

S O U T H W E S T E R N

Today

Spring '09

Today. Tomorrow.

A Special President's Report

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

The Year In Review · Fundraising Update · Student Film Project Airs Nationally



PASSION | **HOMECOMING 2009**
October 22-24

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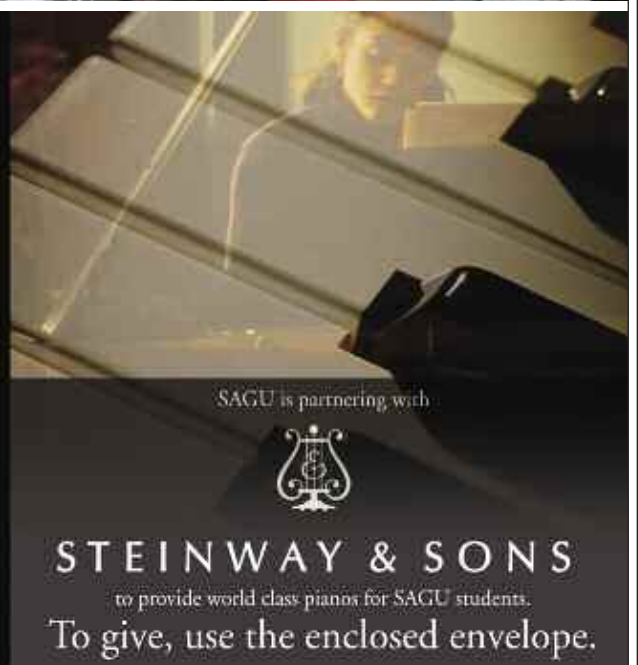
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Student Film Airs Nationally on
Christian Broadcasting Network

ENVISION TALENTED
STUDENTS PERFECTING
THEIR SKILLS ON
STEINWAY PIANOS.

ENVISION THESE
PIANOS AT THE HANDS
OF WORLD-CLASS
ARTISTS.

ENVISION THAT YOU
HELPED TO MAKE IT
HAPPEN.



SAGU is partnering with



STEINWAY & SONS

to provide world class pianos for SAGU students.

To give, use the enclosed envelope.

About Southwestern Today SPRING 2009 · VOL 13 ISSUE 1

Southwestern Today is a publication of Southwestern Assemblies of God University, a nonprofit institution of higher learning.

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING, MANAGING EDITOR:
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Statement of Purpose: The purpose of Southwestern Assemblies of God University is to prepare undergraduate and graduate students spiritually, academically, professionally, and cross-culturally so as to successfully fill evangelistic, missionary and church ministry roles and to provide quality educational and professional Christian service wherever needed throughout the world.



Kermit S. Bridges, D.Min.,
President

Charitable Gift Annuities

In trying to create new avenues for our donors, we are excited to announce the start of our Charitable Gift Annuity program. With this new program, you can give and receive! Charitable Gift Annuities have become the most popular gifting vehicles in today's volatile market. The Charitable Gift Annuity with Southwestern Foundation is fixed for life. Your lifetime payment amount is dependable and unaffected by economic downturns. Establish a CGA for yourself, or anyone you choose, with a charitable donation of \$10,000 or more. You may choose either a Single Life or a Joint and Survivor Annuity. You may also choose to defer payment for a higher annuity rate.

Planning for Tomorrow

In this special issue, we have outlined a number of key statistics to convey to you the health and needs of SAGU. As you read, I hope you will consider how you can become actively involved in the work of your alma mater, whether that is through giving, physical service, or simply guiding students to attend SAGU.

However, I would like to attribute the rest of the space in my greeting toward another major area of faithful support—the Southwestern Foundation. In 1999 the earnings payable received by SAGU was \$32,350 and the Foundation's total net assets were \$1,611,247. The 2009 earning payable will be roughly \$135,000, a 317% increase, and their total net assets for 2008 was \$3,302,460, a 105% increase. Even in these tough economic times, Southwestern Foundation was still able to award an impressive amount of \$135,000.

Many of you are aware of the strides taken in the last two years to champion, as never before, the need for alumni and friends to help the University through planned giving. As a result of the efforts by Irby McKnight, Vice President for University Advancement, and Craig Rinas, Planned Giving Director, I am pleased to report that approximately \$13 million, of our \$100 million goal, has been committed to SAGU through planned giving instruments since 2007. Should the Lord tarry, future leadership will have much needed resources to help the school achieve its Kingdom purpose. This is the beginning of a dream come true for all of us, but especially Carl Alexander, who founded the Southwestern Foundation in 1986 and continues to faithfully serve as President.

There are a number of practical reasons why it is helpful for the University to have some knowledge of a donor's intention to bless the school through planned giving:

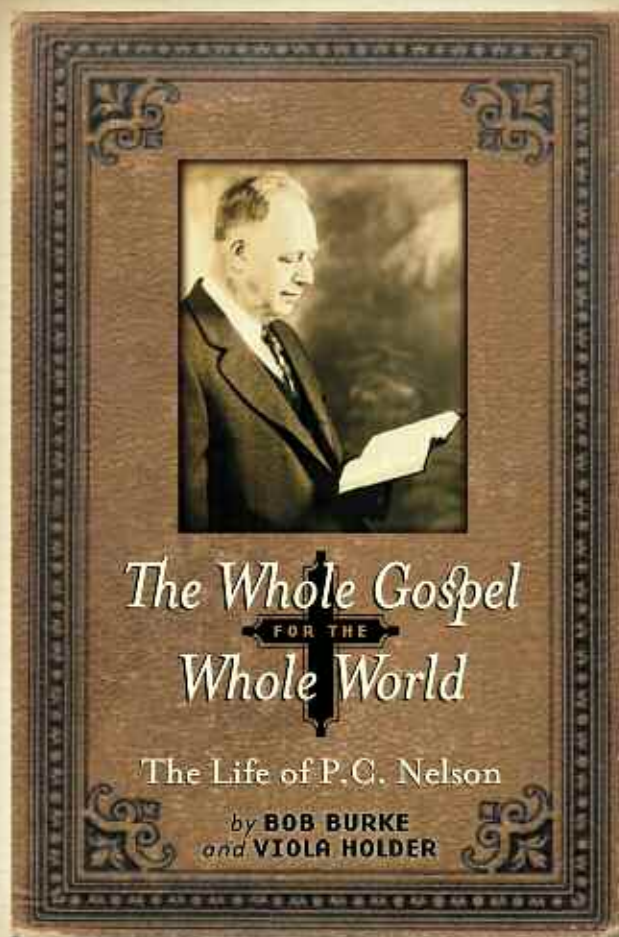
- Donors can be assured that we can assist in carrying out their wishes through our ability to collect their donations from executors and attorneys.
- We can offer assistance to donor's families in easing the estate process.
- It allows us to show our appreciation to donors before they pass away.
- We are able to have a better understanding of future donations and how they will affect our financial forecast.

For these and other reasons, the President's Society has been created as a way to engage those interested in including Southwestern Assemblies of God University or the Southwestern Foundation in their estate (will, life insurance, trust, etc.).

For those who have already named SAGU or the Southwestern Foundation in your estate, please notify us by filling out a President's Society membership application form, so that we may acknowledge your decision.

Members of the President's Society are not required to provide all details of their planned gifts to SAGU. We only ask for: 1) contact information and 2) type of planned gift (such as Living Trust, Charitable Remainder Trust, Qualified Retirement Account, Bequest, Life Insurance, etc.). Naturally, opportunity is given to provide as much description of the provision as you are comfortable sharing.

For those who do not already have SAGU named in your estate, I ask that you pray about joining us to secure a solid financial foundation for the future of SAGU and our students. Talk with your families and financial advisors to get their insight and feedback. In the current political climate, it has become more and more necessary for us and our students to receive all the financial assistance available. Please contact myself, Irby McKnight, or Craig Rinas if we can assist you in this process in any way. ■



NEW P.C. Nelson Biography!

Special Price & FREE Gift:

\$24.95 +\$5 shipping/handling

The Whole Gospel for the Whole World tells the story of SAGU founder P.C. Nelson—a Baptist preacher who was run over by a street car and miraculously healed. That healing experience drove Nelson to Pentecost and resulted in his major role in the Assemblies of God.

According to the author, Bob Burke, the title identifies Brother Nelson's strong desire that students go out from SAGU to take the message of the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

**ORDER YOUR COPY ONLINE TODAY TO
RECEIVE A FREE SAGU HISTORY BOOK!**

www.sagu.edu/pcnelson

LOOKING FOR A GUEST SPEAKER?

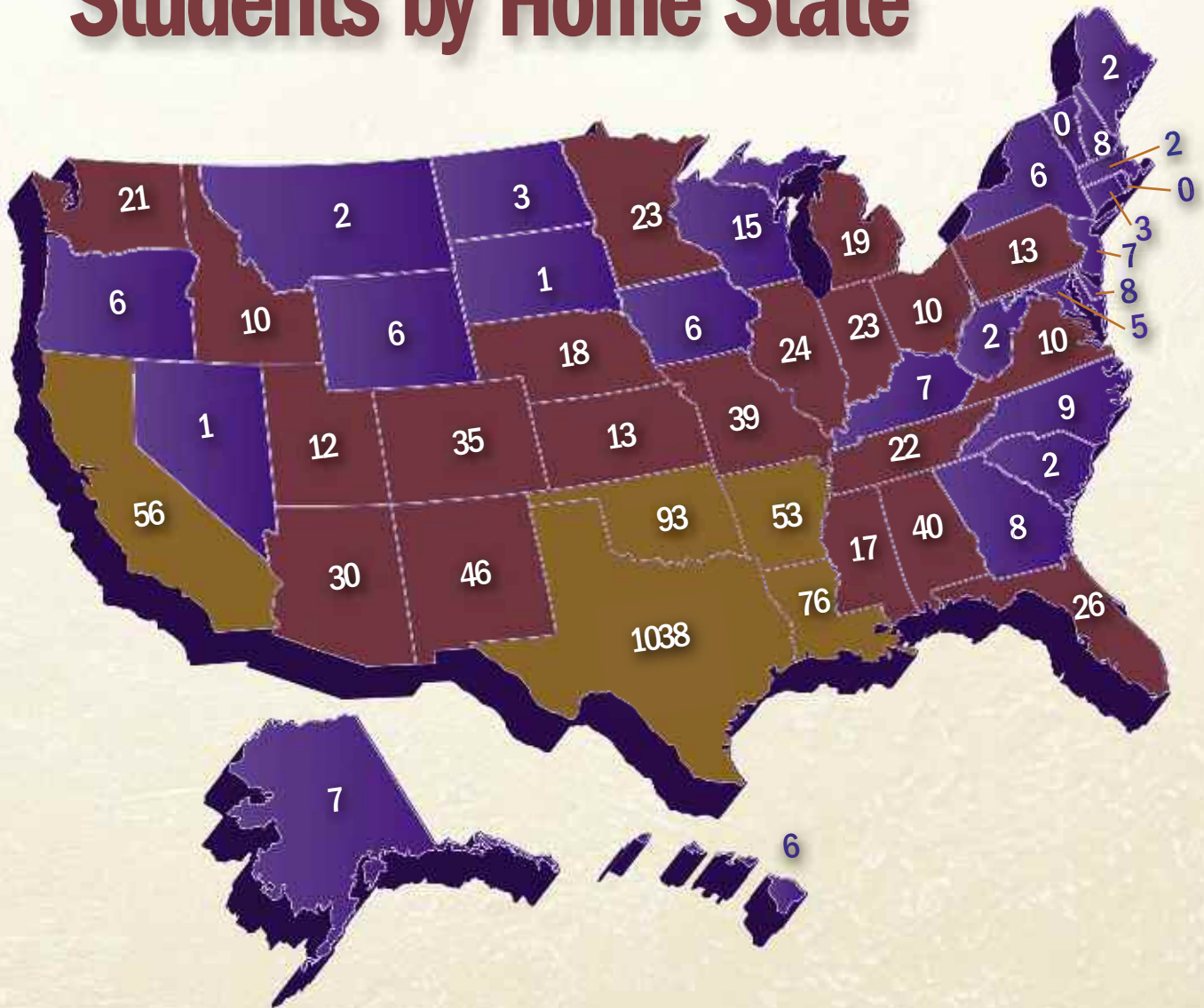
SAGU faculty & staff provide a great resource for your next special event. Access SAGU's database of faculty who are available to speak at your next event. View their biographies and contact them directly.

VISIT WWW.SAGU.EDU/SPEAKERSBUREAU



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Students by Home State



International Students - 23

In 2008 SAGU had students from the following countries.

