

Southern Wesleyan University

FOCUS



"They soar on wings like eagles..."

Isaiah 40:31

FALL 2008

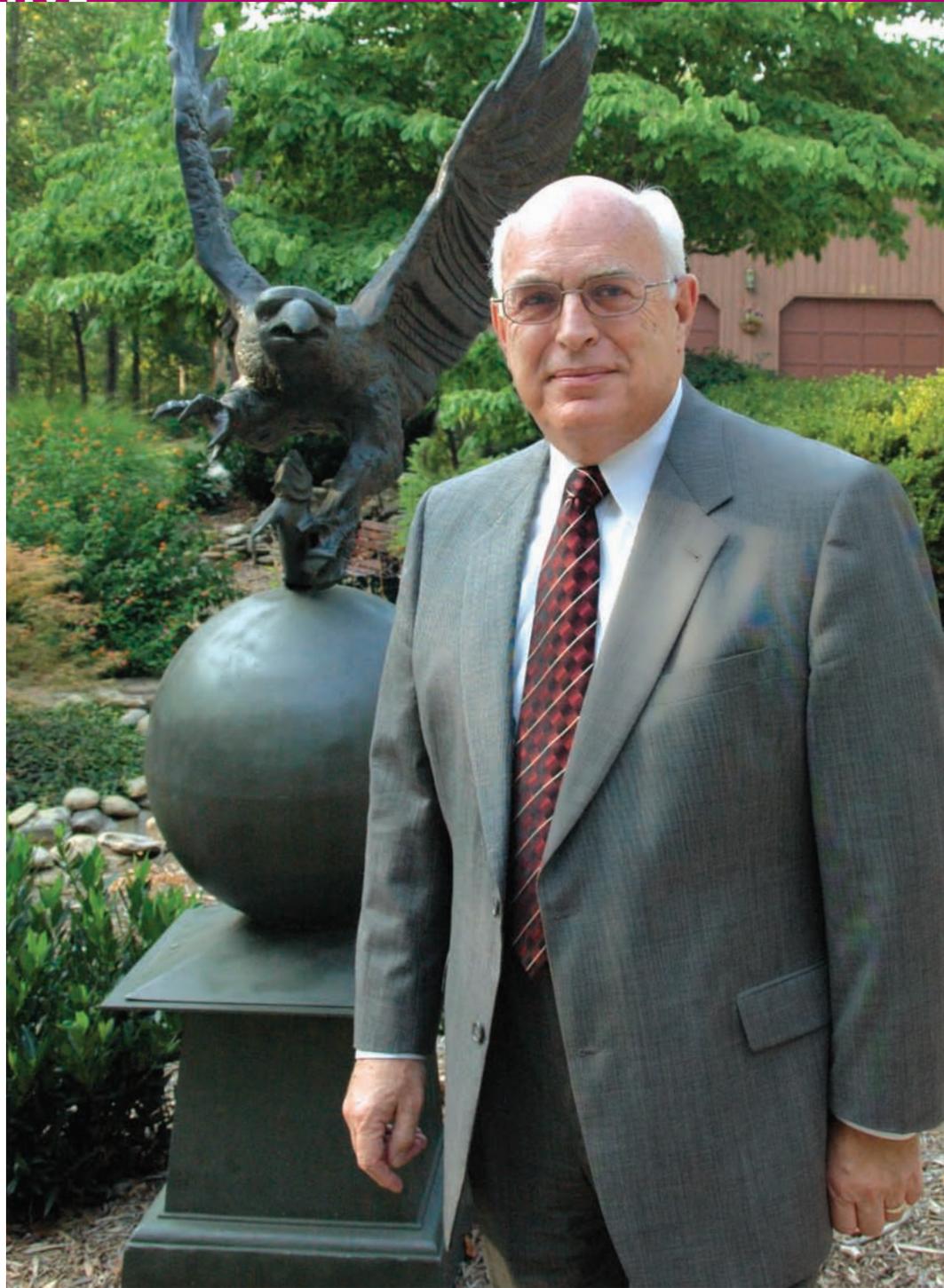
Serving Christ along the way

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

The story of this university is filled with accounts of men and women whose faith in Christ was evidenced by their lives of service to others. Quietly and usually invisibly, their hearts of compassion became the heart and hands of Christ in action and, as a result, transformed the lives of those they touched. These heroes of faith and service walked different paths and fulfilled different roles, but all served the same Christ and now their memory is sustained by a cloud of witnesses whose lives were influenced by their love.

Acts of service take many forms and can be fulfilled in many ways. It might be an encouraging word, an unexpected kindness, a persistent prayer or a willingness to simply get involved whenever there is a need. God calls men and women to lives of full-time ministry, but he also calls all his followers to take on the lives of servants. Our talents, abilities and roles may vary, but the power of Christ that resides within compels us to share his love through active service to others.

