

## SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

# THE LEGACY CONTINUES

— ALUMNI HOMECOMING APRIL 11-14, 2024 —



# **WELCOME HOME!**

Welcome to Alumni Homecoming at Southwestern Adventist University! This year we reflect on the enduring legacy of education at our beloved alma mater. Rooted in the mission of inspiring knowledge, faith, and service, the value of Adventist higher education in Keene, Texas continues to transcend generations. The Legacy continues through alumni, like you.

Higher education has seen many changes, and we continue to adapt and grow to provide quality academic programs, nurturing environments, and a commitment to values. Even as times change, what remains steadfast is the university's emphasis on integrating faith into learning and equipping students with the tools to excel professionally while instilling a sense of purpose and a desire to serve.

This weekend will be a time to reconnect and reminisce, a time to celebrate the legacy of Southwestern Adventist University! Our alumni are an important part of not only our past, but our present and future. Your support continues to be the catalyst for the students who embody our campus today. Thank you for your gifts of time, financial support, and prayers. As alumni, you are ambassadors sharing a commitment to Southwestern Adventist University that will carry the mission forward for generations to come.

Ana Patterson, '99 & '12

President, Southwestern Adventist University



# REGISTRATION

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024

1:00 - 5:00 pm

Location: Hopps Museum and Welcome Center

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024

10:00 - 3:00 pm

Location: Hopps Museum and Welcome Center

Take advantage of the cozy atmosphere to visit with classmates and page through yearbooks as you enjoy homemade refreshments, compliments of local alumni volunteers.

Feel free to tour the museum or simply pick up your weekend materials – program, nametag, and special reunion ribbon. This is also where you can register for special weekend events.

## **Southwestern Video Project**

Be part of history and lend your voice to our video project. Stop by the video booth in the Hopps Museum to read the script for a chance to be featured in a Commencement or Welcome Week video. We would love for as many alumni voices and faces to be part of this exciting and new tradition.

Registration also available:

*Friday, April 12, 2024 - 6:30 pm*Location: Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church

Saturday, April 13, 2024 - 8:30 am Location: Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024

# HOMECOMING BANQUET: CELEBRATING OUR LEGACY

6:30 PM (Meet & Greet @ 6pm) Location: Keene Community Center

Cost: \$25

All alumni are invited to this kick-off Homecoming celebration featuring Southwestern Adventist University students. Enjoy a delicious vegetarian meal by our dining services. The Alumni Association will do a roll call and Honored Alumni will be recognized for their outstanding service to their church and community. Be sure to join us for this grand tradition.





#### FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024

#### 26TH ANNUAL HOMECOMING GOLF CLASSIC

Location: Southern Oaks Golf & Tennis Club 13765 Southern Oaks Drive, Burleson, TX 76028 *Registration starts at 7:00 am.* 

Cost: \$100

Price includes 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch, and prizes. Support the First-in-Family Scholarship Fund while enjoying a morning of golf with friends! Course requirements are collared shirts, no denim, and soft spikes.

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024

#### **DINOSAUR SCIENCE MUSEUM**

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: Lower level of Scales Halls Visit the Dinosaur Science Museum where you have the unique opportunity to interact with one of America's largest dinosaur fossil collections.



#### **CAMPUS TOURS**

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Meet at the front of Findley Hall which is located just behind the Mizpah Gate. Tours departing every 30 minutes.

Take a trip down memory lane while being introduced to several new developments on campus.



#### THOMSEN OBSERVATORY OPEN HOUSE

4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Sabbath as well).

Location: West of the Duck Pond Experience the galaxy like never before in this fully functioning observatory. Tour the facility earlier in the day and view the filtered sun or gaze at the starts beginning 30 minutes after sundown (The observatory is open on



#### FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024

#### ADVENTHEALTH #43 NASCAR RACECAR VISIT

#### 12:30 pm -3:00 pm

Making a stop at Southwestern Adventist University before one of their signature NASCAR races for 2024 at the Texas Motor Speedway on April 14. Don't miss the opportunity to see and take some pictures with the AdventHealth #43 NASCAR show car.



