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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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## IMPACT OF THE SWU FAMILY

Visiting students at our statewide education centers has become one of the many highlights of this ministry! The stories of lives changed and worlds turned around are so inspiring and encouraging.

In a recent visit to one of our sites, I met a student preparing to graduate in a few short weeks. She shared her initial fear about considering a return to the classroom, but realized it was the only way out of a dead-end job. When she met our SWU staff, and heard about our Christ-centered mission, she was convinced SWU was the university to trust. After completing her associate degree, she moved immediately forward with her bachelor's, inspiring her husband so much that he, too, enrolled at SWU! Now, her first child is nearing college age, and he has been influenced by mom as well. He will be applying to SWU next year! The impact of the SWU "family" on families cannot be overestimated!

The same is true of the impact on the individual. Here is an excerpt from one of our students that will warm your heart:

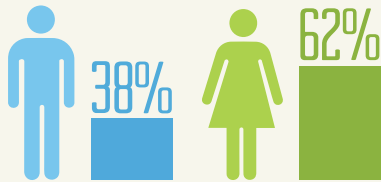
"THANK YOU to SWU for being a part of this change I've been making in my life. When I chose SWU, there was no doubt in my mind it was an amazing college that would help me obtain my future educational goals...After starting my Old Testament class and being forced to actually pull out my Bible and read, I've learned more about myself and my walk with the Lord than at any other time in my life...I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior two months ago and I was baptized on March 31. This school has played a major role in my life and I felt I needed to let someone know how grateful I am to be attending such an amazing college!"

God is moving in so many ways at Southern Wesleyan University! These stories, along with daily evidence of significant progress in academics, student life, athletics and spiritual life, keep providing more than enough motivation to believe He is up to something big! Thank you for your prayers! Thank you for your gifts! And, thank you for your belief that SWU can be the "go-to" Christ-centered university of the South! Together we grow stronger!

Enthusiastically,

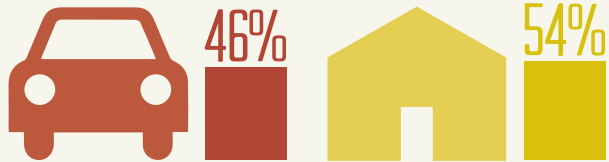
*Dr. Todd S. Voss, President*

# SWU STUDENT STATISTICS



38% MALE, 62% FEMALE

TRADITIONAL & ADULT PROGRAMS COMBINED



46% COMMUTER, 54% RESIDENTIAL

TRADITIONAL PROGRAM ONLY

PARTICIPANTS ON SWU DAY OF SERVICE

207

MISSION TRIPS IN 2012

34 TRIPS TO 8 COUNTRIES

15 AVERAGE CLASS SIZE



41

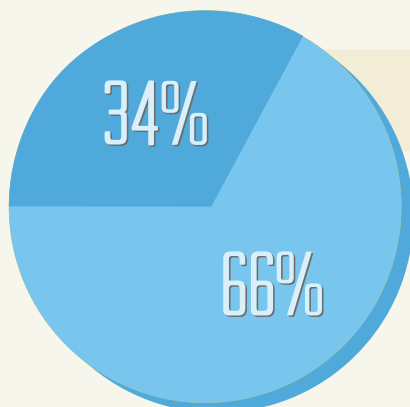
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

75

FULLTIME FACULTY

23

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



## ADULT EVENING & ONLINE PROGRAMS

■ UNDERGRADUATE (ASSOCIATE AND BACHELOR'S PROGRAMS)

■ GRADUATE (MASTER'S PROGRAMS)

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# BUILDING BRIDGES – UNDER A BRIDGE

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Kevin Carter and his team are building bridges in Greensboro, N.C.

Although they aren't engineers, they are building bridges in a figurative sense as they reach out to the city's homeless, meeting them quite literally where they are. Carter and his wife, Joy, founded 16 Cents Ministry, so named for an experience they had at a local mission when Joy gave a poor woman a food package. The woman handed Joy 16 cents in return for the food she received. This simple act of gratitude also reminded Carter of the story of the widow's mite in Mark 12: 41-44. 16 Cents began traveling weekly to as many as 15 places where the homeless were camped, but now they focus on a weekly time of food and worship under a highway bridge. A 2011 Religion graduate of Southern Wesleyan University, Carter credits his

professors and classmates for helping him to grow spiritually and to see the needs around him with a new perspective.

