Southern Virginia announces teacher education program

Advancing the Genius of Small

THE CAMPAIGN FOR
SOUTHERN VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
Advancing the Genius of Small

President Paul K. Sybrowsky outlines the progress of Southern Virginia’s first-ever capital campaign and explains why this liberal arts university is an increasingly appealing option for Latter-day Saint students.

Called to Serve

Southern Virginia helps students prepare for and return from missionary service.

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Exciting Things to Come

BY PAUL K. SYBROWSKY, PRESIDENT

Excitement is electric on Southern Virginia University’s campus. Spring is in the air and so is accomplishment. I, personally, am delighted to be associated with the fine students, faculty, and staff that make things happen here. Over the past several months we have completed many exciting things and are ready to announce some others:

- To make campus more accessible, the City of Buena Vista recently voted to pave a sidewalk along Ridge Avenue from the Institute parking lot to the entrance of The Fields.
- New tennis courts are under construction on Dusky Hill and should be completed by the start of the 2013 fall semester.
- We are now offering a full slate of summer camps, including academic and athletic opportunities for youth and adults. For information and registration, visit svu.edu/camps.
- We’re also thrilled to announce three new programs to prepare those who plan to serve missions and a program designed to help returning missionaries reintegrate into an academic setting. For more information, visit svu.edu/missionary.

Put all that together with our usual spring and summer schedule, including Commencement and Education Conference, and you can see why we’re all excited to be here. Please know that Sister Sybrowsky and I love you and send our best Southern Virginia wishes to you everywhere.

Remember, it’s still a great day to be a Knight!
The Southern Virginia University board of trustees announced that Paul K. Sybrowsky, who served as the second president of the Seventy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from 2005 to 2011, would become the university’s next president beginning June 1, 2012. In addition to his service as a general authority, Sybrowsky previously served on the boards or leadership councils of three universities, was a commissioner of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, and was a professor of business, an author, and educator who served as an assistant executive director as a general authority, service as president of colleges and universities in the Southern states, and as a bishop.

Southern Virginia University, in conjunction with Remote Area Medical, hosted a free health clinic that provided needed medical, dental, and vision care for more than 600 patients. Approximately 250 volunteers assisted with the clinic, including doctors, dentists and other medical professionals, as well as Southern Virginia faculty, staff and students. Stan Brock, who founded RAM in 1985, attended the clinic in Buena Vista, Virginia, which provided 1,200 treatments or services to patients. Brock started the organization to bring needed medical resources to remote areas worldwide. “I had in a remote part of the Amazon and the closest doctor was 26 days away. It seemed like a good idea to bring the doctors closer,” Brock said. “We started to get requests to hold clinics in America in 1993. This one is number 69 that we’ve held worldwide.”

The National Collegiate Athletic Association announced its approval of a new program for Southern Virginia University’s Division II membership, which places the highest priority on the overall quality of a scholar-athlete’s educational experience. The university’s Board of Directors voted to seek membership to become a member of the NCAA Division II philosophical framework, which provides high school and college courses for women. It later became Southern Virginia College, which places the highest priority on the quality of a scholar-athlete’s educational experience. The board of directors voted to seek membership to become a member of the NCAA Division II. The Southern Virginia University board of trustees, which examined hundreds of written compliance reports, announced the recipients of the 2012 Ed and Chieko Okazaki Distinguished Service Award and 2012 Michael and Kay Elton Leadership for Outstanding Teaching and Scholarship Award.

5 Southern Virginia University Announces Teacher Education Program March 2013

Southern Virginia University now offers a teacher education program in which students can complete the licensure requirements of the Virginia Department of Education. Southern Virginia’s program is part of the Rockbridge Teacher Education Consortium, which provides students attending Southern Virginia, Washington and Lee University, or Virginia Military Institute the opportunity to complete licensure requirements at any of the participating school without paying additional tuition fees.

1 Former General Authority Paul K. Sybrowsky Named President March 2012

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6 Southern Virginia University Provisional Division III Membership to Southern Virginia July 2012

7 Marriotts Host 9th Annual Shenandoah Invitational Art Show October 2012

8 Service and Teaching Award Recipients Announced November 2012

9 Southern Virginia University announced that Dr. Richard G. Whitehead, vice president of institutional advancement at the university and Bruce and Christine Olsen—who recently served as president and matron of the California San Diego Temple. The program also featured a presentation of the Capital Campaign video, “Advancing the Genius of Small.”

