

SWU:

SOUTHERN WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

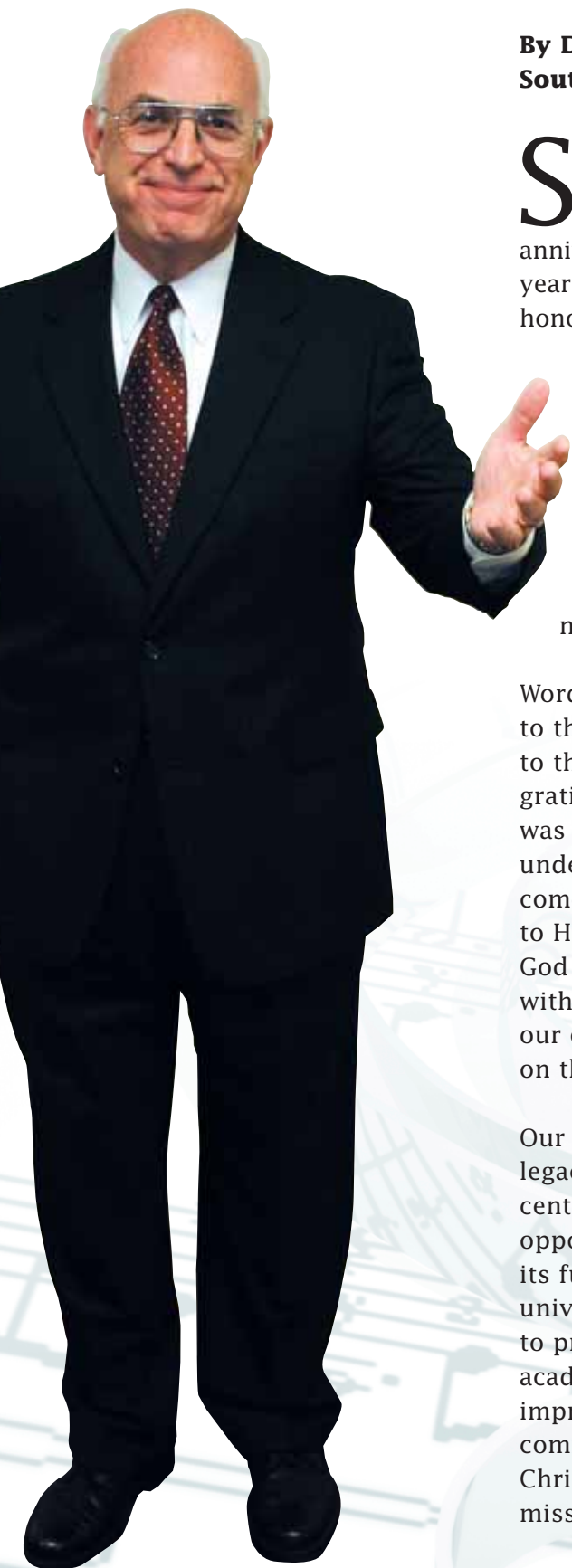


Southern Wesleyan University

FOCUS

WINTER 2006

“As it was in the beginning...”



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

Southern Wesleyan University has just completed a year-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of its founding. This year has given us opportunities to honor those whose lives and sacrifices provided the foundation for the university, its faith in Christ and its distinctive mission. We celebrate that heritage and will continue to do so as we begin to incorporate this rich legacy into the journey that is now before us.

Words of the doxology are familiar to this campus from its beginning to the present. We are a campus of gratitude because our institution was founded on a clear understanding that all blessings come from God and our response to His goodness is to sing, “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” with the same sense of purpose in our own hearts as those who stood on this hill a century ago.

Our challenge now is to carry that legacy of faith forward into a new century and into a new era of opportunity for the university and its future. A dynamic new university strategy is being formed to promote enrollment growth, academic opportunities and improved facilities. We are committed to sharing the gospel of Christ with a new generation. Our mission statement is the heart of

our purpose which is to “help men and women become all God intended them to be” and, in doing so, mobilize a new generation of leaders who will influence their world in the name of Jesus Christ.