"I tagged along with my friend, Matt Beasley, and my life changed while serving green beans." Carter helped Beasley, also a SWU student, with Miracle Hill Mission in Greenville. Each time he went there, God opened his eyes and led him to love people outside the church walls. Whenever he came home from SWU for breaks, Carter and some like-minded friends hit the streets of his hometown.

"I started ministering to five people I knew and it grew slowly to where it's at today," Carter said. "An important part of the ministry is meeting people where they are. We don't give them money, but find a way to meet their need."

*Kevin Carter and his wife, Joy, founded 16 Cents Ministry, a unique outreach to Greensboro's homeless population.*





“In the process, it’s God stepping in to give me the vision and enlightenment. We started developing a service under the bridge; then it turned into full-blown worship, music, prayer and a message,” he said. They also serve a hot meal while there. During the services, various individuals share testimonies of how Christ transformed their lives.

Volunteers from Faith Wesleyan Church in Greensboro provided the core of 16 Cents. Each Saturday, a different area church “adopts” a night

to conduct a service for the homeless. While they already get outside support, Carter would like to see the ministry become an independent nonprofit organization encompassing more area churches and expand into different communities someday.

“We want to bring the churches of Greensboro together,” Carter said. “There are so many mom and pop ministries – we can bring them together and do this well on a weekly basis.”

## SWU TEAM HELPS WITH SANDY RELIEF

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The road to recovery for New Yorkers following Superstorm Sandy is a long one, but a group of Southern Wesleyan University students and alumni rolled up their sleeves to move them closer to a normal life.

Southern Wesleyan partnered with three Wesleyan churches and Poured Out Ministries to assist in the relief effort, spending a week helping New York City area residents impacted by Sandy. The SWU team was led by Dave Tolan, missions mobilizer, and Joy Bryant, director of alumni and constituent relations. Students Madison Busch and Caroline Wood of Liberty, S.C.; Will Henderson of Brevard, N.C.; and Joshua Tolan of Six Mile, S.C. traveled to New York City Jan. 6. Joining them were skilled home contractors from Denton Wesleyan Church in Denton, N.C., led by Pastor Charlie Collins, a 1989 religion graduate. Poured Out Ministries provided much-needed tools and supplies.

“Not knowing how to rebuild houses really stretched me outside of my comfort zone,” said Henderson, a senior religion major. “Whether it is rebuilding a basement, striking up a conversation with a stranger on the subway, or giving away bags of food, each activity showed the love of Jesus to the community.”

“Working with SWU alumni and the SWU students was very rewarding. The days were long and the work was challenging, but at the end of the

week we made new friends and made a difference in the families that were displaced by the storm,” Bryant said.

SWU team members helped repair homes located in Queens and on Coney Island. Also, Dave Tolan and his son, Joshua, along with Henderson, prepared more than 100 food bags that were given to many Brooklyn families. New Hope Wesleyan Church in Brooklyn, N.Y., hosted the SWU team.



# MCWHERTER NAMED NEW VP FOR DEVELOPMENT

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Dr. Lisa McWherter has assembled more than 20 years of leadership experience serving at the axis of higher education and business.

“Dr. McWherter will bring an outstanding level of understanding for development and a proven



track record of relationship building that will dramatically move Southern Wesleyan forward,” said Dr. Todd Voss, university president. “Her work ethic and mission fit are incredible assets for our Development team. She has a passion for connecting people, a commitment to creating win-win results, and the drive for expanding our base of supporters.”

A native Tennessean, McWherter moved to South Carolina in 2006 to serve as the vice president

for institutional advancement with Tri-County Technical College in Pendleton and executive director of the TCTC Foundation, Inc. Previously, she served as associate vice president for leadership and fund development at Chattanooga State Community College in Chattanooga, Tenn. McWherter has served as the president of the Tennessee Council for Resource Development and was the southern regional director for the Council for Resource Development.

McWherter has served as an instructor at Vanderbilt University; a member of a National Think Tank with The Gallup Organization regarding higher education and workforce issues; project director for Anderson, Oconee and Pickens County OneStop Workforce Centers with ResCare Workforce Services; a branch manager for Randstad Staffing Services; an Olympic venue manager and a United States Olympic Ambassador at the 1996 Games.

McWherter serves on various area boards which include Nurse-Family Partnership, The Rotary Club of Anderson and she serves as the Chairman of AlignSC. She is a certified shelter manager with the Red Cross and a volunteer with a number of other community agencies.