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Scholarship
An Interview with Dr. Scott Dransfield

“Essential to the advancement of knowledge, scholarship inevitably informs great teaching and ideally models for students how we learn to distinguish between fact and fiction, truth and error.” —DR. MADISON U. SOWELL, PRESIDENT

When he’s not in the classroom, Dr. Scott A. Dransfield, professor of English at Southern Virginia, can often be found plucking the bass line to a classic rock ‘n’ roll song. The cover band, Scotty and the Beamers, which he formed with students, has performed on campus and in a number of community events. Dransfield joined the university’s faculty in 2001 after holding positions at colleges in Georgia and Pennsylvania. His academic interests include Victorian literature and culture as well as Shakespeare and Renaissance staging. In the summer of 2002, he participated in a study of the Shakespearean stage at the Blackfriars Playhouse in Staunton, Virginia, and at the Globe Theatre in London, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. An active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he currently serves as bishop of the Buena Vista YSA 5th Ward.

In the following interview, Dransfield weighs in on the role of scholarship—one of the university’s five core values—for students at Southern Virginia University.

How do you define scholarship?
I see scholarship as a kind of activity: a process of entering into meaningful dialogue with those, alive or dead, who represent the great, enduring ideas of our culture. But it’s not just about reading lots of books or taking in lots of ideas—it’s about speaking back, contributing to a conversation that has existed for a long time and never seems to lose relevance.

What role does scholarship play in Southern Virginia’s approach to education?
We’re all about discussion. The activity in the classroom is absolutely essential to the Southern Virginia experience. Beyond that, though, students read and research ideas and issues not simply to learn these skills (though that’s important, too) but to become genuinely conversant in these issues and to form sound arguments.

What is expected of Southern Virginia students in terms of scholarship?
What I expect is that students do not see themselves as spectators in the classroom, but true participants. This means that they must complete their assignments—readings, written work, collaborative projects, whatever—with the expectation that they present what they know to their scholarly community. I think in this respect, scholarship meshes well with another of our core values: accountability.

How much can faculty members reasonably expect from undergraduate students in terms of scholarship?
Well, I find that students more or less rise to the challenges we offer, and sometimes I think the greater the challenge, the more meaningful work we will get from them. In my college composition courses (freshman-level writing) I assign an interpretive essay on the Book of Job, which requires, along with a thorough reading of Job, research into the maze of biblical scholarship. I consider this a difficult but rewarding project, and even though my students sometimes see me as a cruel god inflicting upon them a Joban experience, some of the essays I get are truly amazing—and this coming from students who were in high school just months previously.

What have you found to be the most effective way to help students reach their potential?
As I mentioned earlier, I think we need to give them challenges that seem slightly beyond their grasp and help them achieve whatever they’re able. I am totally dissatisfied by assignments that students are comfortable with or that are “conventional” to them. I would rather receive written work from students that shows a genuine intellectual struggle than a polished essay on some mundane subject. I like big ideas, and I am convinced that students do too.

What’s your favorite idea or book to discuss with students?
This is a hard one. I guess I always look forward to teaching Milton’s “Paradise Lost.” There’s something that remains utterly strange about that epic poem—always something to discover, always some image or other that remains elusive. For students, it’s a wonderful avenue into a discussion of agency and the meaning of action and human desire in relation to divine purpose. The character of Satan in the poem is endlessly fascinating because he embodies so many human characteristics.

What makes you passionate about teaching?
I think it has to do with the passion of sharing something you love. It’s in my nature, really, and I sometimes worry that it can prove itself slightly obsessive. I used to drive my brother crazy making him listen to a bit of music I was enthusiastic about.) I simply can’t teach material I am not enthusiastic about. Like I said earlier, I’m drawn to big ideas, especially those that challenge the status quo, which makes literature a great field to be in!

Looking back at your teaching career to this point, what is your most significant accomplishment?
Well, I’ve been at it for over 20 years, and really, I don’t think I could point to one accomplishment. I’ve had some remarkably successful students, some of whom really surprise me with their latest news; I’ve had some great moments in the classroom; I’ve contributed a few good ideas to the collective scholarship in my academic field. I’m grateful for all of these.

