

Southern Wesleyan University

FOCUS



SUMMER 2010

Waiting ... with expectation

**By David J. Spittal, president
Southern Wesleyan University**

Whether we are stopped in traffic, in line at the supermarket or anticipating an important package to be delivered, few of us ever like to wait. When our busy lives are combined with pressing commitments, waiting on anything becomes an unwelcome interruption. My adult children still complain about the numerous times I drove on past an ice cream store on a hot July day, just because the lines were too long. There is something about waiting, on anything, that is not natural to our human nature.

God's word has much to say about waiting on the Lord, and some may think that this implies that we can sit back, relax and take life easy while God busily goes about doing his work. God has promised that we can find rest in him but not the type of rest that seeks a recliner and leans back in repose. Instead, he calls us to wait by leaning forward,

pressing on eagerly in anticipation of his promised blessings. Psalm 5:3 says "I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation." God has encouraged us to wait on him, but it is a waiting that leans forward with eagerness and great expectations.

The life of a farmer provides us with numerous examples for deep spiritual truths. No farmer would ever plant a single seed unless there was an eager anticipation and the prospect of a harvest. To experience the crop he planted, he must wait with patience for the harvest and, at the same time, he must cultivate, irrigate and prepare for what is to come. The farmer is waiting on the harvest, but he does so with preparedness and an awareness of what is promised.

Southern Wesleyan University exists to plant seeds of God's possibilities in the lives of men and women. Our mission calls us to make active preparation by nurturing and encouraging our students as they seek and discover



Dr. David Spittal

God's perfect plan for their lives. We are to be actively engaged in the fulfillment of this, our mission, and we do so in eager anticipation as a new generation of leaders rises to respond to God's call.

Although we rarely seek to wait anywhere and try our best to avoid long lines, in this case, we do want to be found eagerly waiting on the Lord in the lines of those who desire to follow God. We wait with them eagerly, with active anticipation and with great expectations.

Southern Wesleyan University

FOCUS

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Pirates capture university audiences

Southern Wesleyan University presented a hilarious evening with Gilbert and Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance" in March at Folger Fine Arts Auditorium on the university's campus in Central. "Pirates of Penzance" follows the adventures of Frederick as he makes plans with the beautiful Mabel, only to discover that he must remain a pirate apprentice some 60 years past his 21st birthday. Directed by Dr. Melanie Rowell, professor of music, "Pirates of Penzance" was full of romance, as well as swashbuckling fun.

On the cover The theme for this issue of Focus magazine is "Expecting great things." Whether it's our traditional students who are in the morning of their lives or adult students who seek a new dawn for their careers, we ask God to direct our lives. We are all in expectation of what God has planned for us. The scripture that inspired this theme is Psalm 5:3, "In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation." Pictured is Travis Hayes of Salisbury, N.C., a Christian ministry major at Southern Wesleyan.

SWU students visit legislators

Students from Southern Wesleyan University traveled to Columbia, S.C., to thank their legislators on April 14. The students expressed their gratitude to the S.C. General Assembly for the S.C. Higher Education Tuition Grants Program. South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, a nonprofit organization, sponsored the event. Southern Wesleyan University students participating were, from left, Tina Collins, a specialized major from Liberty, S.C.; Jeremiah Crosby, a music major from Anderson, S.C.; Moriah Sears, a psychology and English major from Elgin, S.C.; Nadine Carmon, a management major from North Charleston, S.C.; and Len Marshall, a management major from Walterboro, S.C. The students toured the State House and watched the state House of Representatives in action.



Board of Visitors gathers for updates, brainstorming

Southern Wesleyan University welcomed its board of visitors to its campus in Central, S.C., March 25.

Members received an update on the university from its president Dr. David Spittal, as well as updates on marketing and an opportunity

to share ideas for future improvements.

The board of visitors is a group of successful men and women, including university alumni and friends, who are committed to the growth and development of

Southern Wesleyan and its mission.

The next meeting for this board is scheduled for Sept. 23.

For details on board of visitors membership, call Rev. Jim Wiggins at (864) 644-5013.



A note about the chapel organ fund

Southern Wesleyan University's chapel organ fund is in progress, offering university friends a chance to add their support to purchase an organ for Newton Hobson Chapel. This project has been made possible through a generous gift from Dr. and Mrs. Lowell Jennings towards the purchase of a custom Zimmer organ.

So far, the university has received more than \$46,475. The goal remains to gather approximately \$28,525 more to complete the project.