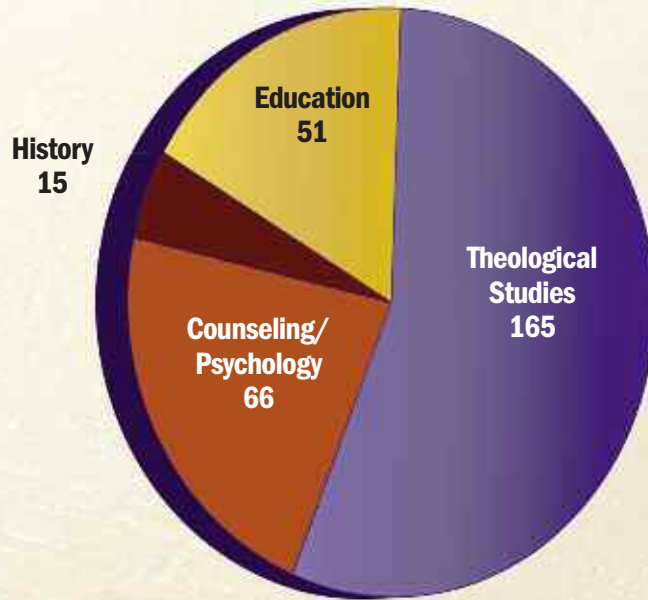
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|-----------|---------|----------|-------------|----------|---------|
| Argentina | Austria | Bulgaria | Canada | Colombia | Croatia |
| Ghana | Mexico | Nigeria | South Korea | Zimbabwe | |

tomorrow. 2008 Presidents Report

Undergraduate Baccalaureate Program Enrollment



Graduate Program Enrollment



Programs Added Since 2000

Bachelor's

- Media Ministries, 2001
- Church Planting & Revitalization, 2004
- Contemporary Worship, 2004
- Broadcasting & Drama, 2006
- Counseling w/ Minor, 2006
- Criminal Justice, 2006
- Psychology w/ Minor, 2006
- Social Work w/ Minor, 2006
- Sports Management, 2006
- Theological Studies, 2006
- Bilingual Education, 2007
- Education (non-certification), 2007
- Church Ministries, 2008
- Human Services, 2008
- Nursing (RN to BSN), 2009
- Ancient Studies, 2009
- Physical Education, 2009



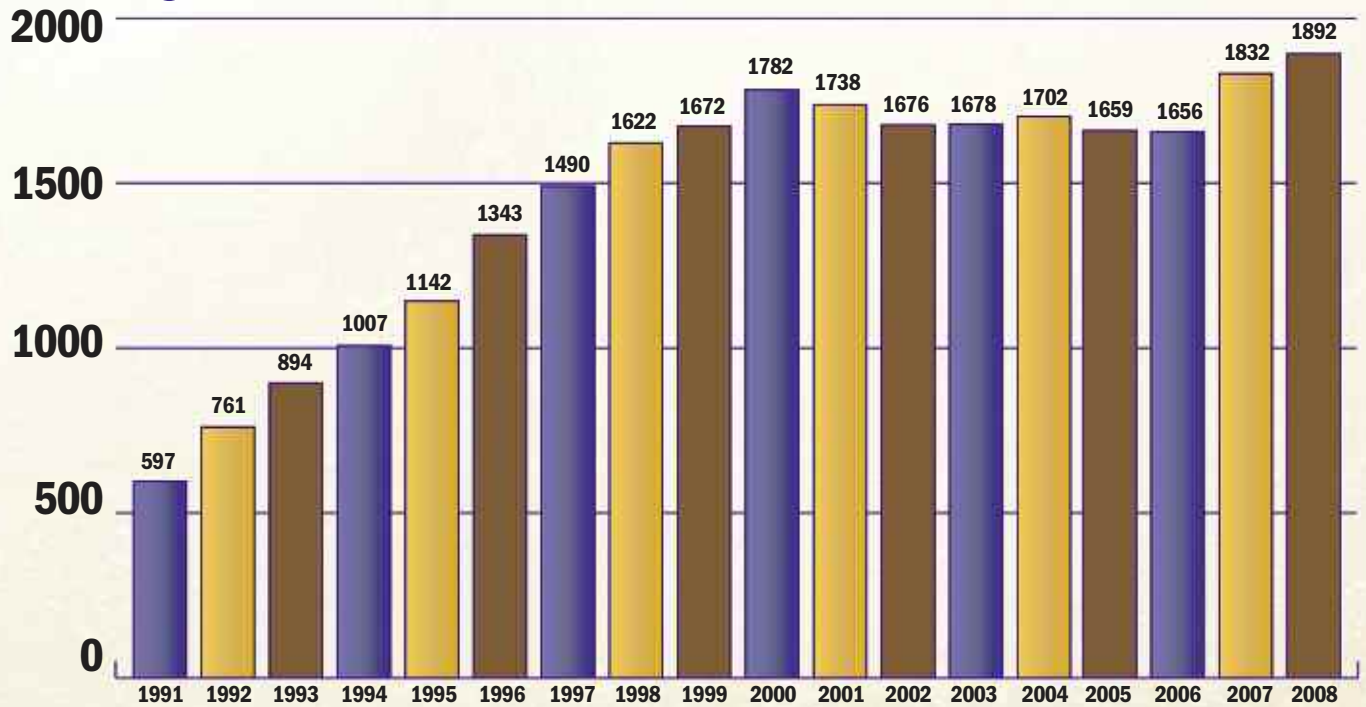
Master's

- Human Services Counseling, 2003
- Early Childhood Education, 2004
- Master of Divinity, 2005
- History, 2006
- Principalship, 2007
- Children & Family Ministries, 2007
- School Counseling, 2007

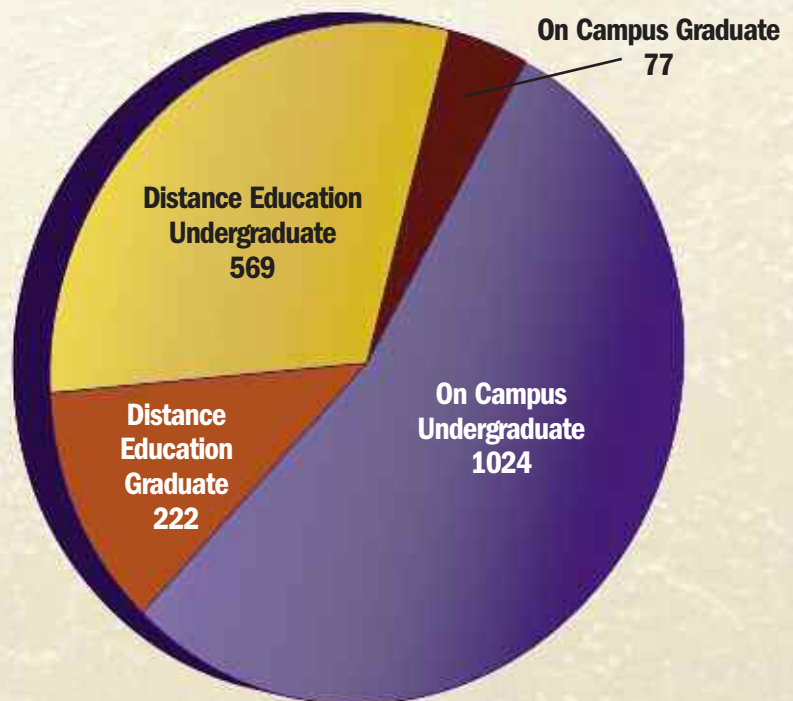


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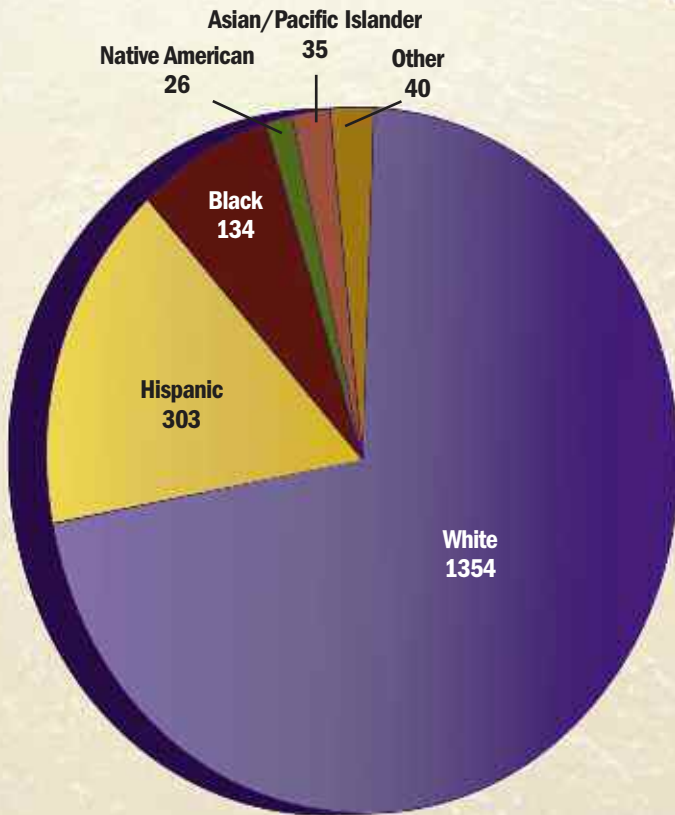
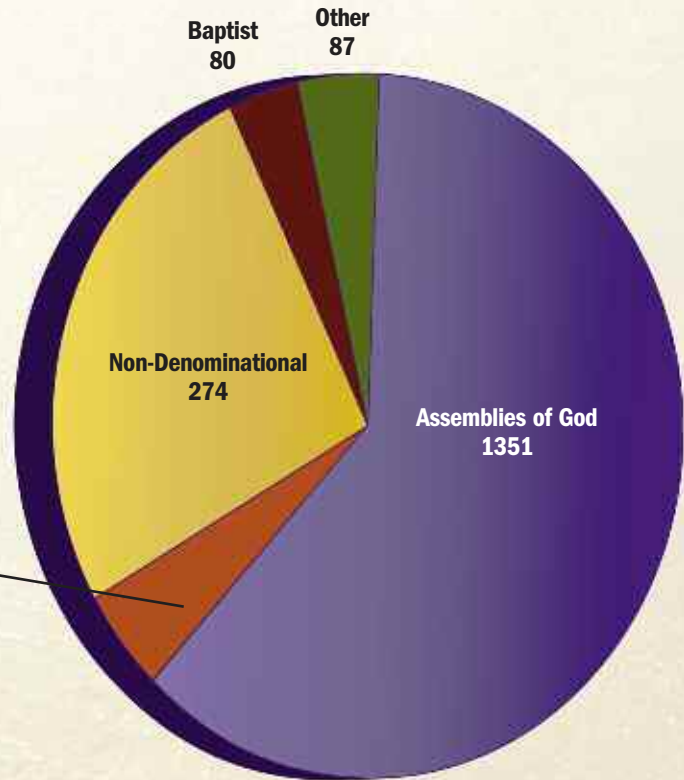
Yearly Enrollment



Enrollment by Program Type



Enrollment by Church Affiliation



Enrollment by Ethnicity



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Degrees Conferred

	2007-2008	2008-2009
Associate	24	37
Bachelor's	252	243
Master's	53	60
Total	329	340

Academic Quick Facts

- **Percent of Classes Under 20 Students:** 63%
- **Student:Faculty Ratio:** 14:1
- **Percent of Full-Time Faculty With Doctorates:** 65%
- **Highest influencers in completion of degree at SAGU:** Academic Program, Faculty, Spiritual Dynamic

Student Satisfaction Polling

A survey of graduating seniors yielded the following responses of either effective or extremely effective.

- **Developing a sense of purpose and direction:** 93%
- **Developing confidence to enter chosen career:** 90%
- **Developing ability to defend and articulate a christian world view:** 96%
- **Developing a better understanding of the Bible:** 98%
- **Would recommend SAGU to prospective students:** 95%

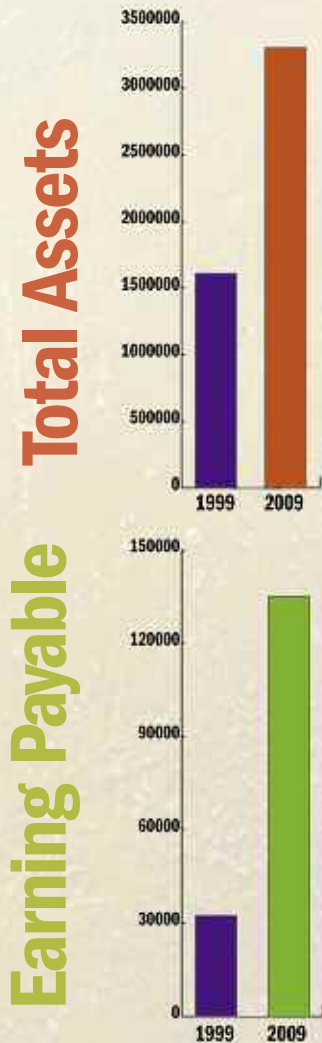
tomorrow. 2008 Presidents Report

Financial Support 5-Year Comparisons

University Fund	2003-2004 Fiscal Year		2007-2008 Fiscal Year	
	Total Contribution	% of \$17,000,000 Operating Budget	Total Contribution	% of \$25,000,000 Operating Budget
General	\$535,635	3.15%	\$675,565	2.70%
Capital Campaign	\$208,159	Not Applicable	\$989,948	Not Applicable
Scholarships	\$755,855	4.45%	\$756,085	3.02%

As seen at left, several areas have grown in giving, however amounts depicted by the % of Operating Budget show that contributions have not kept pace with the rising cost of education. Our number one need is in General Funds support, which offsets general operating expenses.

SOUTHWESTERN FOUNDATION GROWTH 1999 TO PRESENT



The Foundation has doubled total assets and tripled earnings payable.

Momentum Campaign Update*

Total Campaign Goal	\$6,000,000
Total Gifts & Pledge Payments	\$3,829,899
Balance	\$2,170,101
Remaining Pledge Balances	\$2,210,040

(Pledge payments are just ahead of schedule at the 3-year mark of the 5-year campaign.)

Wellness Center Equipment Update*

Total Campaign Goal	\$200,000
Total Gifts & Pledge Payments	\$130,538
Balance	\$69,462
Remaining Pledge Balances	\$12,550
Still Needed	\$56,912

*Amounts are as of 04/01/09



Student Film

AIRS NATIONALLY



This summer, the Communication Arts Department produced SAGU's first student film. The film, entitled *Breaking News*, was aired nationally on the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) network in February and will also be aired on JCTV.