What’s the role of scholarship in the life of a disciple?
I immediately think of the sharp admonishments of Hugh Nibley to members of the Church to read scripture with scholarly rigor—not to “wrest” the word of God, certainly, but draw from the words all the depth that they offer. I think this is excellent advice and wish I could live up to it more fully. I do know that, in my experience, the scriptures reward every effort taken to read and understand deeply. Beyond the scriptures, though, we have also been admonished by modern prophets to learn languages, the affairs and complexities of nations, and to seek wisdom from the “best books.” To be a true disciple is to submit oneself to a pretty thorough course of study.

How do you describe the benefits of a liberal arts education?
The liberal arts are all about understanding the world one lives in, past and present. We live in such a noisy culture that I’m afraid people—especially young people—may passively accept for reality what they see and hear on the surface, which is a scary thought to me. A liberal arts education offers such a vital perspective that takes into account such a greater continuity of human experience. Without elaborating, I’ll just get to what I consider the payoffs. I think a liberal arts education will result in a person’s making better decisions, acting more meaningfully and deliberately, and being more committed to things that are of real value. These are big payoffs!

What is your most significant scoop. svu.edu/scholarship-interview
The Success of Southern Virginia University

Every day at Southern Virginia University we celebrate the ongoing success of an ambitious vision: the founding of a liberal arts college for Latter-day Saints. This university embraces the genius of small to help its students learn both scholarship and discipleship. In essence, we are part of a larger mission to educate Zion.

Liberal arts colleges and universities have played an important role in this country and are among the most prestigious and respected institutions including Williams College, Amherst College, Middlebury College, and Washington and Lee University, to name just a few.

What the faculty, staff, and students at many of these fine institutions know, and in some cases have known for two centuries or longer, is that small works. Small colleges offer smaller class sizes, provide more attention from professors, and offer more opportunities to participate in the classroom and extracurricular activities. Large universities have their place too, but in general they operate under the mindset of trying to fit as many students as possible into each classroom. The more students, the less expensive it is to offer the class.

Liberal Arts Explained

To truly understand the liberal arts, we have to look back to the Romans and the Greeks. They valued a broad education in logic, grammar, rhetoric, mathematics, music, and astronomy.

We follow the same approach today at Southern Virginia University. Our curriculum provides an intellectual foundation for our students by focusing on great artistic, literary, philosophical, political, scientific, and social achievements, comparing these when appropriate with insights from the restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. We build a foundation that helps our students prepare for the future.

As one liberal arts college administrator, Peter Osgood, director of admission at Harvey Mudd College, has said, “Since technology moves society along at a faster and faster pace, [what we think of as a practical or career-centered education] is more likely to become obsolete sooner. Liberal arts disciplines better prepare the student for change.”

By providing our students with a robust liberal arts education, we prepare adaptable, teachable, forward-thinking graduates who make a difference in the world and in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Our Niche

About 75,000 Latter-day Saint youth graduate from high school in the United States every year. Around 7,000 will be admitted to Brigham Young University, 3,000 or so will be admitted to BYU–Idaho, and even fewer to BYU–Hawaii and LDS Business College. Southern Virginia University is another prestigious option for Latter-day Saints who are seeking an education in a wholesome, spiritual environment. We prepare our students to compete and contribute in today’s complex society, thus being able to make the kind of contributions that gospel-centered individuals can make. We are looking for about 400–500 of the most talented and committed students to join us as freshmen and transfer students each year.

We offer a code of honor and faith-friendly environment for Latter-day Saints. Our students are highly active in the Church’s Institute program, which is a vital part of our campus life and a critical component of a Southern Virginia education. Since the Church lowered the missionary age in October of 2012, even more young men and women on campus have actively prepared to serve missions. One of our university’s great traditions is to have students who have recently received mission calls stand at our weekly forums and devotionals to announce where they will serve. Our students also serve in the Church through callings in the local YSA and family wards. Some even find their eternal companions among fellow students and enjoy the blessings of temple sealings.
Southern Virginia University is becoming better known as a viable educational option available. Many liberal arts colleges in this country—16 percent of these graduates completed their coursework in three years. Some additional facts will help put this in perspective.

Two of the primary differences between Southern Virginia University and other schools that foster an LDS environment are our intentional small size—we offer a 1:1 student-faculty ratio—and rigorous liberal arts curriculum.

**AN INCREASINGLY APPEALING CHOICE**

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In a 2010 survey, 98 percent of seniors said if they had it to do all over they would choose Southern Virginia again.

- Even in these challenging economic times, 9 in 10 of our alumni who sought full-time employment report that they were employed within 12 months of graduation.