She holds a B.S. in business administration from the University of Tennessee; an MBA from Middle Tennessee State University; and an Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration from the Peabody College of Vanderbilt University. McWherter is an alumna of the Harvard Business School as a graduate of the General Management Program and recently returned from Shanghai, China to attend Harvard Business School’s Executive Renewal Program. She is also a quarterly contributor to the HBS Alumni Bulletin magazine and serves as a GMP class officer.

She and her husband, Dr. Douglas Hanner, and their three children live in Anderson.

McWherter will assume her new post at SWU Aug. 1.



# SWU Spring Graduation

Southern Wesleyan University graduates, their family members and friends gathered at the university's campus in Central on May 10 and 11 as graduates were presented with their degrees during three ceremonies. The graduation speaker was Rev. Ken Dupin, who has served The Wesleyan Church as a pastor for 31 years. He is also renowned as the founder of N2Care, a result of his Ph.D. research and his passion for issues affecting the aging population. According to Rock McCaskill, the university's registrar, more than 300 degrees were awarded.



## 2012-2013 PROMISE FUND GOAL \$500,000

- Board of Visitors: \$100,000 (25% given)
- Board of Trustees: \$100,000 (38% given)
- Alumni: \$100,000 (39% given)
- Friends: \$70,000 (52% given)
- Corporations: \$50,000 (67% given)
- Churches, Organizations & Foundations: \$40,000 (25% given)
- Employees: \$40,000 (40% given)





# SWU UNVEILS NEW ATHLETIC LOGO

The Southern Wesleyan University Department of Athletics is pleased to announce and showcase the new Warrior Athletics logo for use in all the athletic programs and throughout the campus community.

“We are thankful to have this process concluded, so that we are able to continue to push forward in our move to the NCAA,” commented SWU Director of Athletics, Chris Williams.

“We wanted to make sure that we honored our past, but also show that we are moving our university even closer to a ‘One-Body’ theme.”

After an extensive research and development process that included an on-campus committee, a branding firm and the SWU marketing team, the new Warriors logo emphasizes a cross located on a helmet. The cross is the symbol that is always to be associated with SWU and the Christ-centered focus.

“We are Warriors for Christ in all that we do,” continued Williams. “The helmet signifies strength and character, while the cross will always be our guide here at SWU.”

SWU made application to the NCAA on Feb. 1 and has received conference sponsorship from Conference Carolinas, a NCAA Division II conference.



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# ATHLETICS

## NCAA UPDATE

The process of transitioning Warrior Athletics into NCAA Division II took another big step forward with a site visit April 15 from a representative of the NCAA. SWU Director of Athletics Chris Williams reports the site visit was a positive one and that the representative was impressed by the showing of SWU Blue across the campus community. Williams stated that the NCAA membership committee should arrive at a final decision this July.

## NEW SOFTBALL FIELD HOUSE

The Southern Wesleyan softball program cut the ribbon April 10 on the newest addition to Varsity Field. With members of the SWU board of trustees in attendance, President Todd Voss, Head Softball Coach Anna Ball, and Director of Athletics Chris Williams, cut the ribbon on a new locker room, concessions and public restroom facilities. Plans to add a press box on the home dugout on the third base line are scheduled for construction before the 2014 season.



## DRIVING RANGE UPDATE

Southern Wesleyan's new driving range is now 90 percent complete. Recently, the range received a final seeding of grass in general landing zones. Two of the natural grass tee boxes are mature as well as the five target greens. Williams notes that SWU will have the premier driving range in the area, adding that it will be open to the public. Additionally, Williams notes that the new driving range will give the men's and women's golf teams an NCAA Division I-style practice facility. The driving range is projected to open by this summer.

## NEW TRACK/SOCCER FACILITY

With financial goals met, heavy equipment started moving at the site along the main entrance of the Central campus April 22, clearing trees and moving earth in preparation for the \$1 million facility that will include a state-of-the-art track and soccer field. A second phase will include lights, scoreboard and bleachers. SWU Athletics hopes to have the track and soccer field usable by the end of August.



## NCAA COMPLIANCE EDUCATION

The SWU athletic department has launched an online rules education resource for compliance. The free course, offered through Udemy.com, is designed to educate coaches, students-athletes, faculty, staff and the SWU community on the rules and regulations of the NCAA conference and Southern Wesleyan University. For details about the online course, contact Jeff Watson, pictured left, by emailing [jwatson@swu.edu](mailto:jwatson@swu.edu) or by calling (864) 644-5308.





