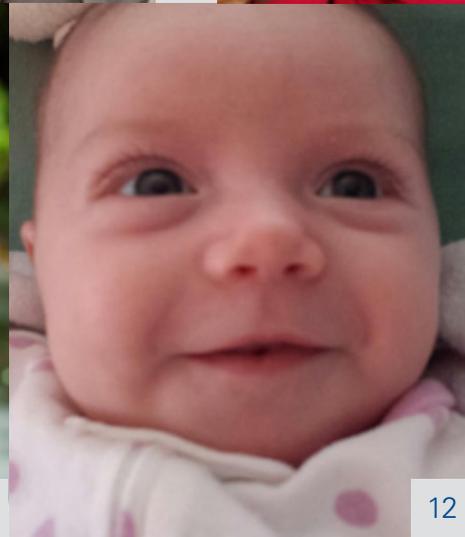
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**RAQUEL WELSH SERGO** is now Basketball Coach at Greens Farms Academy. Raquel lives in Rowayton, Ct.

## 2008

**10 DAVID** and **DETRA CHAPPELL-FIPPS**, were united in marriage on June 16, 2012.

**DETRA FIPPS** (Dee Chappell), an English education graduate, was named Teacher of the Year. She is a sixth-grade teacher and co-chair of the Language Arts Dept. at Nolan Middle School in Bradenton, Fla., located in the Manatee County School District.

## 2009

Shelby Leigh Gareri was born Dec. 6, 2013 to **COREY** and **MICHELLE HAYES** Gareri of Pickens, S.C., are the proud parents of a baby girl.

**DANA JACKSON**, a North Augusta M.Ed graduate, was named Teacher of the Year at Windsor Spring Elementary School in Augusta.

**KIMBERLY KLEMM**, a North Augusta business graduate, released her second book and also works as a freelance Technical Writer and Contractor. She is employed at Assurant Specialty Property.

**BYRON WIMPHRIE**, a physical education graduate, was named Lakeside Middle School Teacher of the Year. In addition to being physical education teacher at Lakeside, he is an associate men's basketball coach for the Warriors. He is also the son of Charles Wimphrie, SWU head men's basketball coach.

## 2010

**11 MATTHEW DAVID BEASLEY** and Kelby Mikal Souza were united in marriage on June 22, 2013 at The Dawson Estate in Nu'uanu, Hawaii. They are currently living in Taylors, S.C.

**DARLISSIA WISE-PARKER** is the new Sumter Baptist YWA Missionary Ministry President. After completing her internship in Sumter School District, she graduated in May 2014 with an Educational Specialist degree from South Carolina State University.

**12** Amelia Grace Rampey was born Jan. 4, 2014 to **AARON** and **LIZ RAMPEY** in Huntersville, N.C., weighing 9 lb. 7 oz., and measuring almost 22 inches long. She joins her brother, Ike, and sisters, Marlowe and Naomi. Amelia is the granddaughter of Rev. Marshall "Buddy" ('69) and Joan Rampey ('69). Great grandparents are Rev. W. Marshall ('51) and Ruth ('51) Rampey.

**13** Noah Marshall Smith was born on Oct. 17, 2013 to **EDDIE** and **MARTHA-MARIE (PULLIAM) SMITH**. Eddie, who worked in the SWU Admissions Department, is currently a bi-vocational co-pastor at Freedom Journey in the N.C. East District of The Wesleyan Church. Martha-Marie is a 2001 SWU graduate.

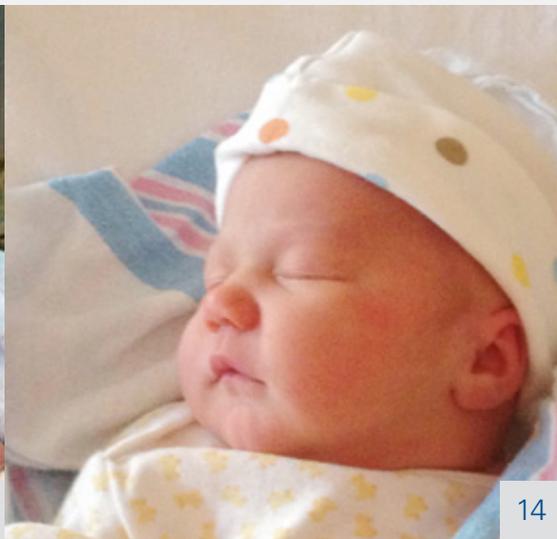
**14** Emery Suzanne Tietje was born Jan. 21 to **JOSH** and **JOYMEDDERS TIETJE**. Grandparents are Rev. and Mrs. Bill Tietje, and Sam ('82) and Suzanne ('84) Medders. Great-grandparents are Rev. and Mrs. O. D. Emory, and Dr. James ('59) and Barbara ('76) Bross. Four of these are pastors or former pastors in The Wesleyan Church, one is a former general superintendent, two are retired SWU professors and nearly all are alumni of Southern Wesleyan University.

