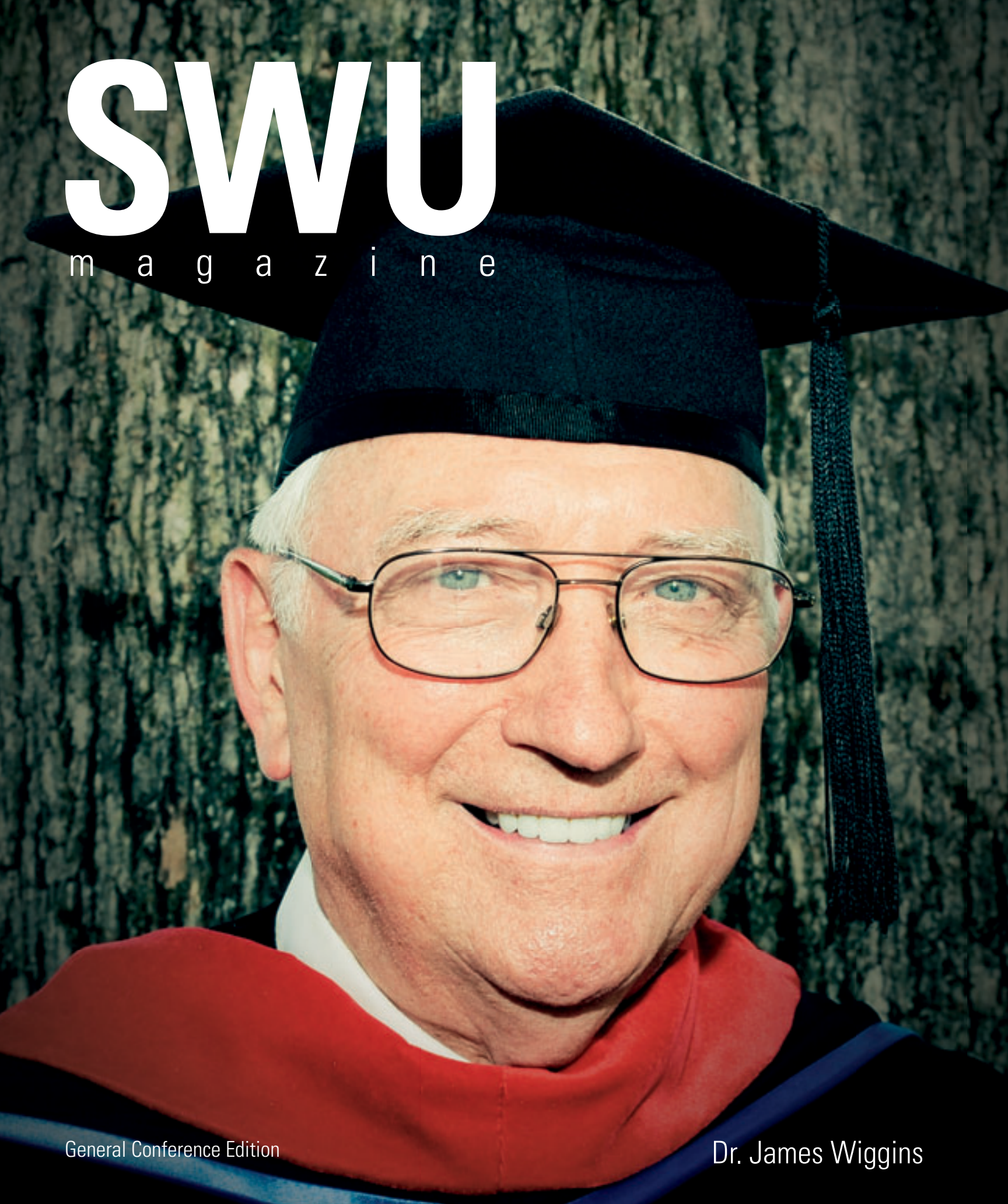


SWU


m a g a z i n e



General Conference Edition

Dr. James Wiggins

*Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you.
Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.
Hebrews 13:7-8*


**NICHOLSON
MITCHELL
CHRISTIAN
MINISTRY
CENTER**



RENEW. REUSE. REJOICE.

It is not often that we are given the opportunity to simultaneously relish the past and feed the future. But today, we have exactly that.

Throughout their days on Earth, Dr. Roy Nicholson and Dr. Virgil Mitchell – our distinguished Alumni of the Century – did more to nourish the Wesleyan way of life than any two others we know.

They tilled the land and sowed the seeds of faith, compassion and education throughout our community, our state and the world. Now it is our turn to tend the fields and renew the cycle again.

As the congregation of the ALIVE Wesleyan Church prepares to move into a new church, we are launching a campaign to purchase the building they are leaving in the heart of our campus.

With your help and God's infinite grace, the facility will become the Nicholson-Mitchell Christian Ministry Center, where a new generation of young people will prepare to carry the Word into the world...that no one shall hunger for the Truth.

**SOUTHERN
WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY**

To learn more about how you can help tend the garden that will feed our future leaders, contact:
SWU Office of Development 864.644.5004

A gift opens the way and ushers the giver into the presence of the great. - Proverbs 18:16

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Dr. James Wiggins

Wiggins to retire after over 50 years of service.

Story on page 12



A photograph of a blonde woman in a black graduation cap and gown. She is adjusting her cap with her right hand and holding a white diploma with her left hand. She has a red and black stole around her neck. In the background, other graduates in caps and gowns are visible, some holding diplomas. The scene is set outdoors against a brick wall and green foliage.

GRADUATION

SENIORS MOVING ON TO A NEW CHAPTER

Southern Wesleyan University celebrated spring graduation in May, as 284 students joined the Class of 2012.

The featured speaker was the Rev. James Wiggins, vice president of development at Southern Wesleyan University, and a member of the SWU Class of 1958 (see story, page 12). Wiggins challenged the new graduates to show loyalty, love and support for the institution which had helped prepare to send them out into the world.

“You are here today as a testimonial that you never gave up. Let’s celebrate this day,” Wiggins said. “God has raised each of you up to success and to bless your generation.”

At the conclusion of the address, Dr. Todd Voss, Southern Wesleyan’s president, invited Wiggins’ wife Lois, whom Wiggins met at SWU as a student, up to the platform to join her husband as he received an honorary doctor of divinity degree and a surprise – a video message from their son John, a marine colonel who is currently stationed in Afghanistan.

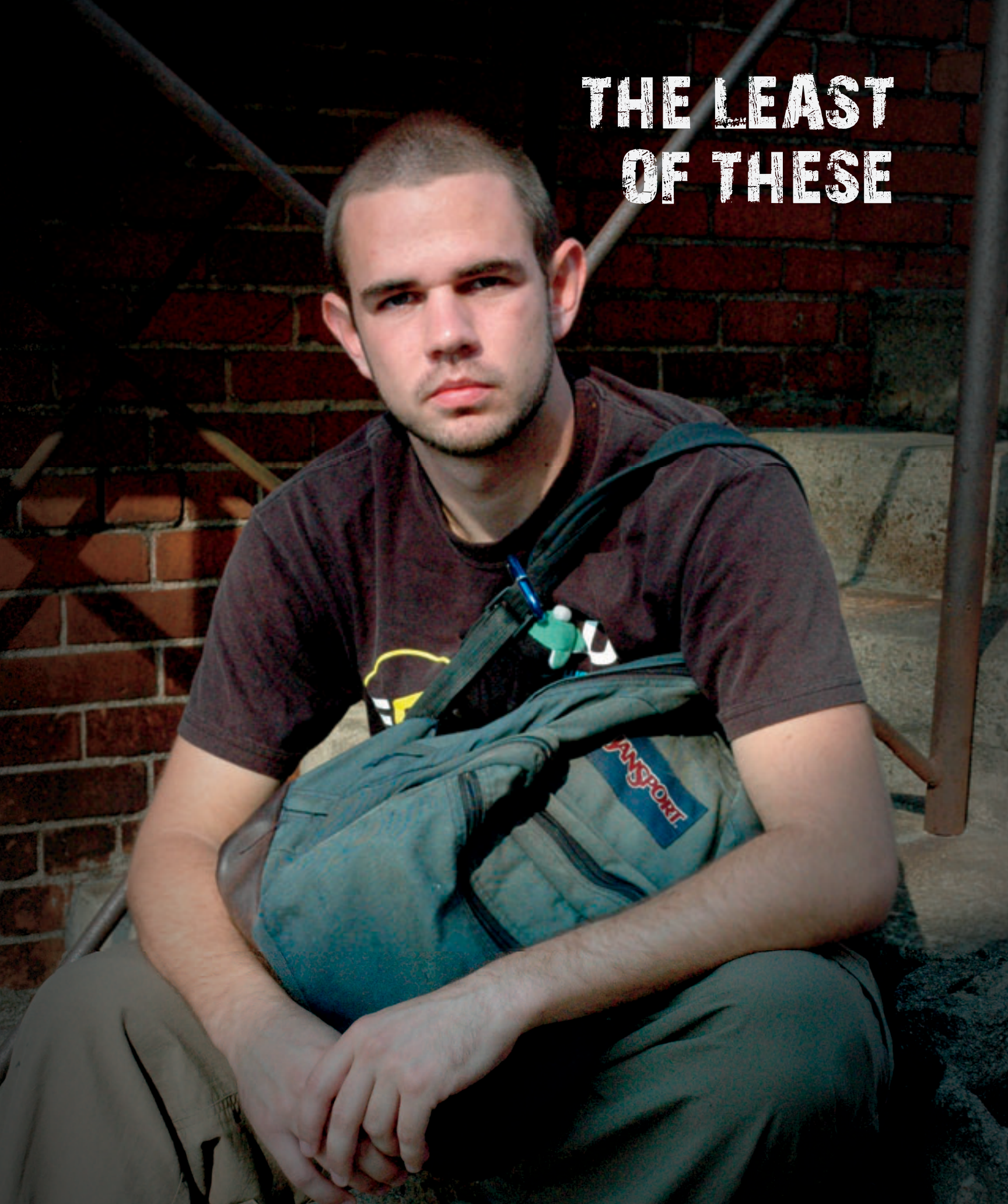
“You are here today as a testimonial that you never gave up.”