The organ will provide the university chapel with an appropriate instrument for major events, as well as for use in campus worship. The Zimmer Organ Company has provided a generous discount for the construction of this custom instrument.

For details, contact Vice President for Development Jim Wiggins at (864) 644-5013 or jwiggins@swu.edu or use the envelope enclosed in this magazine to send your gift. Please designate your gift to the SWU Chapel Organ Fund. Gifts to this project may also be made as memorials or honorariums to family and friends.

Mark your calendar for the P.B. Wood golf tournament

Southern Wesleyan University's 2010 P. B. Wood Golf Tournament will be teeing off on Monday, October 18, 2010, at Pickens Country Club.

This captain's choice tournament has slots for 36 four-man teams. The spaces go fast, so please sign up quickly if you wish to participate. The fee is \$400 for a team or \$100 per player. Individual players are welcome to sign up and will be placed with a team. This fee covers greens fees, cart fees, meals and other prizes.



There are several opportunities to sponsor the tournament that will allow for name recognition, as well as opportunities to network throughout the day. Sponsorships start at \$100 for a tee sponsor and \$250 for a hole sponsor. These receive a sign at either the tee or the hole.

Corporate sponsorships are \$1,000 and co-sponsorships are \$2,500. These levels allow you to have the name of your choice on a banner and your name listed in the following issue of Focus magazine.

Fantastic prizes will be awarded to teams that place first through third, and participants can take part in a hole-in-one contest as well.

A post-tournament meal will be provided by The Parkette of Pickens. Space is limited in this captain's choice tournament, so please contact Erin Fellers at 864-644-5006 or efellers@swu.edu.

Promise Fund aims high to reach goal

Southern Wesleyan University's Promise Fund, which supports student scholarships and academic programs, is attempting to reach the goal of \$450,000 this fiscal year. The goal is very challenging, but SWU's Development Department believes that with the help of friends and alumni, the goal can be met by June 30, 2010.

< Total: \$281,701

The university still needs \$168,299 by June 30 to reach the goal for this year. With continued support from alumni and friends, Southern Wesleyan can reach this target.

Every gift is important and will help the university to change the lives of students. The students at SWU rely on these donations to help bridge the gap between what they can afford to pay and what tuition actually costs.

If you are interested in supporting the Promise Fund, you can send your donation by using the envelope enclosed in this issue of Focus magazine. You may also contact Mary Costello at (864) 644-5004 or mcostello@swu.edu.

Faculty/Staff: \$22,919
**Corporations/
Businesses:** \$32,280
Alumni: \$66,909
Friends: \$54,700
**Churches/
Organizations:** \$23,574
Trustees: \$66,110
Foundation: \$600
Matching Gifts: \$10,100

Professor to conduct Anderson chorale

The Greater Anderson Musical Arts Consortium has chosen Dr. Don Campbell to serve as conductor for the GAMAC Chorale.

This decision comes after a 10-month search in which three candidates were chosen as finalists to conduct the ensemble during the 2009-2010 concert season by an ad hoc search committee of the GAMAC Board of Directors. Comprised of members of the GAMAC Board, Chorale, Orchestra and community at large, the committee's decision to hire Campbell was unanimous.

Dr. Campbell serves as professor of music and director of choral activities at Southern Wesleyan University in Central, S.C., as well as director of music at Trinity United Methodist Church in Anderson, S.C. He received a bachelor of arts degree in music education from California State University, Fullerton; a master of arts degree in choral conducting from California State University, Fresno; and his doctor of musical arts degree in choral conducting from Arizona State University.

In demand as a choral clinician, Dr. Campbell has traveled to 14 states and Canada to conduct choirs and festival choruses and present choral clinics. His choirs have performed at state conventions of the American Choral Directors Association and Music Educators National Conference. In addition to the many eclectic programs he has directed in more than 30 years of work, he has conducted much of the great choral repertoire. He is the recipient of the first Ken Dickens Award for Excellence in Teaching for 2003 and Southern Wesleyan University's Faculty Member of the Year for 2003-2004.

"We are very fortunate to have found Don," said GAMAC Executive Director Dana Gencarelli. "His rapport with the Chorale was evident from his first moments at the podium during rehearsal. In addition to being a superb musician, he's a dynamic leader whose enthusiasm for the music is inspiring."