According to Executive Producer Rob Price, "This national exposure on satellite television is a stunning development for which we are extremely grateful. Both JCTV and NRB have a large audience reach and so we are expecting a lot of viewers to see our work. Both networks were impressed with the high production value of our film and this gets us in the door to submit more student projects in the near future."

"It's really phenomenal how much exposure this film is getting so early after its release," Director David Timmes commented. "We started out as a group of students who were just learning the art of cinema and now our film is going to be shown on national television. I give all the credit to God and to my excellent crew. They worked incredibly hard on this project to make it something that TV executives want to broadcast on their networks."

NRB is the preeminent association of Christian communicators working to keep the doors of electronic media open for the spread of the Gospel and broadcasts on channel 378 of DirecTV. NRB ran a one hour segment that included interviews and behind the scenes footage in addition to the 30 minute film, *Breaking News*.

The film will also be aired on JCTV. JCTV is a

youth oriented network from the TBN family. The network is on two national satellites as well as various local stations across the U.S. It offers a variety of programming, including Christian music videos, interviews with top artists, action sports, live

The film, entitled Breaking News, was aired nationally on the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) network in February and will also be aired on JCTV.

The project has been confirmed as a recipient of a Remi Award!

events, movies, reality series, comedy and issue driven talk shows.

"I don't think anyone expected that less than a

year after the principle script writing began for *Breaking News* that we would be looking at the level of success and notoriety that this film is already gaining," said producer Tim Roberts. "What was once a product that we envisioned being seen by maybe a few thousand people at most, has become something that will be seen by hundreds of thousands and maybe even more, and that is truly amazing."

The film *Breaking News* follows a selfish, hard-nosed newscaster who is busy trying to climb his way to the top of his career field when he meets an unusual stranger who forces him to look at his life from a completely different filter. The goal of the encounter is to create in him new heart of genuine compassion for hurting people in both his public and personal sphere of influence. The cast is comprised of several local SAG (Screen Actors Guild) actors as well as students from Southwestern's Drama Department.

According to senior Michael Spangler, Director of Photography, "This summer film changed my life! God used it as a turning point in my life in many ways. I believe that this film is one milestone for Southwestern Cinema that will be remembered for years to come and that it will be a beacon that will attract prospective students in the future. As Mr. Price tells us: 'we are going to shock the world!'"

You can watch the film online at <http://www.sagu.edu/breakingnews>. ■



Q&A

With the Communication Arts Faculty

What Communication Arts programs are available?

We have bachelor's degrees in Media Ministries, Digital Media (formerly Broadcasting), Communication Studies, and Drama. We have associate degrees in drama and media.

What are the strengths of each program?

In all of our programs, we have a strong theory emphasis, a strong historical emphasis, and also practical application. With Digital Media, there is a lot of hands-on experience with our equipment and the skills and craft of story-telling. Students are given tasks in which they produce media pieces. With Drama, we have the history, theory and production. We generally produce one play per semester. Students are also encouraged to participate in Southwestern Live and we have a traveling group, so there are a lot of outlets for drama. Communication Studies deals with analyzing an audience and communicating effectively. Media Ministries deals with how to set up sound systems, commercials, publications, and how to present the church in the media world.

What are some career options for graduates?

In Digital Media there are jobs running cameras, being producers, etc. in local TV stations, Christian stations, and media ministries. With a Media Ministries degree, graduates can be on staff at a church and oversee media, such as print, broadcasting, and in-house production. They could go into a church and be in charge of sound, video enhancements, television crews, etc. Drama majors can get a job as a professional actor, create their own production companies, or become directors. The Communication Studies degree prepares students to go into teaching and, or, graduate work. It is a degree that deals more with the history, theory, and academic realm of communication.

What is the benefit/importance of having Christians in these fields?

Obviously, digital media arts and drama lack Christian influence. We need to have a more wholesome influence on digital media. In broadcasting alone, there aren't many knowledgeable religious broadcasters. They don't understand religion in order to accurately portray spiritual matters. In news, we could use more religious people who understand what's going on in the religious world and have a Christian influence.

In Drama, we need Christians to stand up for what's right and present wholesome messages.

Communication Studies is one of the most aggressive and flourishing fields and disciplines of study. The phrase "communication" takes in a variety of isolated disciplines that are just now beginning to be accepted in the academic world. We need to have Christians studying and propelling a scholarly, academic, Christian worldview.

In Media Ministries, we need Media Ministries on the cutting edge of technology. But, these individuals also must understand the evangelical, Pentecostal environment.

What distinguishes the SAGU Communication Arts program from similar programs?

The spiritual dimension of our community is something that's lacking in other programs. Many secular schools teach a dog-eat-dog philosophy in relation to success. Our emphasis is for students to be where God places them while being the best in their craft and profession. Our dramatic performances are redemptive in nature. The student summer film was also a redemptive story. We want to give students a creative way to spread the Good News.

Tell me about the faculty.

We have three full-time faculty members with diverse abilities. Dr. Danny Alexander has served

in both faculty and administration. His doctorate is in Classical Rhetoric, with his dissertation being a study of television evangelism. Rob Price has been in churches as a media outreach pastor and as a producer/reporter for CBN, and has a lot of hands-on experience with current technology. Dr. Sidney (Skip) Redd has a variety of experience, with degrees in music, TV production and film, and Communication Arts and practical experience as well as academic.

What recent improvements have been made?

We've installed a 10-station Mac-based video editing lab as well as two full Mac-based editing suites with Final Cut Studio that enable students to learn editing on professional equipment. We'll be adding more lab stations and another suite in the near future. McCafferty Hall has become a rehearsal hall for drama and media. We're constantly improving equipment and technology.

Do you plan any new degrees/programs?

Possibly Journalism, which would add another dimension to the Communication Arts program and also be cross-discipline.

What other notable future plans does the Communication Arts program have?

We have discussed the possibility of developing a World Communications Center, which would meet several needs - needs for alumni, students, and the campus in general. The center would be missions-minded, taking ministry areas and letting them see what happens with media. It would potentially involve television and radio stations for broadcasting. The World Communications Center is a goal that includes a state-of-the-art building filled with state-of-the-art equipment. The building would likely include a 700-seat performance hall for drama and broadcasting. ■



Dr. Skip Redd,
Department Chair
Communication Arts



Rob Price,
Instructor
Communication Arts



Dr. Danny Alexander,
Professor
Communication Arts &
Homiletics

Student Stories

TIM ROBERTS

Communication Arts student Tim Roberts has a passion for writing and film making. He came to SAGU Fall 2007. As he began looking at colleges while he was in High School, he was actually planning on attending another university. Even though his parents are alumni of SAGU, at the time SAGU did not have a Communication Arts program.

Shortly after Tim graduated from High School, he heard of SAGU's new Communication Arts program and decided to check it out. He visited the SAGU campus and met with professor Rob Price. As Price told Tim about the program, he mentioned he would be taught to "write, light, shoot, and edit." Tim, who already had an interest in writing and making films, smiled as Price mentioned four things he loves.

Tim, the son of missionaries Jerry and Terri Roberts, spent the majority of his childhood and teenage years on the mission field in Latvia. The Roberts family, which also includes Tim's younger siblings Amy and Kevin, call Sherman, Texas, home when they are in the states. Tim was saved at age 4 during a North Texas Kids Council while his dad was a pastor and has made decisions throughout his life to continue on the path with Christ.

Having taken some classes at a community college, where the teachers typically have a liberal mindset, Tim can easily see the difference between those teachers and SAGU faculty members. According to Roberts, "At SAGU every teacher is very connected with God and brings a Christian perspective to the classroom." Tim also appreciates the Christian atmosphere that SAGU offers.

In the time that Roberts has been at SAGU, he has been heavily involved in on campus organizations. He has served in Student Congress as the Freshman class treasurer and in media services. Tim played the role of Jonathan Brewster in the SAGU production of *Arsenic & Old Lace* and was also in the cast of *Southwestern Live*. Most recently, Roberts acted as the writer/producer of SAGU's summer film project, *Breaking News*.



Tim's dream is to set up an independent production studio and produce high quality Christian films. He would also like to write scripts for other production companies to use and possibly pursue a Master's degree.

As a MK (Missionary Kid), Tim has seen other cultures first-hand and can see the American culture with an outside perspective. "The film industry controls society in a way," said Roberts. "It's where people are going for entertainment. Christian films have a reputation for being cheesy, but Christians need to break into the film industry and make high quality films. I want to put together films that will make an impact."

Roberts says the Bible classes at SAGU are crucial for Christian leaders. He is also learning a lot from media classes and the summer film project of which he was part.

Tim's favorite part of filmmaking, thus far, has been the excitement of the actual filming and seeing all the preparation work come together. ■

"The film industry controls society in a way," said Roberts. "It's where people go for entertainment... Christians need to break into the film industry and make high quality films."

Alumni & Advancement

SAGU Hires New Alumni Director



Devin S. Ferguson is now the SAGU Alumni Director. Devin has served the University for four years, most recently as an Admissions Counselor in the School of Distance Education.

According to Irby McKnight, Vice President of Advancement, "Devin has proven his ability to represent the essence and mission of

Southwestern. His desire for excellence and professionalism in tandem with his youth will help us connect with our alumni both young and old around the world."

Ferguson came to SAGU as a student in 2004 from Bartlett, Tennessee. He graduated May 2008 with a bachelor's degree in Church Ministries. Devin volunteers and plays organ on the worship team at Northplace Church in Sachse, Texas. He enjoys music, good food, good friends, baseball, traveling, and being outside. He is also learning to golf.

"I am excited about meeting so many new people, helping to develop a top-tiered Alumni relations program, and making it possible for the students of today and beyond to experience the life-changing impact that I and countless others have felt while at Southwestern," Ferguson commented.

If you have any questions regarding Alumni Relations, please contact Devin: dferguson@sagu.edu or (972) 825-4700. ■



Hagee Honored As 50-year Alumnus

Pastor John Hagee, 1958 Southwestern graduate received a 50-year medallion from Advancement Vice President, Irby McKnight. Hagee also received an autographed copy of the recently published biography of P.C. Nelson, and the SAGU history book, "For the Whole World." McKnight made the presentation at Cornerstone Church where Hagee is Senior Pastor. ■



Receive Income for Life while supporting the work of SAGU!

The Southwestern Foundation is excited to announce the start of a Charitable Gift Annuity program. With this new program, you can both give and receive! Charitable Gift Annuities have become the most popular gifting vehicles in today's volatile market.

Lifetime Income that is Fixed and Secure

Age	Rate
60	5.5%
65	5.7%
70	6.1%
75	6.7%
80	7.6%
85	8.9%

The Charitable Gift Annuity with SAGU Foundation is **fixed for life**. Your lifetime payment amount is **unaffected by economic downturns – it's a payment that you can depend on**. Establish a Charitable Gift Annuity with SAGU for yourself, or anyone you choose, with a charitable donation of \$10,000 or more. You may choose either a Single Life or a Joint and Survivor Annuity. You may also choose to defer payments for a higher annuity rate.

A portion of your charitable donation is eligible for an immediate income tax charitable deduction, and a part of the annuity payments may be tax-free. Plus, you can reduce and defer capital gains tax by donating appreciated securities.

Age Now	Rate At 65
50	11.4%
55	8.7%

This is not legal advice. Any prospective donor should seek the advice of a qualified estate and/or tax professional to determine the consequences of his/her gift.



For more information, please mail the no-obligation coupon, or call Craig Rinas, Planned Giving Director, at 972-825-4662 for a confidential personal benefits profile.



Protecting Your Estate



by Craig Rinas, CFP®
Planned Giving Director

Today's rush for litigation and ever changing laws make it more important than ever to get proper professional help. This begins with building your estate by selecting your retirement vehicles and appropriately diversifying according to your risk tolerance and age. To do this, it is necessary to hire an experienced financial planning professional. Surprisingly, anyone can call themselves a financial planner. It therefore becomes vital to select an individual with the knowledge and experience to guide you in the right direction.

If you already have a financial planner who has proven his or herself over time, then you know how valuable a trustworthy professional can be. If you are not yet working with a financial planner, you might feel confused about how to decipher all the letters behind a planner's name. Let me help you make sense of what may sometimes seem like a crazy alphabet soup. Currently, the best-known financial planning designations are the CFP® certification or CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ certification, and the ChFC or Chartered Financial Consultant. For financial planners to become a CFP® professional or ChFC, they are required to complete education, examination, experience, and ethics requirements. Be careful though. Just because someone has one of these designations, it still does not mean that he or she may be the right professional for you and your situation. Don't be afraid to be picky, and remember that the individual is interviewing for a job with you, not the other way around. Finally, talk to your friends. Their

referrals can lead you to professionals with a proven track record.

Once you have started building your estate with the assistance of a professional financial planner, it is time to begin legal estate planning. One of the questions I am asked frequently is, "When should I get professional estate planning advice?" My answer is that this should be an ongoing process. Estate plans can range from a simple "I Love You Will" to more complex trusts and wills. Congress changes estate laws and taxes all the time, so it is a good idea to start building a professional relationship with a qualified estate attorney right away. Once the relationship is built and the attorney is familiar with your personal goals, it usually takes a simple phone call to the attorney to check on the status of your estate plan.