The May 2012 Graduation was held in Newton Hobson Chapel and Fine Arts Center on Southern Wesleyan’s campus in Central, S.C.

Students graduating from the university’s traditional program participated in the ceremony on May 3, while students graduating from the university’s Adult and Graduate Studies programs from all locations participated in a ceremony on May 5.



**THE LEAST
OF THESE**



“There are so many reasons why people are homeless,” said Timmy Young. “Few people take the time to discover the reasons.” After living among the homeless for six months on the street, Young is not one of those people.

A 2011 religion graduate, Young originally planned to enter youth ministry. But as he got deeper into his major and was influenced by members of the religion faculty, he started to see God’s heart for poor and displaced individuals who are overlooked by most of society.

As a student, he went to Zambia with World Hope and saw a village being helped. Later, Young and Southern Wesleyan classmate Ryan Seibert spent two months in Cambodia, witnessing firsthand the brokenness of poor families faced with few options for survival, resorting to selling drugs or even selling a child to those involved in human trafficking.

In one of his classes, Young learned about incarnational missions, where individuals would live like people of that country, rather than have a well-equipped house where they would return at the end of the day. “You become like the people you’re going to,” Young said.

As he prayed about missions work, Young felt God was directing him toward the homeless somewhere in the United States. After praying about it, seeking the counsel of those who mentored him and getting the support of his family, Young headed to Fort Lauderdale, carrying only a backpack with a few changes of clothes, some toiletries, pens and a journal and his Bible.

For six months, he lived on the streets, learning firsthand the struggles faced by the homeless.

“Sleeping was interesting,” Young said. “I mainly slept at two places. I stayed in a courtyard area in these bushes, knowing I was out of sight, out of mind and didn’t bother anyone. I also slept in a parking garage.” Finding a restroom could also be a challenge. Stores wouldn’t allow a homeless person to enter, so he would have to walk, sometimes as much as 30 minutes, to find a public restroom in a park. Sometimes the police would run homeless people away from an area where they were sleeping. Young chose not to spend any nights in a homeless shelter.

“I wasn’t forced into homelessness – I was chosen, and I didn’t feel like taking a bed from someone else. I could hop on a bus or plane at any point in time and leave – the homeless around me didn’t have that option,” he said. One homeless man stands out in Young’s memory. He met and befriended a man in his 50s who lost his job and found himself homeless. When they met, Young helped him find a place to get a meal. Sometimes the man would return

the favor and let Young sleep in his car. As Young got to know him more, he learned more about his background of growing up in a nominally-Christian home. As Young shared his faith with the man, he got a Bible and started reading it.

“He read the whole New Testament in two weeks. He was just on fire for God,” Young said, adding that the man felt there was nobody else to whom he could turn. Eventually he would get a job and start saving his money for rent. “The homeless were good about helping a new homeless person – saying this is where you need to go for food, clothes or a shower.”

Because there was plenty of time for interaction, Young spent a lot of time sitting and talking with other homeless men, sometimes about spiritual things or sharing scripture. He found that a lot of homeless people are open to Christianity, but aren’t intentionally seeking out a relationship with Christ like many other groups in our culture.

“Get to know the hurting people around you.”

“People knew something was different about me. I would sometimes tell people I was intentionally living homeless to share God’s love, but for the most part I wouldn’t,” Young said, adding that he did as the Holy Spirit led. “I was young and kind to people. I could go back to my family. I didn’t do drugs or drink. A lot of them assumed I was a Christian.” He noted that churches in the Fort Lauderdale area had a good reputation among the homeless, helping not only with food but also getting them on a step-by-step plan to gain employment and housing.

Young is grateful to his professors at Southern Wesleyan for investing in his life and ministry, getting to know them outside of the classroom. “The professors are not here just to get a paycheck – they want to shape and form future leaders in the church,” Young said. “They are people who want to do that themselves. Getting to hear their stories impacted me.”

I John 3:17 stuck out as a theme for Young’s ministry. “If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?” “Don’t just assume that person’s lazy. When we have the love of God in us, then we will do the acts to help other people out because they are our brothers and sisters. Get to know the hurting people around you – monetarily, spiritually or emotionally. Don’t just cast them aside. Get to know them. That’s my challenge – get to know people.”

Young plans to work this summer at a camp for adults and children with special needs and is seeking future involvement in a homeless ministry in the Greenville, S.C. area.

SWU GRADUATE ENGAGES IN “VIRAL” STUDIES

A keen interest in brain research and the mentoring of Southern Wesleyan University faculty has led Brian Daniels to work for one of the top 10 neuroscience research facilities in the nation.

Daniels is in his second year of doctoral research at Washington University School of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Disease. He is currently engaged in researching how the immune system regulates the blood brain barrier during viral infections and autoimmunity. Daniels collaborated on a paper studying how West Nile virus is able to evade a particular component of the host immune system during infections of the nervous system.

Daniels is a 2010 honors graduate who earned a bachelor of Arts degree in English and a bachelor of Science degree for a specialized major in integrated behavioral biology. Looking back on his education, Daniels appreciates the strengths he developed while studying at Southern Wesleyan.



“Working closely with the SWU faculty prepared me for working with other scientists.” A close interaction with faculty members and mentoring on other aspects of research, such as scientific writing and preparing grant proposals, were valuable tools Daniels gained while studying at Southern Wesleyan.

“Working closely with SWU faculty prepared me for working with other scientists.”

“It is incredibly validating to see our students move on to prestigious programs like the Washington University Neuroscience program,” said Susan Rouse, professor of biology. “Brian worked really hard and has earned all of the accolades he has received, but his success beyond SWU is evidence that we can effectively prepare our students for a profession in science.”

While at Southern Wesleyan, Daniels earned numerous awards and honors. He was inducted into Sigma Tau Delta and Alpha Chi honor societies. He was recognized for his honors presentation related to spatial memory loss in rats due to toxoplasmosis. He has also participated in several fine arts presentations.

Daniels’ primary interest is in university-level teaching, but he also wants to continue doing research and to develop a lab as a vehicle for mentoring students.

NEW VICE PRESIDENT CHAD PETERS PROFILE

When Southern Wesleyan University's new vice president for enrollment management arrives on campus this summer, he won't need a map to find his way around campus.

For Chad Peters, currently associate vice president for enrollment management at Indiana Wesleyan University, stepping back on the SWU campus will be a homecoming. Peters served as director of admissions at SWU from 2003-2008, and earlier held positions as assistant director of admissions, admissions counselor, assistant to the vice president for enrollment management and coach of the Warriors men's and women's cross country teams. Peters is also a graduate of SWU, where he earned a master of science in management degree. He said it is God who is leading him back to SWU.

"God just opened some doors," said Peters. "I have a deep love for Southern Wesleyan because I believe there is not only a lot of potential for growth, but a community of people here - faculty and staff - who have tremendous gifts to offer Christian higher ed."

At Indiana Wesleyan, Peters led efforts to increase enrollment and streamlined efforts to communicate more effectively with prospective students, which included the creation of an internal call center. "Chad's love of SWU, and his understanding of this campus, will allow him to step into leadership quickly and provide incredible support and clarification. He is a person of utmost integrity, quiet strength, amazing drive and deep conviction," said SWU President Todd Voss.

Peters is excited about working with Voss, with whom he worked with at In-

diana Wesleyan, and shares his vision for leading Southern Wesleyan in the days ahead. "Todd Voss is a high-energy visionary," Peters said. "I witnessed how he built a culture at IWU of growth and innovation, and how he also truly valued community. The marketplace is crowded right now, and I have a real sense that Todd is not just going to jump in line and do everything every one else is doing. We are going to use Southern Wesleyan's Christian approach as a competitive advantage in the marketplace, teaching everything with high integrity and character from a Christian viewpoint, as we work to expand into other states."

Peters said he and his wife, Sherri, and their two children, Hayden, 14, and Kennedy, 12, are excited about their return to Upstate South Carolina.

He said they are especially looking forward to the wide variety of outdoor activities the area offers - and the mild winters. A former track athlete in college, he still runs five days a week. He is also a licensed pilot.

"When we started praying back in the fall, we had no idea Southern Wesleyan would be an option," Peters said.

But as they prayed together as a family, God eventually led them back to SWU.

"It's not like we're moving to a strange place," he said. "We still have some friends there. We're really looking forward to it."



INTELLIGENT DESIGN: SWU STUDENT PUTS ROBOTS THROUGH PACES

Software developer Curtis Todd finds Southern Wesleyan University fits well into the equation as he takes his software designing skills to the next level.

Todd most recently unveiled Catalyst 2012, software to design and build virtual robots. The software is featured at Diamond Bullet Studios (www.DBStudios.net), a company he started with a group of former high school classmates. Todd collaborated with SWU graduates Jacob Kuder ('11), Nathan Jolly ('10) and Will Chandler ('11) to develop his company's website.

The idea for the software came out of Todd's own experience building robots for competition.

"Last year while I was mentoring a FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) team in Pendleton, they needed the ability to practice driving the robot without having the robot," said Todd, whose software simulates the experience of operating a robot that plays a basketball-like game in a simulated environment. After showing the work to FIRST's head officials at a game in Raleigh, N.C., and later in St. Louis, their interest spurred him and his colleagues to develop software for the 2012 competition in June of 2011.

"Every semester, my classes have prepared me for my business."



Todd developed his first game as a seventh-grader on a TI-83 scientific calculator, leading to an entry in the Michelin North America Invention Convention, which he won two years in a row. He is a past winner of the "Innovation Award" and is a mentor for FIRST Team 2751 at Tri-County Technical College.