As we move from one century to another, change is inevitable. Southern Wesleyan has experienced significant changes, including dramatic enrollment and financial growth based upon meeting the needs of a new generation of students, both young and older. Many changes will occur in the future, but our commitment to Christ as a university will remain fundamental in all we do.

A great anthem of the church, “Glory Be to the Father,” is a song of purpose and commitment. That song proclaims that, despite changes that will challenge her in many ways and demands to respond to those changes, there remains one unshakable foundation for this university and for each of us. That foundation is found in Jesus Christ alone.

In February of 1904, Dr. L.G. Clayton, a founder of the university, stated, “We believe that God is in this movement.” And, likewise, those who stand here today believe that the Christ who brought this university to life will remain at its center. Today, we affirm the words of this anthem as our declaration of commitment: “As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.”

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WINTER 2006

Focus Magazine is published four times a year by Southern Wesleyan University, Central, South Carolina

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On the cover

Southern Wesleyan University offers 33 majors, including forensic science, criminal justice and forensic computer science. These majors can lead to careers as detectives, law enforcement officers, trial attorneys and crime lab specialists.

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Authors address world issues in new books

The topics range from cancer to oil reserves and from the Middle East to women's justice.

Three authors with ties to Southern Wesleyan University have published books recently. Southern Wesleyan University alumni Roland Cavanaugh and Steve Spillman, as well as former faculty and board of trustees member Winnie Williams, have each published a book.

Cavanaugh, pastor of Congregational Care and Senior Adults at First Wesleyan Church in High Point, N.C., has self-published, "For As Long As I Can: A Son's Memoir of His Father's Dying Request." The 1995 Southern Wesleyan University graduate has written a journal of the three-month journey from discovering his father had cancer to the point of his death. The book includes issues such as God's faithfulness in the face of approaching death, alcoholism's impact on family relationships, Alzheimer's disease, the bereavement process and journal-writing as a tool to deal with grief. Cavanaugh lives in Thomasville, N.C., and is a 1985 religion graduate from Southern Wesleyan University.

Spillman wrote his book "Breaking

the Treasure Code: The Hunt for Israel's Oil," with the help of his father's years of research. The book maintains that Israel sits on a mother lode of petroleum, with the location detailed in Old Testament scriptures. The author asserts that the discovery of the oil in Israel could be a precursor to last days' events before the battle of Armageddon. Spillman lives in Travelers Rest, is a founder of True Potential Publishing and is an active writer and businessman. He is a 1994 human resources graduate from Southern Wesleyan University.

Williams' book, "The Price & Privilege of Being a Woman: Encounters with Global Women Who Search for Justice and Compassion," was published through Blue Dolphin Publishing. The firsthand experiences in the book – about women in Australia, Alaska, Ecuador, Guatemala, Kosovo, Macedonia and Russia — have motivated Williams to become a women's justice advocate. Williams is a retired associate professor of special education from Southern Wesleyan University, where she taught for 14 years and served on the institution's board of trustees for four years. She lives in Seneca and her travels have taken her to more than 40 countries, where she has served as an educational consultant, university teacher, missionary and volunteer.

A churchman, businessman and Southern gentleman

**By Bob Black,
SWU religion professor**

The students who walked down the dusty road toward Smith Hall 100 years ago may not have given much thought to being a part of history, but they were. Ranging from first-graders through collegians, they were the vanguard, the inaugural class of what would one day become Southern Wesleyan University. Among them was W. D. Correll. William Dean Correll was one of the first two graduates of the college's theological program in 1911. (His classmate and fellow graduate was J. A. Wood, father of Dr. Paul Baker Wood.) Correll quickly made his mark as a pastor and an evangelist in the South Carolina Conference (District) of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. He served as conference president in South Carolina for 13 years, as a member of the denomination's Book Committee (Board of Administration) for 24 years, as a member of the Hephzibah Children's Home board for 26 years, and as a trustee of his alma mater for 29 years – remarkable numbers reflecting remarkable faithfulness.