Another question I often receive is, "How do I know if the attorney is a qualified estate attorney?" For those with large estates, having an experienced attorney could mean the difference in hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxes. A great place to start in your search for the right attorney is with the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC), www.actec.org, a professional organization with experienced trust and estate attorneys. For those with smaller estates, you may find that your family attorney has the experience and qualifications to plan your estate. I do, however, recommend that every estate plan be reviewed by your financial planner or CPA to ensure that the estate strategies are tax advantageous. ■

CONSTRUCTION UP



LLOYD D. NABORS
DEMOLITION • 972-225-1200

Exciting news

CLAXTON LOCKER ROOM ADDITION

southwestern
UNIVERSITY
Waco, Texas

3i
3i Construction, LLC
400 N. St Paul, Ste. 430, Dallas, TX 75201
(214) 231-0675

Anthony Mottla Architects, Inc.
306 E. Marvin St., Waco, TX 76765
(972) 923-2208

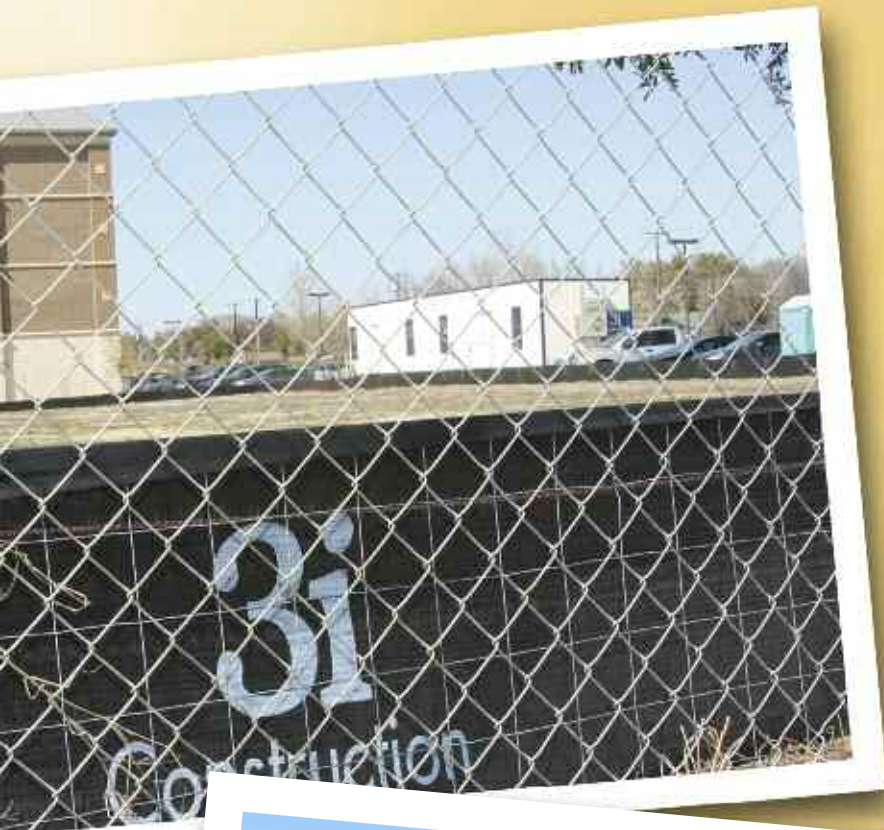
Hulse Engineering
P.O. Box 477, Lillian, TX 76091
(817) 792-7780

Wellness Center & Claxton Projects Underway

Financing for the Student Wellness Center and Claxton renovation have been finalized. Additionally, in March SAGU received permits from the city of Waxahachie. The land for the Wellness Center has been fenced and the construction portable building is already in place.

Completion of the 31,650-square-foot Student Wellness Center is tentatively scheduled for the end of October. The center will meet a variety of fitness and recreation needs. Planned amenities include weight and aerobic equipment, an elevated walking/jogging track, racquetball courts, multipurpose gymnasium, swimming pool, sauna, lockers, and showers.

Meanwhile, construction on Claxton has already begun. The Claxton project is expected to be completed in late July. The project replaces the old locker rooms and adds a varsity weight room and meeting rooms for varsity athletics. ■



Alumni Stories

ERIC JENKINS



Get high. Crash to miserable low. Cry out to God. Get high the next day. Repeat. Eric Jenkins was entrenched in a futile cycle. He floated from party to party, from high to high, with no ambition in life. He was trying to fill a void deep in his heart, but could not escape the whirling eddy that had become his life.

Eric's parents had divorced when he was a young child. "Life

after that was chaotic," says Jenkins. His parents lived a liberal lifestyle and his dad struggled with homosexuality. When he was in sixth grade, Eric began smoking marijuana and drinking alcohol. His sister had older high school friends who would let Eric hang out with them. One "bad boy" in particular befriended Eric and became a negative influence—introducing him to drugs and alcohol. It quickly became Eric's lifestyle.

Eric went deeper and deeper as his lifestyle of drugs and alcohol became progressively worse. He began taking acid, 'shrooms, special k, cocaine, speed, pills, ecstasy, and all types of drugs. "I was engulfed in the whole lifestyle," Eric commented. "Parties, raves, girls, drugs, breaking the law...that was just how life was. The more I did it, the more I didn't care about morals or the law."

With no ambition or dreams of doing anything with his life, Eric was floating along in life. He went wherever the current took him. All he wanted to do was get high and party. When Eric reached the 11th grade, he dropped out of school. He had dropped out mentally long before, however. Eric often skipped school or came in high, cheating his way through.

Eric and his friends had been selling drugs out of his mom's house when a task force came and busted them for the paraphernalia and plants they found. Eric didn't go to jail since he was only 16, but his friends did. Eric went to Florida to live with his dad for a while. Running away from his problems, Eric only found them again as he fell in with the wrong crowd in Florida.

While visiting home, Eric and some "friends" needed some money for drugs. They weren't going to work for it, so they tried to rob someone.

"Eric knew the basic gospel. He had prayed the sinners' prayer at a church camp...but he had no idea how to live the life."

The attempted robbery failed, but the police showed up at his house and Eric went to jail for six months.

Eric knew the basic gospel. He had even prayed the sinners' prayer at a church camp to which some friends in high school had invited him. But he had no idea how to live the life. When he came back from camp, Eric tried to hang out with the same people and do the same things he'd always done while trying to be a Christian. He quickly discovered that it didn't work. Eric didn't feed his spirit man, go to church, or get disciplined. As a result, Eric fell even harder.

"Deep down I always knew I was supposed to follow God," said Jenkins, "even if I didn't know what it looked like. I knew there was something missing. There was something more."

He was miserable inside. The drugs, girls, and parties couldn't fill the void. "I remember coming down from drugs, every time, and praying, 'God, save me, help me.' Then the next day I'd do the same thing, over and over again," said Jenkins.

Then March 23, 2002, changed Eric's life forever. Eric attended church at Sachse Assembly of God with his mom. He went to the altar to pray for his dad, but God saw Eric's heart and his own need. Surrendering to God, Eric prayed, "God, I've tried everything else, I might as well try You."

Someone laid hands on Eric and an intense presence of God hit him. Eric was slain in the Spirit as God showed him how real He is. According to Jenkins, "I've seen some crazy things and felt some crazy feelings with all the hallucinogens. God was like, 'oh yeah you think that's something, watch this. Look how powerful and mighty I am.'"



"I've never been the same since," Jenkins said. "That moment in that day in His presence completely set me free." After that, no one had to ask Eric to go to church. He was hungry for God. He entered a discipleship home at the church and God began to do a deep work in his life.

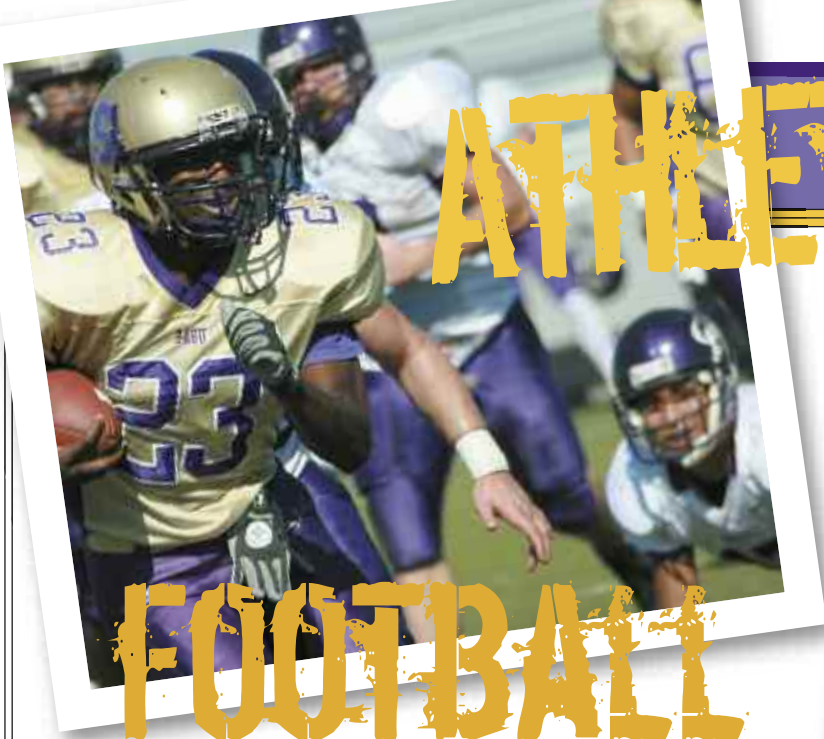
Before, Eric was incomplete with no peace. "Now," says Jenkins, "I'm whole. I didn't know who I was back then. I didn't care. I didn't have any confidence in who I was or what I wanted to do. I had no vision. I had no anything until I had a relationship with God. I didn't know who I was until I knew who Jesus was. Then He began to show me what He called me to do and who I am and what He has for me."

After earning his GED, Eric came to SAGU in Fall 2004 with a call to evangelism and music. He graduated from SAGU December 2008 with a bachelor's degree in Church Ministries. A high school drop out, Eric didn't give up and God sustained him through college. He worked hard and graduated from SAGU with a 3.2 GPA.

Eric is currently traveling with his preaching and music ministry as he continues to pursue the dreams God has placed in him. He recently wrote and recorded a Christian rap/hip-hop demo CD called "Search Me, Lord." With deep, poetic lyrics, the message of Eric's music addresses real life issues. He hopes his music is encouraging, strengthening, comforting, and challenging. Eric has many dreams and is taking whatever doors God opens for him to build the kingdom. ■

ATHLETICS

C A M



FOOTBALL

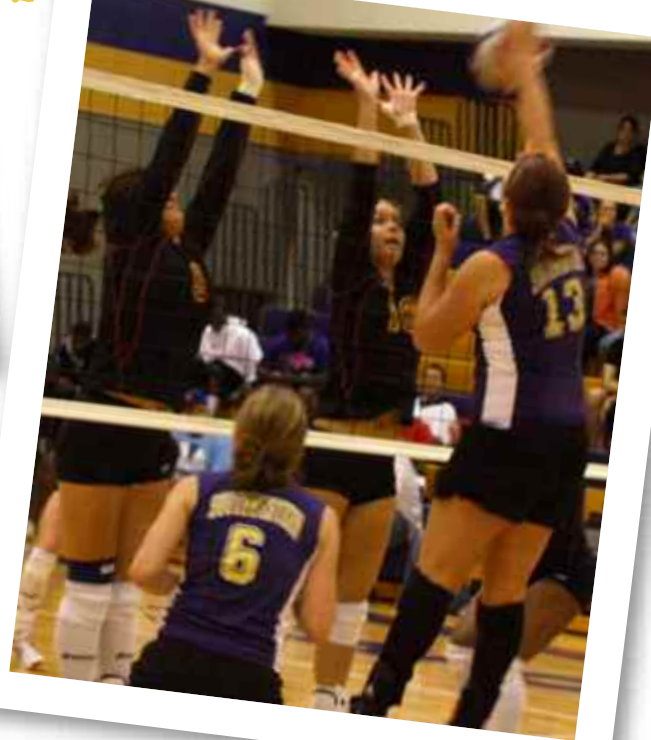
Receives Multiple Conference Awards

The football team won their last game of the season against Southern Nazarene University. The Lions posted the best record in program history. SAGU also finished as a winner in three of their last four games; the largest leap forward for the football program in school history.

In the final win, quarterback Jason Rice was named the NCCAA Football Player of the Week for the second time this year. David Howard also won the Player of the Week award the first week of the season for catching two touchdown passes against Austin College.

SAGU placed ten players on the Central States Football League All-Conference team. Junior Offensive Lineman J.W. Hall received first-team selection, a first in program history. Jason Rice, David Howard, Jonathan Hulett, Willie Mitchell, and Zak Martinez earned second-team selections. By placing ten Lions on the All-Conference team, the Lions established another program high for conference honors in a single season.

In addition to the on-field awards, ten SAGU Lions earned Academic All-Conference Awards: Kendall Kersey, Derek Brewer, Zak Martinez, Theron Smith, Blake Patterson, J.W. Hall, Jonathan Samuels, Kenneth Wuerch, Brandon Harden, and Joseph Vinson. To make this team, the student-athlete must have a 3.0 GPA. ■



LADY V-BALL

Advance to National Championships

SAGU Volleyball returned to the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Championship, held December 4-6 in Denver, Colorado. Last year the Lady Lions finished in the NCCAA final four in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

With a 25-13 overall record, the Lady Lions finished with the top record in the NCCAA Central Region. The Lions finished their pool play games with a 2-2 record, but were unable to advance to the NCCAA Final Four.

SAGU finished the season with 27 wins, a NCCAA National Tournament berth, and their first ever appearance in a Red River Conference Championship game.