#### **HOMECOMING VESPERS**

#### 7:30 pm

Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church

Presented by our Department of Music, relive the wonder and rich tones of choral music: a Community Choral Vespers Service featuring The University Singers, with special guest alumni performances.





#### THOMSEN OBSERVATORY OPEN HOUSE

4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Location: West of the Duck Pond Experience the galaxy like never before in this fully functioning observatory. Tour the facility earlier in the day and view the filtered sun or gaze at the starts beginning 30 minutes after sundown.



# HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DR. MARVIN ANDERSON, 1984-2001

4:00 pm

Location: Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church

Chapel

Hosted by Victor Brown



# DRAMA PLAY: THE UNIVERSAL FRUIT FACTORY AND THE MAD MERCHANT

7:00 pm

SWAU

Location: Wharton Auditorium
Presented by SWAU students. The Universal Fruit
Factory is a cornucopia of cosmic courtroom
drama that illustrates the intricate workings of
God's law and grace through a symbolic story set
in the courtroom of eternal consequences.

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024

CHURCH AT WORSHIP Location: Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church



Daybreak Service – **8:30 am** Location: Main Sanctuary Randy Roberts, '81



Sabbath School – **9:45** am Location: Chapel



Elevate – 10:00 am Location: Main Sanctuary Randy Roberts, '81



Summit – 11:30 am Location: Main Sanctuary Randy Roberts, '81

#### **ALUMNI COMMUNITY POTLUCK**

#### 1:30 pm

Location: Leiske-Pultar Gymnasium Hosts: Jere (Bugger) '57 & Karen (Haddock) '62 Putnam Join us for this great alumni tradition, our annual Homecoming potluck. If possible, bring a dish for the table. All are welcome!





#### **HONOR CLASS PHOTOS**

2:30 pm

Location: Leiske-Pultar Gymnasium If you are celebrating a special class reunion this year, listen for your class to be announced and come forward for your class reunion picture. This includes academy (all attendees), and junior college (all attendees): 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 2004, 2009, 2014, 2019.



#### **DINOSAUR SCIENCE MUSEUM**

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Location: Lower level of Scales Halls Visit the Dinosaur Science Museum where you have the unique opportunity to interact with one of America's largest dinosaur fossil collections.



#### MABEE CENTER ART EXHIBITION

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Location: Mabee Center

The exhibition features work reflecting our students' dedication, hard work, and unique perspectives, and innovative approaches to various mediums. Join us as we celebrate the creativity and talent of our students in this art and paint exhibition.



#### SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024



#### 3RD ANNUAL ALUMKNIGHT TAILGATE PARTY

8:00 pm

(Classes of 1990+)

Location: Leiske-Pultar Gymnasium & Parking Lot

Hosted by the Alumni Board. Tailgate themed food provided.

Join Knight Unite Classic: Alumni vs. Students games

in the gymnasium.



#### **50TH REUNION CLASS PARTY**

(Class of 1974)

Location: Hopps Museum

#### 55TH+ YEARS REUNION CLASS PARTY

(to 1969)

Location: Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church Annex



#### 130TH ANNIVERSARY FIREWORKS SHOW

9:30 pm

Location: Duck Pond

#### SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024



#### **PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

8:30 am -10:30 am

**Location: Student Center** 

Cost: \$10

Come enjoy a delicious breakfast while supporting Student Missions.



#### KNIGHTS UNITE SOCCER CLASSIC

10:00 am

Location: Rex E. Callicott Student Park, Soccer Field Cheer on your team for a rousing

game of alumni vs. student soccer

match!

# **SPEAKER**



**Randy Roberts, '81**Daybreak, Elevate & Summit Speaker

Randy Roberts was born in South America to missionary parents and remained in Latin America up until college. Randy graduated from Southwestern Adventist University with a major in Theology and a minor in Modern Languages.

For over five years he was a pastor in the Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. During this time, he completed a Master of Divinity degree. In 1987, he began work as a chaplain at (LLUMC) in Loma Linda, California. During this time, he completed a Master of Arts degree in Marriage and Family Therapy at Alliant International University in San Diego, California.