That faithfulness may very well have saved the school in one of its darkest hours. Due to a combination of unfortunate events, the college bottomed out in 1924-25. Indebtedness reached \$17,000 (\$185,000 in today's economy), an overwhelming debt load for a small school which, to make matters worse, was losing students rapidly as word of the crisis spread. Correll and John Frank Childs, who had once been students together on College Hill, stepped in as a crisis management team. On an interim basis, Childs served as dean of the college and Correll as business manager.

From December 1925 to June 1926, W. D. Correll sought to restore confidence in the college among those who had been disillusioned by what the Board of Trustees called "the great embarrassments" of the previous year.

He succeeded beyond anyone's expectation. It was, of course, impossible to repair all of the damage in so short a period of time, but he rescheduled debt payments and raised enough additional revenue to give the college a chance to survive.



W. D. and Mattie Lee Correll

At one point, campus electricity was actually cut off because of an unpaid bill of \$300; he managed to convince the power company to offer the school a 10-day extension on its bill, giving him time to find the needed funds. From placating creditors to reassuring the school's constituency, he worked wonders on a daily basis. "It was very largely ... Correll's standing and influence in the community that prevented the institution having to close its doors," J. B. Hilson said.

When Hilson assumed the presidency of the college in 1945, he persuaded



W. D. Correll

W. D. Correll to return as business manager, providing financial leadership for a program of campus expansion. For Correll it was a more welcome assignment than another he had in 1945 – preaching the funeral service of his friend, John Frank Childs.

W. D. Correll met his wife, the former Mattie Lee Meredith, at Wesleyan Methodist College.

(Students always said that WMC stood for "We Match Couples.") Their daughter Willyne holds the distinction of attending the college from the first grade through junior college. Because the Correll name is such an integral part of this institution, the current administration building on the Central campus is named in his honor.

To the memory of one who helped preserve it in the face of an overwhelming indebtedness, Southern Wesleyan University stands indebted.

This article is one in a series on alumni who exemplify the spirit of Southern Wesleyan University.

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Total
\$150,198.05

Promise Fund off to promising start

Southern Wesleyan University's Promise Fund is off to a great start for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. The goal for this year is \$350,000, and all donations made to the Promise Fund help support scholarships as well as student and academic programs.

The Promise Fund is nearly double what it was at this same point last year. If you would like to donate to the Promise Fund, please use the enclosed envelope in this issue of Focus, or contact Erin Fellers at (864) 644-5006 or efellers@swu.edu.

2006-2007 Promise Fund Totals as of Nov. 27, 2006:

Faculty and Staff: \$14,232.40
 Corporations and Businesses:
 \$40,697.36
 Alumni: \$35,054.40
 Friends: \$23,723.50
 Churches and Organizations:
 \$12,531.04
 Trustees: \$20,918.24
 Matching Gifts: \$3,041.11

Banquet honors employees and university donors

The 2006 Donor Appreciation Banquet was Oct. 26 in Founders' Hall. It was held in honor of the Southern Wesleyan University donors who had given \$1,000 or more to the university during the last fiscal year. Approximately 175 people attended the banquet and two staff members were honored for their service and dedication to Southern Wesleyan.

Mike King, a former member of the grounds crew, was honored with an appreciation gift for his years of service to the institution. King, who has been with SWU for five years, has left to take a position with AnMed Health in Anderson.

Jonathon Catron was also honored with a special award during the banquet. Catron was honored with the Presidential Citation in appreciation for his many years of service and dedication to Southern Wesleyan University.

Banquet attendees were recognized according to their donor recognition club level. Citation, Legacy, and Trustees Club donors also received a certificate of appreciation.



Mike King



Jonathan Catron



Citation Club donors at the 2006 banquet.

Golfers gather for tournament

Golf teams teed off at the Pickens Country Club for Southern Wesleyan University's annual Paul B. Wood Golf Tournament, sponsored by Trehel Corporation. The tournament is named for Dr. Paul Wood, a psychologist and professor emeritus at Southern Wesleyan University.

This year's celebrity golfer was Dale Gilbert, WYFF News 4 weatherman.

Proceeds from the Paul B. Wood Golf Tournament benefit The Promise Fund – the annual fund for SWU. The tournament raised more than \$33,000 for the fund. The money raised from the annual golf tournament directly benefits students at Southern Wesleyan University by providing scholarships, as well as academic and program support.