His company Diamond Bullet Studios is now a gold sponsor for FIRST, an international competition whose purpose is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders.

Todd said his experience at Southern Wesleyan has been great preparation for his chosen field.

"I came to Southern Wesleyan University with the idea of taking a few classes here and then transferring," Todd said, "but I realized that the computer science program was very good, and the Christian atmosphere was just what I needed to grow up in. So, I decided to stay."

"It's been great to prepare me for the situations I'm in. If I hadn't been a part of the classes, I wouldn't be nearly as prepared for situations I've encountered."

Every semester, my classes have prepared me for my business.”

“It’s been a great blessing. God’s paving that path for me.”

In 2010, Todd, along with a team of his former high school classmates, developed Mower, which was accepted as a download for the Xbox gaming system. Using a virtual lawnmower and weedeater, players of the game are challenged to cut grass in the fastest time to get the highest score. Within a few months, more than 13,000 Xbox gamers downloaded the game, with over 1400 of them actually purchasing it. Todd began a company, Diamond Bullet Studios LLC, with members of his development team, composed of former high school classmates.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM TODD’S WORK

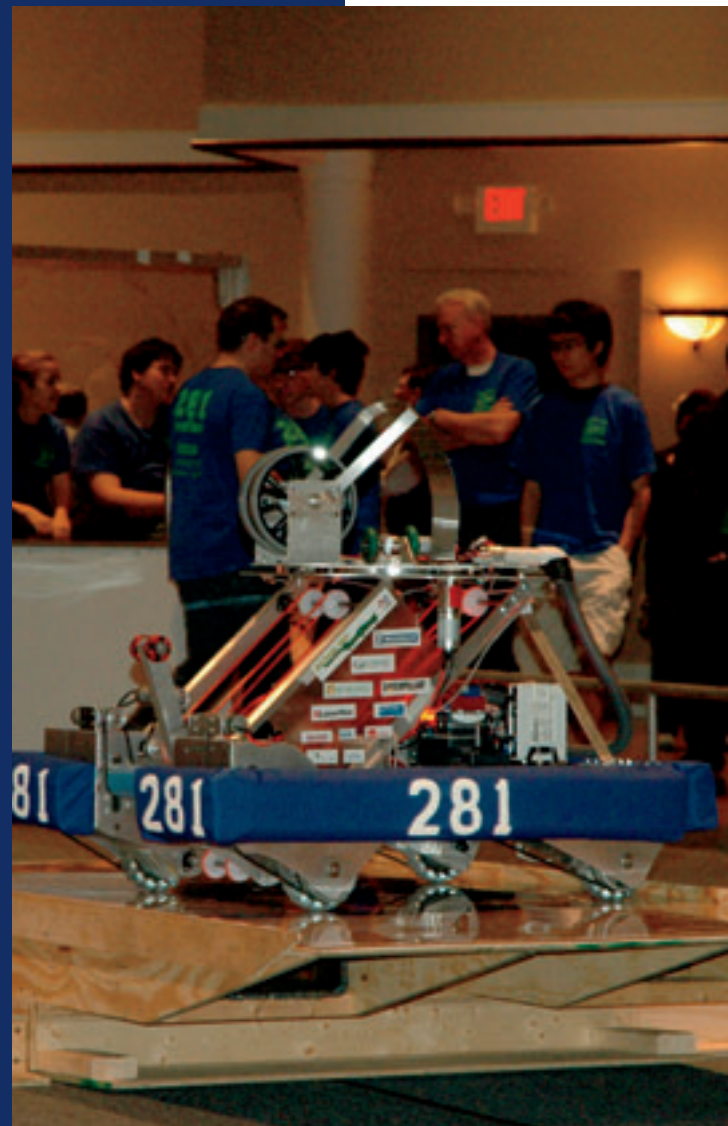
Curtis Todd’s work was instrumental in bringing an area high school robotics competition to Southern Wesleyan recently.

An army of more than 200 robots ran their paces in the auditorium of Newton Hobson Chapel and Fine Arts Center as high school teams from around the Upstate prepared for regional competition this past March.

“It’s not just the technology that inspires in this day-long high school competition, but the relationships that are built are also an inspiration – and relationship building is at the core of SWU’s mission,” said Dr. Todd Voss, Southern Wesleyan University president.

Todd, who mentors a robotics team, enthusiastically watched as students and teachers made final adjustments and programming tweaks. Todd pointed out students could drive their robots on a full competition field, test the robots and do any necessary problem-solving prior to the Palmetto Regional competition in Charleston. The competitions are organized by FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), an organization whose purpose is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, is putting together the competition.

Dr. Paul Jordan, professor of computer science at Southern Wesleyan, is excited to have the robotics teams compete on campus, adding, “Many students who compete with FIRST end up in the computer science and engineering fields.”



JIM WIGGINS TO RETIRE AFTER MORE THAN 50 YEARS OF MINISTRY

“Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve...” Colossians 3:22-23

More than half a century has passed since Dr. Jim Wiggins first stepped onto the campus of Southern Wesleyan University. Arriving as a freshman religion major in 1958 from his home in the mountains community of Glenville, N.C., Wiggins could not have known that in the years ahead he would leave a long shadow of influence and a rich legacy of service to the school.

Wiggins will officially retire from his day-to-day duties as vice president of development at Southern Wesleyan on June 30, but he will continue to serve his alma mater, just as he has for more than five decades. His contributions have not gone unnoticed. He was recently named “Alumnus of the Year” for 2012 and was given an honorary doctorate of divinity degree at the spring graduation ceremonies.

It is hard to overstate how much Wiggins has contributed to Southern Wesleyan. His love for the school is evident, serving 28 years on Southern Wesleyan’s board of trustees - many of those years on the executive committee as the chairman of the development committee - and an additional 10 years as adjunct professor of history and modern missions.

“Jim Wiggins’ legacy at Southern Wesleyan University has been one of unequalled commitment and dedication. . . His influence and love for SWU will live on for generations to come.”

“Jim Wiggins’ legacy at Southern Wesleyan University has been one of unequalled commitment and dedication,” said Southern Wesleyan University President Todd Voss. “His history in the Wesleyan Church, on the board of trustees in years past, and most recently, as a vice presi-



dent has provided a foundation of excellence for this Christ-centered institution. His influence and love for SWU will live on for generations to come.”

His is a life marked by service. After graduating SWU, he went on to earn a master’s degree in education from Clemson, and later took his teaching skills to serve as a mission coordinator in Sierra Leone, where he supervised

His life has always been a life marked by service.

20 elementary schools, with 100 teachers and 3,000 students. He pastored a number of Wesleyan churches, including 18 years as senior pastor of Trinity Wesleyan Church in Central. As a church planter, 11 new churches reported more than 2,400 salvations during the last four years of his leadership.

Wiggins was also selected as district superintendent for the Wesleyan Church in Georgia,

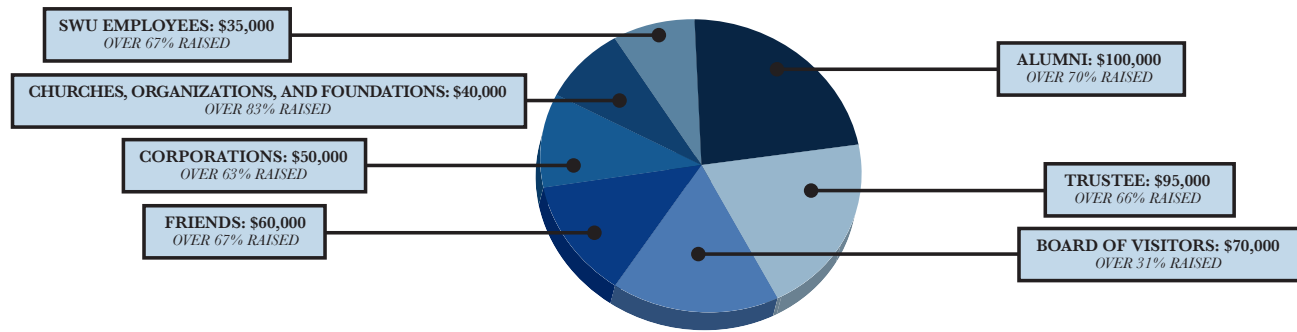
which, under his leadership, expanded to include Alabama and Mississippi to form the South Coastal District. During this time he was mentor to scores of pastors looking for guidance. His extensive list of other honors include: being named District Superintendent Emeritus; serving as Assistant Superintendent of S.C. District; 15 years as member of the District Board of Administration; 16 years as the Camp Meeting Chairman; serving as Director of World Missions for S.C.; Missionary Coordinator; and nine consecutive selections as a delegate to the Wesleyan General Conference. He also served 17 years as a member of the board of directors of the Hephzibah Children’s Home and currently serves as its chairman.

Wiggins and his wife, Lois, whom he met at Southern Wesleyan, will stay in Central. They have four grown children and eight grandchildren.



Rev. Jim Wiggins and his wife Lois look at the screen in Newton-Hobson Chapel and Fine Arts Center and watch a surprise video message from their son John, who is currently stationed in Afghanistan.

PROMISE FUND | 2011-2012



GOAL: \$450,000

PROGRESS: \$285,618.58

OVER 63% RAISED



More than \$9,000 was raised to design and wrap a Southern Wesleyan University box truck to be used by the music and fine arts division. Its primary function will be to transport the musical instruments for the band, brass and wind ensembles. This will allow the bands to travel to performance at schools, churches, social and civic events.

At this point, April 30 in our fiscal year we have received \$285,618.58 towards our annual Promise Fund goal of \$450,000. This is only 63.47%. This means we need to raise a balance of \$164,381.42 by June 30, 2012. This is not good news!