- In 2011, 9 in 10 incoming male students said they have served or plan to serve a mission. With the lowering of age of both men and women we expect that number to increase.

- On the National Survey of Student Engagement, Southern Virginia scores far above the national average in a number of categories including its contribution to students’ spiritual growth and religious activity.

- Since 1996, Southern Virginia teams and scholar-athletes have garnered 40 small college national championships, while more than 300 scholar-athletes have earned All-American or national academic honors.

- More than 4 in 7 Southern Virginia students enrolled in an Institute class last fall.

- More than 40 percent of Southern Virginia graduates have attended graduate school.

How do our students feel about the investment they make in their education at Southern Virginia? Again, based on national research, our students are more satisfied that tuition paid is a worthwhile investment than students at other private four-year colleges and universities. Another financial benefit is the way Southern Virginia helps its students graduate sooner so that they can enter the workforce or begin graduate school while their friends at other universities are still working towards graduation. Eighty-three percent of students who graduated from Southern Virginia in April 2013 did so in four years or less—14 percent of those graduates completed their coursework in three years. Some additional facts will help put this in perspective.

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**PLANs for the future**

Our plans for the future are developing rapidly and they include new buildings, new programs, and the expansion of our already successful Education Conference, which will take place this year on June 7-8, 2013; summer camps for youth and adults throughout June, July, and August; pre-mission opportunities that will help young men and women enter the Missionary Training Center and their missions with greater understanding and increasing testimonies; and a post-mission block program to help returning missionaries re-integrate into an academic setting.

**The capital campaign**

I began by saying that the vision for an LDS liberal arts college is ambitious. We have launched an ambitious $50 million capital campaign to match that vision. As with other opportunities we have faced in the past, we will succeed.

After raising $20 million during the capital campaign’s silent phase, we launched the campaign’s public phase this past August. So far this academic year we have held six Capital Campaign Galas—two in Utah, one in Buena Vista, one near Washington, D.C., (in connection with the 9th Annual Shenandoah Invitational Art Show), one in Texas, and one in Arizona. The generosity and giving from friends of the university has been gratifying. We very much appreciate any contribution to the future of Southern Virginia University.

Because people catch the vision of what we are about, we can already point to three contributions of $400,000 each, additional pledges of more than two million dollars, and many other donations of various amounts. Increased donations from alumni, faculty, and staff, have poured in and we have received funding for three new professorships—one each in physics, theatre, and philosophy.

- In addition, heavy equipment is now working to clear and prepare the site for new tennis courts on Dinky Hill near The Fields.

Work will continue throughout the spring and summer to complete the courts by the start of the 2013 fall semester. We hope the student body, faculty and staff, and community will enjoy using this new facility, as well as watching the university’s tennis teams play their first home matches on campus.

We also received the generous donation of a new lighting system for The Fields that we have already installed. Currently, we are working with the City of Buena Vista and its power company to bring electricity to that section of the city. Imagine the progress our athletic teams can make—especially on short winter days—when they are able to practice and play past sundown.

It is time to make the campus shine. It is time to help our faculty, who, on several occasions, have done without raises and cost-of-living adjustments. It is time to help more students afford the blessings and blessings of the genius of small.

**InVitation tO gIve**

Many good causes exist where one may feel inspired to share their resources. I applaud charitable giving. We, speaking for our family, have found some of our greatest joy in making worthy dreams become realities. But I want you to know something: as far as higher education is concerned, a dollar donated to Southern Virginia University will go far further than a dollar donated to any other college or university of which I am aware.

If you have felt something as you read this, I would invite you to consider what you can do to help us in this cause.

We have come a long way in 17 years—increase what we can do all together. So begin now by visiting campaign.usu.edu to learn more and make a donation, or simply use the enclosed donation envelopes.

**WE HAVE LAUNCHED AN AMBITIOUS $50 MILLION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TO MATCH THAT VISION. AS WITH OTHER OPPORTUNITIES WE HAVE FACED IN THE PAST, WE WILL SUCCEED.**

**The vision expressed in this article has been shared at several campaign galas.**

**Proposed multipurpose facility**

'The vision expressed in this article has been shared at several campaign galas.**
Called to Serve
Southern Virginia Helps Missionaries Prepare and Return
BY DAIN BROADBENT (’13) AND HANNAH BENSON RODRIGUEZ (’15)

In response to President Thomas S. Monson’s announcement lowering the age limit for full-time missionaries to 19 for women and 18 for men, young adult members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—including many Southern Virginia University students—have chosen to serve missions in increasingly high numbers.