For details, contact Southern Wesleyan's Office of Development at (864) 644-5006 or 1-800-282-8798, ext. 5006.



Pictured above are first-place team members Doug Edwards, Fred Keith, Matt Giffin and Greg Horne, all of Easley. They received TaylorMade RAC OS series irons with steel shafts. Second-place team: Tim Bolding, Benji McGaha, Doug Brown and Mike Jordan, all of Easley. Third-place team: Todd Hendley of Simpsonville, Chad Hendley of Greenville, Mark Hendley of Greer and Jimmy Wilson of Greenville. For golf team photos and more, go to www.swu.edu and click on the gold Giving tab.

At right, Southern Wesleyan University President David Spittal, left, presents a golf cake to local celebrity golfer Dale Gilbert, WYFF weatherman, in appreciation for his participation in the event.



Fine Arts building on the horizon at Southern Wesleyan



During homecoming and centennial festivities on Oct. 27, SWU President David Spittal announced that the university has received a \$1 million gift.

The funds will be used for the

university's planned Fine Arts Auditorium, slated to be constructed on Wesleyan Drive at its campus in Central. Spittal anticipates having a groundbreaking celebration for the new facility in April of 2007. The

university hopes to have the new building ready for occupancy by the fall of 2008.

The facility will include a 1,000-seat chapel auditorium and fine arts facilities to house music programs, including a rehearsal hall, practice rooms, classrooms and teaching studios.

The gift brings the university's building campaign closer to its goal, but also provides a challenge for the balance of the funds to be raised so construction can begin early next year, Spittal said. Those interested in giving to this project may contact the Development Office or the Office of the President for details, 1-800-282-8798, ext. 5004.

The Reunion!



On Friday, May 26, 2006, Abraham was reunited with his mother and family from whom he had been separated for 19 years. The last time Abraham saw his mother, he was 6 years old.



“Lost Boy” finds way back

For years, Abraham Deng's life was a series of searches.

He searched for safety, for food and shelter, for peace, for hope and comfort from God, for education in America and for his family in Africa.

This summer, after 19 years of separation, Abraham Deng found his way back into his mother's arms.

Deng, a pre-med student at Southern Wesleyan University, is a native of Sudan. He was torn from his

family at age 6 as the result of a civil war in his home country. Along with 20,000 other boys and girls, Deng walked about a thousand miles in search of a safe place to live. Known as the Lost Boys and Girls, thousands of these children died before finding their way into refugee camps.

“We were trying to look for refuge as we were in the jungle,” he said. “Most of the kids didn't have clothes. I was lucky to have shorts. Some were eaten by the lion population.” Others were killed by soldiers or died of thirst or starvation.

“God has a special purpose for my life,” Deng said. “Perhaps if I didn't suffer, I might not know God.” One of 4,000 Lost Boys and Girls

chosen by the United Nations to travel to America for an opportunity to earn an education, Deng arrived in the United States five years ago to search for knowledge. In doing so, he found Southern Wesleyan University and moved to its campus in Central.

“I prayed to God about going to a Christian institution and He answered my prayer,” Deng said. As the Southern Wesleyan University family got to know Deng, the institution found out that he had searched for and, in 2001, found his family in an Ethiopian refugee camp. The campus community, along with numerous benefactors from the Upstate, pooled enough money to send Deng to Ethiopia to see his family during his summer break this year.

Along with his cousin, Peter, and Aaron Tolan, a Southern Wesleyan University alumnus, Deng traveled to an Ethiopian refugee camp and was reunited with his mother, Mary Ayduk Mayen, and four siblings. When his mother saw him, she gathered him up in her arms.

“She lifted me up with my sister, Ayen, and ran into the house,” Deng said with a wide smile. “My world was completely changed when I saw my mother's face for the first time in 19 years. God has answered my prayer.”

During their first moments together again, Deng's mother called him all his boyhood nicknames, while he was at a loss for words.

“She kept crying, crying, crying,” he said. “She said, ‘I thought you were dead.’”

Deng's language skills were a little

into mother's arms

rusty, but his native Dinka language soon came back to him, as did the other languages he speaks — Nuer, Swahili and Arabic.