Renamed the GAMAC Chorale in 1990, the ensemble was founded in 1970. The membership includes more than 80 talented avocational singers and community professional artists and is managed



Dr. Don Campbell

by the GAMAC organization. The Chorale performs three concerts annually with a professional orchestra and has performed much of the great choral/symphonic literature. Membership is by audition and is open to all talented singers regardless of race, color, religion or creed. For details on auditions or performances, please contact the GAMAC office at (864) 231-6147.



Networking, etiquette on menu for students

Students learned how to present themselves to prospective employers during the third annual Etiquette Dinner and Networking Session, which took place April 8 at Founders' Hall on the campus of Southern Wesleyan University in Central. Pictured during the networking session, from left, is Dr. David Spittal, Southern Wesleyan University president, speaking with students Aramus Smith and Quinton Cannon. Smith is a senior from Clemson, S.C., majoring in sport management and Cannon is a junior psychology major from Easley, S.C.

SWU offers tips to job seekers

Yvonne Duckett, director of career services at Southern Wesleyan University, shared insights about what recruiters are looking for in job candidates during a free career seminar April 23 at the university's Greenville location off Pelham Road near Interstate 385. The public workshop covered tips for job seekers, including how to write an effective résumé, how to stand out in a job interview and ways that social networking can impact job hunters in a connected society. A similar workshop was held in North Augusta on Feb. 20. For details on degrees offered by Southern Wesleyan University in Central, Greenville, Charleston, Columbia, North Augusta, Spartanburg or Greenwood, go to www.swu.edu/ags.



University joins Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce

Dr. David Spittal, president of Southern Wesleyan University, right, greets David Maybank III, board chairman of the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce. The university is pleased to network with this outstanding group of business leaders and is honored to serve on the chamber's Board of Advisors/Lead Investors. Southern Wesleyan University is located on Faber Place Drive, just off Interstate 526 in North Charleston. The university has offered classes in Charleston for more than 20 years.

For more information about Southern Wesleyan University, visit www.swu.edu



Regional director makes history through

Sometimes history repeats itself – in a good way.

That's what happened when Dr. Russ Merritt married his wife, Elizabeth, in the sanctuary at First Baptist Church in North Augusta 17 years ago. It was the same sanctuary in which her parents were married and, today, it is the church Russ and Elizabeth Merritt attend with their children, ages 11, 9 and 5.

The regional director for Southern Wesleyan University's location in North Augusta, Dr. Merritt enjoys living in his wife's hometown and providing education and community resources for North Augusta.

"Southern Wesleyan has more than 100 years of rich history behind its education, and has offered adult education for more than 25 years in locations across South Carolina," he said.

History is Dr. Merritt's passion and was his inspiration to become a teacher and then an education administrator.

A Greenville native, Dr. Merritt earned a

bachelor's degree in history from Furman University, a master's degree in American history and his doctorate in education from the University of South Carolina.

"I love to see students realize that learning is interesting and they can really do it," Dr. Merritt said.

He taught a broad range of history classes in public and private schools, including Native American History, World History, European History, African-American History and U.S. History. Dr. Merritt has also held many administrative positions in education. In his current leadership role, Dr. Merritt is proud of the education the university offers.

"Southern Wesleyan University expands people's minds – we expand their perspectives about the world. We're about more than just job skills. Southern Wesleyan offers education, not just job training," Dr. Merritt said. "We offer a sense of how God has worked in the world over the course of history, a sense of art and culture. To me these are the hallmarks of an educated person. An education like this leads to a better life. Southern Wesleyan improves minds."

In addition to exposing students to well-rounded courses, students are given practical training they can put to use in their careers, all with a Christian perspective.

"Southern Wesleyan isn't an easy university. Our programs take a significant amount of work, but they are organized in a manageable format. But it's fulfilling and students are better able to understand God and his world."

Southern Wesleyan's North Augusta location off Martintown Road offers

Dr. Russ Merritt

High lives of students

the following degrees: Associate of Science in Business, Bachelor of Science in Management, Master of Business Administration, Master of Education and Master of Science in Management.

The university offers courses designed for working adults. Classes meet one night each week, with flexible study group and homework times. Most degrees can be completed in 1 1/2 to 2 years.

Merritt believes in the university's involvement in the North Augusta community and hosted a free public seminar on job-seeking skills Feb. 20. The event provided information to community members about job searching, interviewing skills and how to stand out in a large field of job candidates.