Christ's call to service is often described through the familiar parable of a good Samaritan whose life was unexpectedly interrupted by an injured man along the roadside. Obviously, the Samaritan was busy and on his way to an appointed destination. He had things to do and people to see and even though he was on the way somewhere else, he was compelled to listen to his heart and take action when several others had looked away and passed on. The



Dr. David Spittal

anonymous Samaritan has become the historical example of service in action. We have heard this story many times, but James 1:22 reminds us that hearing this story is not as powerful as doing and pursuing the example it provides.

Those who saw the need and passed by chose not to act and missed an opportunity to experience the

power of Christ that is manifested through acts of love and service. Our mission as a university is to "help" men and women become all God intends them to be. In fulfilling that mission, we seek to model lives of service and not be among those who look away, but be counted as those who share the love of Christ in action as we serve others along the way.

FOCUS

CONTENTS

FALL 2008

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

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- 4** Scholarship reaches a milestone
- 5** Chapel and fine arts center opens
- 6** Tournament to benefit the Promise Fund
- 7** SWU receives NCATE, Music accreditations
- 8** FEATURE: SWU graduate keeps eye on safety, quality of life
- 10** Sports
- 12** Alumni News
- 14** Alumni Snapshots



SWU relocates Columbia learning center

Southern Wesleyan University is on the move – to a new location in Columbia, S.C. The university's Columbia Learning Center is now in the northeast area of Columbia. The new location is in Pinnacle Point Business Park. Southern Wesleyan University will occupy more than 16,000 square feet of space in the building. All Southern Wesleyan University students, graduates, employees and community friends are invited to attend a dedication and open house at the new location on Sunday, Sept. 21, 3-5 p.m. Join the university in celebrating the new location with music and tours of the new facility. For details or questions, call (803) 699-0910.



On the cover The inspiration for the cover of this edition of Focus magazine is Isaiah 40:31, "but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." The photo shows Southern Wesleyan University's warrior statue with its soaring eagle, located on the university's campus in Central. This edition focuses on many who serve others with Christian love and truly rise up on wings like eagles.



Phonathon reaching out for support

Throughout the coming academic year, student callers will be contacting Southern Wesleyan University alumni and friends for the annual Phonathon in support of the Promise Fund. The purpose of the Phonathon is to maintain relationships with SWU alumni and friends, as well as raise funds for the Promise Fund, which provides support for student scholarships and numerous academic and student programs on campus.

With tuition on the rise, our students need your help now more than ever before. The Promise Fund attempts to keep the cost of attending SWU low. Every donation helps and can make a difference in the lives of our students.

By answering the call, donors can change the lives of so many students. All Phonathon gifts are tax-deductible, and can help many students follow their dreams. Pledges for this fiscal year have until June 30, 2009, to be paid. Any donation can be made in installments or as a one-time gift.

For details, or if you would like to donate without being called, please contact Erin Fellers at (864) 644-5006 or efellers@swu.edu.



Scholarship reaches a 25-year milestone

Once a math and social studies teacher at a school in Maryland, James Roberts has not forgotten the generosity of others who helped him finance his college education.

Roberts decided that whenever he was financially able to do so, he would reach out to help someone else. He established a scholarship 25 years ago to honor the memory of his mother, Esther Baker Roberts.

The Esther Baker Roberts Memorial Scholarship reached a milestone this year. For 25 years, the scholarship has helped students such as its latest recipient, Heather Mullinax, to attain a degree in education, Christian vocations and other fields committed to helping others.

Mullinax is a sophomore from Easley, S.C., majoring in elementary education. She said that receiving the scholarship was an affirmation of God's will that she attend Southern Wesleyan University and to enter the field of education.

"It is the opportunity to go to a school I know God is calling me to and to be financially supported," Mullinax said. "It has taken a lot of burden off of my family and just allowed me to focus on my education more so than being concerned about whether or not I am financially ready for the school year."

Roberts said, "I chose Southern Wesleyan University because my parents were Wesleyans and I grew up in a Wesleyan Church."

"Esther obviously was a woman of extraordinary faith and strength to survive such serious hardships and personal tragedy," Roberts said of his mother, who died in 1974.

He recalled his mother's faith and perseverance, experiencing the death of two infant children, raising a family on small tenant farms during the Great Depression and enduring



James Roberts and Heather Mullinax

the tragic loss of her husband in a construction accident in 1944. Without life insurance or death benefits, she was left to raise her young children alone.

With the help of this scholarship, Mullinax plans to become a third-grade teacher.



Chapel, fine arts center opens

Southern Wesleyan University's new facility for chapel services and fine arts events opened with the beginning of the 2008 fall semester.

The 47,000-square-foot Newton Hobson Chapel and Fine Arts Center is the latest building addition to Southern Wesleyan University's campus in Central.

The building seats 1,200 and provides classroom space for fine arts majors, as well as office space for fine arts faculty. The university's spiritual life department is also housed in the new facility.

The building will open for the university's homecoming celebration on Sept. 26-29 and will be dedicated Oct. 23.