Today, Deng has found his family in Africa, as well as a new family at Southern Wesleyan University. Now he searches for other things, like a way to continue his education so he can become a doctor and help those suffering in Africa. Deng is hoping to attend Emory University after he graduates from Southern Wesleyan in May of 2007.

Deng sleeps four or five hours a night and has a 3.7 grade point average, despite a 19-hour pre-med course load.

“As I returned to Africa, my heart was broken,” he said. “In so many countries in Africa, there is so much suffering. I know God is

going to use me in a number of ways. I'm going to help people spiritually and medically.”

So Deng also searches for new ways to tell his story so he can inspire people to have faith and not give up their dreams.

“God saved my life from different kinds of atrocities in order to impact the lives of other people who think their world is torn apart,” he said. “I know those who come to Southern Wesleyan University are blessed. God answers our prayers. It may take a number of years, but He will find the perfect time.”

For details on the Lost Boys Scholarship Fund, go to www.swu.edu or contact Mary Costello at (864) 644-5004.



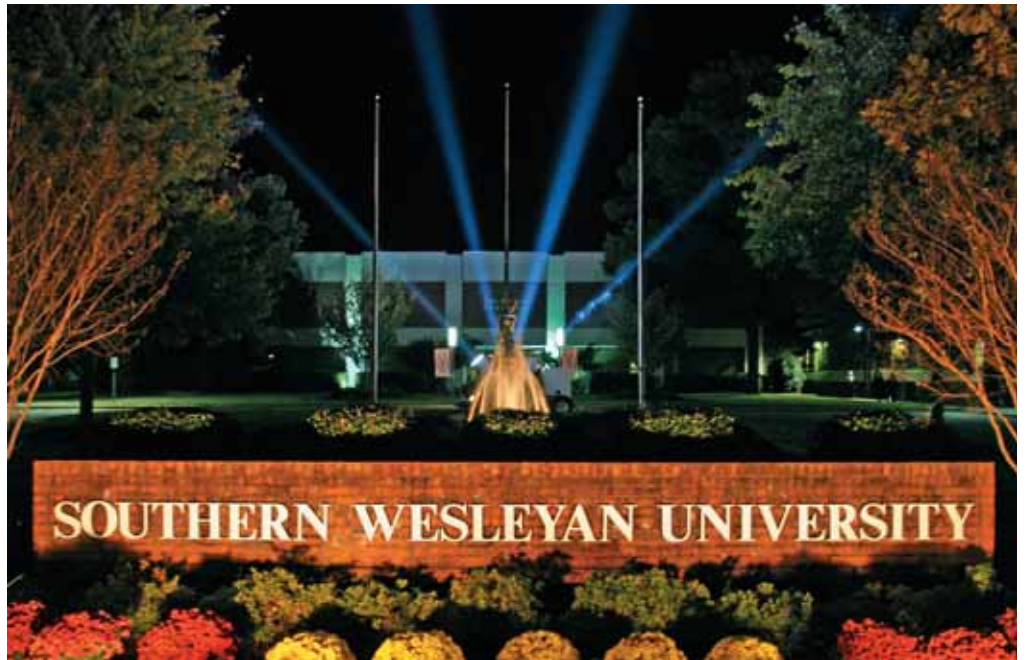
University's centennial celebration ends with a bang

Southern Wesleyan University wrapped up its celebration of 100 years in higher education on Oct. 28, with a day of reunions, outdoor festivities, a concert of praise and a fireworks display at its campus in Central.

"Our centennial theme was 'How Firm a Foundation.' We celebrated the university's rich history and its promising future," according to Joy Bryant, executive director of alumni and constituent relations.

The university was founded more than 100 years ago by leaders who promised to "help men and women become what God has designed them to be." The university's history began Oct. 15, 1906. Today, Southern Wesleyan University has more than 2,700 students. In addition to its main campus in Central, it has locations in Greenville, Columbia, Charleston and North Augusta.

"Each year, we have an opportunity for our Southern Wesleyan University friends and family to visit or return to the campus. We are so pleased that we can share our history with the community," Bryant said. This year's homecoming events included arts and crafts vendors, a car and motorcycle show, a homerun derby, entertainment for children, celebration banquets and a Concert of Praise followed by a fireworks extravaganza.