Randy began teaching full-time with the Loma Linda University (LLU) School of Religion in early 1994. While there, he worked as Associate Professor of Theology and Ministry and served as the Associate Dean for the School of Religion. He also served on the pastoral staff of the Corona Seventh-day Adventist Church, (from 1996–2000), the latter part of that time serving as the senior pastor. In September of 2000, he began his duties as the senior pastor of the Loma Linda University Church of Seventh-day Adventists.

Randy has spoken to many and varied audiences both nationally and internationally; written articles for various publications; and authored one book for Pacific Press, entitled, *Waiting and Longing* (formerly published as, The End is Near [Again]).

# **HONORED ALUMNI 2024**



## **ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR**

Steve Bradley, Class of 1998

Steve Bradley, born in Cleburne, Texas, is a dedicated educator and family man. With over two decades of experience, Steve's passion for mentoring youth is evident in his work at Keene Adventist Elementary School. He holds a bachelor's in Elementary Education from Southwestern Adventist University and a master's in Outdoor Education from Southern Adventist University.

Steve's highlights of his time at Southwestern include touring with the gymnastic team, camping trips with friends, cramming for finals with friends and playing football on the beach in Brownsville during a gymnastic trip. Reflecting on his time here, he says, "I gained a passion for education and working with young people that led me to my calling as an educator."

Steve's commitment to excellence has earned him multiple awards, including Educator of the Year from the Keene Chamber of Commerce in 2008 and 2022, and the Excellence in Teaching Award from the Southwestern Union Conference in 2012.

In sharing his Southwestern alumni call to action, Steve says, "Embrace the spirit of excellence, for it is the cornerstone of our journey at Southwestern. As alumni, let us be the ambassadors of passion, knowledge, and service, embodying the values that define our alma mater and inspire other to reach new heights."

## **ALUMNA OF THE YEAR**

Lili Gil Valletta, Class of 1999



Lili is a former corporate executive turned award-winning entrepreneur, investor and TED speaker. She is the Co-Founder and CEO of Culture+ Group, a market research, strategy and inclusive marketing conglomerate-including CIEN+, The Choice+ and Human Dot Plus, and is listed by the Inc. 5000 as one of America's Fastest Growing Privately-owned companies. Her Cultural Intelligence® Family of Companies, work with the world's most iconic corporations and brands that want to successfully understand how to tap into the power of culture and diverse markets to drive business growth.

She is a frequent television business contributor seen on Fox Business, among others, and a sought after advisor to C-level executives and a committed supporter to the Hispanic community as a trustee and scholarship provider at the Hispanic Serving Institution, Southwestern Adventist University.

"My journey from the humble beginnings at Southwestern Adventist University to boardrooms, national television and global stages I stand on today is a testament to the notion that it's not about where you start your journey but how and where you finish. The size of the campus did not limit the magnitude of its impact on my life; instead, it served as a nurturing ground for growth, learning, and inspiration. Southwestern taught me that our early steps are not just preliminary motions but the foundation and springboard for our future endeavors, and ultimately it's all about bettering your best where and when you are present, NOW."

"The experiences, challenges, and triumphs I encountered there have propelled me to heights I once thought unreachable. Let this be a reminder to us all, especially to our alumni and current students, that the impact we generate in the world is not measured by our beginnings but by the strength of our foundations and the boldness of our aspirations. That they are fueled by our faith, by a purpose bigger than ourselves and the reassurance that we serve the best investor, CEO and leader ever, the Creator of the Universe! Southwestern's seemingly small community has the power to produce individuals capable of creating significant waves of change, just as it did in my life. It's a celebration of how, from modest seeds, great forests can grow."

## YOUNG ALUM OF THE YEAR

Francisco Ortiz, Class of 2014



Francisco Javier Ortiz is a licensed mental health therapist. He resides in Houston, Texas alongside his wife, Karen Elizabeth Garza Ortiz (also a Southwestern alumnus). Currently, he serves as Director of Behavioral Health for District Counseling, a counseling and psychiatric clinic Francisco and Karen founded in 2018. A major part of the practice has been working with the immigration population by conducting evaluations for victims of violent crimes, human trafficking, and domestic violence.