"I would like for Southern Wesleyan University to be viewed as a contributor to the North Augusta community and a place where professionals of all types choose to enhance their skills, whether they're teachers or business people. I'd like to see us continue to add value to the community through things like our recent free resume workshop," he said. "We also had a North Augusta Chamber of Commerce seminar on customer service here recently and provided free meeting space for the group. That's another example of Southern Wesleyan adding our resources to the community."

Currently, there are about 400 students earning degrees at the university's North Augusta location and about 1,000 students have earned degrees after taking classes in North Augusta.

Most students at the university's North Augusta location are



Dr. Russ Merritt outside Southern Wesleyan University in North Augusta, S.C.

members of the business community or are teachers, Dr. Merritt said.

"We have lots of students who are employees at Club Car or E-Z-GO, since both golf cart manufacturers are headquartered in nearby Augusta, Ga. In fact, most golf carts are made right here in our area," he said. "Our students usually range in age from 20 to 65, most have children and we have a number of military veterans."

While history is fascinating to Dr. Merritt, building a better future for his students is his daily inspiration.

"Our students are hard-working and committed to finding time to improve their lives, in spite of their time restraints and tuition challenges in this tough economy," Dr. Merritt said. "Tuition dollars are really an investment in your future."

It's natural to be fearful about coming back to school, but the need to stand out from the crowd in a high unemployment job market is now greater than ever. It can lead to something better down the road."

And Southern Wesleyan University's education with a Christian perspective means students are given spiritual support and guidance as they pursue their degrees.

I think it's always a great joy to do God's work. You do feel like you're part of God's plan on Earth.

Southern Wesleyan University offers classes across South Carolina – at the main location in Central, as well as in Greenville, Columbia, Charleston, North Augusta, Spartanburg and Greenwood. For details, go to swu.edu.

Tour the Holy Land with Dr. Jim Bross

Ten-day Holy Land tour

Nov. 29 - Dec. 8, 2010

Host: Dr. Jim Bross, professor emeritus of religion and SWU graduate ('59).

Journey to the Holy Land with Dr. Jim Bross. Expect a spiritual experience of a lifetime ... walk where Jesus walked ... where the Bible comes alive ... cruise the Sea of Galilee ... climb the Mount of Olives and view the Old City of Jerusalem ... visit Tabgha, scene of the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes ... the Mount of Beatitudes, site of the Sermon on the Mount and where Jesus chose his Twelve Apostles ... walk the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre ... stroll in the Garden of Gethsemane ... visit Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity.

Flight from Charlotte - \$2,499 plus taxes and fees of about \$500.

For details, contact Dr. Jim Bross, (864) 639-6390 or e-mail jbross@swu.edu or go to swu.edu/holyland.



DAY 1: Flight across the Atlantic	DAY 2: Arrive in the Holy Land	DAY 3: Caesarea/ Haifa/ Tiberias	DAY 4: Tiberias	DAY 5: Tiberias/ Cana/ Nazareth/ Jerusalem	DAY 6: Jerusalem	DAY 7: Jerusalem	DAY 8: Jerusalem/ Bethany/ Dead Sea/ Jericho	DAY 9: Jerusalem/ Free Day	DAY 10: Jerusalem/ USA
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Sports superstars walk red carpet at SWU

The Southern Wesleyan University Athletic Department celebrated the 2010 SWUPY Awards on April 26 in the Newton Hobson Chapel and Fine Arts Center.

The annual athletic awards event, now in its fourth year of existence, is modeled after formal award ceremonies such as the ESPY's, Academy Awards and Grammys. Guests arrived at the ceremony in semi-formal attire and entered the auditorium by walking on a red carpet. Once the ceremony kicked off, it was an evening filled with live entertainment, video skits, a lot of laughs, and the presentation of individual and team awards.

"It was a great evening of celebration as we brought the year of athletics to a close," Director of

Athletics Chris Williams said. "It's a unique awards ceremony that not many schools our size are able to pull off. It's one of the few times during the year we gather together as the entire athletic department and it is fun to see everyone one last time before we say goodbye to our graduating seniors."

Winners are presented with a specially designed acrylic, arrowhead-shaped award and all seniors who have participated in athletics at SWU for at least two years are given a watch with an imprint of Southern Wesleyan Athletics.

Check out swuathletics.com for more information on the SWUPYs and how to view and purchase photos from the event.