Capital Campaign Status

As of August, 2008

Project Cost Summary for Newton Hobson Chapel and Fine Arts Center

Total Construction Budget	\$5,616,793
Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	\$ 799,179
	<hr/>
	\$6,415,972
Total Pledges, Cash and Earnings	\$5,462,673
Current Unpaid Pledges	(\$259,543)
Net Project Balance	\$ 923,299
Pending Pledges Southern Area Wesleyan Districts	\$ 250,000

Promise Fund aims high for annual goal

Southern Wesleyan University donors gave \$344,348 to the Promise Fund during the 2007-2008 fiscal year. The Promise Fund helps to keep the cost of attending SWU low and also provides support for various academic and student programs.

The goal for the 2008-2009 fiscal year is \$404,000. This goal is aggressive, but with the support of alumni and friends, the university can achieve this objective. So far this fiscal year, donors have given \$45,921 to the Promise Fund. Please prayerfully consider helping SWU reach the goal for the Promise Fund with your gifts and your prayers.

Faculty and Staff:

\$4,086

Corporations/

Businesses: \$3,302

Alumni: \$25,669

Friends: \$4,515

Churches/

Organizations: \$3,319

Trustees: \$1,530

Matching Gifts: \$45,921

Total: \$45,921

To donate to the Promise Fund, please use the envelope enclosed in this issue of Focus magazine and make your check payable to SWU Promise Fund. If you would like to speak to someone about your gift, contact Mary Costello at (864) 644-5004, 1-800-282-8798, ext. 5004, mcostello@swu.edu.



Tournament to benefit the Promise Fund

It is time to tee off once again as Southern Wesleyan University prepares to host the annual P.B. Wood Golf Tournament on Monday, Oct. 20, 2008, at Pickens Country Club.

The tournament raises money for the Promise Fund, which helps provide scholarships as well as academic and student program support. The tournament is held in honor of Paul Baker Wood, Southern Wesleyan University professor emeritus and psychologist. Dale Gilbert of WYFF is scheduled to be this year's celebrity golfer.

Prizes will be awarded to each member of the first, second and third place teams. The prize for the first place team is a set of Nike Sumo Shot irons with bags. The prize for the second place team is a Nike Sumo 5000 driver. The prize for the third place team is a Sumo Hybrid. Prizes will also be awarded to the golfer closest to the pin and the golfer who has the longest drive. There will also be a hole-in-one contest and various door prizes.

Bring your appetite for food along with your appetite for golf - there will be a continental breakfast provided by ARA; biscuits, a mid-day snack (chicken sandwich, chips and brownie) provided Chick-fil-a of Anderson, and a post-tournament meal (barbecue and all the fixins) provided by The Parkette of Pickens as well as drinks and other snacks also provided by ARA.

The tournament is a captain's choice event and each team has four members. You can register as a team of four, or as individuals to be placed on a team.

The entry fee is \$100 for an individual and \$400 for a team. This fee covers greens fees, cart fees, breakfast, lunch and various giveaways.

Tee sponsorships are \$100 and hole sponsorships are \$250. Corporate sponsorships are \$1,000 and include one golfer registration fee. Co-sponsorships are \$2,500 and include one team registration fee.

To play, sponsor or support the Promise Fund, please contact Erin Fellers at (864) 644-5006 or efellers@swu.edu.



Snapshots from the 2007 tournament

2008 Warrior Golf Schedule

GOLF	DATE	TOURNAMENT	LOCATION
	Sept. 8-9	Bill Sergent University of the Cumberland's Tournament	Williamsburg, Ken.
	Sept. 15-16	Montreat College Fall Invitational	Montreat, N.C.
	Sept. 29-30	Jack Shadwick Invitational*	Seneca, S.C.
	Oct. 6-7	Chick-Fil-A Invitational#	Rome, Ga.
	Oct. 13-14	NCCAA National Championships	Panama City, Fla.

* Hosted by Southern Wesleyan University, # Hosted by Berry College



*For more golf dates, go to www.swuathletics.com.



Jazzin' up the summer

High school students, middle school students, adults and retirees from across the state jammed with top jazz artists during a summer jazz camp June 24-28 at Folger Fine Arts Auditorium on the campus of Southern Wesleyan University in Central. Professional jazz musicians from across the nation including Stockton Helbing from Maynard Ferguson's band as well as Ana Guigui, Ariel Alexander, Doug Henry and Tom Hildreth were on hand to teach improvisation and jazz theory as well as how to get more out of jazz instruments. Also on hand were members of Southern Wesleyan's Jazz Ensemble and local artist Bruce Helgeson. For details about the university's jazz program, contact Greg Day at (864) 644-5295 or gday@swu.edu.

Sinnamon receives teaching award

Walt Sinnamon, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Southern Wesleyan University, received the Excellence in Teaching Award presented by the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, April 15 in Columbia. This award is given to one faculty member at each of the 20 SCICU member colleges and universities. Each recipient was chosen by their institution according to rigorous criteria. The most important characteristic of the nominees is their demonstration of the highest standards in teaching methods that encourages students to strive for excellence in their studies and pursuits.