But there is still hope! Everything is possible with the Lord and nothing is too hard for Him. There are 16,000+ alumni who could rally to the cause. If only the response were made in the following numbers most of the amount needed would be cared for:

50 persons giving \$1,000 = \$50,000

500 persons giving \$100 = \$50,000

300 persons giving \$50 = \$15,000

300 persons giving \$25 = \$7,500

200 persons giving \$20 = \$4,000

There is still time! With two months remaining (May and June) it is still possible to move a mountain. There is still a need and a promise to keep! There are still students to help.

Thank you in advance for all you for students at SWU! Please use the enclosed envelope to send your gift to help meet this challenge. Make your check payable to SWU and in the memo line write Promise Fund.

Dr. Jim Wiggins
Vice President for Development

SWU Receives \$500k Gift for Future Student Center

Southern Wesleyan recently received an anonymous \$500,000 gift to be used for the construction of a future student/community center project. The gift comes at a time when Southern Wesleyan is looking at the need to expand academics, student life and athletic facilities.

“Our campus is blessed with beautiful and expansive land, great people and amazing opportunities to grow,” said Southern Wesleyan University President Todd Voss. “This gift will provide the impetus for us to start planning for the near future like never before.”

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2011-2012

Preview of the New
Nicholson-Mitchell Ministry
Center

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SWU Partners with Medical School

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Golf Practice Range Coming to SWU

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SOUTHERN WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
Central, South Carolina

Letter from the President



This year has been nothing short of a whirlwind. My philosophy has been to attempt to say “yes” to every possible idea to allow the Lord to lead, thus modeling a new way of doing business at Southern Wesleyan University.

I have had the privilege of seeing God at work every single day. He has brought renewed hope and vision for our future. We have made good progress in short order, starting with a refreshed mission statement developed by the entire university community. Our renewed mission clearly articulates our roots while highlighting our rich university calling. It reads:

“Southern Wesleyan University is a Christ-centered, student focused learning community devoted to transforming lives by challenging students to be dedicated scholars and servant leaders who impact the world for Christ.”

With a clear plan to build a sustainable growth engine at SWU, we have a variety of visionary fundraising projects, large and small, going on at the same time. Our campaign to apply to the NCAA II is gaining steam, our work on designing quality of life improvements in academics, residence life and athletics is uncovering new interest and support, and a variety of small, but important, campus and distant site improvements are all taking shape.

Our big decision to fund the purchase and renovation of the previous First Wesleyan Church building, right on the main campus, to be a new Christian Ministries training center - named after Roy Nicholson and Virgil Mitchell - is a testimony of our commitment to the past and future. In this new facility we will house new, cutting-edge Christian ministries and academic offerings that will respond to the relevant needs in the church. In addition, we are investigating a retirement community concept, and working diligently on the launch of distance learning on-line degree offerings.

But we couldn't plan for all this exciting growth and development without your investment and belief in SWU. That fact made me think deeply about the impact of your financial gifts to Southern Wesleyan at such a time as this. Allow me share what I mean.

Christ-centered Wesleyan higher education is an investment for a reason, not money simply exhausted, but resources multiplied. Such investment is the perfect gift that keeps on giving. Southern Wesleyan impacts the world for Christ because it has the deep potential of advancing the kingdom for generations to come.

By partnering with this Christ-centered institution, (and there are not many of us left, unfortunately) you multiply your gift exponentially, with a truly lasting impact on the world for Christ.

Isn't that amazing? That's why we do what we do, and exactly why we appreciate you so much. We just could not do this without you. It is simply too big, with too many options, and too many students who want this kind of world impacting opportunity.

But with your help, we find hope, we find partnership and you find a path to impact the world by influencing our next generation of pastors, educators, politicians, health care providers, business professionals, innovators and problems solvers.

Lofty goals? Yes!

Can we succeed? Absolutely, but only with your help. So thank you. Thank you for your investment of God's resources given to you, paid forward to our students and our future. We are eternally grateful.

Dr. Toss S. Voss, *President*

100 Percentage of Freshmen Receiving Financial Aid

1226 2012 AGS Total Student Enrollment

646 2012 Traditional Total Student Enrollment

Total Number of Living Alumni **23,336**

Degrees Granted **284**

International Students in 2012 **24**

Nicholson-Mitchell Christian Ministry Center

For more than a century, Southern Wesleyan University has been committed to preparing future leaders to carry God's Word into a world hungering for truth.

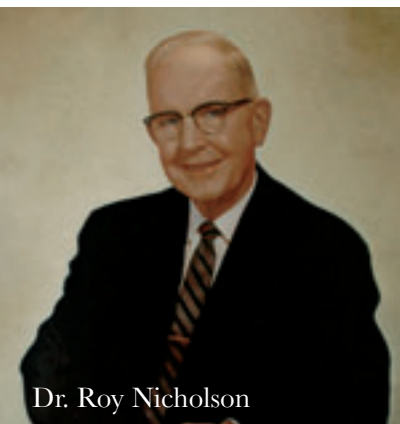
While continuing in this mission, the university is on the cusp of an exciting new era – the development of a facility dedicated to training new generations to enter Christian service. As the congregation of ALIVE Wesleyan Church prepares to move into a new facility, Southern Wesleyan is launching a campaign to purchase their existing building, located at the heart of the campus in Central.

The new facility will be named in the memory of two men who distinguished themselves for their

contributions to Southern Wesleyan University and the Wesleyan way of life – Dr. Roy Nicholson and Dr. Virgil Mitchell – both named Alumni of the Century for their tireless service.

With your help and God's infinite grace, the facility will become the Nicholson-Mitchell Christian Ministry Center, where a new generation of young people will prepare to carry the Word into the world – that no one shall hunger for the truth.

To learn more about how you can help tend the garden that will feed our future leaders, contact: SWU Office of Development at 864-644-5004.



Dr. Roy Nicholson



Dr. Virgil Mitchell



SWU Students Big Winners in Medical School Partnership

The reputation of Southern Wesleyan University's undergraduate program in science has led to a partnership with a major medical school, offering a unique opportunity for SWU graduates.

The agreement with The Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) will provide guaranteed acceptance of Southern Wesleyan student applicants into their interview process and admittance process for medical programs at the Spartanburg campus. VCOM is a state-of-the-art, osteopathic four-year medical college that offers a doctor of osteopathic medicine degree.

"This agreement provides SWU students with the opportunity to secure their spot at our medical school and to then focus on their studies to become superior physicians who will make a difference," said John Rocovich, Jr., Chairman of the Board at VCOM.

The partnership could also help alleviate chronic shortages of physicians in rural areas of the Carolinas and Virginia. "With the quality of our science faculty and significant success of our Health Science graduates over many years, this agreement with VCOM is such a wonderful confirmation and vote of confidence," said Southern Wesleyan University President Todd Voss. "It represents the impact our students have especially in rural and medical missions fields and shows how collaborations like this can have long-term, positive worldwide implications."

The agreement offers guaranteed acceptance for up to 10 Southern Wesleyan students who meet all general admissions requirements. These requirements include earning a GPA of 3.4 or better overall in the university's science program, completion of the medical college admissions test (MCAT), obtaining a minimum of 100 community volunteer hours, receiving a positive interview evaluation from Southern Wesleyan's pre-medical committee/advisor and three VCOM faculty members and being a U.S. citizen and permanent resident.

"Collaborations like this can have long-term positive worldwide implications."

Part of the agreement also outlines an early acceptance program for an additional five applicants from SWU that encourages candidates from rural areas, low socioeconomic status backgrounds and underrepresented minorities to enter health careers.

"We are pleased that this articulation agreement will further strengthen the partnership VCOM has with Southern Wesleyan University (SWU)," said Rocovich. "VCOM is seeking individuals with strong character and who have the drive and passion to transform the world with their medical accomplishments. We are confident that SWU students are the right type of men and women to excel at VCOM and do just that."

Online Degrees Move Closer to Reality

Southern Wesleyan University has laid the groundwork for degree programs that are just a click away.

In 1986, the university made inroads into offering degree programs to working adults in a format that fit their work schedule, with classes at locations across South Carolina. According to Dr. Laurie Hillstock, associate vice president for curriculum and instruction, there are online degree programs already 100 percent developed and awaiting accreditation of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

"We will roll out the bachelor of arts in business administration and associate of arts in general studies fully online at the same time, contingent upon SACS approval," said Dr. Keith Iddings, university provost. Iddings commented that those first online degree programs will likely start around the beginning of the 2013 calendar year. He added that other graduate and undergraduate programs will be offered in the not-too-distant future.

The Wesleyan Church through its districts and churches has provided USF-EIF allocations to support its five educational institutions. Funds are divided equally by formula and distributed to each institution during the conference year. Southern Wesleyan applies the \$1.1 million it receives in USF-EIF to help support the \$1.4 million in scholarships awarded to Wesleyan students each year. SWU is grateful for this investment which is an essential element in the recruitment of Wesleyan students.

SWU Professor Co-authors Book about Wesleyan History

Robert Black, professor of religion at Southern Wesleyan University, has co-authored “The Story of the Wesleyan Church,” a book that traces the denomination’s roots.

“This is a story that really needs telling.”

The book, a collaboration between Black and Keith Drury, professor of religion at Indiana Wesleyan University, tells the story of the Wesleyan Church, tracing its origins from European and American Methodism through the 1968 merger of the Wesleyan Methodist and Pilgrim Holiness churches, through the most recent historic events.

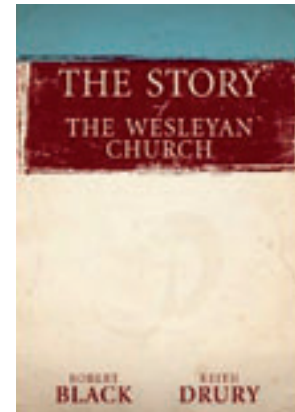
“This is a story that really needs telling,” Black said. “We stand on tall shoulders when we pay attention to our past. Yesterday’s church is speaking to today’s church about tomorrow, and that conversation is vitally important.”

