

*Southern Wesleyan University*

# FOCUS



**SPRING 2011**

# *Sowing the seed for God's harvest*

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

**S**everal attempts to plant a garden have proven to me that my skills do not fall in this area. Preparing the ground and planting the seed is manageable, but it seems to take forever for the first sprouts to appear and the patience required before the first signs of a real garden to materialize is difficult. Although sowing the seed is an essential step in the gardening process, persistent patience is always required to achieve a bountiful harvest.

The Apostle Paul spoke to this gardening principle when people began to ask who was most important to the ministry of the church. Paul indicated that while there are those who planted, others who watered and others who nurtured the seed, it is always God who causes the seed to grow and only he can provide the harvest. In our self-made world of instant everything, it is important to remember that God's will is eternal and his ultimate purposes are much like a bountiful garden. When we think it is all our own doing, we must be reminded again that he is the author and finisher of all things. God already sees the harvest but has called each of us to plant seeds of service, love and obedience according to his will. God alone produces the increase and he asks us to patiently trust him.

It has been my honor to serve as president of Southern Wesleyan for the

past 17 years. I have learned a great deal and deeply value the friendships and prayer partners that have been so important throughout the years. We have seen answers to those prayers in many areas and have witnessed God's immeasurable power many times. It is evident that the prayers of those past and present continue to be answered and made visible in God's perfect time and for his purposes. The university has been God-blessed in many tangible ways and it is only for his glory that we are called to labor.

God has promised us that when we plant seeds of faith into the lives of others he will produce a bountiful garden and a harvest of lives that are transformed for eternity through Jesus Christ. It is my prayer that Southern Wesleyan University always be a place where the word of God is proclaimed, prayer is central, trust in God is affirmed and the power of God is made evident through generation after generation of men and women whose lives were changed in this place.

I want to thank the many friends who have enriched my life through their prayers, demonstrated faith in action and whose love for this university has blessed us in so many ways. The future of the university is bright and as new leadership arrives and the process of seed planting continues, the nurturing of lives will suffer no interruption. I am confident that the God of heaven will provide a bountiful harvest of transformed lives for years to come as we all continue to plant seed together and wait patiently for his return.

*For information on Dr. Spittal's retirement or to leave comments for him, [click here](#).*

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## More than 300 graduate at SWU

Southern Wesleyan University President David Spittal, foreground, looks on as seniors process toward their graduation ceremony on May 5, 2011. At left is Provost Keith Iddings. About 300 graduates, their families and friends gathered at the university's campus in Central on May 5 and 7 to mark a milestone moment. Spittal was the graduation speaker, urging graduates to celebrate and mark God's faithfulness at key moments in their lives. Spittal is retiring at the end of June. He and his wife, Donna, look forward to living closer to their children and grandchildren in Illinois. *For details on spring graduation, click here.*

*On the cover* The theme for this issue of Focus magazine is patience. As Southern Wesleyan University changes leadership and continues making plans for new and exciting programs for its students, the Bible reminds us to be patient and wait for God's perfect timing. James 5: 7-8, "Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near."



# University announces Dr. Voss as new president

Southern Wesleyan University's board of trustees unanimously voted to approve Dr. Todd Voss to become the 18th president of the institution.

Dr. Voss will take office on July 1, according to university board chairman Dr. Charles Joiner, who also led the presidential search committee.

"We are very pleased with this result," Joiner said of the search committee's work. "I can assure you that the process was undertaken in a very prayerful way."

Joiner characterized Voss as exacting, energetic, charismatic and a proven leader.

"Dr. Voss brings excellent experience in Christian higher education to us," Joiner said. "We're pleased to have him join our team."

Voss addressed the university community at a press conference on May 27, fielding questions and outlining some of his plans for Southern Wesleyan University. He expressed gratitude to retiring president Dr. David Spittal for positioning the university for success and prosperity.

"Dr. Spittal has had 17 years of amazing success here," Voss said. "It is a very promising future. I am excited about that."

Voss said he believes that a university president's role is to cast a vision and provide enthusiasm and drive for a university.

"This place is ready to go. God really wants this place to be a place of excellence," he said.

Some specific areas Voss said he plans to focus on include possible renovations or improvements to student housing on the university's campus in Central and the possibilities of a new recreation and wellness complex, as well as a new science building.

"We're about mind, body and spirit," Voss said.

Voss also said he is interested in exploring more use of online classes and the possibility of adding Southern Wesleyan University locations in nearby states. Currently, the university offers classes at its main campus in Central, S.C., as well as Greenville, Spartanburg, Greenwood, Columbia, North Augusta and Charleston.

Characterizing Southern Wesleyan University as "unapologetically Christian," Voss said the university



*Dr. Todd Voss to be the new president of Southern Wesleyan University as of July 1.*

seeks to nurture the minds as well as the spirits and the hearts of its students, with an emphasis on faith, character and integrity.

"It's not about recruiting every student. It's about recruiting students who are looking for this experience," Voss said. "We have a lot to offer."

Voss has been serving as executive vice president at Indiana Wesleyan University. His areas of leadership include student life, spiritual life, information technology, athletics, operations, construction, campus planning and other related functions.

He began working at IWU in 1989 as vice president for student development with previous experience in student life, business affairs, auxiliary services and campus planning from West Virginia University, Western Michigan University and Michigan State.