Walt Sinnamon

SWU receives NCATE, Music accreditations

Southern Wesleyan University recently received two national accreditations for its academic programs.

The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) granted accreditation to the School of Education at Southern Wesleyan University at the initial teacher preparation and advanced preparation levels. Consequently, students with an education degree from Southern Wesleyan University will now be more highly competitive for teaching positions nationwide.

"Even though we are a small institution, at the same time being NCATE accredited means we've met the same rigorous standards that any other major university in the United

States that's NCATE accredited has met," said Dr. Ray Locy, Associate Dean of the School of Education, who chaired Southern Wesleyan's accreditation efforts.

"This accreditation serves as an affirmation of the quality of our teacher education programs and provides tangible evidence of the university's continuing commitment to academic excellence," said Dr. David Spittal, Southern Wesleyan University president.

Also, Southern Wesleyan University's music program recently became an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Music.

The action by the association specifically affirmed accreditation of the university's bachelor of arts in music (church music, general) and the bachelor of arts in music education (choral and instrumental), according to Dr. Spittal.

"This national recognition affirms

the high quality of our music programs and affirms our highly talented faculty members who provide the outstanding experience and contributed greatly to achieve this status," Dr. Spittal said.

The commission of the accrediting body commended the university for an outstanding self-study report and an exceptional response to the requirements for accreditation. It also commended Southern Wesleyan for its support and for the advancement of its music program, according to Dr. Spittal.

Provost Keith Iddings expressed his appreciation for the professors and leaders of the university's Fine Arts Department.

"I want to thank Professor Jane Dill, chair of the Fine Arts Department, for her leadership and music professor Dr. Darryl Jachens for the hours and hours spent refining the documents required by the accreditors," Dr. Iddings said.



Southern Wesleyan graduate keeps eye on safety, quality of life

Balancing a demanding work schedule and family time with earning a college degree can be tricky.

But Harold Reaves, director of Homeland Security for the City of Columbia and recent Southern Wesleyan University graduate, says it's worth the effort.

"Southern Wesleyan University fit my needs with work and trying to do everything I was doing," said Reaves, a licensed youth pastor with the Church of God.

"All of the faculty and staff at Southern Wesleyan University have really been supportive," he said. "They have really worked to make it so I could finish my degree. They understand your life when you're a parent and trying to go to school."

Reaves earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Southern Wesleyan University in December of 2007.

"It was very important to me that I get a degree from a Christian college," he said.

Reaves is director of Homeland Security in the City of Columbia, the capital city of South Carolina. He manages 45 personnel and commands a budget of \$1.6 million. He takes control of the Emergency Operations Center as incident commander for various types of emergencies; coordinates police, fire and public works responses during natural disasters; works

with the Community Safety Unit; and leads the Quality of Life Task Force, which addresses issues that improve the lives of people in Columbia.

"I'm a people person. I love people. In any type of service role, you have to earn people's respect and trust," Reaves said. "You have to be willing to listen to people."

Reaves began working at the City of Columbia Police Department in 1986. During his years of police work, Reaves received numerous professional awards, including Columbia Police Officer of the Year and Knights of Columbus Police Officer of the Year. He has also received more than 100 individual commendations.

After 22 years in law enforcement, Reaves is happy to be in Homeland Security, a department that responds in emergencies and improves people's lives.

"There's real value in coming up through the ranks. I'm proud of the relationships and partnerships I have developed in the Midlands," Reaves said. "The City of Columbia has been good to me. The police department is a spoke on the wheel of city government and it takes all those departments to have a true impact on the quality of life for people in Columbia. We've got to be part of the whole team effort."

Last year, Reaves was asked to fill in as interim police chief for the City of Columbia, which he did for several months before returning to his position in Homeland Security.

Left, Harold Reaves during his time as interim police chief for the City of Columbia

ality of life

"I'm really honored that they could depend on me to take care of things while were looking to fill that position," he said.

While attending classes and doing homework can be a juggling act, Reaves said he appreciated the help of those around him.

"I'm very grateful for those who have supported me with my career and going back to get my education. I have been blessed with a wonderful support base," he said.

"When you're in the work force full-time, especially in law enforcement, the schedule is hard," Reaves said. "I was very lucky to have the support of my supervisor. He had gone back to school and understood the challenges.

"My family was very supportive, too," he said. Reaves' wife of 25 years, his daughter and his son were understanding about his demanding schedule.

"We tried to capitalize on the time we had together," he said. "SWU taught us to balance our lives. You have to be there for your family, too. Education is important, but you have to balance it.

"I'm very proud of my family and the support they've given me. I'm really proud of my children – I couldn't have asked for more spectacular children," Reaves said.

He especially credits SWU associate professor of English Randy Rankin and his wife, Annis. "They have really been very supportive," Reaves said.

Looking to the future, Reaves said he hopes to continue his education.



Reaves in his Homeland Security office.