Individual Awards

Meg Donaldson, *Women's Cross Country*
Female Performance of the Year

Dr. Don Wood
Dr. C. Keith Connor Warrior Spirit Award

Jessica Whitfield, *Volleyball*
Courage Award

Lindsey Torgerson, *Volleyball*
Ms. Warrior

Nikola Lambic, *Men's Basketball*
Male Newcomer of the Year

Joshua Ivy, *Golf*
Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year

Kesha Smith, *Women's Basketball*
Female Athlete of the Year

Nick Lagroone, *Men's Basketball*
Male Performance of the Year

Daniel Furr, *Men's Cross Country*
Mr. Warrior

Camilo Rodriguez, *Men's Soccer*
Coach of the Year

Tish Winchester, *Softball*
Female Newcomer of the Year

Jackie Tubb, *Women's Soccer*
Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year

Nick Lagroone, *Men's Basketball*
Male Athlete of the Year

Amanda Zephyer
Fan of the Year

Team Awards

Men's Soccer
Game of the Year

Golf
Academic Team Award

Women's Soccer
Team of the Year

Southern Wesleyan Alumni Association salutes 20

Each year, Southern Wesleyan University's Alumni Association grants special awards to encourage and recognize alumni in their efforts to advance in their occupation and relationship with Christ.

These awards honor alumni who embody Christian values and who strive to become the person Christ intended them to be in their work and personal life. The following alumni received 2010 awards at a ceremony at the university in Central, S.C., on April 17.

Greg Edmonds Young Leader Award

Greg Edmonds, a 1997 graduate of SWU with a major in religion, has become known as a world changer. Edmonds helped with disaster relief after Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Ike, going twice to Bayou La Batre, six times to New Orleans and twice to help in Texas. When the floods came, he was ready and willing to go to Iowa and helped in Atlanta when the city was under water. Edmonds took his compassion to other parts of the world where he provided hands-on assistance in Nicaragua, Puerto Rico and, most recently, Haiti.

His leadership has been witnessed by the local church and the S.C. District of The Wesleyan Church in roles as youth leader, assistant pastor, member of the district board of administration and missions coordinator for short-term trips. He has been showcased on a local television talk show, where he shared his passion for helping the Haitian people.

Recently appointed by Gloral Partners as missionaries, he and his wife, Heidi, will take their two children for an extended call to Haiti, where he will oversee the building of a new hospital with a grant that has been secured from the United Kingdom.

Rupal Shah Young Leader Award

Rupal Shah grew up in Tanzania in East Africa in a small town at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro. Her family immigrated to the United States and moved to Clemson, S.C., in 1999. She graduated from Southern Wesleyan in 2004 with a B.S. in biology and B.A. in chemistry and earned her master's degree at Clemson University. She is now at Harvard University's School of Public Health in Boston, Mass. She is in the Immunology and Infectious Diseases Department,

where she works as a research assistant in the Tuberculosis Lab. She is conducting experiments on mycobacterium, studying the antibiotic resistance patterns within various strains. As part of this research, she has traveled to South Africa, where she has learned more about the realities of tuberculosis and its devastating effects on people. She will be traveling back to South Africa later this year to conduct tuberculosis research there.

Shah plans to be in medical school by fall of 2012 and move toward a specialty in infectious diseases, rural medicine and global health.

John Benson Professional Excellence Award School of Business

John Benson's educational journey has carried him through the U.S. Military Academy, where he earned a bachelor's degree in general engineering. He attended Armed Forces Staff College, preparing him as a Joint Staff Officer; U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, where he earned Engineering Test Pilot; Defense Systems Management College, where he advanced in Program Management; and Southern Wesleyan University, where he earned his master's degree in management.

Benson has extensive supervisory experience at Tri-County Technical College, the military and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Major areas of experience include providing relevant, effective and affordable training for local businesses, industries and individuals desiring occupational advancement; directing exploratory and advanced development aviation research programs; performing engineering flight tests of aircraft and subsystems; and establishing effective personnel training and development programs.

For 12 years he was director of the World Class Training Center at Tri-County Technical College. He served two years as commander/director of Aviation Applied Technology Directorate; four years as rotorcraft technology manager in the Office of Aeronautics and Space Technology, NASA; three years as an engineering test pilot, U.S. Aviation Engineering Flight Activity, Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.; and for 26 years, he served as commander and staff officer in a variety of military units.

Benson and his wife Nancy have two children and five grandchildren. John serves the local church as a Sunday school teacher and Deacon. He is active in Gideon's International, Pendleton Camp.