“Nothing in that room mattered (after the announcement),” said Shoushig Tengarian, a family and child development major at Southern Virginia. “When [President Monson] said 19, my sister looked at me, because she knew how much I’ve wanted this, and I just started crying. I called my parents immediately and told them that I would start on my mission papers right away.”

Since President Monson’s announcement during the Church’s 188th Semiannual General Conference last October, more than 40 Southern Virginia students have applied for and received mission calls. Students who have recently received their mission calls are recognized and applauded at the university’s weekly forums and devotionals.

“Service, particularly missionary service, is an indispensable part of the Southern Virginia experience,” explained university President Paul K. Sybrowsky. “Our university’s mission is to prepare leader-servants. We are thrilled with the increased enthusiasm of our students to serve the Lord and we are creating new ways to help our students prepare for and return from full-time missionary service.”

As the Church has made adjustments to accommodate the growing number of missionaries—including the formation of (8 additional missions)—Southern Virginia has created three new programs to prepare those who plan to serve missions and a program designed to help returning missionaries reintegrate into an academic setting.

The first two programs—announced in November—are eight-week academic block programs to accommodate those departing for or returning from missions mid-semester. Students attending the pre-mission block program will take classes that prepare them for life away from home and for missionary service. The post-mission block program will facilitate an easier transition for returning missionaries by allowing them to quickly return to the structure of an academic learning environment.

All Southern Virginia students—including those enrolled in the mission block programs—have the opportunity to attend classes at the Buena Vista Institute of Religion and to participate in the recently formed Buena Vista Young Single Adult Stake of the Church. Additionally, students can benefit from the university’s Latter-day Saint environment in which students, faculty and staff live by a code of honor based on the teachings and standards of the Church.

Corey Gaff, a sophomore recently called to serve a mission in Seoul, South Korea, said that he appreciates his ability to feel the Spirit on Southern Virginia’s campus.

“Our community is small but we’re all connected through the Spirit,” said Gaff. “You learn here how to serve other people: your roommate, housemate, or the person that lives down the street from you. Because service is such a big aspect of this school, I think that really enhances campus life.”

The university also has created Zion’s Camp, a week-long program for 16-18 year old young men and young women preparing to serve missions, and Prepare to Serve: A Pre-mission Adventure, a two-week missionary preparation program for young single adults.

In each of these programs, participants will be able to experience first-hand some of the aspects of mission life—such as being assigned a companion, following a schedule and studying Teach My Gospel, the Church’s guide to missionary service. Additionally, participants will learn useful skills and engage in other activities such as team building exercises, visiting historical sites and attending Institute classes.

“With many more young men and women choosing to serve missions, including our own students, more will face the dilemma of how to talk about religion and you can talk about the Church and how it applies to the different things you are learning about. It definitely helped build my testimony and helped me to be the person that I am now and the missionary that I’ll be when I get out [into the mission field].”

—PRESIDENT PAUL K. SYBROWSKY
National Survey of Student Engagement

Measuring the Value of a Southern Virginia Education

“The fact that our students are coming away with a greater sense of morals and ethics and an enhanced spirituality validates why we’re here,” said Whitehurst. “We’re unique in the fact that we have an LDS environment and offer a liberal arts education. Not only do these survey results, but also the level of participation in Institute classes and the YSA wards are indicators that this is a place students come to be in a good environment, get a great education and have a spiritually edifying experience—to have their testimonies strengthened. And that is why we’re here.”

Students also reported that Southern Virginia’s coursework engaged them in meaningful ways more than students at other institutions. Ninety-four percent of Southern Virginia seniors said that they felt coursework emphasized analysis and synthesis of ideas, as well as making judgments about the value of information, arguments or methods. Overall, ninety-four percent of Southern Virginia students surveyed rated their entire educational experience as “good” or “excellent.”

“Before I went here, I attended a large university and I felt like I got lost,” said MacKay. “Then I came here, and now I know everyone. I may not know all their names, but I at least know their faces. That has enriched my experience here along with the connections that I’ve developed with professors who have lifelong experience and offer valuable direction that I can learn from.”

Bowden said that the professors and small class sizes at Southern Virginia combined with engaging course content provide an excellent academic experience for students.