"I'm considering working on my master's degree," he said. "I don't think you can ever get too much education." In three years, Reaves will be eligible to retire from law enforcement and may decide to pursue a totally different career then,

he said.

"I've been very blessed with opportunities. I believe the Lord places people to make a difference. I'm very grateful for the opportunities the Lord has blessed me with along the way," Reaves said.

SWU athletics recognized for spiritual outreach

Southern Wesleyan University's athletic department received the Sports Ministries Award at the annual National Christian College Athletic Association Convention in Greenville.

The award recognizes member institutions for their commitment to spiritual outreach and is sponsored by the Center for Sports and Physical Therapy, located in Marion, Ind.

"In addition to the many responsibilities of a head coach including running practices, coaching games and recruiting, the coaching staff recognizes the importance of getting their teams into the community to share the love of Jesus with others," Williams said.

Williams is also pleased with the way the student athletes enthusiastically support these outreach opportunities.

"The time the student athletes put into outreach projects is above and beyond the high demands they face as a student and as an athlete," Williams said.

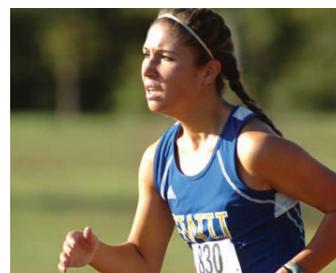


Southern Wesleyan University's Chris Williams, left, receives the NCCAA Spiritual Ministries Award from Vern Howard at the annual NCCAA convention in Greenville.

CROSS COUNTRY

DATE	TOURNAMENT	LOCATION
Sept. 6	Eye Opener	Spartanburg, S.C.
Sept. 13	Lander/Connie Maxwell Invitational	Greenwood, S.C.
Sept. 20	Limestone Invitational	Gaffney, S.C.
Sept. 27	Warrior Invitational (SWU Homecoming)	Central, S.C.
Oct. 4	Elite Cross Country Invitational*	Due West, S.C.
Oct. 25	USC Bluffton Sandshark Invitational	Hilton Head, S.C.
Nov. 8	SSAC Championships#	Rome, Ga.
Nov. 15	NCCAA National Championships^	Cedarville, Ohio
Nov. 22	NAIA National Championships@	Kenosha, Wis.

* Hosted by Erskine College, # Hosted by Shorter College, ^ Hosted by Cedarville University, @ Hosted by University of Wisconsin-Parkside



MEN'S SOCCER

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (EST)	LOCATION
AUGUST				
Tue	26	Milligan	7 p.m.	Central, S.C.
SEPTEMBER				
Tue	2	Toccoa Falls	7 p.m.	Central, S.C.
Sat	6	Auburn University of Montgomery*	7 p.m.	Central, S.C.
Cedarville University Tournament – September 11-12				
Fri	12	Cedarville	7 p.m.	Cedarville, Ohio
Sat	13	Trinity International	4 p.m.	Cedarville, Ohio
Fri	19	Berry*	7 p.m.	Central, S.C.
Sat	27	North Greenville (Homecoming)	5 p.m.	Central, S.C.
Tue	30	Anderson	7 p.m.	Anderson, S.C.
OCTOBER				
Fri	3	Piedmont	7 p.m.	Demorest, Ga.
Thu	9	Warren Wilson	4 p.m.	Swannanoa, N.C.
Sat	11	Brewton Parker*	4 p.m.	Mt. Vernon, Ga.
Wed	15	Southern Polytechnic State*	7 p.m.	Central, S.C.
Sat	18	Reinhardt*	4 p.m.	Waleska, Ga.
Wed	22	Shorter*	7 p.m.	Central, S.C.
Sat	25	Faulkner*	5 p.m.	Central, S.C.
NOVEMBER				
Sat	1	Lee*	7 p.m.	Cleveland, Tenn.
Tue	4	Emmanuel*	2 p.m.	Franklin Springs, Ga.
Sat	8	SSAC Playoffs (at higher seed)	TBA	TBA
Wed	12	SSAC Playoffs (at higher seed)	TBA	TBA
Sat	15	SSAC Playoffs (at higher seed)	TBA	TBA
TBA		NCCAA South Region Tournament#	TBA	Palm Beach, Fla.