Charles Tegen Professional Excellence School of Business

Charles Tegen graduated from Southern Wesleyan University in 1974 with a degree in accounting. He began his professional career as an auditor at a CPA firm in Anderson, S.C. In 1979, he was hired at Clemson University. He started out as an auditor, progressing soon to director of financial information and reporting for seven years, then director of accounting for three years, becoming university comptroller from 1991 to the present. As a licensed certified public accountant and well-respected professional, he holds professional licenses and membership in six prestigious organizations and associations. He is currently serving as president of the Southern Association of College and University Business Officers, serving more than 800 higher education institutions from 14 states. He also serves on the board of directors for the National Association of College and University Business Officers. He has served on two National Department of Education federal technical review panels to examine and recommend higher education federal financial reporting practices.

Tegen has served at local, district and general church levels. S.C. District Superintendent Buddy Rampey said that Tegen is a loyal churchman who possesses a kingdom vision, heart and wisdom that is widely respected. Tegen has served 21 years on the S.C. District Board of Administration, seven years of which he was S.C. District Treasurer. He was elected eight times as a S.C. delegate to the International Conference of The Wesleyan Church and served on the General Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Church.

He is husband to Deanna, has three sons and a grandson.

Rev. James Michael Hilson Professional Excellence College of Arts and Science

James Michael Hilson is the grandson of one of Southern Wesleyan University's former presidents.

10 award winners

Having studied music education and business administration at Appalachian State University, he transferred to Southern Wesleyan (formerly Central Wesleyan College) and received a bachelor's degree in Christian ministry. His pastoral experience began as assistant pastor of First Wesleyan Church in Kings Mountain, N.C., followed by becoming the senior pastor of Sandy Ridge Wesleyan Church in Hickory, N.C. In 1999, he was called to the New Life Wesleyan Church in La Plata, Md., as senior pastor with leadership of a congregation totaling around 60. The New Life church has grown to an attendance of more than 1,100 and has mothered four new self-sustaining churches with ordained, full-time pastors.

Ministries included leading his church to assist in Charles County, south of Washington, D.C., where more than 300 homes were without running water. New Life church has accepted the challenge to secure running water for the homes in need. Another outreach into the community was when New Life church committed significant acreage to establish a graveyard and a new chapel in the center of Charles County.

Hilson and his wife, Tina, have three sons.

Karen Young Watts Professional Excellence School of Education

Karen Watts has distinguished herself educationally. She is a graduate of Southern Wesleyan University (formerly Central Wesleyan College), where she graduated Cum Laude in 1974 with a bachelor's degree in church music. She is currently working towards a doctorate in instructional leadership from the University of Alabama, where she is a member of the Alpha Epsilon Lambda Graduate Honor Society. She has a degree in education leadership from the University of Alabama, where she graduated with honors.

Watts has a master's degree in elementary education from Jacksonville State University, where she was a member of the Kappa Delta Epsilon Honor Society. She has received her national board certification and serves as director of the Child Development Program at Snead State Community College in Alabama. She is an instructor in child development and developmental algebra, as well as the faculty advisor of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. Watts is a member of the Snead State Foundation



Southern Wesleyan University alumni were recognized for their outstanding efforts in ministry and business during an annual awards luncheon on the university's campus in Central. Pictured, from left, are Rupal Shah of Brighton, Mass., who received a Young Leader Award; Charles Tegen of Central, S.C., who received a Professional Excellence Award in the School of Business; Gregory Edmonds of Chesnee, S.C., who received a Young Leader Award; Bradford Fipps of Liberty, S.C., who received the Alumnus of the Year Award; John Benson of Pendleton, S.C., who received the Professional Excellence Award in the School of Business; James Michael Hilson of LaPlata, Md., who received the Professional Excellence Award in the College of Arts and Science; and Karen Young Watts of Albertville, Ala., who received the Professional Excellence Award in the School of Education.

Legacy Campaign Steering Committee, the Admissions Appeal/Student Discipline Committee and the Business Committee.

She is a member of Guntersville First United Methodist Church, where she is a member of the sanctuary choir, participant and leader in the Alabama Emmaus Community Walk and a participant in the Hospices Races and 5K Runs for Hope.

Watts and her husband D. Jonathan have two children.