SWU Alumnus of the Century passes away at age 92

A spiritual leader, a devoted alumnus and a university friend passed away Oct. 21.

Dr. Virgil Mitchell of Central died at his home at age 92. Mitchell, who served in a number of key positions at Southern Wesleyan University, was named the institution's Alumnus of the Century at a ceremony in May.

Southern Wesleyan President David Spittal said the university will miss Mitchell's involvement and advice.

"Dr. Mitchell was an outstanding friend of the university and was a valued advisor to several presidents, including me," Spittal said. "He was a man of faith who touched the lives of many through his prayers and encouragement. He was one of my heroes and he will be missed."

Mitchell participated in the university's 50th and 75th anniversary celebrations, as well as marking its centennial. He participated via telephone in a prayer walk at Southern Wesleyan University that commemorated 100 years since classes first began there in 1906.

"The Alumni Association and I are in great mourning about the loss of a devoted alumnus and friend of the university," said Joy Bryant, alumni director. "We're so sad he was unable to be a part of our grand finale on Oct. 28, but we know his spirit was there with us."

Dr. Bob Black, Southern Wesleyan religion professor and author of the institution's 100-year history, "How Firm a Foundation," said Mitchell had an enormous impact on the university.

"When a great tree falls, it leaves an empty space against the sky. Virgil Mitchell will be missed more



Dr. Virgil A. Mitchell

than we can say, more than we can realize. We may not see his like again. But in his legacy among us he lives on," Black said.

Mitchell addressed Southern Wesleyan University's graduating seniors at the winter 2005 baccalaureate service.

"God must be the foundation of your life if you are to fulfill the purposes He has for you," Dr. Mitchell told the students. "It is important to follow your blueprint – the word of God."

Mitchell is survived by his wife, Mary Luck Parks Mitchell; daughters, Marilyn Hollingsworth and Martha Funnell of Michigan; grandsons, Alton Allen Hollingsworth and Adrian Allen Funnell; brothers, Joseph Carlton

Mitchell of Oklahoma and Charles Mitchell of Simpsonville; sisters, Edna Mitchell and Mary Ellen Kelley of Simpsonville; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; his son, Allen; a brother, Franklin Eugene; and a sister, Vera Mitchell Peek.

After his retirement in 1984 at age 70, Mitchell was appointed as assistant to the president and chaplain of Southern Wesleyan and served in this capacity until 1994. He also served as a distinguished member of the Southern Wesleyan University Board of Trustees and designated as the first trustee emeritus in 1984.

Southern Wesleyan University inducts

A banquet and awards ceremony Oct. 27 marked the induction of honorees to Southern Wesleyan University's Fine Arts Hall of Fame. Those honored include:



George Allred
1918-1945

Class of 1943

Graduated from Wesleyan Methodist Academy in 1937.

Studied in junior college and theological program.

Started a college chorus in 1937- a forerunner of college choir.

Gave his life in military service in 1945.

Directed College Choir and Collegians 20.

Trained many students for service as church musicians and pastors.

Devoted countless hours to vocal teaching and in faithful service to First Wesleyan Church in Central, S.C.

Played for camp meetings (62 years) and several general conferences of The Wesleyan Church.

Awarded Honorary Doctor of Music degree in 1973.



E. Stanley Banker

SWU Music Faculty and Administrator: 1950-1956

Served as choral director,

academy principal, dean of men and development officer.

Served in Christian higher education for 50 years.

Continues to bless people with his renditions on the saxophone.

Currently retired from full-time ministry.



Barbara Bross

Class of 1976

SWU Music Faculty: 1978-2000

Demonstrated excellence in all areas of teaching and development of new courses for the department.

Directed Collegians ministry team. Directed the Lakes and Mountains School for the Arts on the SWU campus.

Conceived the overseas experience, Spring Break in London for SWU students.

Currently serves as adjunct faculty at Southern Wesleyan University.



Jonathan Crutchfield

Class of 1982

SWU Music Faculty: 1985-1987

Recognized as an outstanding organist, conductor and composer.