In addition, the Lady Lions landed four players on the All-Central Region team: Kelani Keoho, Rachel Brown, Brittani Toole, and Crystal Cisneros. Kelani Keoho and Rachel Brown also received NCCAA All-American recognition. Also, Keoho and Brown were selected to the All-Tournament team and as NCCAA Scholar Athletes. ■



LADY B-BALL

Achieves Record Season

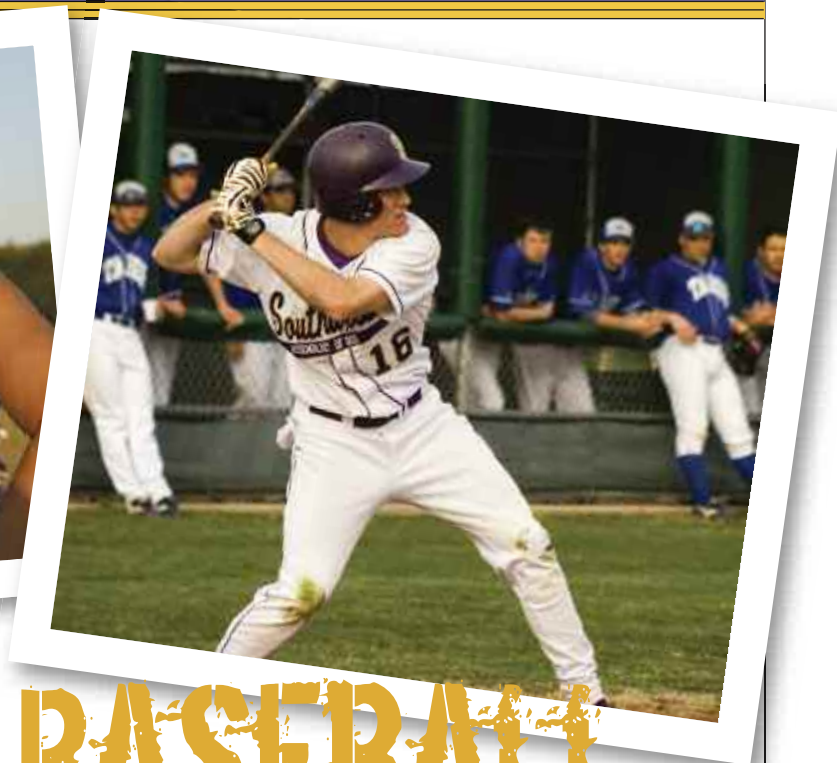
All-American First Team. Jones led SAGU in points with 14 points per game while hitting 122 of 158 free throws through the season.

Teammate, Heather Jefferson, was a NCCAA All-American Honorable Mention. Jefferson averaged 9.8 points per game, third on the team, and collected 89 assists through the season, good for first on the team.

Coach Arlen Beadles was also awarded Coach of the Year. ■

The Lady Lions celebrated notable achievements for the 2008 season. They finished with a conference record of 14-4 and number two seed in the semi-finals, as well as a 24-8 overall record. This season resulted in the most wins ever.

Chelsea Jones was named to the NCCAA



CHEERLEADERS

Participate in Coat & Blanket Drive

BASEBALL

Preview

The SAGU cheerleaders recently collected coats and blankets from the SAGU campus family to assist with the Dallas Metro Ministries Coat & Blanket Drive. The cheerleaders also went to Dallas to help distribute the donated items on January 31st. Metro Ministries was able to bless over 450 people through the drive.

Dallas Metro Ministries opened in 1993 and has impacted untold thousands of lives in the inner-city of Dallas. Beginning as a children's ministry, Metro has grown to include a youth program, a church, internship program, Sidewalk Sunday School programs and multiple street outreaches.

"Working with Dallas Metro was an unbelievable experience!" commented Brianna Howard. "I came into it not knowing what to expect but came out being so incredibly blessed. The ministry they have going is amazing and God is going to take it so many places. The mission was to bless others, but in fact, I was blessed beyond measure myself!"

According to Kayla Taylor, "Everyone at the coat give away was so happy we had come. The children didn't really even know any of us at all but that didn't stop them from hugging us and playing with us. I loved every minute of it, and I look forward to helping out again." ■

The Baseball Lions ended their 2008 season a game short of their first ever Red River Conference tournament. They began their 2009 quest to make the conference tournament. Fifth year Head Coach Greg Hayes expected two things to make at least that one game difference this year, experience and a stronger bullpen.

Returning in the rotation are Josiah Hensley and senior Scotty Smith. Hensley, in his freshman season, went 4-6 and posted the lowest ERA for a SAGU starter at 4.94 over 71 innings. Smith anchored the #3 spot with 54 innings and a 5-3 record. This is Smith's third year to start in the rotation.

Returning to the bullpen are Derek Brewer, Tim Kolczak, Cameron Ward, and Philip Heider. The Lions added transfer Chris Stanley and freshmen Kyle Burton, Ryan Thomazack, Trevor Alaniz, and Trevor Schexsnider.

Ricky Lopez returned to third base and Gabe

Hensley returned to shortstop. Brady James and Bo Adams returned to second and first base, respectively.

In the outfield, Derek Brewer and Scotty Smith anchored the corner outfield slots. Adding to the experienced outfield is sophomore center-field Dustin Jett and now healthy senior Jake Watson.

Behind the plate, the Lions returned the primary catcher from last year, Rance Melton and added freshman Dom Dominic.

Leading the veteran lineup was shortstop Gabe Hensley and his .362 batting average from last year and a team high 25 RBIs. Bo Adams (.356), Scotty Smith (.351), Rance Melton (.323), and Derek Brewer (.280) all returned with batting averages from last year over .280 and double-digit RBI production.

With a strong backbone and an experienced line-up, the Lions hope to make their first ever conference tournament appearance. ■



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Student Stories

WADE BEARDEN



Looking through his lens, he zooms in on an enthralled eight-year-old boy. The boy's face is dirty, and the rags on his back could hardly be called clothes. There is a hopeful yearning in his eyes as the missionary shares a simple message of hope and love. The cameraman moves on, thinking of the shots he'll need for the video piece, but the face of that small boy remains etched in his mind.

At the age of 21, Wade Bearden has traveled to twelve countries as a videographer—places such as India, Poland, Cambodia, France, Belgium, and the Philippines—working on projects for the national Speed the Light department. Bearden was part of a team that filmed videos to show how STL helps missionaries share the gospel.

These mini-documentaries portray the various ways missionaries are using equipment provided by STL, vehicles to reach isolated areas and

communication equipment, such as video projectors used in school assemblies.

Wade recounts watching thousands of kids hear the gospel in the Philippines from a van that pulled down into a stage. "This is what Speed the Light is all about," said Bearden. "It's not about the cars or communication devices, but it's about the people who are reached through those."

Through his travels with STL, Bearden has had the opportunity to meet approximately 75 missionaries. He swam where the tsunami hit in Thailand, just a few feet from tsunami warning signs, and visited the killing fields in Cambodia. Wade filmed the excited faces of Philippine children as they heard the gospel for the first time in a school assembly.

"From my travels, I've learned that the world is a bigger place than what we think it is," Wade reflected. "They're real people just like us. It's so easy for us to push them out of our minds because they live in a different part of the world. But they're people who have the same needs as us, people that need Jesus just as much as we do."

One trip that sticks out in Wade's mind is India, where they visited families who live on a garbage dump in poverty and malnourishment. "It was very eye-opening for me to see such poverty," commented Bearden. "We have so much here in America, yet there are people who are living in those conditions." Some of the children showed Wade their Hindu idols, and he reflected on how lost these people are. "Not only did they live on a garbage dump," Bearden remarked, "and many of them die before they become adults, but they also didn't have any hope."

According to Wade, "That's one of the moments in my life I always look back to and say, 'okay, I want to help make a difference for people. I want to reach them with the gospel...helping them financially, but also helping them

spiritually.' That's what I want my life to be about."

Wade grew up in Spring, Texas, the third of six children in a homeschool family. He has two older sisters and three younger brothers. Wade became involved in videography as a teen, helping his church with video projects at the age of fifteen. Bearden won in the video category of National Fine Arts Festival in 2004 and won District the following year. Then Wade started

"This is what Speed the Light is all about. It's not about the cars or communication devices, but it's about the people who are reached through those."

working with Marty Burroughs and the South Texas youth department on video projects. Burroughs later connected Wade to the national STL director.

In Spring 2007, he transferred to SAGU from

a community college. Many people didn't understand why Wade would come to SAGU. He had originally planned to go to a film school, but felt God leading him to Southwestern to pursue a degree in ministry.

"The best thing about Southwestern is the professors," said Wade. "That's what I came here for—to learn. The way they, especially Rosdahl and Magruder, have taught and stayed true to the Scriptures and how they've always done their best to teach the students. They've helped me become a better minister."

There are several things Wade would like to do after he graduates in May. Wade wants to continue to travel, write, preach and be involved in media. He's not sure if he'll do all those things simultaneously or separately for seasons in his life. The training from SAGU has enabled Bearden to preach more effectively, and he has had opportunities to preach while at SAGU. "My time at Southwestern has definitely equipped me to be a better minister," Bearden commented, "a better Christian for that matter."

Bearden is a published author. He had a history paper published through the community college he attended prior to SAGU and an article for STL published on the STL digisource.

Bearden would like to eventually write a book.

The book would be a collection of stories, both humorous and serious, of things he has seen or learned overseas as a cameraman. Wade also has a video production company he's trying to get off the ground.

While Wade is uncertain what he'll do immediately following graduation, he says, "the environment at Southwestern has helped me find out who I am as a person and helped prepare me spiritually. I don't know exactly what I'm going to do, but I want to impact people's lives. Whatever God calls me to do, I'll do." ■



The Campus Connection



“It’s A Wonderful Life”

The SAGU Drama Department held a winter performance of “It’s a Wonderful Life” the first weekend in December.

“It’s a Wonderful Life” was a 1946 American film based upon the short story “The Greatest Gift” by Philip Van Doren Stern. The story takes place shortly after World War II. In the story, protagonist George Bailey’s imminent suicide on Christmas Eve gains the attention of his guardian angel Clarence, who is sent to help him in his hour of need. Through flashbacks, George sees all the people whose lives he has touched and the difference he has made in his community.

“I really enjoy the theme that is taught through these characters,” commented Alecia Forbing, who plays Violet Peterson. “It will open the eyes of the audience to realize how many lives each individual touches, even when they’re unaware.”

As the 5th production of the SAGU Drama



Department, “It’s a Wonderful Life” was enhanced with a more involved set and costumes as well as a larger cast. The twenty-two member cast was led by Taylor Johnson as George Bailey, Cara Miles as Mary Hatch (Bailey), and Ryan Carnegie as Clarence. Other cast members included Joshua Walters as Mr. Gower, Caleb Carnes as Mr. Potter, Tiffany Weaver as Mrs. Bailey, Jeremy Stevens as Uncle Billy, Melissa Vasilie as Aunt Tilly, Andrew Beyer as Harry Bailey, Gabrielle Lamm as Potter’s secretary, Kenny Fickling as Bert, Matt Retek as Ernie, Steven Middleton as Mr. Welch, Adriane Dunnivant as Zuzu, Josh Williams, Alissa Wood, and Matt Deras. ■

Drama Performs “The Importance of Being Earnest”

SAGU’s Drama Department performed a spring production of “The Importance of Being Earnest” March 6-8.

The play “The Importance of Being Earnest” was written by Oscar Wilde and has proven to be Wilde’s most enduringly popular play. Set in England during the late Victorian era, the play’s humor derives in part from characters maintaining fictitious identities to escape unwelcome social obligations. It is full of witty dialogue and satirizes some of the foibles and hypocrisy of late Victorian society.

This was the department’s first romantic comedy. SAGU’s cast included Josh Walters as Algernon Moncrieff, Taylor Johnson as John Worthing, Ashlyn Anderson as Cecily Cardew, Cara Miles as Gwendolen Fairfax, Alecia Forbing as Lady Bracknell, Matt Retek as Rev. Canon Casuble, Melissa Vasilie as Miss Prism, Jeremy Stevens as Lane, and Brent Gwin as Merriman.

“It’s a fun play with a lot of intricacies,” said Melissa Vasilie.

“I’m looking forward to the audience enjoying its wittiness.” Josh Walters commented before the performance, “I really like the character I’m portraying. He’s unusual, kind of quirky. He’s a fun, dynamic character. Our cast this semester is amazing. I think the play will turn out really well.”

“I think this one will be an audience-favorite,” Cara Miles remarked. “It’s so witty. Oscar Wilde is a genius.” ■



SAGU Hires New Chapel Worship Director

Meredith Jones, previously an adjunct professor at SAGU, became full-time in Fall 2008 with the primary responsibility of leading the chapel worship program. “Meredith is a gifted worship leader who plays a major role in the worship program at The Oaks Fellowship,” said President Kermit S. Bridges. “We believe we are poised to see our greatest days as Meredith both models worship and mentors worship leaders and teams.”

Jones earned a BS in Vocal Performance from SAGU in 2002, a MM in Music Education from Texas A & M in Commerce, Texas, in 2004, and is currently working on a DMA in Vocal Performance/Composition from UNT in Denton, Texas. She has taught music at a charter school in Garland, Texas, where she also served as Assistant Principal.

Meredith has led worship since her freshman year in college, serving as the worship leader at Praise Temple A/G in Garland, Texas, the music director at Casa View A/G in Dallas, Texas, and

involved in the worship department at The Oaks Fellowship in Red Oak, Texas. She has been a part of several CD recordings, two of which include songs written by Meredith and her husband, Nathan. Meredith has recorded in several languages and in a variety of musical styles.