Home Matches in Bold, * SSAC Matches, # Hosted by Palm Beach Atlantic



WOMEN'S SOCCER

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (EST)	LOCATION
AUGUST				
Tue	26	Milligan	5 p.m.	Central, S.C.
Thu	28	Atlanta Christian	7 p.m.	Central, S.C.
SEPTEMBER				
Wed	3	Montreat	7 p.m.	Central, S.C.
Sat	6	Auburn University of Montgomery*	5 p.m.	Central, S.C.
Thu	11	Toccoa Falls	7 p.m.	Toccoa, Ga.
Sat	20	Emmanuel*	2 p.m.	Franklin Springs, Ga.
Mon	22	Brevard	4 p.m.	Brevard, N.C.
Sat	27	North Greenville (Homecoming)	3 p.m.	Central, S.C.
OCTOBER				
Wed	1	Columbia*	7 p.m.	Columbia, S.C.
Sat	11	Brewton Parker*	2 p.m.	Mt. Vernon, Ga.
Tue	14	Berry*	4 p.m.	Central, S.C.
Sat	18	Reinhardt*	2 p.m.	Waleska, Ga.
Wed	22	Shorter*	5 p.m.	Central, S.C.
Sat	25	Faulkner*	3 p.m.	Central, S.C.
NOVEMBER				
Sat	1	Lee*	5 p.m.	Cleveland, Tenn.
Tue	4	Brenau*	5 p.m.	Gainesville, Ga.
Fri	7	SSAC Playoffs (at higher seed)	TBA	TBA
Tue	11	SSAC Playoffs (at higher seed)	TBA	TBA
Fri	14	SSAC Playoffs (at higher seed)	TBA	TBA
TBA		NCCAA South Region Tournament#	TBA	Palm Beach, Fla.

Home Matches in Bold, * SSAC Matches, # Hosted by Palm Beach Atlantic



VOLLEYBALL

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (EST)	LOCATION
AUGUST				
Wed	27	Montreat	7 p.m.	Montreat, N.C.
Limestone Labor Day Tournament – August 29-30				
Fri	29	Kentucky State	3 p.m.	Gaffney, S.C.
Fri	29	Fort Valley State	7 p.m.	Gaffney, S.C.
Sat	30	Adelphi	11 a.m.	Gaffney, S.C.
Sat	30	Limestone	1 p.m.	Gaffney, S.C.
SEPTEMBER				
Wed	3	Wofford	6 p.m.	Spartanburg, S.C.
Thu	11	Reinhardt*	7 p.m.	Central, S.C.
Sat	13	North Greenville/Brevard	11 a.m.	Central, S.C.
Tue	16	Columbia*	7 p.m.	Central, S.C.
Thu	18	Lander	7 p.m.	Greenwood, S.C.
Sat	20	Brewton Parker*/Oglethorpe	1 p.m.	Mt. Vernon, Ga.
Tue	23	North Greenville	7 p.m.	Tigerville, S.C.
Fri	26	Faulkner*	7 p.m.	Central, S.C.
Sat	27	Brenau* (Homecoming)	1 p.m.	Central, S.C.
Tue	30	Newberry	7 p.m.	Central, S.C.
OCTOBER				
Thu	2	Lee*	7 p.m.	Central, S.C.
Tue	7	Berry*	7 p.m.	Rome, Ga.
Wed	8	Shorter*	7 p.m.	Rome, Ga.
ONU Holiday Inn Express Tournament – October 10-11				
Fri	10	Trinity Christian	5 p.m.	Bourbonnais, Ill.
Fri	10	Indiana Tech	9 p.m.	Bourbonnais, Ill.
Sat	11	Olivet Nazarene	Noon	Bourbonnais, Ill.
Sat	11	William Penn	4 p.m.	Bourbonnais, Ill.
Wed	15	Brenau*	7 p.m.	Gainesville, Ga.
Thu	16	Faulkner*	7 p.m.	Montgomery, Ala.
Tue	22	Berry*	6 p.m.	Central, S.C.
Fri	24	Brewton Parker*	7 p.m.	Central, S.C.
Sat	25	Shorter*	1 p.m.	Central, S.C.
Tue	28	Columbia*	7 p.m.	Columbia, S.C.
NOVEMBER				
Fri	7	Lee*	7 p.m.	Cleveland, Tenn.
Sat	8	Reinhardt*	1 p.m.	Waleska, Ga.
Wed	12	SSAC Tournament#	TBD	Rome, Ga.
Thu	13	SSAC Tournament#	TBD	Rome, Ga.
Fri	14	SSAC Tournament#	TBD	Rome, Ga.
Sat	15	SSAC Tournament#	TBD	Rome, Ga.
Fri	21	NCCAA South Region Tournament	TBD	Central, S.C.
Sat	22	NCCAA South Region Tournament	TBD	Central, S.C.

Home Matches in Bold, * SSAC Matches, # Hosted by Berry College



Class acts: *Teachers of the Year from SWU*

Teacher of the Year honors this past year went to two Columbia area AGS students, as well as one Upstate alum who was honored both by her school and her school district.



Jennifer Clytus

Jennifer Clytus, a current M.Ed. student at Southern Wesleyan's Columbia location, was named Teacher of the Year

at Leaphart Elementary School in Irmo, S.C. Seeing how her mother made a difference in the lives of children as a volunteer and substitute teacher inspired Clytus. Tutoring family members and teaching Sunday School also made Clytus realize her own calling into education.

After teaching nearly seven years at Leaphart Elementary, Clytus recently joined the Office of Federal and State Accountability with the State Department of Education.

Johnny Cooley, a seventh-grade

science teacher and also a current M.Ed. student at Southern Wesleyan's Columbia location, was named Teacher of the Year at Irmo Middle School. He also recently achieved national board certification.