Received DMA in choral conducting from Southern Baptist Seminary.

Served as an organist for church music conventions in the U.S. and Europe.

Currently serves as Minister of Music and Worship at Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C.



Leonard Brank
1918-1990

Class of 1950

Southern Wesleyan University Music Faculty: 1957-1985.



Margaret Childs
1906-1994

SWU Music Faculty: 1931-1973

Touched the lives of college music students, private piano students and worshippers through piano playing and teaching.



Kim Fowler

Class of 1980

Competed and declared a winner in NATS Regional Competition as a SWU student.

Served Shady Grove Wesleyan Church in Colfax, N.C., as Minister of Music and Assistant Pastor from 1981-1993.

Fine Arts alumni into Hall of Fame

Ordained by The Wesleyan Church in 2001.

Currently serves as Assistant Pastor of Worship/Music/Senior Adults at Hayworth Wesleyan Church in High Point, N.C.



Stephen Storey

Class of 1986

Sang with and helped direct ministry teams as a college student.

Directed Life Corps Team (comprised of Wesleyan youth) for eight years which travelled in the U.S. and to Canada and Jamaica.

Served Cedar Valley Community Church in Iowa from 1986-1990.

Currently serves as Minister of Music at Mt. Zion Wesleyan Church in Thomasville, N.C.



Melanie Gibson Rowell

Class of 1992

SWU Music Faculty 1999-2000 and 2006-present

Served as music director for churches in South Carolina and Georgia.

Served as a soloist for church and university performances.

Performed in musical theater productions from 1990-2004.

Currently pursuing a DMA in Vocal Performance at the University of Georgia.



Gordon Miller

President, dean and head of the music department at Southern Pilgrim College: 1949-1983

Served as Minister to Senior Adults at Christ Wesleyan Church in Greensboro, N.C., from 1983 to 2005.

Awarded Honorary Doctor of Music degree in 1992.

Currently serves on various boards for the North Carolina East District of The Wesleyan Church.



J.W. Stiles
1932-1996

Class of 1952

Sang in several collegiate quartets as a Central Wesleyan College student.

Served as pastor in North Carolina churches from 1952-1992.

Sang for many revivals, camp meetings and was featured as the soloist on the weekly radio show "The Wesleyan Hour."



Joel Reed

Southern Wesleyan University Music Faculty 1977-1985

Served as

Director of Choral Activities and Chair of Division of Humanities.

Led Chamber Choir in performances at several state and regional ACDA conventions.

Demonstrated excellence to aspiring church musicians and conductors.

Currently serves as Director of Choral Activities at Mars Hill College in Mars Hill, N.C.



Naomi Wood
1918-2004

SWU Music Faculty: 1941-1946

Worked with early choirs at Wesleyan

Methodist College.

Formed and trained Ladies' Sextet that traveled extensively for the college.

Served in various music positions in schools and churches for 20 years.

Exhibited a humble, positive and victorious spirit to all who knew her.

ALUMNI SNAPSHOTS

NEWS FLASH

'82

Ray Lattimore received the Greenville Tech Presidential Entrepreneurial Award at the GT Entrepreneur Forum – Black Tie affair in Greenville. Lattimore was one of five inducted as Entrepreneur members.

'03 & '05

Stan Healy is now earning his MBA from Emory University. He was accepted into Emory's MBA program from Southern Wesleyan University's adult and graduate studies program.

WEDDINGS

'03

Casey Leigh Morris and **Christopher M. Brewington** were married July 15, 2006.

'03 & '05



Jared Christopher Black and **Christina Noel Garrett** were married March 18, 2006.

'06



Elizabeth Nicole Payseur and **Joseph Marshall Atcheson** were married Oct. 7, 2006.

'07

Lindsay Rianne Taylor and **Allen Theodore Gantt III**, were married Aug. 26, 2006.

'08

Tracy Yvette Scott and **Napoleon Francis Washington** were married Saturday, Aug. 26, 2006.

BIRTHS

'00

Jim and **Christi Montjoy** announce the birth of James (Jamey) Horace Montjoy, Feb. 7, 2006, weighing 8 lbs., 6.9 oz. and 20 inches long.