The book is being published by Wesleyan Publishing House, and a release is set to coincide with the national General Conference of the Wesleyan

Church this June. “The Story of the Wesleyan Church” is written in a contemporary, reader-friendly style and is meant to pass on the denomination’s heritage to new generations of readers. The book includes more than a hundred historical photos with detailed descriptions to further enrich the reader’s experience.

Black has served on Southern Wesleyan’s religion faculty since 1986. He earned his Ph.D. in church history from Union Theological Seminary in Virginia. He is also author of a history of the university, “How Firm a Foundation,” and has contributed to several commentaries and history books.

Drury is author of more than a dozen books on practical spirituality, including “Holiness for Ordinary People,” “Common Ground,” and “Ageless Faith.”



SWU set up its new marketing display at the event as thousands came through the doors of Littlejohn Coliseum.

Earlier this year, Southern Wesleyan University was the primary site sponsor for Ravi Zacharias’ “Coexist: The Question of (In)tolerance” event at Littlejohn Coliseum in Clemson, S.C., which attracted more than 6,000 to the venue and another 3,500 at closed-circuit and online locations. Southern Wesleyan was excited to sponsor in this program which clearly demonstrated the relevance of loving God with our minds in a world that needs people who can point the way to the clear path of truth.

Technology + Theology = Techology

A group of Southern Wesleyan University alumni are doing their part to bring the world of theology into the information age: Rev. Tony Casey, class of '89, Rev. Matt Tietje, pastor of Golden Grove Wesleyan Church, class of '05; Rev. Heath Mullikin, pastor of Oakway United - a Wesleyan Fellowship in Oconee County, S.C., class of '97; and Rev. Steve Stanley, pastor of Greenville First Wesleyan Church, who is currently enrolled in the master of divinity program at Nazarene Theological Seminary through an articulation agreement with SWU.

The three take to cyberspace weekly with their podcast, "The Techology Show," which features "technology, theology and everything in-between." More than 150 podcasts have been produced. To view the podcast live, tune into www.thetechologyshow.com. It's also available on YouTube and iTunes.



Wright second "Mister" to be inducted at SWU



Tyson Wright, an elementary education major from Greer, was inducted into the Call Me Mister program during a ceremony at Freedom's Hill Church on the campus of Southern Wesleyan University in Central.

Wright is the second person to be inducted into the program since Southern Wesleyan began its partnership with Call Me Mister (Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models), a program aimed at training and placing teachers from a diverse background into the state's lowest-performing elementary schools.

"We are proud of Tyson and his accomplishment," said Dr. Todd Voss, president of Southern Wesleyan University, encouraging him to tap into the power God has given him as he serves as an educator and role model.

SWU Employee has Song Published

As a graphic designer, Ryan Nichols' work is typically seen rather than heard, but a Christian song he recently published reveals his musical side. His composition, titled "Your Grace," was recently published by the Wilds Christian Association, Inc.

"My dad, Duane Nichols, writes lyrics to songs for Soundforth at Bob Jones University, for the Wilds and for other places. I started writing as well and got better at it as I went along," Nichols said.

Nichols was a counselor at the Wilds camp when he approached Mac Lynch, a friend who is the music director, asking him if he could use the song. Lynch wrote an arrangement for the song. "He took it and did the harmonies for it, turned it into a hymn, then took the hymn and wrote a choir arrangement," Nichols said, adding that the Wilds recorded the song this past fall.

"God did all the work. Hopefully I will continue to write songs," Nichols said. "Your Grace" will appear in a songbook published by the Wilds, which will be made available to churches and schools. For details about the Wilds, go to www.wilds.org.



GOLF PRACTICE RANGE COMING TO SWU

The addition of a new golf driving/practice range at Southern Wesleyan University is seen as a “hole-in-one” that will benefit the athletic program and attract visitors to the Central area.

Central’s city council approved \$20,000 from the Hospitality Fund as part of a partnership with the university. Chris Williams, Southern Wesleyan’s athletic director, estimates the facility will cost approximately \$65,000 – partly funded through partnerships with local businesses as well as Southern Wesleyan alumni.

Williams envisions far-reaching benefits for students enrolled in business and recreation degree programs, including internships and the experience of operating a business. The range, which will be located just off S.C. Highway 93 near Southern Wesleyan’s entrance, is slated to feature self-service machines for golfers to get practice balls.

The new facility will offer eight practice greens, two large tiered tee stations and a large putting green.

“This driving range will be a significant addition to Southern Wesleyan University and our amazing community,” said Southern Wesleyan University President Todd Voss. “In addition, it will add important value to our Men’s and Women’s golf teams who currently have to travel at least an hour every day to and from a practice area. It is a delight to work with the City on this kind of positive impact endeavor. It will add a high visibility feature to the town, encourage golfers from far and wide to use a first class range, and will enhance our entrance and expand the concept of making our campus the athletic showpiece we hope it can be.”

The range is projected to be ready by Fall 2012.



Dr. Voss cooks steaks for students outside his Southern Wesleyan University home.



SWU students perform the spring play, *The Wizard of Oz*.





PRESIDENT'S REPORT | 2012
SOUTHERN WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

SWU NAMES FACULTY/STAFF OF THE YEAR

Southern Wesleyan University students, faculty and staff selected two employees to be honored during convocation ceremonies each year at Newton Hobson Chapel on the campus in Central. At left, Charles Wimphrie ('81 Alumnus) head basketball coach, was named Staff Member of the Year. Nominations for Wimphrie's honor were submitted by staff. At right, Dr. Melanie Rowell ('92 Alumnus), professor of music, was named Faculty Member of the Year. Nominations for Rowell's honor were submitted by students, faculty and staff, then selected by a committee.



MULL RECEIVES MITCHELL AWARD

Dr. Marlin Mull ('63 Alumnus), center, received the Virgil A. Mitchell Excellence in Pastoral Ministry award during Southern Wesleyan University's trustees chapel recently at Newton Hobson Chapel on the university's campus in Central. The award was presented by Mitchell's widow, Mary Mitchell, foreground, and Dr. Roger McKenzie, right, professor of religion. At left is Dr. Todd Voss, Southern Wesleyan's

president. A Southern Wesleyan alumnus, Mull is senior pastor of Brooksville Wesleyan Church in Brooksville, Fla. He has served as the director of evangelism and church growth for The Wesleyan Church and was also the district superintendent in North Carolina. During his six year pastorate at Brooksville church, the congregation has experienced significant growth. The purpose of the Mitchell Award is to encourage excellence in ministry, enhance the importance of pastoral ministry, to recognize service to the church and support of Southern Wesleyan University, to emphasize the value of ministerial training offered at Southern Wesleyan University and to exalt the greatest preacher of them all – the Lord Jesus Christ.

KIZER RECEIVES EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Dr. Lee Kizer, center, associate professor of business at Southern Wesleyan University, was presented the 2012 Excellence in Teaching Award by S.C. Independent Colleges and Universities. Pictured at left is Dr. Royce Caines, dean of Southern Wesleyan's School of Business; and at right is Henri Etta Baskins, chair of the SCICU board of trustees. Sponsored by the South Carolina Higher Education Foundation, the Governor's Professor of the Year awards are open to faculty at two and four year public and independent institutions of higher learning.





Dr. Todd Voss, president of Southern Wesleyan University, cut the ribbon officially opening “New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music,” a Smithsonian traveling exhibit on display until April 21 at the university’s campus in Central. Pictured from left: Randy Akers, Humanities Council SC director; Helen Hockwalt, Pickens County Museum curator, Voss and Wayne Kelley of the Pickens County Cultural Commission.

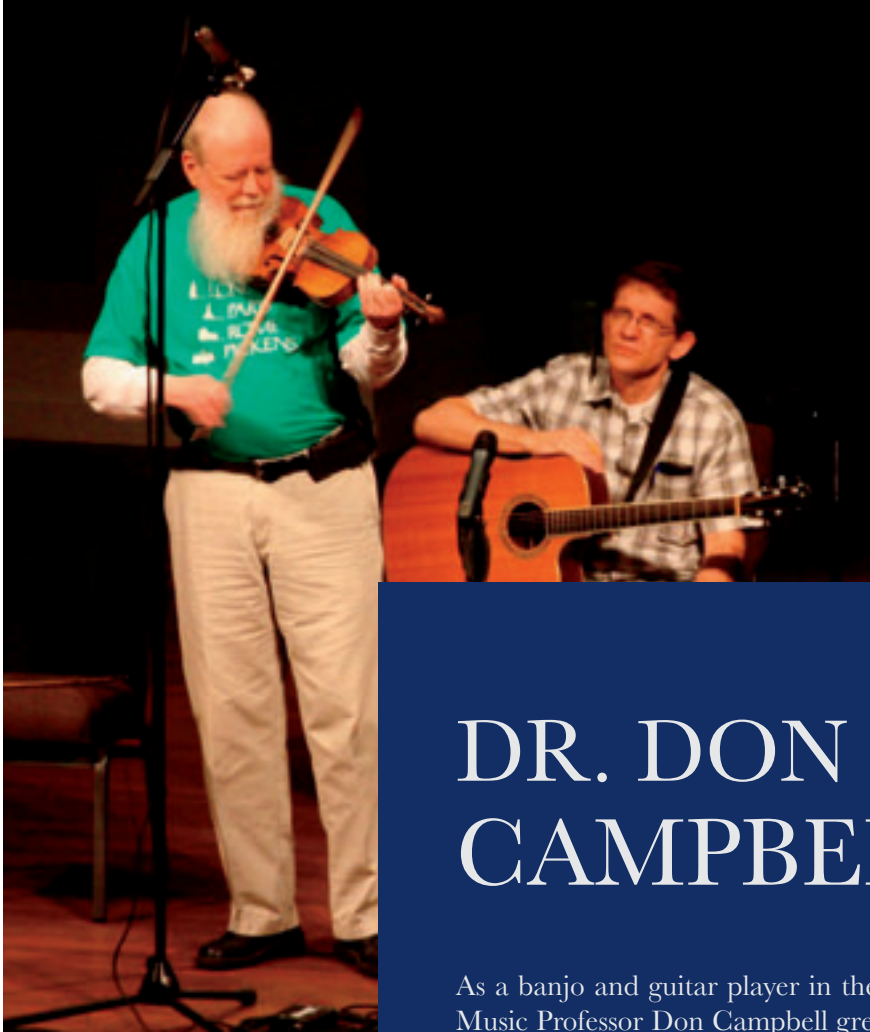
SMITHSONIAN KICKS OFF AMERICAN MUSIC EXHIBIT AT SWU

“New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music,” a Smithsonian traveling exhibit, brought the sights and sounds of a diverse nation to Southern Wesleyan’s campus recently, and several area school groups and other interested individuals toured the interactive exhibit – a collection of photographs, recordings, instruments and artist profiles.