Voss has been on the forefront of IWU growing from a small campus to one of the largest institutions in the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities, with almost 16,000 students enrolled.

He created the Center for Life Calling and Leadership, designed a holistic residence life and student development ministry that has become a strong model for other Christian colleges, developed collaborative on-campus student internship sites and has built solid systems to encourage a robust sense of community and spiritual life on the IWU campus.

He earned his bachelor's degree in pre-medicine/psychology, his master's in counseling and his doctorate in counseling/higher education administration.

Voss and his wife, Julie, have two married children, Emily and Matthew, and one grandchild, Luke.

A strong believer in developing close ties with the community, Voss said he and his wife are impressed with the friendliness of the community members they have met.

"The warmth of Central and the people of this area – wow! They are so welcoming," Voss said.

# Mark your calendar: P.B. Wood golf tournament

Golf, food, prizes, fellowship and fun – all while supporting a great cause.

The annual Southern Wesleyan University P.B. Wood Golf Tournament will be teeing off on Oct. 17, 2011, at Pickens Country Club. The tournament raises money for the Promise Fund, which supports student scholarships as well as academic and student programs. This event is named in honor of Dr. Paul Baker Wood, a noted psychologist and Southern Wesleyan University professor emeritus.

This captain's choice tournament has slots for 36 four-person teams. The spaces go fast, so please sign up quickly 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, a polo shirt (or other gift) and other prizes. A hole-in-one contest with prizes totaling more than \$40,000 will also be part of the tournament.

*Click here for last year's winners, prizes and meals.*

Sponsorships are available at various levels. Co-sponsorships are \$2,500 and include one team registration fee.



Corporate sponsorships are \$1,000 and include one individual registration fee. Hole sponsorships are \$250. Tee sponsorships are \$100 and Cart sponsorships are \$25.

To play, sponsor or support the Promise Fund, please contact Mary Costello at (864) 644-5004 or mcostello@swu.edu.

## Giving goals and results

	Goal	Rec. 6/15/11	% to goal
Alumni	\$100,000	\$73,124.82	73.124%
Trustee	\$95,000	\$72,120.32	75.916%
BOV	\$70,000	\$45,860	65.514%
Friends	\$60,000	\$51,962.29	86.6%
Corporations	\$50,000	\$45,069.99	90.139%
Churches/organizations/foundations	\$40,000	\$88,976.02	222.44%
Employees	\$35,000	\$26,595.20	75.986%

For the latest news on Southern Wesleyan University's giving, [click here](#).

## Get ready for a call



Students and faculty and staff from Southern Wesleyan University will be contacting friends and alumni in September and October for the annual Phonathon in an effort to raise support for the Promise Fund.

The Phonathon serves several purposes. It allows SWU to maintain relationships with our friends and it also makes it possible for SWU to update personal information that may have changed over the past few years. It is also a vital tool in raising funds for the Promise Fund, which supports student scholarships, as well as academic and student programs across campus and throughout the various AGS sites.

As our callers endeavor to reach all SWU alumni and friends on our list, please be in prayer for their efforts. By answering the call, donors can make a tremendous difference in the lives of our students.

All Phonathon gifts are tax-deductible and do not have to be paid until June 30, 2012. Donations for the Promise Fund can also be made in one-time gifts.

For details, or if you would like to donate but do not want to be called, please contact Mary Costello at (864) 644-5004 or mcostello@swu.edu. *To give online, click here.*

## University hosts sports awards night

The Southern Wesleyan University Department of Athletics held its fifth Annual SWUPY Awards on the campus of SWU at Newton-Hobson Chapel and Fine Arts Center. The event is the annual athletics awards banquet that honors the student-athletes that competed for SWU in the 2010-2011 seasons.

The theme for the night was SWUPYSCENTER and the anchors for the show were Director of Athletics Chris Williams and Head Baseball Coach Mike Gillespie. Members of the SWU coaching staff made ESPN-themed commercials, which were shown on the many T.V. monitors on the stage and on two large projection screens. The show also included a segment talking about SWU President Dr. David Spittal's upcoming retirement, SWU winning the Lil' Bronze Peach for the second consecutive year, and other national sporting event topics.

The highlight of the night was the induction of Spittal into the Athletics Hall of Fame. Spittal was also presented with two national championship rings from the 2007 season when baseball and women's basketball took home the National Christian College Athletic Association National Titles.

Parents, faculty and staff, members of the board of trustees, and community supporters from the Central and

Clemson areas were all in attendance to witness this event. Each team had two representatives who were presenters of specific awards that were handed out throughout the night, along with other special guests and faculty and staff members. The winners were voted on by coaches and students, along with faculty and staff of the SWU community.

Stephen Tolan (men's soccer) and Jackie Tubb (women's soccer) were named Mr. and Ms. Warrior, while Nick Lagroone (men's basketball) and Erica Segars (women's cross country) were named the Male and Female Athlete of the Year. Segars also took home the Female Performance of the Year, and Michael Corpening (men's basketball) received the Male Performance of the Year.

The Dr. C. Keith Connor Warrior Spirit Award was given to the voice of the Warriors, Phil Pranger, who does all the announcing at all home events for the SWU teams. John Collins, Student Government Association president, was awarded the Fan of the Year with the women's basketball team being voted the Team of the Year. Head women's basketball coach John Davis was named the Coach of the Year. The volleyball team won the team academic award for highest GPA, while Lauren Drodody (women's cross



Dr. and Mrs. David Spittal

country) and Nick Hinder (men's cross country) were awarded the Female and Male Scholar-Athletes.