DEATHS

'35

Lila R. White, of Lyman, S.C., March 6, 2006.

'50

Kenneth Allen, of Sugar Hill, Ga., April 21, 2006.

'51

Jimmy Donald Belcher, of Brent, Ala., April 11, 2006.

'78

Rick Lloyd Harkins, of Clemson, S.C., Nov. 3, 2006.

'91

Sam Williams, of Walhalla, S.C., May 29, 2006.

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Dr. Virgil A. Mitchell, of Central, S.C., Oct. 21, 2006. See page 11 for details.

EMPLOYEE

Margaret Brank, of Central, S.C., and the widow of Leonard Brank, died Sept. 4, 2006, at Hospice of the Upstate.

She was the retired manager of Food Service at Central Wesleyan College (now Southern Wesleyan University).

PRESERVATIONIST

The first preservationist of Freedom's Hill Church, Rev. Richard Harold "Dick" Kindschi, 84, of Forest City, N.C., died June 9, 2006, at his home. He was born Sept. 29, 1921, in Houghton, S.D. He was the pastor at Neighbor's Grove Wesleyan Church in Asheboro, N.C., when he and youth pastor Rev. Mike Engle searched for the old abandoned church and found it hidden from the road in a thick grove of trees. They cleared away the brush, cleaned the church, made some initial repairs and held a service in it for their congregation. Freedom's Hill Church was then moved to The Wesleyan Church in Colfax, N.C., where it remained in a place of honor until being moved to Southern Wesleyan University.

SWU group heads to Georgia coast for fellowship, worship

Reunions - whether it's family, class or friends, reunions bring memories of happy times.

For 20 or so years, senior adults came together for a week every September for fellowship, to worship, to sightsee, to laugh, rest and enjoy seeing old friends and meeting new ones. After having no reunion for four years, the prospect of a chaparral reunion this fall brought excitement and anticipation.

Chaparral veterans and first-timers arrived Sept. 12 at St. Simons Island in Georgia for a retreat offering personal and spiritual renewal. Turning onto the grounds

of Epworth-by-the-Sea United Methodist Conference Center, reunion-goers were greeted by the centuries-old live oaks with their curved branches almost sweeping the ground, beautiful landscaping, modern and comfortable facilities, an intimate little prayer chapel and Lovely Lane Church.

Alumni Director Joy Bryant and her committee provided food, fellowship, speakers and musicians. Dr. David Keith, the visionary who started the chaparral in the early 1980s, challenged the group with the ministry of servanthood. Dr. Paul Mills' ministry led the group through mountain-top experiences of the

Bible, as well as in the personal lives of those who had served the Lord Jesus for many years.

SWU President David Spittal encouraged the older adults to make the youth of today aware of the testimonies of God's faithfulness through the vicissitudes of their lives. Kim Fowler and the Southern Wesleyan University Singers provided ministry through music. The traditional auction raised more than \$5,000 for scholarships for Southern Wesleyan University students. Ideal weather and interesting sightseeing tours rounded out the days.





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Return Service Requested

Spring 2007 Fine Arts

- February 22** 7th Annual SWU Jazz Invitational- 6:30 p.m.;
Founders' Hall in the new Dining Commons; free.
- March 5** Home concert featuring the University Concert Choir- 7:30 p.m.; free.
- March 22-24** SWU Student Productions presents- "Once Upon A Mattress;"
7:30 p.m. each night. Tickets are \$7 for adults; \$5 for seniors and
students with ID; SWU students admitted free with ID.
Call (864) 644-5293 for reservations.
- April 15** Music Majors Honors Recital- 3 p.m.; free.
- April 16** Music Majors Formal Recital- 7:30 p.m.; free.
- April 26** SWU Jazz Ensemble- 7:30 p.m.; free.
- May 1** SWU Wind Ensemble- 7:30 p.m.; free.
- May 6** Maytime Masterworks- University Concert Choir presents the Brahms
"Requiem;" Fort Hill Presbyterian Church, Clemson, S.C.- 3 p.m.; free.

All Fine Arts events are in Folger Fine Arts Auditorium on the university's campus in Central unless otherwise noted.