# NEW COACHES

## TRACK AND FIELD

Greg Thiel was named to coach the new women's and men's track and field programs, which will begin competition this fall. Formerly head coach of the University of South Florida's track and field program, Thiel is excited about the challenge of building a new program at SWU and seeing how God uses the sport to impact the lives of the students and the community for Christ. He has a wide-range of administration and coaching experience and led USF's Women's Cross Country Team to All-Academic Honors from 2002-2005. Thiel was also named Conference USA Coach of the Year for Outdoor Track and Field and has coached 11 NCAA All-Americans, a Bronze Medalist at the Indoor World Championships, 67 NCAA qualifiers, and five student-athletes who competed in several Olympic games. Most recently, Thiel was athletic director at Calvary Christian High School. He has also guided the athletics programs of The Cambridge School and Northside Christian Academy. He is married and has three children.



## WOMEN'S SOCCER

Corey Morrell will be the next head women's soccer coach for the Warriors. Most recently, he served as the assistant coach for the Warrior men's soccer team,

helping lead the team to their best finish ever at 15-3-2 and a Top-25 NAIA National Ranking at no. 22 in the final postseason poll. During the season, SWU achieved their highest ever national ranking at no. 11. Morrell has served as a high school soccer coach at nearby D.W. Daniel High School and played at Anderson University, serving as team captain in 1997. He scored 21 goals and had 9

assists in 34 career games at Anderson. Following his time with the Trojans, Morrell graduated with his B.S. in business management in 2000 from Clemson University. He is married to Summer and they have three children, ages 7, 3, and 1.



## TENNIS

Darrell Jernigan was named head coach of SWU's first women's and men's tennis teams, which will begin playing this fall. Jernigan has extensive coaching experience in the tennis field, serving as the Clemson University women's tennis assistant coach from 2005 until 2010. He has been a high school tennis coach at Stephens County (Ga.) and West Oak high schools. During his coaching career, Jernigan's girl's and boy's teams at West Oak won Skyline 2A region championships and he was named the 2004 2A Skyline Region Coach of the Year. At Clemson, the Tigers won the 2007 ACC Regular Season Championship, followed by a 2008 ACC Tournament Championship win. He was also named 2008 ITA Southeast Women's Assistant Coach of the Year. Clemson advanced to the NCAA Sweet 16 four straight years during Jernigan's time with the Tigers. He was able to coach five All-Americans, five All-ACC honorees, and six ACC Individual Champions at Clemson. Jernigan is currently a Biology teacher at Seneca High School in Seneca, S.C.



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# COMPASSION MOTIVATES SWU GRADUATE'S WORK

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A compassion for children led Steve Shiflet, a 1983 Southern Wesleyan University business graduate, to Connie Maxwell Children's Home at Greenwood.

Shiflet learned about the opening for an accountant at Connie Maxwell from the choir director at his hometown church, Southside Baptist in Anderson. Shiflet feels blessed that God placed him where he could combine his accounting experience

transferring from Anderson University, which was then a two-year college.

"Central Wesleyan College (now Southern Wesleyan University) was just up the road. I heard about it and applied," Shiflet said, adding that he appreciated the personal attention his professors gave him. He was also able to transfer all of his course credits.



and his love for working with children. He is close to completing three decades of service to Connie Maxwell and currently serves as their vice president for business.

As a student, Shiflet was looking for a Christian college to continue his higher education after

A ministry of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, Connie Maxwell was established in 1892 through a generous gift of Dr. J.C. Maxwell and his wife, Sarah, who lost their seven-year-old daughter, Connie, to scarlet fever. To honor her memory, the Maxwells gave South Carolina Baptists more than 480 acres and willed their estate to be used in starting this ministry for children. Connie Maxwell gets funding from the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Church, donations from churches and gifts from individuals with a heart for children. They also have an endowment.

Beyond the Greenwood campus, Connie Maxwell also has a campus in Orangeburg with two cottages housing up to 16 children. They also have group homes in the Simpsonville/Mauldin area as well as in Florence and Chesterfield.

"We want to keep families together if at all possible," he said, adding that Connie Maxwell also offers assistance through their higher education program.

"We recently started a program to help single parents get back on their feet. We have a parent and children living in one of our houses on campus," Shiflet said. "When someone has fallen on hard times, we're helping them get a GED or find a job." "We try to make it as much like home as possible. Cottage parents live with the children and are there 24-7," said Shiflet, adding that different groups of cottage parents rotate on a schedule.



Connie Maxwell's acreage includes a farm with cattle and a garden. The farm originally produced food for the home, but in recent years has become an outdoor classroom. While students can work on the farm, they can also take advantage of a camp-like setting that includes dorms housing 12-15 people, a kitchen and a bath house.