Johnny Cooley

After earning a psychology degree from the University of South Carolina, Cooley worked as a college minister at a church, then with a major

wireless communications company as a manager of various offices in the Upstate. Working in management was not fulfilling for Cooley, so he enrolled in a special program at Clemson University for a secondary science certification, then continued his professional development at Southern Wesleyan University by entering the M.Ed. program.

Jenni Pipkin Clay, a 2003 Early Childhood Education graduate, was recently named Teacher of the Year

for the School District of Oconee County. Clay also received Teacher of the Year honors at Orchard Park Elementary in Westminster, where she teaches kindergarten. Clay, who is entering her fifth year at Orchard Park, also taught first-grade and was in the PIP (Preschool Intervention Program) which helps three- to five-year-olds with disabilities to catch up to their peers.



Jenni Pipkin Clay

Southern Wesleyan's Christian atmosphere, according to Clay, kept her grounded throughout college.

As she developed relationships

with friends and others at SWU, it did not take long for Clay to feel a sense of belonging.

"There is a sense of community where people are there to turn to if you are having a problem, and they will celebrate with you in your accomplishments," she said.



Alumni awards

Each year, the Southern Wesleyan University Alumni Association grants special awards to recognize alumni in their efforts to advance in their occupation and relationship with Christ. At a banquet, May 10 at Southern Wesleyan University's campus in Central, the following alumni were recognized for their achievements. From left, Emily DeRoberts ('99), Professional Excellence, School of Business; Dr. Stan Rampey ('71), Professional Excellence, College of Art and Sciences; Anne Sheriff ('93), Professional Excellence, School of Education; Lisa ('90) and William David Holbrook ('91), Young Leader Award; April Grant ('02), Athletic Hall of Fame; and Janet Carriker Green ('62), Outstanding Alumnus of the Year.

Professor urges graduates to be patches of grace

Dr. James Bross, (left) long-time Southern Wesleyan University professor of religion, holds up a patchwork quilt as he urges graduates to become “patches of grace” sewn into the fabric of the lives of others. Dr. Bross, who is retiring after 35 years of service to Southern Wesleyan, addressed graduates in two ceremonies May 10 at the university’s main campus in Central. “It is my prayer that you graduates will go and be patches of grace on many other lives. We’re all patchwork quilts in process and God is the great designer of our lives,” Bross said.



Charleston grad joins board

Rebecca Lester of Summerville has recently been accepted to the Southern Wesleyan University Alumni Board as the alumni representative for the Charleston learning center.



Rebecca Lester

“When the opportunity was presented to me, I grabbed it,” Lester said. “I am thrilled to give our Charleston learning center a voice, and I look forward to meeting and connecting with our local graduates.”

Rebecca received her master’s degree in management from Southern Wesleyan in May and is hoping to begin her Ph.D. in organizational psychology in 2009.

“Southern Wesleyan has helped me think big and make things happen. If I can share that with any of our students or graduates, it will help us think bigger and make more things happen and how amazing would that be?”

Alumna celebrates 95th birthday



Willyne Sanders

Willyne Sanders, one of Southern Wesleyan University’s oldest graduates, celebrated her 95th birthday on July 28.

She still drives herself to church and lives alone with her dogs, Sweetie and Sugar.

Rev. Jim Wiggins, vice president for development, and his wife visited Sanders, sharing a sunshine basket and a meal with her. The group enjoyed reminiscing about Southern Wesleyan University and Sanders’ parents, Rev. W.D. Correll and Mrs. Mattie Lee Meredith Correll.

In memory of her parents, Sanders has given a gift that will provide for a practice piano at Southern Wesleyan University’s new Newton Hobson Chapel and Fine Arts Center. Her gift will also sponsor 200 chairs for the new chapel.

NEWS FLASHES



'79
Vicky Martin Smith received the 2008 Local and State MDA Personal Achievement Award

for South Carolina. She earned a degree in psychology and Christian education. While in college, Smith worked with underprivileged children, teaching them about Christ Jesus and spent one summer leading the Children's Ministry at her home church in Asheville. She also did practicum work with the Pickens County Alcohol and Drug Center and the Probation Office.

She later attended Greenville Technical College, received an associate's degree in marketing and worked part time in the college's marketing department. After that, Smith accepted the position of regional coordinator of assistive technology for the Upstate of S.C. While in this position, she was nominated to serve on the Governor's South Carolina Independent Living Council and served for two years as vice chairman.

Smith and her husband, Jay, now own American Rehab & Mobility in Greenville, S.C. Their company sells and repairs durable medical equipment, aids to daily living and van conversions. They modify vans, install lifts, elevators, stair lifts and ramps and rent vans. The company also hosts the MDA loan closet for Greenville and surrounding area.