Allison Drodody (women's cross country/softball) and Emmanuel Forbes (men's soccer) were named the Female and Male Newcomer of the Year. The men's basketball team took home the honor of Game of the Year for their 87-81 win over Emmanuel College on Feb. 19 in historic Tysinger Gymnasium. Carlos Gonzalez (men's soccer) took home the Courage Award.



## SWU claims Lil' Bronze Peach

Southern Wesleyan University claimed their second consecutive Lil'Bronze Peach, winning the 2010-2011 series by a final margin of 20.5 to 8 against Emmanuel College. The series began between the two schools in 2009-2010, with SWU winning the inaugural trophy.

The idea of the trophy being the Lil' Bronze Peach is based on the large amount of peaches that are produced in both South Carolina and Georgia. The annual competition includes all sports which both schools sponsor – baseball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's soccer and softball. Points are awarded for regular season games only and the breakdown is as follows: baseball – 1.5 points per game (3 games), men's basketball – 2 points per game (2 games), women's basketball – 2 points per game (2 games), men's soccer – 4 points per game (1 game), women's soccer – 4 points per game (1 game), softball – 1 point per game (4 games).

In addition to the competition on the field, the school which has a higher percentage of their student-athletes on the SSAC All-Academic Team receives four points. The total number of points that can be awarded each school year is 28.5.

## Student-athletes receive SSAC honors

Southern Wesleyan University and the Southern States Athletic Conference has awarded Jackie Tubb of the women's soccer team and Stephen Tolan of the men's soccer team the Honor Student-Athlete Awards sponsored by Musco Lighting.

Tubb, a senior from Athens, Ala., finished her star-studded career at SWU being named 2nd Team All-Conference in 2007 and 2008, and was a SSAC All-Academic in 2009 and 2010. She scored 36 goals and had 11 assists in her 74-game career at SWU helping lead the Warriors to a 42-32-4 record during her four years, and also leading the team to a berth in the 2008 NCCAA National Women's Soccer Tournament. Tubb was named the NCCAA South Region Player of the Year in 2008.

In the classroom, Tubb has a 3.81 GPA, and worked as work-study for the SWU campus bed and breakfast, Eagle's Rest, for four years, while serving as a student ambassador from 2008-2011. In the summer of 2010, she served as resident assistant. She was also on the dean's list from 2007-2010, in the SWU Honors Program in 2007 and won a SWU Honors Scholarship Award in 2009.

In her spare time away from the pitch, Tubb was involved with IGNITE for all four years and started the Waste for Taste program at SWU. Waste for Taste is a program that was coordinated with the dining hall on SWU's campus and used the extra meals that students did not use on their meal cards, and put together those extra meals for the homeless in the surrounding area. She is also a radio show host on 93.7 FM every Saturday from 9 a.m. – noon.

"Jackie touched the lives of many individuals on Southern Wesleyan's campus, including my own," commented SWU head women's soccer coach Tom Price. "She represented the university, the athletic program, herself and most importantly, Christ, in an amazing way. She will be greatly missed."

Tolan, a senior from Central, S.C., played in 62 games in his SWU career, scoring 13 goals and adding 5 assists. He finished his four-year career at 33-33-9, and he was also named to the Musco Lighting Champion of Character



Jackie Tubb



Stephen Tolan

Team in 2010. He has a 3.85 GPA in the classroom. During his time off the field, Tolan was involved in IGNITE and did volunteer work throughout the Central and Clemson areas. He is the junior varsity head boy's soccer coach and is also involved in youth ministry in the local church.

"Stephen is a dream kid for any one to have on their team," said SWU head men's soccer coach Camilo Rodriguez. "He has been a great student in the classroom, a great player and a strong Christian, along with having a strong work ethic in all he does. He is an example for all of his teammates and

## SWU hires new softball coach

Southern Wesleyan University recently hired Anna Ball as the next head softball coach for the Warriors.



This is Ball's first head coaching position after serving as the assistant coach at Notre Dame College for two years, after a star-studded playing career.

"The support of the SWU community will be a vital asset to our program as we move forward in building a stable program. I am humbled to be given the opportunity to develop student-athletes through Christ by way of softball," Ball said.

Ball helped lead the team as a player to a 5th place finish in the NAIA National Tournament in 2009, and another appearance into the NAIA National Tournament as an assistant coach in 2010.

Ball is currently the NAIA career leader in batting average (.516) and leader in slugging percentage (.862), while ranking 2nd in the NAIA in doubles with 87. She was named to the NAIA National Tournament Team in 2009, was the American Midwest Conference Player of the Year, 1st Team All-Conference, and was a NAIA Academic All-American in 2009. Ball was a NAIA 1st Team All-American in 2008 and a 2nd Team All-American in 2007. She currently owns seven records at NDC and was awarded the NDC President's Award for outstanding student-athlete achievement.

"I am highly impressed with her leadership and relationship building skills," SWU Athletic Director Chris Williams said. "Anna will work hard to build relationships with her student-athletes while expecting 100 percent effort from them as well. She will bring passion, energy and high expectations to a young roster of Warrior softball players."