“Now that I will be directing chapel worship, I will be able to merge my love of worship and worship leading with my love for teaching and administering,” Jones commented. She hopes to continue to bring musical excellence and spiritual depth to chapel worship and looks forward to a time when the worship department at SAGU begins to write songs and record albums. “I hope that I can show students how uniquely valuable they are to God’s kingdom,” Jones said. “I love being at SAGU because I believe in the students here. I feel invested in their lives and in their dreams.”

Meredith grew up in Garland, Texas and currently lives in Red Oak, Texas. She and her husband of four years, Nathan, have a son, Elijah Shiloh. ■

SMA Hosts Group to World Missions Summit

Southwestern Missions Association (SMA) hosted a group of students to attend the World Missions Summit 2, held in Cincinnati, Ohio, December 29-January 3. This event is a gathering of college students, young adults, church leaders, and those who are abandoned to Jesus’ call to reach the lost around the world.

Participants in the summit had the opportunity to hear real time reports of world events and various needs they can fulfill. Engaging exhibits activated participants’ senses and emotions as they experienced the smells, sounds, cultures, and challenges in the global regions of the world. Participants were also challenged and inspired by relevant speakers and time spent with missionary mentors.

According to SAGU student Wendy Byh, “My favorite part of the summit was the small group sessions with missionaries and other students. I also loved the breakout sessions where we were really able to encounter various cultures.” ■

Students Represent Well At Business Ethics Match

The Business Department once again fielded a team in Ethics Match™ 2008, held October 31 in Ft. Worth, Texas. The Texas Independent College Fund (TICF) sponsors this annual event to promote the study of business ethics in private universities. The theme of the competition is Consilium Virtusque-reason with honor.

Eighteen teams, all of which come from mem-

ber schools of the TICF, competed in the match. SAGU had the 4th highest point total of all teams. President Bridges said, “Our team is always one of the finest at the competition, I am so proud.” Barry Gordon, chair of the business department, said, “There is tremendous satisfaction in knowing that the many hours of hard work everyone put into this pays off not only in the competition, but in the application of business ethics each student will use later as they ascend to marketplace leadership.”

This year’s team members were Katie Bell (senior, management), Louis Breedlove (senior, accounting), Megan Gaona (junior, administration), and Jonathan Woods (senior, management & accounting). Gordon was the team’s coach and sponsor. Other members of the group were Josh Dennis, Kiki Ebue, Chantel Garza, Jonathan Gordon,

Christalyn Ko, Kim Marsh, Christopher Rhoades, Cheryl Severns, and Jeana Taylor-Sawyer. In the weekly practices, the competing teams sparred with the other students to hone their skills. “It’s difficult to express my pride in all of them,” Gordon said.

TICF describes the competition in this way: “The ability to apply criteria to a decision and to weigh the outcomes of various possible courses of action is a powerful human attribute that carries enormous responsibility. It is a goal of independent higher education in Texas to foster the development of this attribute, and to encourage that it be exercised with integrity, so that subsequent actions are thoughtful, moral, and beneficial. Ethics Match™ is designed to celebrate this attribute by demonstrating in team competition, well-reasoned decisions based on criteria that place the highest value on life and liberty, and that exhibit the highest qualities of human character, including wisdom, honesty, fairness, respect, and compassion.” ■



The Campus Connection

SAGU Alumnus



MAPS Workers Celebrate 58 Years

SAGU was Bill and Velma Austin's first MAPS assignment over eighteen years ago. The couple has returned every year since then. MAPS (Mission America Placement Service) is the ministry of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions that coordinates volunteers to assist churches and ministry institutions across the nation.

Bill Austin retired in 1990 from the inventory control department of Chrysler in Indiana after working for the company thirty years. While in Indiana, Velma worked in the school district with hearing impaired children. The couple also ran a girl scout camp for fifteen years.

The couple was introduced to MAPS by a small ad in the Pentecostal Evangel five years before Bill retired. As MAPS workers, the Austins have traveled to various parts of the country. They have volunteered at Pleasant Hills Children Home, church camps, a Chi Alpha house at Oklahoma State University, and a church in Bandera, Texas, as well as SAGU.

The Austins come to SAGU every year, usually during the fall semester, and have served the campus in numerous capacities. The Austins have helped with inventory, mass mailers, maintenance, and in the post office, financial aid office, registrar's office, and library. "We just love it here," said

Velma Austin. "We love the people. We like working in the library and contributing."

In 1999, the Austins were named honorary alumni of the university. They were also honored in the early 2000s with watches and plaques. Most recently, President Bridges recognized the Austins during the President's Christmas party. According to President Kermit S. Bridges, "MAPS volunteers such as Bill and Velma Austin have provided an invaluable service to the SAGU campus. Over the years, they have saved the university thousands of dollars through their dedicated work. Their demonstration of servant leadership is a great example to our students, each and every time they have contact with them on campus," Bridges adds. "We are truly thankful to have them as a part of the SAGU family."

The Austins celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on December 27. They have three children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Both Bill and Velma are licensed hunting guides for youth in Texas and are involved in a mentoring program, in which they teach hunting ethics that reach into everyday life. Velma is also involved in the deaf ministry at University Church in Waxahachie, Texas. ■

As Executive Producer of CrossTalk International, SAGU Alumnus Joshua Weiss produces two weekly Christian television programs and one weekly radio program that broadcast worldwide to over 250 million households. CrossTalk International was awarded National Religious Broadcaster's Teaching Television Program of the Year award for 2008.

National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) is the preeminent association of Christian communicators working to keep the doors of electronic media open for the spread of the Gospel. It has over 1400 member organizations who are dedicated to integrity, excellence, and advancing Christian communications. NRB was founded to provide access to the airwaves, promote education and training for members, and to provide networking opportunities.

Every year, members of the NRB are able to nominate various ministries and programs for awards covering a handful of categories. A select panel of judges then decides the winner. This year, CrossTalk International, produced by SAGU alumnus Joshua Weiss, was chosen as Television of the Year.

CrossTalk is an internationally syndicated television & radio program. The ministry boldly reaches out to change lives with the radical truth of our Jewish Savior. CrossTalk is hosted by Dr. Randy Weiss.

Joshua Weiss, Executive Producer of CrossTalk, graduated from SAGU in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in General Studies with a minor in Media Ministries. "My favorite professors at SAGU were without question Jeff Magruder and Bruce Rosdahl," said Weiss. "They challenged me to think and helped me to sort out important life issues such as faith, truth, and experience."

While he was at SAGU and since he graduated, Weiss has worked with his father, brother, & sister-in-law in television and radio work. Beginning his work with CrossTalk International in 1998 as the ministry's graphic design artist and set designer, Weiss moved on to become the ministry's primary video editor, cameraman and director of media relations in 2000. Weiss has edited over 175 episodes of CrossTalk International. He moved into the role of the ministry's primary producer in 2004.

Wins Broadcasting Award



Through his work as producer and editor, Weiss has also produced “Today with God,” a television series consisting of 37 half hour episodes and an introductory hour-long documentary titled “Who Is Jesus?” Both of these programs reach over 250 million households worldwide and are being translated into various languages. According to Weiss, “Our goal and vision with ‘Today With God’ is to bring the spoken, visual word of God to the peoples of the earth in a language that they understand.” Their ministry has teamed up with Gospel for Asia, Wycliffe Bible Translators, and World Missionary Evangelism to achieve this goal.

Josh and his wife Nancy are also part-time Music Pastors at Abundant Life in Grand Prairie, Texas, where Josh also serves as pastor of the media ministry. The Weisses have been involved with Fine Arts in various capacities. Josh was recently asked to be one of the five 5 prestigious judges for the 2009 NRB award entries. ■

SAGU Holds Second Annual Credentialing Day, Over 200 Participate

More than 200 students from 27 districts in the Assemblies of God participated in SAGU’s second annual Credentialing Day on Thursday, October 23. Credentialing Day offers students an opportunity to meet with district representatives regarding ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God. SAGU is one of the leading A/G schools in producing A/G ministers and missionaries.

District representatives at the event included Rev. Ed Bradford and Rev. Jeff Peterson from Arizona, Rev. Tommy Carpenter from Arkansas, Rev. Alfred Vargas from GLAD, Rev. Rob Blakney from Louisiana, Rev. Derek Youngblood from Mississippi, Rev. Michael Dickenson from New Mexico, Rev. James Jackson and Rev. Rennie Baker from North Texas, Rev. Tom Goins and Rev. Jack Salkil from Oklahoma, Rev. Gary Chapin and Rev. Roger Bailey from South Texas,

and Rev. Glenn Beaver from West Texas. Dr. Larry Hester, Pastoral Ministries Coordinator, facilitated a table for students whose districts are outside SAGU’s region.

SAGU also hosted a dinner for District Secretary Treasurers and administration to discuss and strategize how to better serve SAGU students and districts as it pertains to credentialing ministers.

“Southwestern’s philosophy is that everyone is a minister. We believe that the vitality and growth of the church in the future will depend on people who, regardless of their vocation, partner together to plant and grow churches in fertile fields for a spiritual harvest across the nation and around the world!” said Dr. LeRoy Bartel, Dean of the College of Bible & Church Ministries.

“Consequently we want to do everything in our power to encourage as many students as possible,

regardless of their major here at SAGU, to participate in Credentialing Day.”

Students who participated in Credentialing Day received valuable information regarding credentialing. They could begin the application process and, in some cases, even take care of credentialing interviews.

SAGU exists to serve the Assemblies of God fellowship, its districts, churches and people. As a national testing center for A/G credentials, SAGU is partnering and cooperating with all districts that would like to have their credentialing exam given on the campus. SAGU faculty proctor and grade the exams at the district’s direction. This partnership makes taking and giving the exam convenient for the student and the district. ■

The Campus Connection



SAGU Becomes All-Steinway School

Steinway Hall Dallas delivered six grand and fourteen upright Boston pianos to the SAGU Music Department at the beginning of the fall semester. SAGU is in the process of becoming an All-Steinway School.

As SAGU continues to grow and expand curriculum, the Music Department's goal is to provide students with the best musical instruments available. By investing in Steinways, SAGU has demonstrated, in the words of Steinway & Sons, "a commitment to excellence by providing their students and faculty with the best equipment possible for the study of music."

As the first A/G institution to become an All-Steinway School, SAGU will join an elite class of institutions exclusively using Steinway pianos. This class includes The Juilliard School in New York, Yale School of Music, and Carnegie-Mellon University School of Music.

For over 150 years, Steinway & Sons has been dedicated to the ideal of making the finest pianos in the world. Steinway & Sons remains commit-

ted to individual craftsmanship, each year producing a limited number of handmade pianos, considered by many to be the finest in the world. Over 1,300 prominent concert artists and ensembles choose to bear the title Steinway Artist.

"In keeping with our missions of excellence, SAGU is deeply committed to providing the best academic experience possible for our students," commented Linda Robins, Music Department Chair. "This is why we need the best possible tools to assist them in achieving their goals. The inclusion of Steinway pianos in the Department of Music's plan for growth and development ensures a standard of artistic excellence at SAGU for many years to come."

If you are interested in contributing to the fundraising efforts of SAGU to provide the finest educational and cultural opportunities available for students, contact Linda Robins, Music Department Chair, at lrobins@sagu.edu or 972-825-4793. ■

SMA Hosts 3rd Annual Cans & Costumes Bash for Charity

Southwestern Missions Association (SMA) sponsored a Cans and Costumes Bash on Friday, October 31st. This event was a unique way to collect canned goods to distribute to the needy in the community. It was the third time that SMA has hosted such an event.

The event started with a costume party. Students came dressed as scarecrows, angels, gladiators, Pippy Long Stockings, Bill Nye the Science Guy, etc. Moe Wood and Josh Walters won the best couple as samurai, and Devin Elliot won for best individual as a gladiator. Prizes, including t-shirts and gift cards to Olive Garden, Sonic, and Chic-Fil-a, were awarded to the winners. There was a drawing for an iPod shuffle, which Robert Willis won. The party also included karaoke and a pumpkin pie eating contest.

After the party, students visited local homes to trick-or-treat for canned goods. Students collected approximately 400 cans and nonperishable items. The donations were delivered to the food pantry of Waxahachie CARE. Waxahachie CARE provides counseling/referrals, food, and financial assistance for housing and utilities to local families. ■

Don't Miss Important SAGU News!

If you do not already receive the Southwestern Monthly and Alumni Newsletter via e-mail, sign up today. Email webmaster@sagu.edu or visit www.sagu.edu/alumni and click "Become a Member."



World Ministries Program Innovates

The World Ministries program at SAGU has been revised to now include an innovative feature of experiential learning. World Ministries students will now spend a semester of their junior year in a cross-cultural setting while taking classes through SAGU's School of Distance Education.

According to World Ministries Director and Missions Department Chair Joel Watson, "There are plenty of programs that teach you and then send you out to see 'real life.' That is effective for some purposes. This program, however, requires students to live for a semester in a cross-cultural location and continue their studies, tying their academic pursuits to the population group in which they are living, teaching the future field practitioner to implement what they are learning. In addition, while overseas, they will have assignments that take them to online discussions with their colleagues studying the same courses but on different continents and among completely different people and religious groups. Issues of evangelism and discipleship, leadership training among Muslims, animists, nominal Christians (and a number of other possibilities) will be compared and contrasted in real time in a world laboratory, resulting in contextual understanding impossible to achieve in a classroom."

The degree is a 126 hour program designed to prepare the graduate to successfully communicate

the Gospel and minister in cross-cultural environments. Within the program are several courses that intentionally address the area of cross-cultural needs. As part of the revisions, three new courses—Opportunities in US, World Ministries, and a course on Relief and Development—were launched in 2008 as precursors to other additions. The 12-hour internship block includes the courses Cross-Cultural Ministries Principles and Practices, Strategies of Multiethnic Ministry, Evangelism and Discipleship, and Mentoring and Mobilizing Ministry Leaders. Possibilities for internship locations include Mexico, Thailand, South Africa, France, Mexico and within the United States.