In addition, he has worked with numerous universities providing clinical supervision to graduate students in their practicum and internship experiences.

Reflecting on his experience, Francisco says, "After founding District Counseling, I sought to find ways to serve the Adventist community and help fight the stigma surrounding mental health and the church." He began by volunteering at a local Adventist church under their health ministry clinic then volunteering at Houston Adventist Academy providing free counseling services. He says, "It has been amazing to have such great support from our pastors who truly have become mental health advocates in the Houston area. The need for mental health services continues to increase to this day."

Francisco believes that Adventist education has played an instrumental role in his professional development. He shares, "Southwestern Adventist University prepared me to be where I am today. It was the professors at Southwestern Adventist University who inspired my love for the field of psychology and to view my work as a ministry." He continues, "The beginning of wisdom is truly the fear of the Lord. If we start at the right place, then all else will align accordingly to God's will. My right place was Southwestern Adventist University."

## **ALUMNA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

Dr. Tessa Bryan, Class of 2009



Dr. Tessa Bryan has committed her life's work to increasing access to education and technology for all students regardless of socioeconomic status. As a first-generation college student, she intimately understands the unique challenges students can face while pursuing education.

Dr. Bryan attended Southwestern Adventist University where she graduated with a Bachelor of Marketing and a Master of Business Administration. While attending Southwestern, she developed a passion for higher education administration while serving as Assistant to the Dean of Students. Dr. Bryan shared some of her favorite Southwestern memories were attending Afterglow and University Church. She reflects, "It's hard to replicate those times: worshiping with friends, ministering with friends – a beautiful student led worship experience."

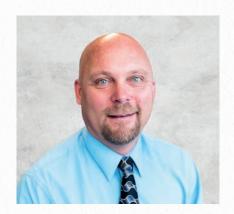
After graduating, Dr. Bryan transitioned to Hill College where she worked in the Continuing Education and Dual Credit Department. In 2013, she accepted a position as an Outreach Student Financial Aid Counselor with Tarleton State University. While working at Tarleton, Dr. Bryan earned her Doctorate of Educational Leadership and Technology. Currently, Dr. Tessa Bryan is an Instructional Designer in the Division of Academic Innovation at the UNT HSC. Her work consists of designing education curriculum while prioritizing human centeredness as a means of fostering a sense of belonging among educators and students.

Dr. Bryan shares of her love for service, "Working in various offices on the Southwestern campus, to closing the gym after late night pick-up basketball games, and volunteering events, I developed a love for service. Southwestern taught me that life is so much more fulfilling when you serve others. That's been a guiding principle in my career and relationships."

Dr. Bryan's Alumni Quote: What time is it? KNIGHT TIME! What're we going to do? PUT'EM TO SLEEP! (You had to be there;)

## **ALUMNI HALL OF FAME**

Dr. Chad Johnson, Class of 1994



Chad Johnson was born in British Columbia Canada and spent the first 9 years of his life living with his parents and younger sister on what nowadays is considered an off-grid homestead. Chad spent these years exploring the great outdoors enjoying hiking, fishing and learning about God's creation in the uninhabited forest surrounding his home.

The life Chad was accustomed to changed drastically one summer, after his family attended a camp meeting and were called to serve as missionaries. Over the next 8 years Chad and his family served in

places like the island of Palau, Namu Namu, which is a remote island in the Marshall Islands, The Gambia, West Africa.

Chad decided to attend Canadian Union College now known as Burman University. After spending one winter with temps at -20 degrees F for six weeks, Chad realized this was not his cup of tea. After the first year at Canadian Union College, Chad decided to go as a student missionary to the island of Kosrae in the Federated States of Micronesia. Here, he taught seventh and eighth grade math and science. It was also the place where he realized teaching was not for him. It was also here that he learned about Southwestern Adventist College through his sister who was attending at that time.