'86
JoAnn Hudson, says her decision to attend Central Wesleyan College was based



'58

The 1958 High School Graduating Class of Central Wesleyan Academy had their 50th reunion at Roy Collins Ole Town Central on July 26. Of the 20 original graduates, there are 14 who are alive today. Many of their spouses attended the event, also.

on the need for her to attend classes yet allow time for a full-time job. "The attention that was given me to succeed and not give up is one of the reasons for the accomplishments that I have achieved since I left Central Wesleyan College," Hudson said. "I continued my education at Clemson University, receiving my PhD. in developmental biology. Today I am director of Clemson University's Electron Microscope Facility. My job involves finding solutions for industry and researchers by characterizing materials at the atomic and molecular level. The facility that I direct now has the reputation of being the most advanced electron microscope lab in the country."

'96

ERA Riverside is pleased to announce that **Tambra Hill** has been promoted to general manager. In her new position, Hill will oversee the daily operations for the company, including client relationships and new business development.

'00

The Presidential Company has

announced the addition of **Tomika Rogers**, a three-year professional, to its Greer office sales team. She is a member of the Greater Greenville Association of Realtors/AVE serving Greenville County and surrounding areas as a specialist in residential sales.

'01/'03

Pastor Josh LeRoy ('03) graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Ken., in May of 2007. He and his wife, **Laura McKenzie LeRoy** ('01) are beginning The Bridge Project, an outreach ministry to the residents on the east side of Asheboro, N.C. It's an effort to promote unity and build bridges through which Jesus Christ can be shared. They feel called to be prophetic witnesses of personal holiness, racial harmony and social healing within the community of Asheboro.

'05

Glenn D. Buddin Jr., is chief executive officer of Blue Ridge Bank of Walhalla, S.C. He recently graduated from the American Bankers Association (ABA) Stonier Graduate School of Banking in Philadelphia.

BIRTHS



'64
Raina Elise Hilson, was born June 23, 2008. Grandparents are **J. Paul Hilson** and **Debbie Hilson**.



'69
Marlowe Lydia Rampey, was born June 26, 2008, to Elizabeth and **Aaron Rampey**. Grandparents are

Buddy and Joan Rampey.



'01/'03
Anna Grace LeRoy was born July 20, 2007, to **Laura McKenzie LeRoy** and **Pastor Josh LeRoy**.

'04

Cambria Gray, was born April 24, 2008, to **Beau** and **Gidget Hamner**.



'06
Melody Grace Dixon was born June 27, 2008, to **Matt** and **Laura Hollingsworth Dixon**.

OBITUARIES

'47

Ernest Wood, Roxboro, N.C., May 10, 2008.

'47

Exie Doss Newton, Greenville, S.C., June 25, 2008.

'59

Gaston C. Henry, Swansea, S.C., May 10, 2008.

'59

Ann "Latham" Agreda, Atlanta, Ga., June 28, 2008.

'62

Frankie Simpson Snyder, Edinboro, Penn., July 12, 2008.

'92

Louis Carroll Addison, Florence, S.C., May 24, 2008.

'04

Sandra Kay Caudle Baudier, Greenville, S.C., June 26, 2008.

'04 & '06

Terri Cowling-Isham, Columbia, S.C., July 11, 2008.

SWU trustee emeritus and friend

Dr. Francis Allred Mason, 88, passed away on July 11, 2008, in Atlanta, Ga. She served as a member of Southern Wesleyan University's Board of Trustees and was a trustee emeritus. Dr. Mason established the Allred-Mason Scholarship which has benefited many students. She served The Wesleyan Church and was a faithful prayer warrior.

WEDDINGS



'02

Brooke Michelle Gilliam and Neil Lloyd Mathews were married on April 5, 2008.



'03

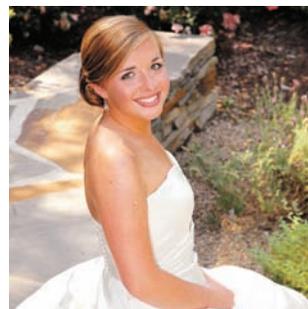
Janelle Elizabeth Beamer and Joel Scott Montgomery were married on May 3, 2008.

'04

William Glenn Yarborough III and Jennie Elizabeth Clark were married April 19, 2008.

'05

Jason Branden Burke and Ansley Lauren Greenway were married June 20, 2008.



'07

Martha Page Brownlee and Jeremy James Rogers were married June 21, 2008.

'07

Lindsey Nicole Carver and Ronald Craig Brown were married on Dec. 8, 2007.

'07

William Charles "David" Payne and Lisa Helen Daniel were married June 28, 2008.

'07

Sara Alena Masters and Tanner Brown Rhinehart were married June 7, 2008.

Board of Visitors members to gather

The next Southern Wesleyan University Board of Visitors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 18. The purpose of the board is to assemble a group that is committed to the growth and development of Southern Wesleyan University and its mission. Members provide feedback on new university programs and serve as SWU ambassadors in their communities. For details or to become a member of the Board of Visitors, please contact Jim Wiggins at jwiggins@swu.edu or (864) 644-5013.

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