Dr. Bradford Fipps 2010 Alumnus of the Year

Dr. Brad Fipps has been known by many as a soldier – an officer in the U.S. Army Reserves, mobilized for Operation Desert Storm and serving stateside as a chaplain. Twenty years ago, Dr. Fipps put his doctoral dissertation on hold to serve his country in wartime. Today he's still a soldier, awarded five Army commendation medals and two meritorious service medals, and he currently holds the rank of full-bird colonel. He is stationed at Fort McPherson, Ga., working at Forces Command, sometimes called "Pentagon South."

Now mobilized once again, this time for the continuing war on terror, his teaching career

is on hold while he plays a vital role in the welfare of the defenders of this nation and their families. Dr. Fipps authored a Greek grammar textbook in 1996 currently being used in his absences from the classroom.

Dr. Fipps came to what was then Central Wesleyan College as a veteran of three years of active duty in the U.S. Army, including a tour in Korea. He wanted to teach, but when God called him to the ministry Dr. Fipps thought the door to the classroom was being closed. However, under the tutelage of professors Marling Elliott and Herbert Dongell, he fell in love with the New Testament Greek and realized that his calling was to teach future ministers the skills they would need to divide the word of truth. Dr. Fipps graduated first in his class at Central with a degree in Greek and English Bible. He completed one of the first two major honors projects ever done at SWU. A master's degree in divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary was next, followed by experience at the seminary as a teaching fellow in Greek. He then earned a master's degree in biblical studies and a doctorate in New Testament interpretation from Drew University. He invested more than a decade in academic preparation, and at every level he graduated with honors.

He and his wife Pam have two children.

SWU SPOTLIGHT

IN THE SPOTLIGHT STUDENTS

Student experiences
Uganda first-hand



Jessica Kelley, a recent graduate of Southern Wesleyan University, majoring in human services, went to Uganda this past semester for the study abroad program offered by Southern Wesleyan University through the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities. Kelley said she learned much about the culture. "With the prayers and support of people, this whole experience stretched me in a way I never thought possible," Kelley said.

Walls to present at
American Sociological
Association meeting



SWU student **Chandra Walls** was selected to give her presentation about gaps in pediatric therapy at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in Atlanta. Walls has been working on the presentation with Dr. Rick Rogers, associate professor of psychology and faculty

sponsor of the honors program at Southern Wesleyan. According to Rogers, selection is highly competitive, making this a significant achievement.

SWU business students
ranked at top of online
competition



A team consisting of three SWU business students have earned a Global Top 25 ranking for its performance in an international online competition. They are among 4,160 teams from 258 colleges and universities worldwide participating in the Business Strategy Game. From left, **Zach Roach**, **Ryan Tolley** and **Pieter Martin** are representing the SWU team this year. According to Dr. John Frazier, associate professor of business at SWU, the game is a close simulation of a running a business.

Duncan accepted for
research internship

Bryce Duncan, a chemistry major, has been accepted for a summer research internship at the CDC's Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE). Duncan, who is currently a sophomore, will carry out a three-month investigation on the effects of tobacco products on humans at the Center for Disease Control's research institute in Atlanta, Ga.

Vann directing Norris
athletic program

Chris Vann, a physical education major with a minor in athletic coaching, was recently hired to head the athletic program for the town of Norris, S.C. After graduating from Southern Wesleyan, Vann hopes to pursue a master's degree in physical education.

SWU students participate
in collegiate honor band

A group of SWU students were selected as members of the South Carolina Collegiate Honor Band. The 12th Annual South Carolina Collegiate Honor Band represented all of the colleges in South Carolina and were ranked through an audition process, which took place at South Carolina State University Jan. 21-23. Students from SWU were **Hannah Chapman**, **Tim Baynard**, **Wesley Day**, **Travis Tegen**, **Miranda Easterling** and **Manning Paul**. These students participated in two full days of rehearsals prior to a public performance.

FACULTY/STAFF

SWU faculty awarded
research grants



SWU professors **Dr. Paul Jordan** and **Dr. Susan Rouse** were awarded the 2010 SCICU Undergraduate Student/Faculty Research Program Grant, which will

aid them and their students as they collaborate on two separate research projects. Jordan will be working with Joshua Dew and Andrew Danelz, and Dr. Rouse will be working with David Fipps. The student grant recipients will present their findings at the Research Symposium to be held during the first quarter of 2011.

SWU professors among
new book authors

Dr. Christina Accornero, **Rev. Ken Dill**, **Dr. Martin LaBar**, **Dr. Rocky Nation**, **Dr. Susan Rouse** and **Dr. Don Wood** have been working on a book on "Creation Care," a book to be published soon by the Wesleyan Publishing House. The book also includes contributions from faculty at other Wesleyan institutions, as well as General Superintendent JoAnne Lyon.

