Graduation Weekend Information

As the end of the year draws near, excitement builds for graduating students. With all that excitement comes the stress and fatigue that accompanies planning, traveling, and attending graduation weekend. Southern provides many ways to ease the load so that parents can truly enjoy celebrating the achievements of their student.

Southern provides many options for out-of-town family members looking for lodging. Two-bedroom guest apartments are available on campus, and there are also several area hotels that offer Southern discounted rates for parents. These hotels include: Hampton Inn (Ooltewah), Holiday Inn Express (Ooltewah), Embassy Suites (Chattanooga), Fairfield Inn (Chattanooga), Hampton Inn (Chattanooga), and Marriot (Chattanooga).

Southern provides an online schedule of events as well as detailed graduation information that students and their families can use to
help plan their stay. The schedule and more information can be found at southern.edu. The May 2014 schedule includes a Graduate Breakfast Friday morning, a Consecration Service Friday evening, and Sabbath School and a Baccalaureate Service on Saturday. Finally, the weekend events culminate with the Commencement service at 9:30 a.m. in the Chattanooga Convention Center. For family members unable to attend the services, Southern will stream the graduation events online.

If parents would like help planning a graduation celebration, contact Sharon Robberson, director of Conference and Events Services, and she will help create the perfect hassle-free graduation party. These will be held in the Chattanooga Convention Center and include a buffet with salad bar, breadsticks, and pasta. Decorations can also be arranged. Notification is required if parents will be bringing a cake. The deadline to reserve a space is Friday, April 18, at noon.

For more information on events, graduation parties, and payments, please contact Conference Services and Events by calling 423.236.2555 or 423.236.2491.

~by Elizabeth Camps

New TouchNet Payment Portal

Southern is excited to announce an upgrade to its online student accounts and payment section of the portal.

The new section can be accessed directly at southern.edu/payment or through the parent portal at southern.edu/parent. Beginning this summer, parents will be able to access to their student's monthly statements, set up a payment installation plan, make payments, receive a refund, or otherwise manage the account. Southern will send out a letter in May sharing further specifics about the new system. If you have any questions, email studentfinance@southern.edu.

Revised Academic Calendar

As a result of Southern's participation in the Adventist Educational Alliance with Union College and Southwestern Adventist University, the academic calendar has some revisions. Included here are some of the most important upcoming dates for you to note along with a link to the recently amended 2014-2024 academic calendar.
• August 20-24, New Student Orientation
• August 25, Fall semester classes begin
• October 17-19, Mid-semester break
• November 24-30, Thanksgiving break
• December 17, Fall graduation
• December 18-Jan 11, Christmas break

**Semester Exam Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Sunday April 27</th>
<th>Monday April 28</th>
<th>Tuesday April 29</th>
<th>Wednesday April 30</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am to 9:00 am</td>
<td>8:00 M W F</td>
<td>8:00 T Th</td>
<td>9:00 M W F</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am to 11:00 am</td>
<td>General Biology II</td>
<td>10:00 M W F</td>
<td>9:30 T Th</td>
<td>10:00 T Th</td>
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<td>12:00 pm to 1:00 pm</td>
<td>12:00 T Th</td>
<td>11:00 T</td>
<td>12:00 M W F</td>
<td>1:00 M W T Th F</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 pm to 3:00 pm</td>
<td>English Comp, Basic English</td>
<td>2:00 M W F</td>
<td>2:00 T Th</td>
<td>3:00 M W F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 pm to 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Speech</td>
<td>3:00 T Th</td>
<td>3:30 T Th</td>
<td>4:00 T Th</td>
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**Summer Tours and Mission Trips**

Southern students can pursue learning and service opportunities into the summer months through study tours, mission trips, and location-based courses offered by various departments.

One of the most popular options is the European Study Tour that occurs during May. While the tour occurs annually, the departmental focus changes every other year, alternating between a historical and sociological concentration. This year, the School of Social Work, under the direction of Stanley Stevenson, will host
the group set to visit France, Belgium, Austria, the Netherlands, and several other countries.

"This tour is open for anyone, not just social work majors," Stevenson said. "Our goal is to absorb and experience different cultures then contrast or compare that with what it's like to be an American."

On the tour, students can earn up to six hours of general sociology credit. For more information, email Stanley Stevenson.

The School of Religion also hosts various learning opportunities during the summer months. This year, Michael Hasel, director of the Institute of Archaeology and professor in the School of Religion, will lead an excavation during the month of June that will take students to Israel on an archaeological dig.

"To experience a scientific excavation project with an international team of students and scholars is a life-changing experience," Hasel said. "It will give students not only international exposure to the complexities of life in the Middle East, the cradle of civilization, but also unparalleled insights into the world of the Bible as they tour through Israel and Jordan on the weekends." Students can receive between three and six hours of general religion credit as well as three hours of Ancient Art History credit. For more information, email Susan Brown.

The Evangelistic Resource Center offers students an opportunity to take part in short-term evangelical mission trips by spending several weeks in countries such as Chile, Bolivia, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Columbia, and Costa Rica. For more information, email Susan Brown.

The School of Music provides performing groups the opportunity to travel abroad on an international tour. Last year, Southern's choirs toured Scandinavia, performing in various churches and cathedrals in northern Europe. This year, the Symphony Orchestra will be visiting Argentina for a two-week tour.

The Biology Department provides students with a field-based learning opportunity, alternating between a tropical biology trip, which takes students to Indonesia, and a Smoky Mountain Flora trip that takes students to the Great Smoky Mountains in East Tennessee. For more information, email Keith Snyder.

Finally, the School of Business and Management provides students with an opportunity to take part in either a China Study Tour or a Kenya Study Tour, as the trips alternate biannually. The focus is to study business in the context of various cultures and international relations.
"International study tours like this can be a first step toward fulfilling the life of service foal to which the School of Business and Management and Southern Adventist University aspires," said Braam Oberholster, professor in the School of Business and Management.

For more information about the International Business Study Tours, email Braam Oberholster.

~by Rachael Hankins

We Welcome Your Feedback!

Email southernparents@southern.edu or call 423.236.2689 with your comments or questions.

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God Bless,

Shana Michalek
Panorama editor