## Presidential scholarship established

James Wiggins, left, Southern Wesleyan University's vice president for development, presents to University President David Spittal an endowed scholarship fund named in honor of Spittal and his wife. The David and Donna Spittal Endowed Scholarship is being made possible by financial support of Southern Wesleyan's board of visitors members and community sponsors and will benefit future students. According to Wiggins, anyone is welcome to make a contribution to the scholarship, adding that such gifts should be made payable to Southern Wesleyan University and clearly designated for the David and Donna Spittal Endowed Scholarship Fund. For details, contact Mary Costello, director of development, at (864) 644-5004 or e-mail [mcostello@swu.edu](mailto:mcostello@swu.edu). *To give online, click here.*

## Display SWU pride

Purchase a Southern Wesleyan University personalized license tag and let everyone know that you support the university. Each South Carolina license tag generates revenue for the university.

There are 10,463 alumni in South Carolina. If just half our South Carolina Alumni purchased license plates, the university would receive \$47,083.

Stop by your local DMV and ask for your SWU license plate today! The cost of the license plate is \$35 plus the normal registration fee.



## Great is God's Faithfulness

**By Reverend Jim Wiggins,  
Vice President for Development**

### God has been faithful

On April 5, 2011, a wonderful celebration banquet was held with approximately 250 in attendance to honor Dr. and Mrs. Spittal's retirement and celebrate their years of service. This was a wonderful time reflecting on the great progress made over the past 17 years under Dr. Spittal's leadership. Acknowledgment was given to God's great faithfulness.

God has been faithful to help in the giving to The Promise Fund. With the high goal of \$450,000 for 2010-2011, it is good to report that as of June 22, 2011, we have received \$412,319 or 91.6 percent of the way to score a real victory.

It is our hope that, with God's help and everyone's giving faithfully and liberally, the university will be able to again close the fiscal year 2010-2011 operational budget in the black.

### God is being faithful

On May 27, 2011, the SWU Board of Trustees elected Dr. Todd Voss, the 18th president of Southern Wesleyan University. A clear sense of God's



*Rev. Wiggins*

guidance and blessing has prevailed in the selection of the new president. Again, God is proving His faithfulness, following months of prayerful and diligent search.

### God will always be faithful

There is great excitement and confidence that great days lie ahead for SWU. Almost like never before, SWU is poised for a future of dynamic growth. Dr. Voss expressed gratitude to Dr. David Spittal for positioning the university for success and growth.

In this time of transition in presidential leadership of the university, we are reminded of the strong promises of God to Joshua and claim them for our new president and for SWU (Joshua 1:5 & 9).

As I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee nor forsake thee. Have not I commanded thee! Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be dismayed, for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

The challenge for us is to venture with this God who has been so faithful, who is right now being faithful and who will always be faithful.

Thank you for partnering together with us at SWU and with God, as we team up for the coming year 2011-2012, to help see great things happen at SWU.



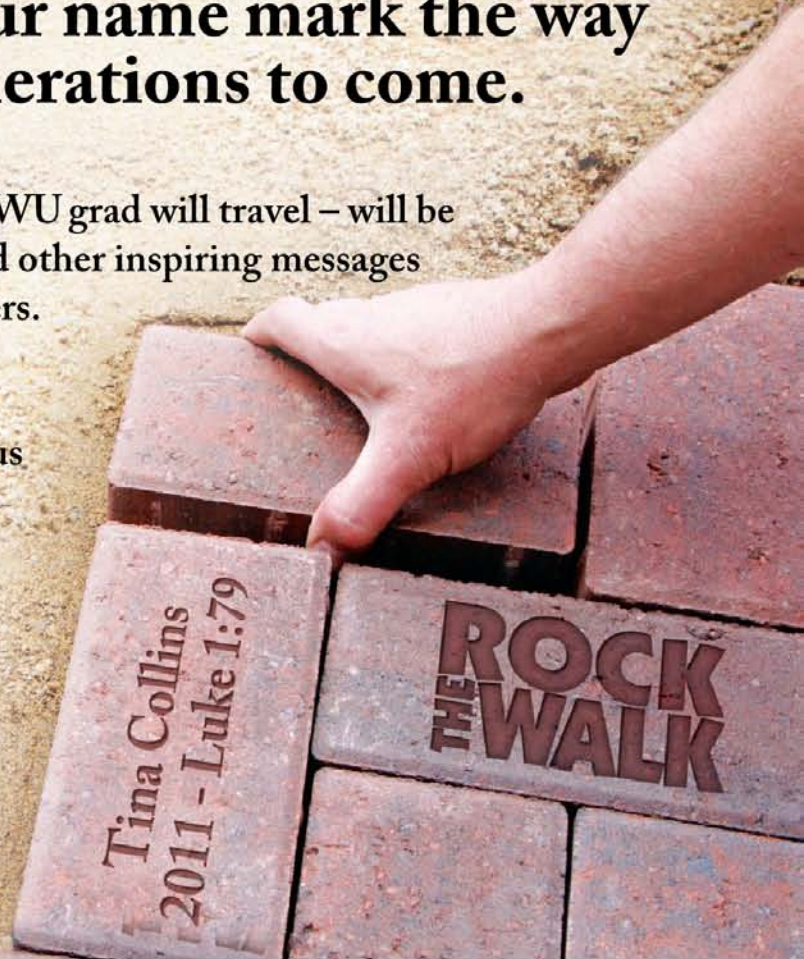


Let your name mark the way for generations to come.