## 2010, 2012

**15 ERIC CROMER**, left, and **MARK SEARS** took part in the White Coat ceremony in October at Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) in Spartanburg. Both are pre-medicine graduates. Sears is the son of Bob Sears, director of SWU's Rickman Library; and Roberta Sears, administrative assistant at the SWU School of Education. The White Coat ceremony is held at more



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than 100 medical schools nationwide and emphasizes the importance of both scientific excellence and compassionate care for patients.

## 2011

**REGINA BOLDING**, assistant registrar at SWU and MBA graduate, married David Harned Sept. 28, 2013.

**16 THOMAS CRANE** celebrated with his wife, Judy, their thirtieth wedding anniversary March 3 in Wilmington, N.C. While there, they made donations to a company that supports and cares for rescued horses, and donations to the preservation of the Battleship USS North Carolina. They also went to a beach near Wilmington where they walked hand-in-hand during a nice sunny day. Thomas has an ASBA ('09) and a BSBA ('11) from SWU.

**DAVID FIPPS**, is in his second year of medical school at the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Bradenton, Fla., where he and his wife Detra (Chappell) currently reside. David went on a mission trip this past summer, traveling to Cartagena and Baranquilla, Colombia, where he provided treatment to the medically underserved villages of the area. He also aided surrounding clinics and hospitals in the city. This mission trip was run by a

Christian medical organization, allowing him to advance his medical skills and knowledge, but also as a witness to those he interacted with on the trip.

**JACKIE TUBB**, a media communication graduate, accepted a promotion with New York Life and is now internal life product consultant at their Sleepyhollow location in New York. She previously worked for the company as an agent. She also worked at radio station B93.7 as a weekend host.

## 2012

**HANNAH CHRISTINE JONES** and Kurtis Michael Sandberg were married Oct. 12, 2013 at the Hilton of Greenville. She is a media communication graduate and is employed as a human resources assistant with Southern Management Corporation in Greenville.

SWU pre-medicine graduate **TYLER MCGRADY** contributed to an article in Lung Health Professional magazine, published by the COPD Foundation. The article is about COPD Foundation's partnership with WebMD. McGrady is a MPH student at the University of Kentucky College of Public Health.

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**COURTNEY SELLERS**, a forensic science/biology/chemistry graduate, is the new forensic chemist for Horry County Police Dept.

**STEPHANIE SESTITO**, a biology graduate, attended a Stomping Out Malaria in Africa Bootcamp in Senegal. Sestito, who is stationed in Namibia, has been serving in the Peace Corps since her graduation.

## 2013

**FELICIA GEORGE**, a Columbia business student, recently was named as a liaison for Behavioral Health at the S.C. Department of Health and Human Services. She was also invited by SWU's Alumni Association to serve as an alumni board member representing the Columbia area. George is provisionally accepted into the master of health administration program at Webster University and slated to begin Jan. 2014.

**WILL HENDERSON**, a 2013 religion graduate, just launched a new social network, [conversationsofgrace.com](http://conversationsofgrace.com), focused on getting stories told of people experiencing or hearing the love of Christ.

**ERIN KING**, a biology graduate, was accepted into the College of Pharmacy at Wingate University.

**NIKOLA LAMBIC**, a chemistry graduate, recently joined the research group in the Inorganic Chemistry Division at N.C. State. The group's research is devoted to the study of catalysis using rare heavy metals. He also teaches general chemistry classes.

**RASHEEM L. NELOMS**, an education graduate (MEDAS), was nominated teacher of the year at Military Magnet Academy, located in Charleston County School District.

## EMPLOYEE NEWS

Archer Price was born Dec. 3 to **CODY** and **SHEILA PRICE**, weighing 5 lbs. 2 oz. and measuring 18 1/2 in. The Prices served as residence directors for the Eagle's Rest. Additionally, Cody was site assistant at the Greenville learning center and Sheila was a graphic designer.

## IN MEMORIAM

### 1949

**Loney May Cowart**, of Irmo, S.C., passed away March 12, 2014.

### 1953

**DOUGLAS HAMES**, of Forest City, N.C., passed away Aug. 29, 2013.

**VIRGINIA C. SIMPSON**, of Iva, S.C., passed away in Feb. 2013. She was a graduate of the high school when it was in existence on the Central campus.

**FRANCIS LOMAX ROSE**, of Thomasville, N.C., passed away Feb. 21, 2014.

**JAMES A. ROWE**, of Terre Haute, Ind., passed away in 2003. He was a graduate of the high school when it was in existence on the Central campus.

### 2011

**MADISON "TREY" MEADOWS**, a Greenville BSBA graduate, died Feb. 19. He was awaiting a heart and kidney transplant at the time of his death. Meadows was employed by Charter Communications in Simpsonville.

### 1998, 2006

**MARLA THOMAS RHOADS**, an education graduate, died Dec. 26. She was a Kindergarten teacher at Clemson Elementary and was a member of Trinity Wesleyan Church. While working on her first degree, she was employed at SWU.

### STUDENT

**OSCAR "DEACON" BROWN**, a student in the master of education in administration and supervision program at the Greenville learning center, passed away unexpectedly Dec. 10 while with his students and fellow staff at Mabry Junior High School in Inman.

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