“Coming here helped me realize that studying isn’t just taking notes,” said Bowden. “It’s internalizing what I understand and what I’ve grown to learn in these classes. Suddenly it wasn’t just about getting a good grade—it was about what I can really learn from all this. I’ve always been a straight-A student, this just took everything a step further. My classes at Southern Virginia helped me realize that I owed something to God as well as to myself in regard to my education.”

Both first-year students and seniors reported especially high appreciation of the spiritual environment on Southern Virginia’s campus. Among first-year students, 94 percent reported that the university helped them develop a personal code of values and ethics, and 91 percent said that the university helped them develop a deepened sense of spirituality—compared to 61 percent and 37 percent, respectively, of first-year students at participating NSSE institutions. Additionally, 96 percent of seniors participated in activities to enhance their spirituality, compared to 33 percent of seniors from all NSSE institutions.

Overall, ninety-four percent of Southern Virginia students surveyed rated their entire educational experience as “good” or “excellent.”

National Survey of Student Engagement, 98 percent of Southern Virginia University seniors rated the quality of the relationships that they had with their professors above average—compared to 81 percent of seniors at all participating NSSE institutions.

When asked how available, helpful and sympathetic their professors were, nearly all Southern Virginia seniors rated their faculty above average and the majority of these seniors gave Southern Virginia professors the highest rank possible.

“This reflects the genius of small,” said Dr. Alan Whitehurst, associate provost and professor of computer science at Southern Virginia. “Having a personal relationship with your faculty, having them become more than just lecturers, but partners in your education—mentors—can have long-term effects. Not only do you learn your material better, but you get better references and opportunities outside the classroom. You get the benefit of those relationships and those examples to a much greater personal degree than you would at other institutions.”

The National Survey of Student Engagement annually collects information from first-year and senior students about the nature and quality of their undergraduate experience. In 2012, more than 300,000 students from 577 institutions in the United States and Canada responded to the survey. Southern Virginia outperformed the average for all participating schools in every major category of the survey—level of academic challenge, active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interaction, enriching educational experiences and supportive campus environment.

“Not only do you learn your material better, but you get better references and opportunities outside the classroom. You get the benefit of those relationships and those examples to a much greater personal degree than you would at other institutions.”—Dr. Alan Whitehurst, ASSOCIATE PROVOST AND PROFESSOR OF COMPUTER SCIENCE
Athletics

Football Joins NJAC
Southern Virginia University Athletic Director Scott Y. Doxey announced on December 26, 2012, that the university’s football program will join the NCAA Division III New Jersey Athletic Conference effective July 2014. This announcement follows Southern Virginia’s tenth season of football in which the Knights finished with the second-most wins in program history. The NJAC, which was founded in 1985 and currently sponsors 19 varsity sports, ranks among the top athletic conferences in Division III with member schools capturing 43 national championships over the past 15 years.

Women’s Cross Country Repeats as National Champions
Fueled by a career performance from junior runner and USCAA First Team All-American Kera Macfarlane-Neilson, the Southern Virginia University women’s cross country team repeated as USCAA National Champions on Nov. 9, 2012, in Lake Placid, New York. Southern Virginia women’s cross country has now captured 11 national titles over the past 15 years—more than any other sport in university history.

Men’s Basketball Extends Home Winning Streak
In addition to completing one of its most successful seasons ever—the Knights finished with a 12-7 record, while recording the fewest losses (7) and second-highest winning percentage (.680) in program history—the 2012-13 Southern Virginia University men’s basketball team went undefeated (8-0) at home for the third straight season and extended its school-record home winning streak to 28 games.

Caputo and Harmon Honored as Pioneer Coaches
In July 2012, Southern Virginia University’s Hall of Fame Committee created the Pioneer Award to recognize those first administrators, coaches, and scholar-athletes, who led by example and paved the way for others to follow. Head men’s basketball and men’s tennis coach Tony Caputo and head women’s basketball coach Michael Harmon became the first Pioneer Award recipients for their countless contributions to the university and its athletics program during their respective 15-year careers at Southern Virginia.

Women’s Soccer Receives Ten All-Academic Selections
Ten members of the Southern Virginia women’s soccer team—Jackie Barlow (Rutland Heights, Utah), Meghan Blackham (Las Vegas, Nev.), Randi Jones (Temonton, Utah), Britney Jones-Porter (Spanish Fork, Utah), Amber Key-Winsor (Flower Mound, Texas), Bryndel Kindred (Tremonton, Utah), Lora Palmer (Alpine, Utah), Jade Sorensen (Las Vegas, Nev.), and Randi Jones (Spring, Texas) and Laura Sewell (Plymouth, Utah)—earned 2012 USCAA All-Academic honors marking the most national academic selections from any single team in university history.