Southern Wesleyan University was the kick off for the exhibit which follows the amazing musical journey from the rural dirt roads of the old South where bluegrass and gospel music was played and sung in the shade of front porches, spirituals sung in the fields and where eventually radio brought the Grand Ole Opry to even the most distant farms, to the blues and emerging ethnic music which ruled the blacktops of the cities.

Local events coinciding with the exhibit included a “Roots of Southern Gospel” concert at Southern Wesleyan, children’s events featuring storyteller John Fowler and “Buffalo” Barfield, a Civil War music performance, a “Nothin’ but the Blues Fest” and visual arts exhibits in the surrounding area.

Southern Wesleyan hosted the exhibit, in cooperation with the Pickens County Museum, Birchwood Center and Humanities Council SC. Funding was also provided by the Smithsonian Institution, the Humanities Council SC, Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, Blue Ridge Security Services, Pickens County Library System, Pickens County Accommodations Tax, People’s National Bank, SC Bank and Trust and Pickens Savings and Loan.



DR. DON CAMPBELL

As a banjo and guitar player in the 1960s, Southern Wesleyan Music Professor Don Campbell grew up on much of the music highlighted in the exhibit.

“I was attracted to the simplicity and honesty of the spirituals, the blues, and the folk movement. It was the music on my heart as I sought to uncover the mystery of the music of my soul,” Campbell said. “This music made me want to go deeper and deeper into how and why music does what it does to our spirits.”

“What struck me was regardless of the style of music—work songs, spirituals, gospel (black and white), blues, or all the different “flavors” of folk—the music was born from the heart of the people’s experiences,” Campbell said. “There is an authenticity in the music of people expressing sorrow or joy, gain or loss, despair or hope out of a need to express as a way of coming to terms with life—not as a way to make a buck.”

“This exhibit reminded me, as a classically trained conductor and professor, that whatever music I do now in the concert hall or the church must be done with the same honesty and ‘realness’ as those who have come before me. Though we cannot dwell in the past, we must stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us and shown us that our music must reflect the Spirit of the One who gave us the gift of music itself.”

SWUPY AWARDS BRING ATHLETES TOGETHER

The Southern Wesleyan University Department of Athletics rolled out the red carpet and recognized student-athletes for their accomplishments during the recent Sixth Annual SWUPY Awards in Newton-Hobson Chapel on the university's campus in Central.

“The SWUPY’s are a great evening to celebrate the year in athletics,” said Chris Williams, Southern Wesleyan’s director of athletics. “Really it is not about the awards for me as it is more a time for the department to come together as one body. What a great night to say ‘thank you’ to our student-athletes for all the hard work and dedication they have put in over the year and for their careers.”

Daniel Restrepo of the Men’s Soccer Team and Amanda Almond of the Women’s Soccer team were presented with the Mr. and Ms. Warrior Award. Thomas Floyd of the Baseball Team and Erica Segars of the Women’s Cross Country Team were awarded Male and Female Athlete of the Year, with Segars taking the honor for the second year in a row. The Male Performance of the Year Award was given to Kendall Ray of the Baseball Team and Amber Garrett of the Volleyball Team took home the Female Performance of the Year Award.

The Dr. C. Keith Connor Spirit Award was awarded to Martha Mishoe, while Isaiah Reeves was named the Fan of the Year. The Courage Award was given to Candace Graves, a member of the Softball Team.

Sierra Zemanick of the Women’s Cross Country Team was named the Female Newcomer of the Year for her efforts during her rookie campaign, giving her team two consecutive years of having the Female Newcomer of the Year. The Male Newcomer of the Year was awarded to Daniel Pena of the Men’s Soccer Team. For the first time, Game of the Year awards were given to two teams – Baseball and Men’s Soccer – for their wins over nationally No. 1 ranked teams.

Cross Country Coach Chip Rouse was named Coach of the Year and the women’s cross country team won Team of the Year. Lauren Drodgy of the Women’s Cross Country Team and Nikola Lambic of the Men’s Basketball team were awarded the Female and Male Scholar Athlete and the Team Academic Award was presented to the Women’s Cross Country Team.



A VISION FOR THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

When Chris Williams, the director of athletics at Southern Wesleyan University took over the reins of the Athletic Department in 2007; he had a distinct vision on where he wanted to lead the department.



Williams, SWU's head women's basketball coach in 2007, was riding high after his team won the 2007 National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Championship. After the season was completed, Williams and his wife Lisa began to feel God leading them in a different direction and out of coaching. What Williams may not have known was that his coaching was going to be taken to another level through leading the coaching staff and all of the student-athletes at SWU.

It was a different venture for Williams, but he knew right away that being a department that was unified was his main priority. The 'One Body' theme took shape for the department and it came from the Bible verse Romans 12:5, which reads, "So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

By working as 'One Body,' the Team SWU concept started within the athletic department and brought the philosophy of 'One Body' bringing the 10 intercollegiate sports teams together as one with no one team being above the other. By doing this, the athletic department embraces reaching out to the SWU community and bridging the gap between athletics and the campus community. The design of the 'One Body' logo has the 10 teams in a circle around the cross showing that all teams are equal and are always revolving around the most important symbol of our Christian faith, the cross. Now with women's golf being added in 2012, 11 teams will be circling the cross. Williams also began what is known as SWU Blue Wednesdays where you wear SWU BLUE shirts wherever you are on Wednesdays.

"The TEAM SWU concept was born out of the 'One Body' initiative," stated Williams. "We started with ourselves (athletics) and worked on supporting one another and uniting as 'One Body.' Now we are taking it one step further to include the SWU campus, surrounding community, and SWU Alums around the world. This is the driving force of SWU Athletics, and growing the Team SWU concept to outside of our campus." Williams wants to model servant leadership to coaches and student-athletes, whether it is sweeping floors, cleaning up after games, cheering at games, or encouraging them through words.

The Warrior Athletic Department started this year with their Annual Champions with Christ event in August when Williams, Dr. Joe Brockinton (VP of Student Life), and Dr. Chris Acconero (Faculty Member and Faculty Athletic Representative) washed the feet of the coaching staff, with the coaching staff turning around and showing servant leadership to their student-athletes by doing the same. By doing this act, some student-athletes washed the feet of their coaches.

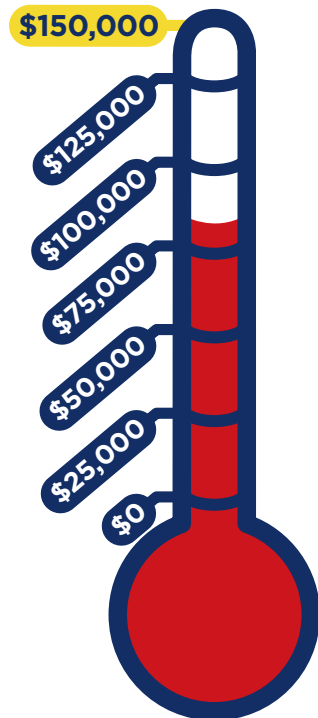
"The first three years we were working on what roles we had as coaches and administrators and to bring in the right coaches and people in place. We needed to move outside of ourselves and move to within one body within our campus, to within our community, community service projects, and move beyond athletics. To move inside of our campus with all activities from fine arts to SGA events to mission trips," stated Williams.

Now the athletics department is striving to better the quality of life and competitive experience by looking at moving into the NCAA Division II. After a proposal to the board of trustees, the board voted unanimously to start the process of transitioning to NCAA Division II, which includes raising the estimated \$150,000 to make the transition and to apply for application. Williams believes that the move to the NCAA will help give the student-athlete better quality of life and increase the competitive experience. The NCAA would continue to give a platform to share our Christ-centered approach to competition, promote the university, increase enrollment, and will add life value and sense of community to our residential campus.

Williams, in his fifth year as athletic director, has seen great improvements throughout athletics by getting new sound systems at all venues, improving the game management structure, the marketing and branding of SWU has increased, the website continues to go through upgrades, and holding the SWUPY's, which celebrates the student-athlete experience and is unlike any other college awards show.

Williams is most proud of the fact that the Team Grade Point Average has risen from 2.6 when he took over, to 3.2 this past year. "Everything revolves around 'One Body.' Everyone is as important as one another and we work to make all of us better as one," finished Williams.

MOVING SWU TO THE NCAA





Southern Wesleyan University alumni were recognized April 14 for their outstanding efforts in ministry and business during an annual awards luncheon on the university's campus in Central.

Pictured, from left, are Danielle Eiler, receiving the Young Leader Award posthumously for her son Travis; D. Jonathan Watts, Professional Excellence, School of Education; Janelle Beamer, Professional Excellence, School of Business; Dr. James Wiggins, Alumnus of the Year; and Jessica Hubbard, Young Leader Award. Not pictured is Dr. Bill Jenkins, who received the Professional Excellence Award for the College of Arts and Science.

SOUTHERN WESLEYAN RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

Southern Wesleyan University alumni were recognized recently for their outstanding efforts in ministry and business during an annual awards luncheon on the university's campus in Central.