Believing that students must have models of successful ministry, the SAGU Missions Department exposes students to effective practitioners whose commitment is evident through fruitful ministry. This exposure comes through guest classroom lecturers, seminar presenters and cross-cultural ministers in residence as well as faculty members who regularly minister in cross-cultural contexts. In addition, with recent innovations to the program, the internship will place a student in direct contact

with an individual known for effectiveness in his or her field who will be able to mentor and invest in that student's life and future ministry.

The new cross-cultural internship aspect of the World Ministries program is just part of the experiential learning experience provided by the SAGU missions department. There is also an established network of weekend ministries (Frontline Ministries) and short-term missions exposure (Contact trips) as well as the Engage program, which is a similar attempt to weld together the academic and practical.

Experiential learning gives students field experience, enabling them to get their hands dirty with real issues, be exposed longer term to an effective practitioner, and "learn in order to do" rather than "learn in order to know." "The degree will look the same," said Watson, "but the student will see differently and will have a better understanding of what will be required of a career missionary."

"I fully expect this to become the norm in missions training," Watson commented. "While the requirements are far more stringent, this generation is ready for a dose of reality; they want a challenge and they want to learn in tandem with doing. This program offers them that possibility." ■



The Campus Connection

SAGU Hosts North Texas All Church Ministries Convention

On March 7, 2009, SAGU hosted the North Texas District's annual All-Church Ministries Convention. The convention offered 125 practical workshops with veteran pastors, proven local church ministry leaders and SAGU faculty members. Tracks included sessions in areas such as youth, men, women, music/worship, missions, prayer ministries, senior adults, single adults, small groups, Sunday school, young adults, family discipleship, and church administration. SAGU sponsored three classes for college credit at half-price tuition.

According to Mel Surface, Chairman of NTD Adult Ministries, "This was what many felt was our best ever North Texas District All-Church Ministries convention. We appreciate everything SAGU staff members did to make it a momentous day for 800 leaders and workers from churches across the district." ■



Dr. Juyeon Gives Special Concert

The SAGU Music Department hosted Dr. Juyeon Kang in a special piano recital on Tuesday, February 3. Kang's music has taken her to four continents covering countries such as Brazil, Spain, Finland, Italy, Japan, China, Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand.

After winning two first prizes in 1998, Kang launched a performance career that included her debut solo recital in Boston's Jordan Hall. Kang's prize-winning performance at the Jeuness Musical de Corée Debut Series audition gave her an opportunity to give a solo debut recital that was broadcast on national television in Korea. As a winner of the Young Promising Artists Series audition, Ms. Kang was invited to give a recital at the prestigious Seoul Arts Center. In addition, Kang was awarded top prizes from the San Antonio International Competition in Texas, the Frinna Awerbuch International Piano Competition in New York City, the IBLA International Piano Competition in Italy, and the Musica de

Pianoforte Piano Competition in Korea.

In demand as a teacher and adjudicator, Kang has taught at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Michigan and has been guest faculty at various international institutions.

Kang earned a doctoral and master's degrees in piano performance and literature, as well as a master's degree in pedagogy of music theory at Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, where she was also awarded a distinguished performer's certificate. She also received the prestigious Artist Diploma in piano performance from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, where she was on the faculty in the college division. She also served on the faculty of the South Shore Conservatory in Massachusetts before being appointed as Assistant Professor of Music at the Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa.

Proceeds from the concert went toward the Steinway Piano purchase. ■

Top Scholarship Recipients to Attend SAGU



Pictured above, Miguel Christina White visits and poses for a picture with President Bridges and Vice President Eddie Davis. Christina received the top Ashcroft scholarship from the National Youth Department.

She has been accepted to SAGU and is anticipated to enroll in Fall 2009. ■

Record Fall Enrollment Leads to Record Spring

Following record enrollment numbers last fall, SAGU experienced record Spring 2009 enrollment. This semester, 1,819 students enrolled at SAGU, marking the university's largest spring enrollment and third largest enrollment ever.

In Fall 2008, SAGU surpassed previous enrollment numbers by more than 50 students, achieving an enrollment of 1,892. This number represents an 11% increase since 2004.

"We are very pleased and very thankful for our strong spring enrollment," stated Eddie Davis, Vice President for Enrollment. "Given the state of the economy, this record enrollment is truly amazing." This semester's number surpasses the previous spring record of 1,738 set in 2008.

Future campus developments are underway to further enhance campus life at SAGU. ■



Dr. Amanda Lee, SAGU music professor, performed a special concert in Bangkok, Thailand, last summer.

Dr. Amanda Lee was invited by D & M Music Studio to present a piano recital and a master class in Bangkok, Thailand in Summer 2008. The piano recital was held on June 7, 2008, at Music Land Center of Amarin Plaza, Bangkok. Dr. Lee performed works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Robert Schumann, and William Albright. The event was also sponsored by Novotel Lotus Bangkok Hotel and Music Land Center.



Archeologist Dr. Ralph Pedersen recently became an adjunct professor at SAGU. Pedersen earned his master's and doctoral degrees in Nautical

Archeology from Texas A & M. He has been involved in several underwater explorations. In September, Pedersen and a colleague looked for underwater ruins off the coast of Turkey. Pedersen has written extensively on ancient ship building.

Clancy Hayes, assistant professor of Bible and Theology, has partnered with the Arkansas district this fall and spring semester to conduct classes for Arkansas' School



of Ministry. Each semester over 200 people have attended ARSOM in their attempt to better qualify themselves as ministers.

Svetlana Papazov, adjunct instructor, was recently appointed to be the Mid-Cities Rep on the Discipleship Committee for the NTD.



Youth & Student Ministries professor Garland Owensby recently spoke at the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Winter Retreat in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, hosted by District Youth Director, Doug

Sayers. Over 550 students attended as Owensby ministered during the three day retreat. The event's theme was Define 09, and to this end students were challenged to see themselves as God views them and to reach their families and campuses with the message of Jesus Christ.

Adjunct instructor Daniel Schreck recently founded the ministry Connection Points, which assists churches in identifying their process for connecting people to Christ, their church, and their community. The main venues of Connection Points are Assimilation, Small Group, Leadership, and Discipleship Seminars, as well as through consulting appointments. www.assimilateguest.org ■

1940s

1 **James L. Haddock (48-50)** resides in Cleburne, Texas. James retired as a Texas public school counselor. His current hobby and passion is art and is in a juried show at Bob Duncan Center on Center Street in Arlington, Texas. He will also be in a National Juried Show that will open April 1 at the Fort Worth Downtown Library.

1950s

2 **David A. Blattner (50-52)** retired from pastoring after 45 years and is now working as a loan consultant for AG Financial and Foundation Capital Resources, making loans to churches of all evangelical denominations. David lives in Findlay, Ohio.

3 **Nathan D. Birdwell (48-49, 52-53)** married Mattie R. (Balius) Birdwell May 5, 1956. They have been pastors of Grayling Assembly of God in Grayling, Mich., Calvary Assembly of God and First Assembly of God in Holland, Mich. Nathan and Mattie reside in Biloxi, Miss.

Calvin H. Brannon (57-59) graduated from Southwestern Institute in '59 and went on to attend junior college until '61. Calvin received a BA from the University of Tulsa in '65 and a Masters of Divinity from Phillips Theological Seminary in '99. He is married with two sons and five grandchildren. Calvin serves as Minister of Administration at McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church in Norman, Okla., where he resides.

1960s

Dean Holsinger (65-70) and his wife Brenda are prayer pastors at Wisdom Center Church. They have a son Jonathan, 26, and 2 grandsons Wesley, 4, and Wyatt, 2.

Marie M. (Raiford) Powers (62) and her husband David are chaplains in the Corrections Corporation Of America Private Prison system in Ariz. Marie is over 3000 California inmates and David is Senior Chaplain over 1800 Alaskan inmates at another facility. They have two sons. One is the Director of Campus Life in Indiana and the other works in IT in Ohio. They also have 5 grandchildren. Marie and David reside in Casa Grande, Ariz.

4 **Charlotte A. (Eads) Gulley (66-68)** has been married for 29 years to John Gulley. They spent 20 years in the Air Force, worked for Teen Challenge/Phoenix Inner City Church for 7 years and New Lifehouse Teen Challenge for 2 years. Charlotte and John have 2 sons and 1 daughter and 7 grandchildren. They reside in Disney, Okla.

Jean (Vincent) Townsend (67-69) has been married to Donnie since 1970. They have two daughters, Kasi and Adrienne, and four grandchildren, Murphy, Hannah and Brady Morley, and Dameon Barr. Jean has recently published a Christian novel entitled *The Spring Horse*. Jean and Donnie reside in Flower Mound, Texas.

Robert (Bob) E. Durham (68-71) served as the Protestant Chaplain for the New York State Department of Corrections for 19 years. Robert left active chaplaincy to establish "From The Inside Out Ministries" and now reaches almost 1,300 inmates in over 600 jails and prisons nationwide. Since Aug. 2006, Robert has also become the National Director

of Prison Ministries at Global University in Springfield, Mo., where he resides.

Janet K. (Barber) Kusuhara (69-72) has been associated with First Assembly of God in Honolulu, Hawaii, since Nov. 1978. She began as the minister of music, but is now the pastor of their regional center on the Windward side of the island. Janet and her husband were married in 1991.

5 **John (61) and Juanell (58) Robinson** celebrated their golden wedding anniversary January 24, 2009. They both graduated from Southwestern and are former foreign missionaries to Tokyo, Japan, and Manila, Philippines. For the past 26 years, Juanell has been an elementary school teacher in Christian schools. John has worked at Bethel Assembly of God and in the insurance and auto auction industries. John and Juanell have a son Danny, and two daughters, Cynthia Winters and Christy Robinson as well as two granddaughters, Janiece Slaughter and Keena Robinson. John and Juanell live in Dallas, Texas, and attend Life Fellowship Church.

1970s

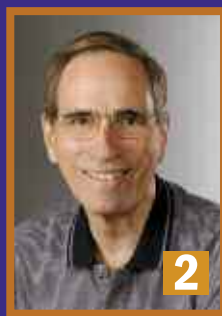
Paul W. Hooper (70-79) and his wife Barbara are living in Mena, Ark. where he serves as Home Missions Director with the Arkansas District. On November 15, 2008 their daughter Emilee G. Hooper was united in marriage to Shannon Langford in Mena, Arkansas.

Barbara J. (Stanley) Alderete (71-79) and her husband Rudy D. Alderete are pastors of Lighthouse Christian Center in Grants, New Mexico. They have one son, Nathan who is 13 years old.

Sandy Wallace Gorman (72) received her Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Phoenix



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(08). Her dissertation will be published in Proquest this summer. Sandy and her husband have two Masters from Texas A & M University and dedicated their lives and their education to serving the Lord.

6 Louise (Willard) Derrick (74) married Stan in 1996 and resides in DeSoto, Texas. Louise works for the ministry of Dave Roever and attends Trinity Church.

7 Donna M. (Aumann) Cooper (74-75) married Michael in 1988 and have 2 children, Janeen, 19, and Jonathan, 8. They reside in Maryville, Tenn. Donna works with the special needs community, mostly helping families who have children with autism. She is very involved in worship and women's ministry at her church.

Jim D. Brummett (74-79) married Gina Rogers in November 1978. They have been the pastors at Southwest First Assembly of God in Lakewood, Colo. since 1992. Since graduation, Jim has earned an M.A. in Biblical Literature from AGTS in 2002. Jim and Gina reside in Littleton, Colo. and have two children and two grandchildren.

Bill and Sandy (Self) Droke (76 - 79) reside in Houston, Texas, and attend Crossroads Fellowship, where Bill is a trustee. He works for Weatherford International as Director of Project Management in corporate IT and has traveled to 22 countries working on various projects. Sandy has worked in the church in several areas including Children's Church, Sunday School, choir, as well as finance and administrative. Their son Daniel is a senior and is interested in pursuing a career in music ministry.

John D. Deisher (76-79) lives in Hearne, Texas, and is entering into his 20th year of ministry as an AG US Missionary through Chi Alpha to the students at Texas A&M University.

Susan A. (Floyd) Dunlap (78-79) lives in Indianapolis, Ind. Susan has 4 grandchildren. She lost her husband Kevin in 2006 to cancer and her

daughter in 2007. Susan's son and his wife have adopted Susan's daughter's children. Susan would like to testify that God has truly been good to them by bringing peace and restoring joy.

David H. Snell (79-84) lives in Plano, Texas, with his wife Claudia. They were wed on October 7, 2000. David has worked for United Healthcare since 1998, and his wife, Claudia, is an accountant. They attend Faith Lutheran Church in Plano, Texas.

Rick Bowles (78-82) moved back to Rockwall, Texas, in late 2007 after being in Nashville for 16 years. He is the Assistant Executive Director for the Greater Dallas Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Rick has been married to his wife, Angel, for 11 years. Their son, Joshua, is newly married and will graduate from West Texas A&M in May.

Pam J. (Berry) Anderson (72-76) and husband Mike have lived in Rowlett, Texas, for the past 15 years. They have two children, Jeana, 22, and Toby, 20. Pam and Mike are involved in world missions, RescueMissionsOutreach.org, and Pam volunteers with Baylor Hospital Chaplains ministry, Bill Glass Prison Ministry, and ministry in her local church.