Connie Maxwell also has a church on its campus, which is also attended by people from the surrounding community. Connie Maxwell alumni

are active and there are reunions every other year, which are well-attended.

"We've had a lot of successful alumni in many walks of life. Some have become lawyers and educators," Shiflet said. "We keep pretty good contact with our alumni."

To find out more about Connie Maxwell Children's home, please visit their website at <http://www.conniemaxwell.com>.

## COLUMBIA STUDENT DISCOVERS REWARDS, CHALLENGES WORKING WITH CHILDREN

It took quite a few years for Stacey Hunter to discover her calling. Now, she knows where she's going and she is taking steps to fulfill some personal goals.

Hunter, a human services student at Southern Wesleyan University's Columbia education center, worked in the travel and hospitality industry, then traveled across the nation and overseas as an Army wife. When her husband Timothy retired from the military, the Hunters settled in Columbia.

"A friend told me I should work in the area in which God called me, which was working with children," she said. After a time of prayer, she began working for Richland School District 2 as a substitute teacher, where she eventually became a TA/ABA line therapist with Lake Carolina Elementary School, working with special needs students – specifically those with autism.

Hunter learns something new every day, such as how to adapt to their world and their way of thinking. Another challenge she encounters is safeguarding the children from danger.

"An autistic group is very busy. They tend to find things to do and get into that could cause danger to themselves and many others," she said. Challenging a misconception that autistic children have no feelings, Hunter contends that, although they might have the same internal issues, they are individuals who are not alike.

Hunter was considering a return to the classroom for a new degree, and began researching colleges and universities when she heard an ad for SWU and decided to contact them.

"They had everything I was looking for in a program – schedule assistance and classroom size. All of the chips fell into place," Hunter said. "I enjoy the prayers right before class starts. The professors are great to work with."

After graduation, Hunter hopes to work fulltime in a Christian ministry devoted to teaching children.



# MORE ONLINE DEGREES AT SWU

An online MBA degree program is the latest fully online program to be offered by Southern Wesleyan University. Earlier in the year, the university introduced online the associate of arts in general studies and bachelor of science in business administration degrees. The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools approved the university's offering online versions of these degrees, and more are on the way. Courses are taught in a flexible virtual classroom experience, designed to be both engaging and challenging. Students have access to a variety of learning resources and can complete their online degrees on their own schedule. For details about online degrees offered by SWU, go online to [swu.edu](http://swu.edu) or call 877.644.5556.

GOAL:  
1.4 MILLION



**NICHOLSON-MITCHELL  
CHRISTIAN MINISTRY CENTER**  
Southern Wesleyan University

## IT'S OFFICIAL...

The ALIVE congregation has now moved to its new site. **We are one step closer to converting the historic campus church to the Nicholson-Mitchell Christian Ministry Center.**

- The iconic stone church on Wesleyan Drive will be preserved and restored. Plans for its renovation are exciting!
- At last, Christian Ministry will have a home of its own on campus.
- If you haven't yet considered being part of this campaign, now is the time!
- Your gift in appreciation of Drs. Nicholson and Mitchell can also be in honor or in memory of someone who was blessed by their ministries.
- Naming opportunities are still available for stained glass windows, seating, rooms, etc.

**Join us in this endeavor - for the sake of future generations of Christian leaders.**

*For a brief history of the campus church, read "If These Stones Could Speak" by Dr. Robert Black at [swu.edu/nmcenter](http://swu.edu/nmcenter).*



# 2013 SWU ALUMNI AWARDS

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**Col. Tonya Hagmaier**, recipient of the Outstanding Alumnus of the Year Award and a 1983 English and History graduate, serves at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland. She built a distinguished military career as a judge advocate general (JAG). She attained the rank of Captain in the U.S. Air Force in 1987, then rose through the ranks, becoming Colonel in 2004. Her awards include Outstanding Senior Attorney of the Year, Andersen Air Force Base's Federal Woman of the Year and Pacific Air Force's Senior Attorney of the Year. She also completed Squadron Officers School, Air Command and Staff College, and Air War College.

**Shasta Looper**, recipient of the Professional Excellence Award – Education, is a 2008 M.Ed. graduate and fourth-grade teacher at A.J. Whittenberg Elementary School. She recently received the 2012 South Carolina Milken Educator Award, known as “The Oscars of Teaching.” Having taught for 13 years, Looper is a Greenville County Teacher of the Year finalist and is national board certified. Looper is known for effectively using digital tools in her classroom, but is also passionate about teaching her students the value of a good book. She also has a bachelor of science degree in Elementary Education from Southeastern Louisiana University.