Our new Alumni Walk – a path every future SWU grad will travel – will be paved with bricks engraved with the names and other inspiring messages contributed by alumni and their family members.

Just donate \$100 to the SWU Promise Fund supporting scholarship funds, expanded campus ministries and more. We'll inscribe your brick with your name and class year – or you may choose to honor a former SWU graduate, or even add a different inscription if you like: two lines, with up to 16 characters per line.

For details, contact the Alumni Office (jbryant@swu.edu or 864-644-5385) or log on to [www.swu.edu/rockthewalk](http://www.swu.edu/rockthewalk).



SAVE THE DATE



HAPPY DAYS

Homecoming

Nov. 5th  
2011

[Click here for details.](#)

## ALUMNI

'74



**Jonathan Watts** recently received the designation of Oxford Foundation Fellow through the Graduate Theological Foundation. The fellowships are designed as short-term, independent studies with residency and research facilities in Oxford, England. Watts spent May 14-22 in Oxford to complete his work. He is also the author of two books, "Gospel Telling to a Digital Culture: The Forensic Reconstruction of a Good Story" and "The Battle Lines of Worship: Finding a Place of Truce and Trust," both published through Wyndham Hall Press. He is a religion and ethics instructor at Snead State Community College in Boaz, Ala.

'89

**Jan Nations** was recently chosen by her colleagues as the Teacher of the Year for 2011-1012. Nations is a music teacher at Six Mile Elementary School in Six Mile, S.C.

'93



**Bryan Owens** was recently named interactive services director at Jackson Marketing

Group. Owens received a human resources degree from Southern Wesleyan University. Owens joined Jackson Marketing Group with a background in information technology and personnel management, along with experience in overseeing successful acquisitions, product launches and project integration. Jackson Marketing Group, with offices in Greenville, S.C., and Charlotte, N.C., is a fully-integrated marketing communications agency offering strategic planning, interactive services, advertising, public relations, partnership marketing, event management, video production and support services.

'91 & '03

**Rick Freeze**, a fifth-grade science and social studies teacher, was named the Teacher of the Year for 2011-2012 at Central Elementary School.

'08 & '11

**Evelyn Robinson**, held a grand opening for her new business, E's Boutique, June 11. The shop is on Georgia Avenue in North Augusta. Robinson earned a bachelor's degree in management and a master's degree in business administration.

'95

**Michel Sinnamon Justus** recently earned her national board certification. This past year, she received the 2010 Outstanding Biology Teacher Award for the State of South Carolina. Justus has taught at various high schools across the state for more than 12 years. She currently teaches at D.W. Daniel High School in Central, S.C. She is the daughter of Dr. Walt Sinnamon, dean of arts and sciences at Southern Wesleyan University; and Carol Sinnamon, director of counseling and health services.

'96

**Steve Dean** was named chief executive officer for New Foundations Children and Family Services, located in Anderson, S.C. An Anderson native, Dean received his bachelor of science degree in human services from Southern Wesleyan. He went on to earn a master's degree in education from Clemson University in 1999, majoring in counseling and guidance services. Prior to his current post, he served New Foundations as treatment coordinator, program director and senior manager. New Foundations provides group home services for children in foster care and for children with family disruption.

'07, '08 & '09

Columbia M.Ed. graduates **Lilla Todd**, **Mary Jane Britt** and **Erica Millwood** recently earned their National Board Certification. The certification, awarded by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, is an advanced teaching credential. Todd, a 2009 graduate, is a teacher at Forest Lake Elementary School in Richland School District 2; Britt, a 2007 graduate, is a teacher at Rocky Creek Elementary School in Lexington District 1; and Millwood, a 2008 graduate, is a teacher at Leaphart Elementary School in Lexington District 5.

'01, '06

**Patti Gosnell**, a Southern Wesleyan University education graduate and West-Oak Middle School sixth-grade English language arts teacher, published an article in the South Carolina Middle School Association Professional Journal. The article discussed the benefits of using the multi-genre approach to research projects by students. The approach, which goes beyond the traditional approach of writing a paper,

may involve a student presenting a research project in unique ways that include writing a newspaper article, designing a comic strip, creating a video or developing a web page. Gosnell earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education and an M.Ed.

'04



**Angela Ballard Adams**, an education graduate, was selected as Berkeley County School District's 2011 Teacher of the Year. Adams is a sixth-grade teacher at Hanahan Middle School. Adams was selected from a pool of 40 candidates who were the top teachers at their respective schools. Adams has taught science at Hanahan Middle for three years. Prior to that, she taught 10 years at Gettys Middle School in Easley, S.C. She earned a master's in education degree in 2004 from Southern Wesleyan University and a bachelor of arts in elementary education from Clemson University. Adams also earned National Board Certification.

'04

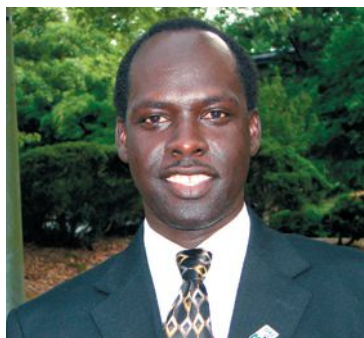
Strawberry pizzas, pilgrim hats and paper butterflies are some of things Southern Wesleyan University graduate **Rupal Shah** has taught children how to make through her role as a volunteer at The Home for Little Wanderers' Knight Children's Center in Boston. Once a month she helps lead a baking or craft activity, putting smiles on kids' faces with simple

things like neon sprinkles and chocolate cake. Yet, Shah feels she has learned a whole lot more from the kids, who she says remind her about what's truly important. Shah graduated from Southern Wesleyan with a B.S. in biology and B.A. in chemistry and earned her master's degree at Clemson University.