In reflecting what he has gained from Southwestern he says, "My time at Southwestern prepared me not only spiritually, it also developed my sense of community service. Since graduating, I have participated in multiple medical-construction mission trips to Panama, Peru, and the Dominican Republic; I have active plans to participate in a mission trip to Cuba. I have also had the privilege to participate in several local projects: my favorite of which is helping my wife Landy Anglada Johnson ('90) with her ministry providing Sabbath School Cradle Roll programs for the children in the Keene SDA Church.

Southwestern also prepared me academically with a strong undergraduate nursing degree which was a great foundation to build upon for future graduate studies, which included an MSN in 2001 with certification as a nurse practitioner and a doctoral degree in 2014."

Dr. Johnson shares, "I can truly say Southwestern was the place for me. It made me into the person I am today, and for that I am truly thankful. I am proud to call Southwestern my Alma Mater."

## **ALUMNI HALL OF FAME**

#### Landy Anglada Johnson, Class of 1990



In 1988 Landy transferred from Antillean College in Puerto Rico to Southwestern Adventist College to complete her degree. When reminiscing about that time she shares, "I remember my first winter in Texas - having come from a tropical island, I had only known moderate temperatures year around and didn't own a single pair of jeans.

Walking through campus on chilly winter morning, a new classmate of mine asked why I didn't have a jacket - I awkwardly responded that I didn't own one. He immediately called his sister who very kindly

donated some warmer clothes for me to wear during the winter months. From that moment on, I knew I had found a home at Southwestern."

Landy finished her degree in elementary education in 1990 and quickly tracked into a career that led to a completion of a master's degree in Special Education with emphasis in Educational Diagnostician in 1998 at the University of North Texas. "Southwestern provided the tools for my profession but it gave me so much more than that: shortly after graduating, I met a young man who had come from Canada to pursue a degree in nursing. We tied the knot in December 1994, and had two beautiful daughters, Lindsey ('20) and Kelsey ('22), both SWAU graduates."

Having a heart for children's ministries, Landy has dedicated the last 24 years to teaching Cradle Roll Sabbath School at the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church. Together with her husband, Chad

Johnson ('94) she has been involved in Adventurers and Pathfinders, as leaders, teachers, and supportive parents. "I truly believe that Southwestern Adventist University creates a space of service by first providing a home for the heart."

## **ALUMNI HALL OF FAME**

Tina Bottsford, Class of 1989



Born in Brazil to missionary parents, Tina has lived all over the world from Arizona to Hawaii, Montana, Alabama, and Mississippi.
Tina landed in Keene, TX, at Southwestern Adventist College after serving in Thailand as a student missionary and later became the Student Missions Director. In addition, she also managed a gospel choir for years traveling with them to San Francisco, San Diego, Washington, DC and New York City.

On staff at Southwestern Adventist University, Tina served in the Counseling Center for almost 12 years and later moved to the Enrollment Office where she is serving as Guest Relations and Communications Coordinator.

Being in these two departments at Southwestern has given Tina an opportunity to meet and really get to know many of Southwestern students over the years. She shares of this experience, "The best part of working at Southwestern has been seeing the students come and go through the years and then having the ability to see them later as teachers, lawyers, doctors, etc. I've bumped into many of them in churches and at conventions. It's always fun reminiscing with them about their college experience at Southwestern."

Reflecting on what she has gained from her world travels and how it relates to Southwestern and how it prepared her to follow God's plan in her life, she states, "I have gained friends all over the world. Our world is even smaller because of working here and getting to know people from all over."

### **ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Our Mission** – The Alumni Association seeks to provide a medium for helping former students to keep in touch with the university, with each other, foster a continuing spirit of pride and loyalty to the university, and to mobilize alumni in support of the university.