The Alumnus of the Year Award was presented to Dr. James Wiggins, who received a bachelor of arts degree in religion in 1958. Wiggins currently serves as vice president of development at Southern Wesleyan and plans to retire in June. Prior to that, he served on Southern Wesleyan's board of trustees. Wiggins has spent more than 50 years in Christian ministry for The Wesleyan Church, half of which was spent pastoring in three Upstate churches. He has served also on the denominational level as district superintendent for The Wesleyan Church in Georgia and as assistant superintendent of the South Carolina District. Wiggins served The Wesleyan Church nine consecutive times as a delegate to the General Conference and served as director of world missions for South Carolina and was the mission coordinator for more than four years in West Africa.

A Young Leader Award was presented posthumously to Travis Eiler, who received a bachelor of arts degree in recreation and leisure services in 2010. Accepting the award were his parents, Eric and Danielle Eiler. Eiler died while serving in the mission field in Central Asia. He transferred to South-

ALUMNI NEWS

ern Wesleyan from Spartanburg Methodist College, where he was actively involved with Campus Crusade for Christ, going on several missions trips, including a summer-long trip to Central Asia. At Southern Wesleyan, Eiler started and led several Bible study groups on campus and was a member of the cross country team. Eiler returned to Central Asia, where he taught English at a university. He was in his second year of service when on Dec. 2, 2011, he was found dead in his apartment. During the presentation, Rev. Dave Tolan, missionary in residence at Southern Wesleyan, held up a pair of Eiler's sneakers, offering a challenge to others to fill his shoes and serve on the mission field.

Also receiving a Young Leader Award was Jessica Hubbard, a 2009 honors graduate who received a bachelor's degree in special education. Hubbard went on to earn her master of education degree in special education from the Peabody School of Education at Vanderbilt University. While at Vanderbilt, Hubbard surveyed health educators in Tennessee high schools, exploring disparities in health education courses offered to general high school students versus special education students. She also taught English at Georgetown International Academy in Guyana. While on the staff at Georgetown International, she participated in the development and writing of a standards-based curriculum for the school. Hubbard is currently pursuing a position as a special education teacher at a juvenile detention center in Tennessee. She also plans to earn her doctoral degree in International Education with the goal of developing education programs in Third-World countries.

The Professional Excellence Award – School of Education was presented to Dr. Jonathan Watts, who earned a bachelor of arts degree in theology in 1974. Watts started his career as a Pastor at Mr. Calvary Wesleyan Church in Easley in 1972-74. He went on to become an Associate Minister at First Wesleyan Church in Talladega, Ala. for two years. During his lifetime, he has served as a social worker, a minister of music, an insurance salesman and a minister in the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church. Watts currently serves on (continued on page 30)



Bob Black, professor of Religion and a religion graduate, co-authored a book with Keith Drury, professor of religion at Indiana Wesleyan University telling the story of The Wesleyan Church. The book traces church roots in European and American Methodism, the 1968 merger of the Wesleyan Methodist and Pilgrim Holiness churches and highlights recent historic events. The book is being published by Wesleyan Publishing House with a planned release during General Conference in June.

Charles Tegen, a business graduate, has been appointed to serve on the National Governmental Accounting Standards Advisory Council. Tegen, who is comptroller at Clemson University, was also recognized as an outstanding alumnus, receiving a professional excellence award in 2010. The 30-member council provides input to the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, the independent, not-for-profit board that establishes and improves accounting standards used in federal, state and local governmental accounting and financial reporting.

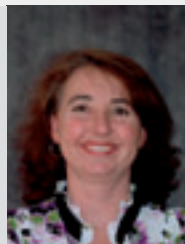


Ray Lattimore, a business graduate and president/CEO of Marketplace Staffing, was named by Greenville Business Magazine as one of Greenville's 50 Most Influential People of 2011. The magazine described Lattimore as "one of the Upstate's strongest advocates of entrepreneurialism and minority business growth." Lattimore joined a list of leaders who made significant contributions that shaped Greenville's business and community landscape in 2011.

Jan Nations, a music teacher at Six Mile Elementary School, was chosen by her colleagues as Teacher of the Year for 2011-2012.

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

Joy Bryant, executive director of alumni and constituent relations at Southern Wesleyan University and a psychology graduate, was elected as president of the South Carolina Alumni Association Directors. The announcement was made Jan. 27 at the close of the SCAAD Winter Conference, held in Asheville, N.C. SCAAD is a professional organization of all alumni directors from both private and public colleges and universities across South Carolina. She will serve a two-year term as president. Bryant was also the speaker at Remlik Wesleyan Church in Urbanna, Va. She spoke on the topic "Christian Living: Body, Mind, and Spirit" during revival at the church March 18-21. The pastor is William D. Smith.



96

Robin Hill recently earned her MBA in global Management from the University of Phoenix and has worked for ITT Corporation in Roanoke, Va. since 1999.



Southern Wesleyan alums **John and Joe Atcheson** broke ground on their new dental offices in Six Mile Jan. 6. Pictured from left is Sen. Larry Martin, Rep. B.R. Skelton, Six Mile Mayor Roy Stoddard, Renee and John Atcheson, and Elizabeth and Joe Atcheson. John and Joe are also sons of Marty Atcheson, senior vice president for finance at Southern Wesleyan. John is a 2001 pre-dentistry graduate and Joe is a 2006 pre dentistry graduate. Renee is a 2004 special education graduate and Elizabeth is a 2006 elementary education and early childhood graduate.

(awards continued)

the faculty at Snead State Community College, Boaz, Ala. He is an Oxford Foundation Fellow and has authored many books and articles, including “The Battle Lines of Worship: Finding a Place of Truce and Trust,” and “Gospel Telling to a Digital Culture: The Forensic Reconstruction of a Good Story.”

The Professional Excellence Award – School of Business was presented to Janelle Beamer, who earned a master of science in management degree in 2003. Beamer served Southern Wesleyan for eight years as director of public relations and is currently the director of advancement and development at John de la Howe School in McCormick, S.C. While at Southern Wesleyan, Beamer actively promoted the university, winning awards and national recognition for Focus magazine. She has served on numerous boards and councils, which included the Easley Chamber of Commerce, Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce, Central Area Business Council, Women and Children Succeeding, Pickens County Heritage Corridor and the Greenville chapter of Women in Communications. She was selected to participate in Leadership South Carolina and Leadership Pickens County. Beamer was also the first person to be awarded the David J. Spittal Community Award, named for the university’s former president.

The Professional Excellence Award – College of Arts and Sciences was presented to Dr. Bill Jenkins, recognizing his contributions to community leadership and the field of optometry. Jenkins graduated from Southern Wesleyan with a biology degree in 1966. He is also a former member of the university’s board of trustees and has served on several boards and community organizations, including the Walhalla Chamber of Commerce and the Walhalla Lions Club. He is a recipient of the TLC Silver Award for Excellence in Eye Care. Jenkins also served the South Carolina Commission for the Blind as a low vision consultant for 10 years. In 1994, he expanded his practice, which became known as Carolina Multispecialty Associates. In 1997, Jenkins founded MediVision P.A. He has been actively involved at Welcome Wesleyan Church, singing in the choir, teaching Sunday School and leading church efforts to help the needy.

07 Abraham Deng, a pre medicine/dentistry graduate, is continuing his theological studies at Mercer University McAfee School of Theology. 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. He continues to reach out to others who also escaped the oppression of Sudan.

Braeden Kershner, (pictured right) director of the Citadel Gospel Choir, introduces the 25-member group of musicians during a March 22 chapel at Southern Wesleyan. Kershner is a music education graduate who has gained local and national recognition, including coverage on NBC's Today Show and top honors from the Charleston County School District. He is also band and choral director at C.E. Williams Middle School for the Creative and Scientific Arts in Charleston.

Jennifer Potts, a biology graduate, became assistant registrar for AGS Student Services at Southern Wesleyan. She was a program representative at the Columbia Regional Learning Center.

Ashely D. Teasdel, a MBA graduate, was promoted to assistant vice president at BB&T's Forest Drive office in Columbia. A Columbia native, Teasdel joined the bank in 2005. She also earned her bachelor's degree in business management from Charleston Southern University. BB&T Corp. operates approximately 1,800 financial centers in 12 states and Washington, D.C.



08 Kyle Blackwell, a business graduate, spoke March 5 to students enrolled in a Managerial Finance class on the importance of budgeting, debt management, saving and the time value of money. Blackwell is currently a Financial Advisor for Edward Jones in Easley. Edward Jones hires very few employees directly out of college. Blackwell met or exceeded all of the target requirements for new employees as he developed his client base, according to Frazier.

10 Adam Jolley, a math education graduate, is currently in Argentina serving as a missionary with Operation Mobilization. Jolley plans to stay for two years, "or more if God would have me to," he added. Jolley works with teenagers and children in a poor neighborhood teaching the Bible and playing lots of soccer.



11 Teann Pilgrim Bryson, (pictured left) a psychology graduate, recently achieved the status of independent sales director for Mary Kay Inc. She was awarded a 2012 Chevrolet Malibu for her achievement. "Teann Pilgrim Bryson's extraordinary vision and enthusiasm has enabled her to achieve the position of independent sales director," said Darrell Overcash, president of Mary Kay, Inc. U.S.

Bryce Duncan was accepted into the doctorate program of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro's Nanoscience School. He will begin his studies in the fall.

BIRTHS

74 Evan Michael Giambrone was born December 6, 2011. Parents are **Lindsey and David Giambrone** and grandparents are **Jonathan ('73) and Karen Watts ('74)**.

06 Joe and Elizabeth Payseur Atcheson celebrated the birth of **Carter Davis Atcheson** on January 20, 2012. Carter is being held by his father and is pictured with his grandfather, **Marty Atcheson ('79)**, uncle, **John Atcheson ('02)**, and cousin, **Connor Atcheson**.