'06

**Joel Seavey** was named the city of Seneca's new finance director. Seavey, who lives in Six Mile, will also serve as clerk-treasurer for the city. Seavey earned a bachelor of science degree in business administration. He began his new job April 19.

'07



**Abraham Deng**, a pre-medicine/dentistry graduate, was accepted into Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology and Armstrong Atlantic State University. He plans to study in the master of arts in Christian Ministry program at Mercer. Deng will also receive scholarships from Mercer and become involved in mission trips, which will include a trip to Atlanta to help the Lost Boys of Sudan who are living there. He will also help to build a school in his native village of Duk in Southern Sudan, provide water wells and help in providing prosthetic legs to those who lost limbs. Deng was among the estimated 20,000 Lost Boys who were affected by the Sudanese Civil War and were orphaned or separated from their families.

'07

**Braeden Kershner** was named first runner up for Charleston County School District's Teacher of the Year. The district employs approximately 4,000 teachers, of which Kershner was selected as one of five finalists. He was also recently honored by Southern Wesleyan's Alumni Association with the Professional Excellence Award for Education. Kershner is band and choral director at C.E. Williams Middle School for the Creative and Scientific Arts in Charleston, S.C.

'08



**Carl Robinson**, a North Augusta M.Ed. graduate, was named Teacher of the Year at Diamond Lakes Elementary School, in Hephzibah, Ga. Robinson teaches physical education and health.

'09

**Rebecca Long**, a graduate of Southern Wesleyan University's North Augusta location and a K-5 art teacher at Clearwater Elementary School, won third place for her two banners, each featuring wildflowers. The banners were displayed in downtown North Augusta during their centennial celebration. "Currently, I am on an earring kick," Long said. "I love making new designs and it is nice to be able to make a pair to match any outfit."

'09



**Brianna Garrison**, a biology graduate, was hooded as a physician's assistant during a ceremony at Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, Tenn. She earned master's degrees in science and medicine. Garrison will officially complete her program after three months of clinicals. She resides in Kernersville, N.C.

'09

**Chad Tidwell**, a business graduate, has become a top manager at Clemson Waffle House after just one year with the company. Under his leadership, the Clemson, S.C., location has gone from last place in sales to number two for the Anderson/Greenville market. He has led his area with the lowest food cost and was recently invited to be one of six managers to attend the Barnes Area Leadership Development Seminar.

'10

**Brian Daniels**, a biology and English graduate, received an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. According to Dr. Walt Sinnamon, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the fellowship is a prestigious honor. Approximately 10 percent of those who apply actually win the fellowship, which makes possible opportunities for additional travel and research grants as a representative of the National Science Foundation. The fellowship includes a \$30,000 a year stipend award

and a \$10,400 a year award to his current institution. Daniels is studying neuroscience at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo.

'10



**Amanda Feix**, a forensic science graduate from Taylors, S.C., accepted an offer with Aegis Sciences Corporation as a forensic mass spectrometry technician in Nashville, Tenn. Aegis is one of the largest independent sports, forensic and clinical toxicology testing laboratories in the United States, providing a variety of scientific services and programs to Fortune 500 corporations, professional sports leagues, leading colleges and universities, government agencies, pain management physicians, medical examiner systems, courts of law and the food industry.

'10

**Chandra Walls** has been accepted into the Clinical Mental Health program at Clemson University. The program is noted for its Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs accreditation and the large number of students who engage in conference presentations. In 2008, she did a presentation about racial and ethnic variations in attitudes toward spanking based on the 2006 General Social Survey at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society held in

Richmond, Va. She was also inducted into Alpha Chi national collegiate honor society. Walls is an honors psychology major from Greer, S.C.

## '10

**Jessica Mussro** was awarded an assistantship with the School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Georgia. Mussro will be in the Department of International Affairs. According to U.S. News and World Report, the University of Georgia has one of the top five public affairs programs in the nation. Mussro is from Clemson, S.C.

## '11

**Chen Chen** has been accepted into the master's program in public relations at Syracuse University's Newhouse School for Public Communication. According to Dr. Richard Rogers, coordinator of Southern Wesleyan's honors program, the master's program at Syracuse is highly selective, admitting approximately 350 students from a pool of 4,000 applicants. Chen was also offered admission to Quinnipiac University in Connecticut. Chen is a media communication graduate from Hefei, China.

A love of Chinese culture and the Chinese language has led **Tina Collins** to an opportunity to work as a translator for a Chinese firm in Puerto Rico. Collins, who studied this past fall at Xiamen University, one of China's top institutions, was employed by the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research as a part-time interpreter and staff member. She is working under leadership that includes top Chinese scientists. Collins is a graduate in China Studies, a specialized major.

## '11



**Nick Hindes** accepted an assistantship from the University of Southern Mississippi in the Marriage and Family Program. The program is accredited by the Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. Hindes is a psychology graduate from Mt. Sterling, Ohio.