Fine & Performing Arts

Concert Chorale Performs with Liberty University, Roanoke Symphony Orchestra
On March 5, 2012, the Southern Virginia University Concert Chorale performed a concert titled “American Voices in War & Peace” in the Roanoke Performing Arts Theatre with the Liberty University Concert Choir, the Roanoke College Children’s Choir and the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. The music included Leonard Bernstein’s “Chichester Psalms,” as well as selections from his musical Candide, and a variety of patriotic songs.

Bella Voce Sings in Mid-Atlantic Women’s Chorus Festival
The Southern Virginia University women’s choir, Bella Voce, performed along with five other women’s choirs in the Mid-Atlantic Women’s Chorus Festival on March 23, 2012. Held at Virginia Tech, the festival featured workshops and a performance at the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church. Bella Voce performed “Blooom,” a contemporary piece by Phillip H. Silvey, and “Fantine’s Song,” a South African spiritual about Sudanese basket-weavers.

Art Students Visit National Gallery, Study Abroad
In each of Southern Virginia’s studio art classes, students now participate in a course excursion to one of several nearby art galleries and museums, including the National Gallery of Art, Hirshhorn Museum, Pyramid Atlantic Art Center and the Virginia Museum of Fine Art. Many art students this year also participated in the university’s Travel Study program, traveling to Paris, Italy, and England to study photography, the Italian renaissance and watercolor with Southern Virginia’s art professors.

Annual Senior Art Show Features Southern Virginia Professors
The Annual Senior Art Show was held in the Fawson Alumni House during April 2012 featuring a variety of artistic mediums, each expressing a different idea or theme. Participating senior Brittany Kay Feinauer produced pen and watercolor portraits of nine Southern Virginia professors for her project titled, “What Makes Us Human.” Feinauer tried to capture the professors’ expressions during the act of teaching, which she explained “is a defining characteristic of human beings.”

Southern Virginia Performs Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
The Southern Virginia University Theatre Program presented Andrew Lloyd Webber’s Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat during September and October 2012. The cast and crew, which featured 23 students, received a special invitation to perform their final show at River Rock Stage—an outdoor theater at Glade and Kathleen Knight’s Slate River Ranch.

Southern Virginia Presents All New Musical Little Women
Southern Virginia University Professor Robert Stoddard wrote the score and co-wrote the script with his daughter, Leigh Stoddard, for a new musical adaptation of Louisa May Alcott’s Little Women. Stoddard said that the story’s values were a major reason for writing the musical and that he had “something different to say” than other existing adaptations of Little Women. A cast of 14 Southern Virginia student actors, an alumna and a community member performed the original musical during November and December 2012.
Alumni Updates

1. **Elizabeth “Beezie” Madden (‘84)**
   Elizabeth “Beezie” Madden was valedictorian of her graduating class at what was then Southern Seminary Junior College. Madden, who has been riding horses since she was three, has since participated as an equestrian athlete in the Olympics. Her team won the gold medal at the 2014 Summer Olympics in Athens and another gold medal at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro—where she also won an individual bronze medal. Most recently, she participated in the 2016 Summer Olympics in London. Madden was the first woman to pass the $1 million mark in show jumping earnings. Madden and her husband currently run John Madden Sales, a business in Cazenovia, New York.

2. **Facundo Magnaghi (‘01)**
   After graduating from Southern Virginia, Facundo Magnaghi returned home to Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he has worked as a business consultant in the Change Management and Processes Area at Business Integrated Partners. He and his wife, Mariana, hope to start a family and someday travel back to Southern Virginia University.

3. **Molly Person (‘02)**
   Molly Person received a master’s degree in music education in 2015 and is currently finishing her dissertation for a doctorate of musical arts in music education, both from Shenandoah Conservatory. She teaches choir, actively participates in community music events, and has served as the assistant conductor for the Southern Utah Heritage Choir. Molly is currently singing with The Washington Chorus and performs regularly at the Strathmore and Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

4. **Jordan Councill (‘03)**
   Jordan Councill is a surgical consultant in the Washington, D.C., area working for Boston Scientific. Before Boston Scientific, Council worked at Black & Decker and Biomet Orthopedics. He is a member of the National Advisory Council and a former member of the Alumni Association executive board at Southern Virginia University. Before graduating from Southern Virginia, he played on and later coached the men’s soccer team. He and his wife, Kristy, have two daughters and currently live in Washington, D.C.