1980s

8 Jim Hukill (80-83) resides in Orlando, Fla.

Donald W. Kammer (80-84) received his BA in missions and is chaplain to the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade. He was redeployed from Afghanistan in December 2008. Donald will be returning home to join his wife Josephine at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, the home of the 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division.

David E. Stevens (82) and his wife Karen are the

Children's Pastor at Blue Springs Assembly in Blue Springs, Missouri. They have two boys who are both called into ministry. Dusty is graduating from CBC this year as youth/children's pastor and Jeremy is attending SAGU to be a children's pastor.

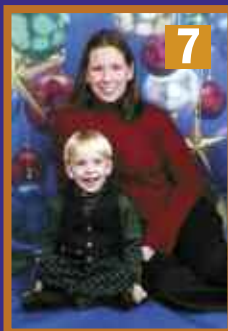
Hein M. Joel (85-89) has been married to Mary E. (Kristof) since 1995. They reside in College Station, Texas. Hein is a Juvenile Probation Officer with the Brazos Co. Juvenile Services Department and Mary is the Asst. to the Dean in the George Bush School of Government & Public Service at Texas A&M University. They have no children but a very sweet 7 year old black lab. Hobbies include hunting, fishing, camping, gardening, and anything to do with the outdoors.

Sherrie R. Limitone (87-90) and her husband Dan reside in Canon City, Colo., where they have been pastors at Living Word for the past 7 1/2 years. Sherrie recently went back to school and is now a registered Bone Densitometry Technician and works at St. Thomas More Hospital.

9 Michael (Mike) Brown (87-91) lives in Fremont, Calif., with his wife Lori (Bennett) of 16 years and their three children, Makenzie, 11, Christian, 10, and Chloe, 8. They were involved in youth ministry for 10 years in Texas and Washington and senior pastored in California for 4 years. Mike earned his M.A. in Theological Studies from Southwestern (2002), and is currently working on his Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership from Regent University. He is now in his fifth year as a school administrator in Fremont, Calif.

10 Richard D. Crowson (88-89) earned his MAMis, MARE, MABS from Birmingham Theological Seminary 1990-1996 BSME, Warren National University 2004, and is enrolled in Master of Civil Engineering at Norwich University. Richard is working for ASRC Aerospace Corp at Kennedy

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



Space Center for NASA on ARES Space Vehicle to put the next persons on the moon in 40 years. His wife Nancy is recovering from three year fight with cancer and has been cancer-free for two years. They reside in Merritt Island, Fla.

Regina A. Tanton (88-89) is the children's pastor at First Assembly of God, in Henryetta, Okla., where she resides. Regina has been married for 16 years to her husband Michael. They have 3 children, Paige, 13, Joshua, 10, and Kendall, 8.

Garry L. Steffe (79-84) and his wife Teresa moved to Florida after 23 years in the Illinois District A/G. The Lord directed their paths into a program to help alcoholics and addicts to gain freedom in Christ from abuse. Garry is the campus/church pastor to 135 students who are in various stages of the 9-month program. There are around 50 staff and family members to whom he is also pastor. Garry is an ordained A/G minister working at Faith Farm Ministries, a non-A/G program. Teresa is Garry's part-time secretary and also works in the accounting department. They have two daughters, two son-in-laws and three grandsons. Their youngest daughter and her family live in Akron, Ohio, and oldest daughter and her family live in Haverhill, Massachusetts. Garry and Teresa currently reside in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

1990s

11 Brandi Lewis (95-04) lives in Dallas, Texas, as a coach at WOGA Gymnastics (home of 2008 Olympic Champion Nastia Liukin). She coaches Acrobatic Gymnastics and is now the first coach in Texas to produce an Elite Acrobatic Men's Pair. Along with coaching Brandi is a nationally rated judge for USA Gymnastics.

12 Mary A. (Wright) Gibson (90-93) married Terrell J. Gibson on November 8, 2002. She teaches 4th grade in Grand Prairie, Texas, where she resides. Mary has 3 grandchildren.

13 Daren (96-02) and Heidi (Kenney) Walker (95-99) are newly appointed missionaries to Durango, Mexico, with the Assemblies of God. They have three boys, Josiah 6, Nicolas 4, and Kenan, 18 months. They will be involved in church planting, Bible school teaching, and childrens ministry with Latin American Childcare. They reside in Lebanon, Ore.

2000s

14 Christina Marie Kracht (01) resides in Kemp, Texas, and is the Assistant Principal of Mabank Intermediate School. She graduated from SAGU with a B.S. in Elementary Education in December of 2001 and graduated from UTA with a M.Ed. in Educational Leadership in August of 2007. She is currently looking at both doctoral and superintendency programs for the spring semester.

Alix Foster (04-07) graduated from SAGU with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. He is now a financial planner for Spectrum Financial Group, which is a branch of Mass Mutual. Alix counsels with people regarding their finances and helps them build their "financial home." He lives in Cedar Hill, Texas, and would like to reach out to current students, encouraging them to press on and continue their education. Alix can be reached at alixfoster@finsvcs.com.

15 Alfonso Orocio Jr (00-01) is a chaplain for Palliative Care Fellow South Texas Veterans Health Care System. He resides in Manor, Texas.

16 Amy L. (Smith) George (01-05) attained her Master of Fine Art in Creative Writing from National University in 2008. Her first book of poetry, "The Fragrance of Memory" will be published later this year. She resides in Columbia, S.C.

Micah (01-06) and Monica (DeLuna) (03-05) Charing reside in Falfurrias, Texas. They both graduated with degrees in education and Micah is teaching special education classes at Falfurrias High School. Micah and Monica have been married for 3 years and have two children, ages 21 months and 4 months.

17 Cynthia A. Westacott (98-07) lives in Cabot, Ark. and works at Arkansas Blue Cross, Blue Shield. Cynthia has adopted a little boy, Blake, age 5.

18 Joel Johnston (04-08) is raising monthly support to be a MAPS worker in Vienna, Austria. He lives in Waxahachie, Texas.

Celebrations

19 Shae McGowin (01-05) married Blake Fuller on June 2, 2007. They live in Marion, Mississippi, where Blake owns a used-car dealership and Shae teaches Kindergarten at Southeast Elementary.

20 Preston (05-8) and Lisa (Wootton) (05-08) Ulmer were married on September 6, 2008, at Abundant Life Assembly of God in Grand Prairie, Texas. They reside in Sapulpa, Okla., and are youth pastors at South Heights Assembly of God.

21 Rev. Becky (Fogg) Luna (00-02, 02-05) and Victor Luna, Jr. were married on November 8, 2008 in Riverside, Calif., where they reside. Becky has been the youth pastor at Family Praise Fellowship for the past two years under senior pastors, **Mike (97-00, 01-03) and Jodie (Miller) Swendson (86-90)**.



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22 **Derek Guynes (06)** was married to Lacy Eggleston June 6, 2008. Derek is employed with the Jeff Deyo Band and Grace Community Church in Houston, Texas.

23 **Ruthann (Burnett) Plata (98-02)** and husband had a healthy baby girl. Abriella Faith was born August 25, 2008. She weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz.

Darlene (Nelson) Marciniak (78-82) and husband Marty live in Granbury, Texas, and are celebrating their 25th Wedding Anniversary. They have two adult children, Michael who is a firefighter and Michelle who is a cosmetologist. Darlene and Marty attend Christ Church A/G in Fort Worth, Texas.

24 **June (Ligon) Coker (53-55)** and husband Weldon celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 11, 2006. They live in Harpers Ferry, W.Va.

Alan D. Allen (74-78) and his wife Jean (Markum) (78) met at Southwestern and are celebrating 30 years of marriage. They live in Pearland, Texas.

Lion Cubs

Dax Arthur Robinson was born on June 8, 2008, 7:30 p.m., weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz., 20 inches long. Parents are **Dustin (04) and Amy (02) (Bounds) Robinson**. They live in Waxahachie, Texas. Dustin is Baseball Coach / Teacher at Ovilla Christian School.

25 Emmie Grace McElhany was born on December 31, 2008, 10:30 p.m., weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz., 20 inches long. Parents are **Ryan (98-01) and LaShera (97-00) (Snider) McElhany**. They live in Waxahachie, Texas. Ryan is Marketing Director for SAGU and also runs a freelance marketing consulting agency. LaShera is Kindergarten teacher for Shields Elementary in Red Oak, a circuit lecturer for

teacher education, and is pursuing a doctorate in Bilingual Education. Ryan and LaShera also teach courses at SAGU.

In Memoriam

26 **Homer Ernest Bair**, 71, went to be with the Lord on September 2, 2008. He was born in Pampa, Texas. He retired as Minister of Music and Hospital Pastor of Crossroads Church in Oklahoma City in 2002. He also spent 25 years in the banking business. He loved and cherished time spent with his family, directing his wonderful choir and orchestra, and singing bass with the Chapelairs. He is survived by his wife Beatrice Bair; two children, daughter Terri Bair Parker and husband Dean; son Bryan Bair and wife Angie; brother Jess Bair; sister Guyla Cleere; sister Doris Monroe; and five grandchildren, Jake, Tayler, Britton, Rachel and Cierra. His home-going service was held at Crossroads Church, Oklahoma City, on Monday, September 8, 2008.

Bonnie Colleen Tipton, 77, joined her Heavenly Father on Oct. 16, 2008. She was born June 15, 1931 in Ryan, Okla., to Roy Samuel and Lula Elizabeth (Leddin) Driskill. Colleen attended Capitol Hill Assembly of God. She served the Lord as a missionary and made her home in Africa like a bed and breakfast for missionaries and travelers. She had taught Bible School at Faith Tabernacle and was the executive assistant to the Women's Ministry Department with the Oklahoma District. She was preceded in death by her parents, 2 sisters and a son. She leaves wonderful memories with her loving husband Bennie Tipton, their daughter Rindi Tipton, grandson Jon Wallingford, brother Dick Driskill, sister Alpha Walker, sister-in-law Letha Powell, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Retha A. Shell, 77, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Saturday, December 27, 2008 from her

DON'T SEE YOUR NAME?

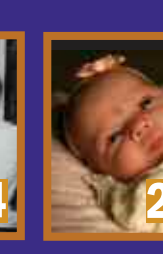
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Information that came in during production is held until the following issue.

To submit new information, send an email to marketing@sagu.edu.

home in Oklahoma City. She was born May 24, 1931 in Seminole, Okla. Retha had an Associate of Arts degree from Southwestern Assemblies of God College and had worked many years for various companies as an accountant. She lived most of her adult life in OKC and attended Old Faith Tabernacle for many years where she was very active in children's ministries. She was a member of The Bridge Assembly of God in Mustang. She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother Emmett. Survivors include her husband of 57 years, Dr. William L. Shell, two sons Bill "Chip" Shell and wife Linda, Randy Shell and wife Janet, five grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Also by one brother Haskell Stratton and one sister Dosha Delozier; in addition to numerous nieces, nephews, other family and friends.

Caraleen (Baker) Bynum (67) was promoted to receive her eternal reward in Christ's presence on July 31, 2008. She received the Dean's Award for the highest grade average when she graduated from the Southwestern Junior College in 1967. Carleen and Roger were married June 24, 1967, and a year later moved to North Carolina to begin a new church. Caraleen taught school for many years. After she retired Caraleen and Roger moved to central Mexico in the year 2000 to begin a church-planting ministry. They were still living there at the time of Caraleen's death and Roger expects to return to Mexico and continue their work. Caraleen and Roger were blessed with 41 years of marriage. Caraleen was survived by her husband and two sons. ■



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 - Non-certification track
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 - * Piano
 - * Vocal
- English
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- Human Services
- Management

- Marketing
- * Media Ministries
- * Music Ministries
- Nursing (RN to BSN)
- Pastoral Ministries
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- Psychology
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- * Sports Management
- Theological Studies
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Graduate.....	\$455

Accreditation

Southwestern Assemblies of God University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097: Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award the Master, Bachelor and Associate degrees.

FOR A HIGHER PURPOSE



On-Campus Undergraduate Programs

Bachelor's

- Accounting
- Ancient Studies
- Biblical Studies
- Business Administration
- Children & Family Ministries
- Church Ministries
- Church Music
- Church Planting & Revitalization
- Communication
- Contemporary Worship Music
- Counseling
- Counseling Ministries
- Criminal Justice
- Digital Media
- Drama
- Education
 - Non-certification track
 - Elementary Education
 - Bilingual Education
 - Middle & Secondary
 - English Language Arts/Reading
 - Social Studies/History
 - Music Education
 - Instrumental
 - Piano
 - Vocal
- English
- General Ministries
- History
- Human Services

- Management
- Marketing
- Media Ministries
- Music Ministries
- Music Performance
 - Instrumental
 - Piano
 - Vocal
- Pastoral Ministries
- Professional Development
- Psychology
- Social Work
- Sports Management
- Theological Studies
- World Ministries
- Youth & Student Ministries

Associates

- Bible
- Business Administration
- Early Childhood Education
- Education
- English
- Foreign Language
- General Business
- General Studies
- Media
- Music
- Psychology
- Social Studies

Athletics

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men's Soccer Men's Basketball Men's Baseball Football | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women's Soccer Women's Basketball Women's Volleyball Cheerleading |
|--|--|

Enrollment1,891

Student/Teacher Ratio14:1

Cost Per Year\$19,170

Based on tuition for 15 credit hours with room and board for 2009-2010.

Financial Aid87% receive financial aid.

Phone1-888-YES-SAGU

Web Pagewww.sagu.edu

E-Mailinfo@sagu.edu

Social NetworksFacebook,
Twitter, YouTube

CAMPUS DAYS

SAGU Campus Days are held twice each year:
November 5-6, 2009 and March 25-26, 2010.

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