## '02 & '04

**Will Amos**, a business graduate, was named program director for Trident Technical College's Educational Opportunity Center. Amos started with the center as an educational specialist in 2004. He has also taught at Trident Tech as an adjunct instructor. Amos has been with the center as an educational specialist since 2004 and has taught at Trident Tech as an adjunct instructor since 2007. Amos earned his bachelor's degree in management and a master's degree in management.

## Trustee, '82



**Ray Lattimore**, a member of the Southern Wesleyan University board of trustees,

has been elected chairman of the Fountain Inn Chamber of Commerce for 2011-12. Lattimore is president and chief executive officer of Marketplace Staffing. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Southern Wesleyan University and has received advanced management training from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College. A frequent writer and speaker at conferences and gatherings, Lattimore shares life-tested strategies on how to turn entrepreneurial dreams into successful businesses. He is also renowned for his long-standing commitment to helping support and develop minority businesses and serves on the board of directors for the Carolinas Minority Supplier Development Council.

## FACULTY/STAFF

Southern Wesleyan Education Professor **Lavinia Anderson** participated in a standard-setting study for Educational Testing Service in Princeton, N.J. Feb. 10 and 11. During the study, she worked on the PRAXIS II test for Early Childhood. Anderson collaborated with other educators to develop a new cut off score and make sure that the test measured what it was supposed to measure.

## '03

**Janelle Beamer**, director of communications at Southern Wesleyan University, recently graduated from Leadership South Carolina. The leadership program educates 50 class members each year from throughout South Carolina, selected through a competitive process. Class sessions include presentations, panels, experiential

learning and a great deal of interaction between class members and presenters. Topics included education, economic development, environment, energy usage, historical perspective, social issues, health, workforce development and natural resources. Beamer earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of South Carolina and a master's degree in management from Southern Wesleyan.

The Powdersville Business Council of the Greater Easley Chamber of Commerce held its monthly January luncheon featuring **Yvonne Duckett**, career services director at Southern Wesleyan University, who spoke on Time Management.

Business professor **Dr. John Frazier** presented two papers at the International Academy of Business and Public Administration Disciplines during their conference held Jan. 3-6 in Orlando, Fla. The papers were titled "A Consideration of Purchasing Power Parity" and "Hedging Metals in the Automotive Industry." Frazier received an IABPAD research award for the second paper. He was also presented with a service award in appreciation and recognition for serving as a session chair at the conference.



Members of Southern Wesleyan University faculty and staff were joined by a student and an alumna

at the Come to the Water Conference, held in March at St. Louis, Mo. Attending, from left, were **Martha Rampey**, a ministerial student; **Dr. Mari Gonlag**, religion professor; and **Carol Sinnamon ('68)**, director of counseling and health services. Also attending (not pictured) were **Dr. Chris Accornero**, chair of the Division of Religion; and **Tamara Flinchum**, a 1984 English major. Gonlag conducted a workshop titled "The Trinity, Subordinationism and Women in Ministry: New Doctrinal Deviations in Evangelicalism." Sinnamon conducted a workshop titled "Human Sexuality and the Church: A Hopeful Future." Flinchum conducted a workshop titled "Ministering in Crisis: The Life of a Chaplain."



Music Professor **Greg Day** received the 2011 SCICU Excellence in Teaching Award. Faculty from 20 private colleges were recognized for their dedication to teaching and learning by SCICU at their sixth annual Excellence in Teaching Awards Dinner. "This year's award recipients demonstrated a remarkable blend of scholarship, passion, commitment, and the ability to motivate students to new heights," said Sara Fisher, chair of the SCICU Board of Trustees. The ceremony in Columbia, S.C. was part of S.C. Independent College and University Week, April 4-8.

**Dr. Roger McKenzie**, professor of religion for youth ministry and Christian education, contributed three chapters to a new textbook, titled "Discipleship that Transforms: An Introduction to Christian Education from a Wesleyan Holiness Perspective." McKenzie is among 14 Wesleyan educators who contributed content to the book, which focuses on how the Wesleyan Holiness principle guides the educational and discipleship ministries of the church in the Twenty-First Century.

The School District of Pickens County's board of trustees approved **Dr. Kelly Pew**, an adjunct instructor in Southern Wesleyan University's School of Education, as assistant superintendent of instructional services during its May 16 meeting. As an adjunct since 2003, Pew has taught graduate courses in curriculum, instruction and school leadership. She also teaches in the master of education program at Anderson University. She has been the district's assistant superintendent of human resource services since July 2009 and also served as principal at Seneca High School, Seneca Middle School and Wren High School's Freshman Academy. Pew was also an assistant principal at Wren High and at Bryson Middle School in Greenville. Pew graduated from Clemson University and then earned a master's degree from Furman University. She earned a doctor of philosophy degree in educational leadership from Clemson University.

**'65**

**Dr. Don Wood**, retiring Southern Wesleyan University religion professor, won a new Ford pickup truck for scoring a hole-in-one during the Warrior Open May

13 at Smithfield's in Easley. The truck was provided by Edwards Auto Sales in Walhalla. The Warrior Open raises support for Southern Wesleyan's student athletes. This year's tournament raised \$6,270.

**Dr. Ben Xie**, associate professor of English at Southern Wesleyan University, made a scholarly presentation April 1 at the College English Association's 2011 conference. Xie presented a paper titled, "Misfortune, Conflict and Prospect: Cultural Analysis of Flannery O'Connor's 'The Displaced Person.'" The conference took place March 31 - April 2 in St. Petersburg, Fla.