**Dr. Rhonda Littleton**, recipient of the Professional Excellence Award for the College of Arts and Sciences and a 1990 Psychology graduate, established A Home for Me, where nearly 75 children have come into foster homes and 15 have been adopted. A Home for Me partners with several local agencies including the Department of Social Services, the Bair Foundation, Foster Great Ideas and Christian organizations that include Connie Maxwell Children's Home and Pendleton Place. Littleton also earned her master of arts in Christian education from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and a doctor of educational ministry degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

**Alex Baxter**, recipient of the Young Leader Award and Professional Excellence Award for the School of Business, was a triple major in Business Administration, History and Social Studies with a minor in Internet computing. He is chief digital officer at Competitor Group, a major media and event company devoted to endurance sports. His work includes high-profile launches of websites and events in partnership with Google, Yahoo, ESPN and other major companies. Coming to SWU on a golf scholarship, he also served as student body president and was named class valedictorian. Baxter earned his MBA at Columbia University.



# ALUMNI NEWS



The Twelve Mile River Bridge along S.C. Highway 137 between Norris and Six Mile was named Dec. 9 for **Dr. Virgil Mitchell**, an alumnus who served on the administration of Southern Wesleyan University and also as general superintendent of The Wesleyan Church. On hand at a dedication ceremony Dec. 9, 2012, were **Mary Mitchell**, center, his widow, along with family members.

**Clifton** and **Ernstena Parker Wood** recently published *Unexplainable Events... But God*, which contains personal remembrances of life events and reminders of the presence and provision of God. The book was published by LifeHouse Publishing and is available at amazon.com.



**Darl** and **Mary Fowler** celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary Dec. 27, 2012. Family and friends joined the Fowlers in a dessert reception with fellowship, singing, laughter and love. Darl and Mary met and fell in love in 1947 at Wesleyan Methodist Academy, which is a part of the lineage of Southern Wesleyan University. Darl graduated from Wesleyan Methodist College in 1953 and Mary graduated in 1951. They have four children, 12 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. Darl and Mary are pictured with three of their children, Darl Jr., Judge Sherry Alloway and Marc. Their youngest son, Larry, is a chaplain in the United States Air Force and is currently deployed overseas.

**Rev. Marshall and Ruth (Pressley) Rampey** celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary Dec. 12, 2012. Their children hosted a celebration Dec. 15. They have four children, four grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.



**Verna Cole Mitchell** recently published "Don't Frighten the Pansies," a poetry collection that reflects on life experiences. Throughout the poetry the reader is reminded of God's great love. The book was published by Magnifico Manuscripts and is available at amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.

**Shirley Duncan**, director of church relations at Hephzibah Ministries, Macon, Ga., gave the commencement address during December graduation ceremonies at Southern Wesleyan University's Central campus. A Religion graduate of SWU, Duncan travels across the United States and Canada speaking with church congregations and members of The Wesleyan Church about what God continues to do on behalf of children at Hephzibah. Her husband, David, a 1979 religion graduate, serves as chaplain at Hephzibah.

**Darren Schaupp**, a SWU Christian Ministry graduate, was recently named director of program operations for American Leprosy Missions, the nation's oldest and largest Christian, anti-leprosy organization.

**Michelle Bryant** traveled to Mozambique to work with children of missionaries during the African Area Missions Retreat, organized by Global Partners. Bryant has taken several mission trips, including three to Haiti following their devastating earthquake. Bryant is children's pastor at United Wesleyan Church in Easley.

**Melanie Rowell**, associate professor of music, was recognized by the South Carolina Higher Education Foundation as one of 29 Distinguished Professors of 2013 during a luncheon held March 7 in Columbia.

The journal *Science* picked **Paula P. Lemons** and **J. Derrick Lemons'** recently published paper entitled "Questions for Assessing Higher-Order Cognitive Skills: It's Not Just Bloom's" as a highlighted Editors' Choice paper on March 22. Both are SWU graduates and also faculty members at the University of Georgia.



**Dustin Ahkuoi** recently released a new CD. A Religion graduate, Ahkuoi has returned to SWU several times to minister in music during Spiritual Emphasis services. He resides in Atlanta.