Wimphrie speaks at
Empowering Teen
Summit

Southern Wesleyan University head basketball coach **Charles Wimphrie** was the keynote speaker for the "Empowering Youths for Tomorrow's Future" summit held at the Empowerment Zone in Greenville April 10. The theme for the event was "It's easier to build a child than to repair an adult."

SWU faculty member
assists in physical and
spiritual healing of Haitians

Dr. Derrick Lemons, an adjunct religion faculty member at Southern Wesleyan University in North Augusta, traveled to Haiti March 6-14 along with a group sponsored by



Oconee River Methodist Church and several Sunday school classes from Kannapolis First Wesleyan Church, in partnership with World Hope International. While there, Lemons assisted in the rebuilding of a Haitian church, worked with doctors at a medical clinic and also spoke at local church services.

ALUMNI

'08

Stephen Kyle Blackwell, a business graduate from Westminster, S.C., was offered a position at Edward Jones in Easley, S.C., right out of college. Representatives from Edward Jones have indicated that they take less than five percent of their employees immediately after college graduation.

'01



Belinda Guyton, a Charleston business graduate of Southern Wesleyan University, was featured speaker at the Ladylifers conference, March 27, 2010 at New Life Bible Church in Fayetteville, N.C. Guyton, who lives in Fayetteville, has also authored two books: "I Shall Live and

Not Die" and "Pursuing the Vision Behind Church Walls."

'92

Barry Putnam, facilities services director of Wesley Commons, a retirement community in Greenwood, S.C., became one of the select group of professionals nationwide to earn the Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist designation. This identifies him as one of the industry's top professionals with skills and knowledge specific to home modifications for aging-in-place. Putnam earned his bachelor's degree in human resources.

'98

Stephanie Butler was named coach of the state 4A women's basketball champions this year at Butler High School in Matthews, N.C. Butler earned her physical education degree in 1998 from Southern Wesleyan.

'84



Rev. Mark Gorveatte, an alumnus of Southern Wesleyan University, was recently named president of Bethany Bible College, a Canadian institution affiliated with The Wesleyan Church and located in Sussex, New Brunswick. Gorveatte will assume the presidency at Bethany Bible College June 1. His selection came at the conclusion of a 20-month presidential search. Gorveatte graduated from Southern Wesleyan with a degree in psychology.

He is also an alumnus of Bethany Bible College and the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Gorveatte served for 10 years as district superintendent of the West Michigan District of The Wesleyan Church. Gorveatte and his wife Sherry have served for more than 25 years in Wesleyan leadership and pastoral appointments in several districts of The Wesleyan Church.

OBITUARIES

'44

Doris Evelyn Gibson Powers, Hickory, N.C., April 16, 2010.

'53

Douglas D. Childress, Gastonia, N.C., March 3, 2010.

'60

Colon Wall, Alexis, N.C., April 21, 2010.

'67

Clarice Alexander, Tex., March 7, 2010.

'90

Albert McGrady, Asheboro, N.C., March 23, 2010.

Wife of Retired Professor

Ruth Lovelace, Central, S.C., March 23, 2010.

Wife of SWU Board Trustee

Shelly Berry, wife of **Dan Berry**, Conyers, Ga., May 5, 2010.

Friend of SWU

Rev. Wesley Childs of Swayzee, Ind., passed away on April 20, 2010. He was the son of Rev. T.C. Childs and the brother of Joan Wallace, Wesleyan missionary to Zambia.

Staff



Southern Wesleyan University mourns the loss of **Benita Butler**, associate vice president for student services, who passed away unexpectedly Feb. 23, 2010, following a scheduled surgery.

Funeral services were held in Carnesville, Ga., at a church that was filled to capacity.

Butler managed all of the university's student services activities and personnel across the state, including our learning centers in Charleston, Columbia, Greenville, North Augusta and Central. Her role was one which had great influence on thousands of AGS students. She had developed a strong student services team and was a model of excellence, integrity and compassion.

BIRTHS

Student



Ava Grace Royston was born on Jan. 21, 2010, to Sonya and **Josh Royston** of Anderson, S.C.

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12:45 p.m. Reunion Lunch tickets are \$20 each.
Limited seating. Call 864-644-5384 today to RSVP.

For details go to www.swu.edu