## STUDENTS

**Palmer Dill**, a religion major from Central, has been traveling with the band Ocean is Theory. The band just released their first single, "Best Intentions," off their new album "Future Fears." The album is scheduled to be in stores May 23. *To listen to the group, click here.* You can also download the single for free. Dill is the son of Rev. Ken Dill, university chaplain; and Jane Dill, chair of the Fine Arts Division and professor of music.



**Sherry Golden**, an elementary education major, will make a presentation at the Fall 2012 Geofest Conference. While she was

a student-teacher, Golden submitted an instructional unit titled "The Seven Continents across the Curriculum" to the University of South Carolina Geographic Alliance as a grant proposal and received funding. She collaborated with Amy Breazeale, a teacher at Ben Hagood Elementary School in Pickens, S.C., on the unit.



**Josh Styes**, a senior business administration major, was recently hired for a three-month internship at the Greater Easley Chamber of Commerce. Styes, who originally comes from Harvest, Ala., is the first intern from Southern Wesleyan hired by the chamber. "We're delighted to have Josh as our intern," said Kent Dykes, president of the chamber. Dykes added that Styes makes a great first impression with visitors to their offices.

Greenville bachelor's in business administration student **Constantino "Caso" Suarez** won an Apple iPad after participating in a Southern Wesleyan University student survey. In December, Southern Wesleyan's Office of Marketing and Enrollment partnered with Details Communications in Birmingham and Impressions Media of Greenville to conduct a media survey of enrolled students in four major markets in South Carolina. An analysis of

the survey responses led to a revision of several marketing and advertising strategies, which has already resulted in an annual savings of more than \$75,000 for the university. Those funds have been reallocated to projects that will yield higher enrollments.



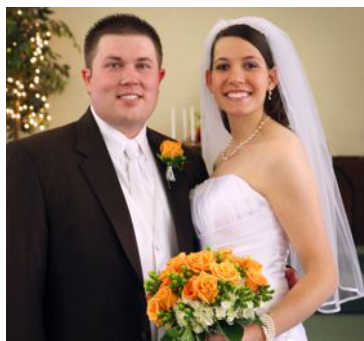
**Amanda Zepher**, a psychology major from Raleigh, N.C., took part in the Disney College Internship Program. Zepher described her internship as a life-changing one. Her dream is to one day become a celebrity publicist. She credits Southern Wesleyan's Career Services Center for helping make this opportunity possible.

## WEDDINGS

'09

**Victoria Stanley** and **Michael Mosley** were married Dec. 28, 2010, in Central, S.C.

'10,'11



**Phillip Fritts** and **Mandi Bedell** were married May 28, 2011, at Burlington First Wesleyan Church, Burlington, N.C.

## BIRTHS

'95



**Brock Darren Sheets** was born Oct. 30, 2010, to **Ronda Tucker Sheets** and Rick Sheets. He weighed 8 pounds, 9.5 oz., and was 20.5 inches long.

'05

**Landon William Satterfield** was born Feb. 9, 2011, to **Jessica Smith Satterfield** and Brett Satterfield.

## Staff

**Paul Darian Washington** was born to Southern Wesleyan University Reference Librarian **Erin Washington** and her husband Paul Darian Washington Jan. 24, 2011. He weighed 7 pounds, 15 oz., and was 21 inches long.

## OBITUARIES

'46

**Dr. Henry Israel** of Leesburg, Ga., Jan. 20, 2011.

'50

**William C. Wright** of Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 26, 2011.

'53

**Everette Bruce Sheets** of Winter Haven, Fla., Feb. 24, 2011.

'54

**Virgil Veal** of Fairburn, Ga., April 3, 2011.

'59

**Bernice Quarles Nyberg** of Moore, S.C., Jan. 25, 2011.

'63

**Jason L. Smith** of Easley, S.C., April 28, 2011.

'63

**Rev. David Tillman Tillotson Sr.** of Whitmire, S.C., Mar. 12, 2011.

'65

**Jane Allison Adams** of Inman, S.C., Feb. 2, 2011.

'77

**Anita F. Busick** of Winston-Salem, N.C., Nov. 21, 2010.

'85

**Lawrence Lawson** of Central, SC., April 29, 2011.

## *Southern Wesleyan donor passes away*



**Dr. Marie Bowie**, widow of Parker Bowie, passed away April 20. According to University President Dr. David Spittal, Bowie's late husband became interested in Southern Wesleyan University through his pastor and his estate provided a major contribution toward

the completion of Newton Hobson Chapel and Fine Arts Center. She expressed a wish to honor his memory through the funding of the Parker Bowie Rehearsal Hall, located in the Fine Arts Center. She was well-known as an educator, devoting 45 years of teaching service to Anderson School District 3. She was also recognized for her philanthropic efforts with an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from Erskine College, the Wil Lou Gray Outstanding Educator award, two Order of the Palmetto awards in 1998 and 2002 and the Anderson County Pointing the Way award in 2008.

## e-FOCUS

**Thank you** for reading the first issue of e-Focus, Southern Wesleyan University's new interactive magazine. We plan to publish four electronic issues of Focus each year. Two of these issues will be printed and mailed to our university friends.

Subscribing is easy. Just go online to <http://swu.edu/giving/focus.htm> and fill out the form.

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