**Jason Lisk**, a Pre-Med graduate, went on to earn his doctorate in pharmacy.

**Rupal Shah**, a Biology/Chemistry graduate, competed in the Boston Marathon April 15, raising money for the Hopkinton Historical Society. Shah was 15-20 minutes away from the finish line when she heard about the bombs exploding. She reported that she is okay but urged continuing prayers for the victims and their families.

**Ashlee Houser Tietje**, a Biology/Biology Education graduate, successfully defended her doctoral research proposal at Clemson University in Nov., 2012.

**Harold L. Reaves**, a Business graduate from Columbia, is law enforcement liaison, North America, Investigations and Recovery Services, Southeast Region, for Absolute Software, a company specializing in technology and services for the management and security of mobile computers, netbooks and smartphones.

**Amy Hawkins Pulley**, a Math Education graduate teaching math courses for SWU this year, completed her master's degree from Appalachian State University.



**Laurie Morton Baynard** took part in inauguration ceremonies Jan. 21 for President Barack Obama's second term. Baynard, who plays piccolo for the United States Coast Guard Band, is a Music graduate.

**Phillip Fritts**, a Media Communication graduate, recently accepted a position with Blue Ridge Broadcasting (106.9 & 106.7 The Light) as events and audience relations coordinator. He started May 1.

**Darlissa Wise-Parker**, MED graduate from Columbia, was chosen by Professional Women Across America magazine as a potential candidate to represent her state and profession for 2013. Wise-Parker, who is an English teacher at Timmonsville High School, is active at her church and in numerous professional organizations. She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Having previously worked for the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice, Wise-Parker would someday like to study law and enter the legal profession.

**Markesha Smith** has been hired as the head women's basketball coach at Daniel High School. She was a student-athlete while at SWU.

**Tyler O'Kelley**, a Biology graduate from Seneca, now works at Wolverine Coatings Corporation as a chemical lab technician.

**Charity Prosser**, a Charleston Business graduate, was featured on "Intersection," a special Dateline episode on NBC-TV which aired March 17. She was interviewed by NBC Journalist Lester Holt about STAND (Stop and Take a New Direction), an innovative drug enforcement program aimed at giving neighborhood drug dealers a second chance, transitioning them into legitimate employment.

**Brooke Davis** will start the accelerated nursing program at Clemson this fall.

**Mark Mealy**, a recent MBA graduate and manager of user services in the information technology department, has been accepted into the U.S. Air Force Squadron Officer School. He also works to make events such as the SWUPY's a memorable sensory experience through the innovative art of stage and lighting design. His work was highlighted in the Church Stage Design Ideas website.

**Mark Sears** was accepted at Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in Spartanburg. He is a Pre-medicine/Pre-dentistry graduate and is the son of Bob Sears, director of library services and Roberta Sears, secretary for the School of Education.

# ALUMNI NEWS CONTINUED

13

**Nikola Lambic** was accepted to N.C. State's graduate school of chemistry for a Ph.D. program. Lambic graduated in May with a BS in Chemistry from SWU. He is from Zrenjanin, Serbia.

**Ross McCoon** was accepted into the Master of Forensic Science degree program at Cedar Crest College in Allentown, Pa. According to Dr. Walt Sinnamon, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, McCoon is the first Forensic Science graduate to go on for graduate work in Forensic Science.

## BIRTHS

96

Greg and **Heather (Baily) Cooper** ('96) announce the arrival of Charlotte Rachel Cooper, born on Dec. 12, 2012. Proud Grandparents are **Phil** ('70 &'01) and **Martha Baily** ('65).



98, 97

Lila Claire Young was born Nov. 27 to **Greg** ('98) and **Amanda Stephens** ('97) Young, 20 3/4 inches long and weighing 8 lbs. 7 oz. Greg is admissions coordinator for the Central Adult Evening program and Amanda is director of admissions. Both are SWU graduates.



04

Brad and **Bethani (Ford) Smith**, ('04) announce the birth of Savannah Grace Smith, born on July 19, 2012.



08

**Adam and Jennie Ladd**, ('08) announce the birth of Aleeyah Cheyanne Ladd, on Dec. 12, 2012, weighing 8 lbs. 11 oz. and 21.5 inches long.



Congratulations to SWU Charleston Students **Jason** and **Tammy Jarman**, on the birth of their daughter, Abigail, weighing 9 pounds and 22 inches long.

## WEDDINGS

10

**Katie Brush** ('10) was married Dec. 8, 2012 to Chris Haynes. A Biology graduate, she is in pharmacy school at Presbyterian College.