Congratulations to **Dr. Paul Schleifer**, professor of English, on the birth of his grandson. **Logan Barrett Pelfrey**, the son of **Katherine (Schleifer) and Justin Pelfrey**, was born March 19 around 11 p.m.



10 Brooklyn Isabelle Mosley was born Feb. 14, 2012 to **Michael and Victoria (Stanley) Mosley**. Proud grandparents are **Gary ('87) and Martha Harvey ('86) Mosley, Rev. Steve and Kimi Stanley** and **Great grandmother Billie Faye Harvey ('43, '45 & '89)**.

DEATHS

- | | | | |
|-----|---|---------|---|
| '37 | L.W. (Jim) Barbee , Spartanburg, S.C., May 3, 2011 | '77 | Anita F. Busick , Winston-Salem, N.C., Nov. 21, 2010 |
| '40 | Jasper Wilbert Phillips , High Point, N.C., Jan.24, 2012 | '78 | Christine Nalley , Marian, Ind., Mar. 13, 2012 |
| '43 | Maurice Burns , Marian, Ind., Mar. 3,2012 | '82 | David Stellwagen , Clayton, Ga., Aug. 27, 2011 |
| '48 | Talmadge Hughey , Norris, S.C., Feb. 24, 2012 | '85 | Lawrence Lawson , Central, S.C., April 29, 2011 |
| '55 | Patricia Castle , Noblesville, Ind., Oct. 5, 2010 | '00 | Edwina Green , Charleston, S.C., Aug. 27, 2011 |
| '60 | Margaret Garrett Mohr , N. Myrtle Beach, S.C., Sep. 14, 2011 | '04 | Amy Towe Murphy , Salem, S.C., June 30, 2011 |
| '68 | Steve G. Byrd , Charlotte, N.C., Sep. 17, 2011 | '06,'12 | Edward Alexander , Central, S.C., Dec. 20, 2011 |

Friend of the University and Member of SWU Board of Visitors

John William Callaham, Jr., Liberty, S.C., Feb. 22, 2012. Callaham, a retired insurance agent and former Liberty Mayor, served on the board of visitors for three years. Callaham could frequently be found attending university events and, according to Rev. James Wiggins, vice president for development, was an “ambassador of goodwill” for the university.

Friend of the University and Studied Music

Bernice Parsons Dobson
Liberty, S.C., March 30, 2012

Friend of the University

Janet May
Marion, Ind., April 5, 2012

Former Faculty Member from 1950-1964

Jessie E. Taylor
Gerry, N.Y., March 30, 2012

Trustee

Lee Schenck, who served on SWU’s Board of Trustees for more than 25 years, passed away March 26 of apparent heart failure. During most of his service to the board, Schenck rendered valuable service as a member of the Finance Committee. Schenck and his wife, Helen, lived in Lakeland, Fla. Funeral services were held March 30 at Faith Wesleyan Church in Lakeland.

Trustee

George I. Newton, husband of the late Jo Nell Herron Newton, was a long time member of the Board of Trustees and at the time of his death was a Trustee Emeritus of Southern Wesleyan University.

Trustee

Leonard Stowe from Eden N.C. served on the Southern Wesleyan University Board of Trustees from 1990 to 2005.

REMEMBERING A SWU CHAMPION

By Willett Vess

It was 64 years ago, 1948, that we moved into the men's new dormitory at Central Wesleyan College. Professor J.B. Childs was the person who would oversee the building of the new dorm. It was a beautiful building with shining hardwood floors.

I was assigned a room with Talmadge Hughey, an older student who was a veteran of WWII. Talmadge was very quiet, rather shy and a wonderful roommate. Even though he didn't talk very much, he was always friendly.

We had a fellow student in school with us who thought himself to be a top-notch boxer; from hearing him talk, you might have thought he ranked in the "golden gloves" class. He arranged for us to have a "boxing room" in the dorm. There were some empty rooms and they allowed us to have one for that purpose. Several of the veterans had boxed in the service and they seemed anxious to try it again. I remember that Rev. W.D. James was one of the greatest "sluggers." Someone asked Talmadge if he would join the boxing fun, but he declined; however, in time they got him to put the gloves on. I wondered what in the world this quiet, thoughtful southern gentleman would do. He always had a smile for others and I could not picture him hitting anyone.

But the day finally came when the "self-appointed champ" would box Talmadge Hughey. We all watched in wonder - the "champ" was jumping around and punching the air in his corner - while in the other corner Talmadge stood with the gloves on and his hands hanging by his side. I thought... "Poor Talmadge"...and I wished he had not decided to box the champion because I did not want him to be embarrassed or get hurt...and I certainly did not want my roommate to lose. Talmadge seemed so calm and did not seem one bit anxious - he soon showed why he could act in this manner.

What the champ and others did not know, Talmadge was not a novice at boxing; when he was in the Navy he had boxed. Before the match began, the champ assured Talmadge he would go easy on him. I can see it now, just like it was yesterday. The champ put up his gloves and rushed to the center --out of the other corner the unusually slow, quiet figure sprang to life and the champ, in shock, staggered backward as he was hit two or three times before he could even respond or know what was happening. Talmadge was like a cat, so quick, so accurate! It only took two or three times like this and the champ called it quits. He

found that, after a few good licks to his jaw, he had faced a real expert boxer. We all stood in amazement and secret delight! After that day, I don't remember any other person wanting to box Talmadge for he proved he was able to easily defend himself and he became the true "Boxing Champion" at Central Wesleyan College that year.

Talmadge's short boxing legend at CWC will live on and many of us will remember, but his real legacy (and far more important) was his consistent Christ-like life, a man of sterling character and known for his deep, outstanding love for his Lord, his wife and his sons and family. Talmadge was a fighter, and now he has won the greatest challenge of all - a home in heaven; no doubt he has heard the Father say: Well done thou good and faithful servant.... You fought a good fight, you've kept the faith and now you've won the crown of life! Praise the Lord.

One more thing. I had the honor to live just up the road from Talmadge and Naomi the last year and half of his life. Though in the final months of Talmadge's life he did not know some people, he seemed to always know me when I would visit with them, and would greet me with that same smile and that same friendly spirit.

Darlene called me Thursday and told me Talmadge was not expected to live. Later in the afternoon I visited with them. His hospital bed had been pushed close to Naomi's bed - she was on her bed and had reached over to hold Talmadge's hand. She told me she wanted to have him at home the last days of his life. Friday morning I saw him for a few minutes and had prayer with them, then later in the afternoon I saw him again; he went to heaven less than an hour after that visit.

Talmadge will always live - live eternally with Christ, live in our memories - and he beckons us to be true to God and we will all live together forever! The last battle was fought and Talmadge, my old roommate, was victorious.



SWU ALUMNA BRINGING WORLD OF HOPE IN LOUISIANA

St. Martin couple changing community one step at a time

By Hope Rurik, The Daily Iberian

ST. MARTINVILLE, La. — One of the tenets of the Lenten season is alms giving. For one St. Martinville couple, the tenet is observed year-round.

Katie and Tim Kirkpatrick each had formed an idea of what they would be doing with the rest of their lives before they began dating and eventually married, but neither of them expected to be doing what they're doing today, operating a community center in association with Our Savior's Church.

Tim Kirkpatrick had attended Indiana Wesleyan University, and he and Katie had met through their sister schools. He was working at Our Savior's Church when Katie began her work in Louisiana and the two began dating. In 2007, the two married and began a community center in St. Martinville, merging their two passions.

Katie Kirkpatrick said although she was a Christian, she never saw herself actually working with the church.

"My wife is very clear," Kirkpatrick said. "She knew exactly what she wanted to do from 2005 on. Myself, I was not quite as sure what I wanted to do or how it would look. Mine's been more trial and error I guess." Tim, 31, said he knew when he was 18 that he was called to ministry, but he didn't know what exactly his role would be.

Katie, 27, knew after an internship with World Hope International and seeing the reality of the AIDS epidemic and human trafficking that she wanted to be involved in community development.

"My life was just wrecked," she said. "I cried every day and then I thought, 'OK, well, I can either cry for the rest of my life or do something about it.'"

When they pitched the idea for the community center to the senior pastor Jacob Aranza at Our Savior's Church, which has campuses in Broussard, Opelousas and Lafayette, he gave them 30 days to open shop.

The Kirkpatricks researched other centers and surveyed the St. Martinville area to find out what the community needed most. The feedback came back in favor of a food pantry, health care and youth programs.

And so they opened the Hope Center to provide just those things. Since beginning in 2007, the



After studying community development at Southern Wesleyan University in South Carolina, Katie Kirkpatrick joined the Peace Corps to work in AIDS prevention. She got sick and was sent back to the United States where in 2006 she took a job with Southwest Louisiana Area Health Education Center, teaching STD and AIDS prevention in schools. As she taught in St. Martinville, Katie Kirkpatrick said she saw a greater need.

"I just thought, 'I just can't believe we have this type of poverty in America. We have to do something here.'"

center has evolved, ending its food and health care services after other entities moved into the area and removed the need.

Now, the center focuses exclusively on its youth programs, which include after-school programs and job-readiness programs. The Hope Center now falls under what the church calls Love Acadiana, which leads outreaches in the local community and abroad.

The Kirkpatricks returned Feb. 16 from a trip to South Africa and Malawi, checking in with programs that care for children orphaned by AIDS and gathering information to go back later with teams from the U.S. This week, the couple will start their foster certification to turn their century-old Victorian home in St. Martinville into a children's home.

"Really our goal with that and everything we do is see reconciliation," Katie Kirkpatrick said. "Our goal with the children's home is to be able to work with families through the state foster care system to see families put back together, and when that's not possible, provide a loving home for children in the community."

They said although the work can be challenging, the warmth of the Louisiana people and the hope of future change keeps them going through the rough patches.

"You know there will be a break-through. You know there will be something on the other side. We have the expectation, and we understand that it takes a generation to change a community."

Story courtesy, The Daily Iberian

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