## **ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERS:**

**President:** Chris Rhodes, Class of 2012

**Members:** 

Ian Curnow '92 & '02 Shelley (Gillan) Peterson '90 Tony Seery '15 Leo Warner '15 Nellie Youngberg '02 & '06

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Advancement Department
Alumni Board
Athletics Department
Cafeteria Services
Custodial Services
Department of Music
Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church
SWAU Innovation Lab

### **SOUTHWESTERN FUND**

The Southwestern Fund allows us to meet our most pressing needs. Your support focuses on the student experience at Southwestern Adventist University.

Your giving enables academic scholarships, it provides hands-on learning opportunities throughout our campus and beyond, it gives students access to state-of-the-art learning facilities, and their overall campus experience.

Make a gift today for SWAU's future. Go to swau.edu/give or scan the QR code to the right.



**ALUMNI HOMECOMING 2024** 

# **ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PROJECT**

Learning Center in the Chan Shun Centennial Library.

Southwestern's Student Success Center has been growing and impacting student success for more than 10 years. It has now outgrown two spaces. It currently serves 87% of our student body with mentoring in academic success, personal growth, and career readiness.

The Student Success Center Renovation project is designed for the third floor of the Chan Shun Centennial Library, a space already dedicated to tutoring and mentoring students. The project also includes renovation of the library tower.



Learn more about the project and give today by scanning the QR code.

Give now by texting LearningCenter to 41444.



# **CAMPUS MAP**

- 1. Larry R. Moore Nursing & Administration Building
- 2. Findley Building
- 3. Pechero Hall
- 4. Scales Hall
- 5. Mabee Center
- 6. Barron Building
- 7. Hagen Hall
- 8. Maintenance Building
- 9. KJRN 88.3 The Journey
- 10. Committee of 100 Cafeteria
- 11. Ivanette Hopps Amphitheater

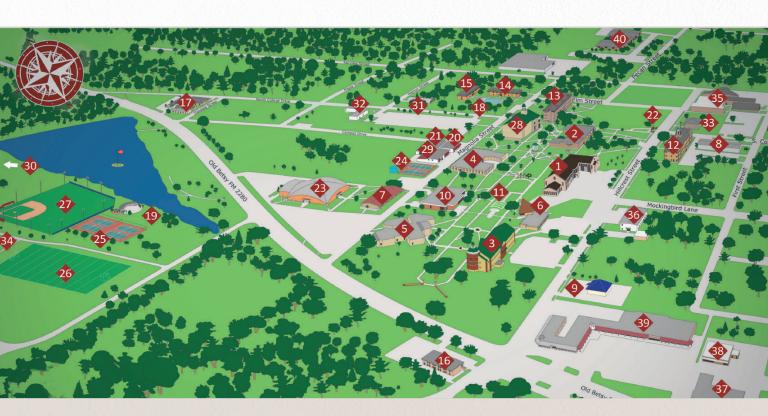
- 12. Miller Residence Hall
- 13. Harmon Residence Hall
- 14. Hadley Residence Hall
- 15. Meier Residence Hall
- 16. Villa Residences
- 17. Lakeview Residences
- 18. Outdoor Pool
- 19. Callicott Student Park
- 20. Student Center
- 21. Student Association
- 22. Mizpah Gate
- 23. Leiske-Pultar Gymnasium
- 24. Tennis Courts
- 25. Tennis Courts at

#### Callicott Park

- 26. Evea Bainum Memorial Soccer Field
- 37 F D :
- 27. Evea Bainum Memorial Baseball Field
- 28. Chan Shun Centennial Library
- 29. Campus Services
- 30. Thomsen Observatory
- 31. Biology Greenhouse
- 32. Moran Hall
- 33. Hopps Museum
- 34. Bainum Field House

#### **OFF-CAMPUS LOCATIONS**

- 35. Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church
- 36. City of Keene Fire & Police Station
- 37. Adventist Book Center
- 38. United States Post Office
- 39. Shopping Center
- 40. Keene Adventist Elementary School









#### **VIEW WEEKEND PHOTOS**



2024 Homecoming photos can be downloaded at the above QR (photos will be available in 1-2 weeks)

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Facebook.com/swaualumni Instagram.com/swaualumni

#### **CONTACT INFO**

swau.edu/alumni alumni@swau.edu (817) 202-6231