# DEATHS

‘32

**Sue Binns Black**, wife of the late **Rev. Watson C. Black** and mother of SWU Religion Professor **Dr. Bob Black**, died April 17. Sue faithfully served the Lord alongside her husband, who served The Wesleyan Church in local church ministry and as District Superintendent for the North Carolina West District. Many have been influenced for the Kingdom by her witness and acts of kindness. She was one of the two oldest living alumnae of Southern Wesleyan University. This July, Mrs. Black would have been 100 years old. Services were April 20 at First Wesleyan Church, Kannapolis, N.C., with burial at Shady Grove Wesleyan Cemetery, Colfax, N.C.

‘38

**Ruth Adams Johnston Barbee**, Spartanburg, S.C., went to be with the Lord on Feb. 20.

‘40

**Mary Faith Jennings** of Brevard, N.C., went to be with the Lord unexpectedly on Dec. 12, 2012. Jennings was a very faithful supporter of Southern Wesleyan University and her family has a rich heritage with the history of this university. Her husband, Dr. Lowell Jennings, was the Chairman of the Board of Trustees at SWU, for more than 30 years. Their ministry together has affected many lives globally through The Wesleyan Church.

‘49

**Earline Rickman Love** of High Point, N.C., went to be with the Lord on Dec. 10, 2012.

‘51

**Mary Cockman Fowler**, wife of SWU trustee and graduate **Darl Fowler**, passed away April 27. She was born March 9, 1933 in Asheboro, N.C., the daughter of the Reverend William Curtis Cockman and Callie King Cockman. She and Darl had recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary – a celebration enjoyed with family and friends. Out of that bond came four children, 12 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. Mary graduated from the Cabarrus Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Concord and received her BS in Nursing from North Carolina A&T University. She was retired as a Registered Nurse from the Women’s Hospital of Greensboro. She was a devoted member of Faith Wesleyan Church in Greensboro, N.C.

‘52

**James W. Jacobs** of High Point, N.C., went to be with the Lord Dec. 20, 2011.

**Mrs. Vera Parks Storey**, a graduate of SWU and former Board of Trustees member, died March 4 at her residence in Asheboro, N.C. She was a member of The Wesleyan Church for more than 50 years where she served in a number of areas, including Sunday School teacher, member of the local Board of Administration and director of children’s ministries. She also served on the North Carolina East District Board of Administration. Story was the first woman ever elected to the General Board of The Wesleyan Church, where she served for eight years.

‘59

**Clarence Short** of Gastonia, N.C., went to be with the Lord Dec. 5, 2012.

‘64

**Rev. William (Gordon) Mullinax**, a graduate of SWU and the son of former SWU President, Dr. R.C. Mullinax, died Feb. 25. He was born Dec. 10, 1930, to the late Dr. R.C. Mullinax and Helen Rampey Mullinax. He also received a Master of Divinity Degree from Chandler School of Theology at Emory University. Mullinax dedicated 55 years of his life to Christian service, leading congregations around the Southeast, including the same church in South Carolina which his great, great-grandfather helped to establish during the 1800s.

‘64

**Dr. Melvin Gentry** of Thomasville, N.C., died March 4. He was a member of the SWU Board of Trustees for 27 years and also served in multiple levels of leadership in The Wesleyan Church, in addition to outstanding pastoral leadership in the local church. For 32 years, Gentry served on the District Board of Administration in North Carolina, South Carolina and Indiana. He was a Pastor for 44 years serving six churches. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Kathleen Simpson Gentry, two daughters, Judith (Judy) Lipina and husband Art, of Berne, Ind.; Kathryn Ann (Kathy) Hodges and husband Andy, of Spartanburg, S.C.; two sons, Melvin (Larry) Gentry of Seneca, S.C.; and Dr. Daniel (Dan) Gentry and wife, Kathy, of Thomasville, N.C.; 12 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

‘93

**Rev. Raymond Lamar Bass, Jr.** passed away Dec. 19, 2012, at AnMed Regional Hospital after a six-year battle with cancer. He was a Christian Ministries graduate with a minor in Youth Ministry. He was pastor of Fellowship Wesleyan Church in the S.C. District and was also involved in youth camps for the district. Bass also served in the Georgia District at churches in Elberton and Hartwell. Surviving are his wife, Pamela, and two sons, Kyle and Mark.

The wife of former VP of Finance, **Barney D. Jones**, **NaDean Branham Jones**, of Appomattox, Va., went to be with the Lord Jan. 1.



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SOUTHERN WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

**HOMECOMING  
WEEKEND**

**OCTOBER 26, 2013**