5. **Anna Mae Drechsel (‘04)**
   Anna Mae Drechsel and her husband, Mike, currently live in Vernal, Utah, with their three kids where they enjoy mountain biking, hiking and cross-country skiing. Drechsel teaches violin and cello lessons and seeks to give musical opportunities to the surrounding community. She also volunteers her time to coach sports and teach recreational activity classes.

6. **Robert Brandt (‘05)**
   After graduating with a liberal arts major and a chemistry minor, Robert Brandt earned a doctor of dental surgery degree at Indiana University in Indianapolis. Following his degree, Brandt completed an advanced education in general dentistry residency at Kaiser Air Force Base. He currently works at the 3rd AMDS Dental Flight as a general dentist and ranks as captain in the United States Air Force. He and his wife, Veronica, have one daughter, Adelle.

7. **Kate Lindsay (‘06)**
   Kate Lindsay received a master’s degree in business administration from Brigham Young University in 2010 and is currently the manager of Capital Planning at Payless ShoeSource, Inc. in Topeka, Kansas. Lindsay has recently run a triathlon and hiked Mount Timpanogos. She enjoys traveling with family and friends and hopes to visit Machu Picchu this year.

8. **Drew Manning (‘06)**
   Since he graduated from Southern Virginia, Drew Manning has worked as a financial analyst for Chrysler, a medical technician, and as a personal trainer. Manning was featured in major news publications and television shows after purposefully gaining and then losing more than 70 pounds in order to better understand and empathize with his clients who were trying to lose weight. He has since published a New York Times Best Seller and has started a website, FitzFatFit.com, to inspire others who are striving to live a healthier lifestyle. Drew and his wife, Lynn, currently live in Eagle Mountain, Utah, with their two daughters.

9. **Brinn Willis (‘07)**
   Following graduation from Southern Virginia, Willis worked at Project Horizon, a non-profit agency dedicated to reducing domestic and sexual violence.

Following three years at Project Horizon, Willis decided to focus on being home with her children and building up her photography business, (BMW) Photography. Willis is currently pursuing a master’s degree in documentary style photography at Savannah College of Art and Design. Brinn and her husband, Frederick, currently live in Rockbridge County with their two children.

10. **Jenna Stewart Anderson (‘08)**
    Jenna Stewart Anderson serves as an arbitrator for Family Search Indexing and works part-time at home as the head transcriptionist for a government contracting company that does transcription work for the Department of Defense. Anderson’s husband, Davis, works as a government employee in Washington, D.C. The Andersons live in Reston, Virginia, with their two-year-old son, Logan.

11. **Leah Stowers (‘08)**
    While at Southern Virginia, Leah Stowers received a Jefferson Congressional Fellowship and spent several months on Capitol Hill. She also has worked at the Embassy of Chile in Washington, D.C. She received a master’s degree in organizational leadership, policy and development from the University of Minnesota in 2012. She previously served as director of corporate policy at T Ameri e Global Services and currently serves as a marketing teacher at Fairfax County Public Schools.

12. **Katie Randall Jensen (‘09)**
    Katie Jensen received a bachelor’s degree in English at Southern Virginia and is currently pursuing a master’s degree in English language and literature at Florida Gulf Coast University, where she also teaches composition courses. Jensen works full time as the Production Coordinator at Quality of Life Publishing. She currently lives with her husband Ricardo Jensen—whom she met at Southern Virginia—in Naples, Florida.

13. **Nate Pence (‘12)**
    Before graduating from Southern Virginia, Nate Pence trained interns to replace him as conductor of the university’s women’s choir, Bella Voce. Pence earned an assistantship in conducting at the University of Florida, where he is pursuing a master’s degree in music. At the University of Florida, Pence has been asked to join a small group of singers to record Renaissance quartet vocal music. He has also been invited to auditions at the Guild Hall in London after he graduates.

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**Gregory Mortenson (‘01)**

Gregory Mortenson was named one of 25 “Artists of Tomorrow” by American Artist magazine in 2014. One of Mortenson’s self-portraits also was featured on the cover of American Artist, which published a three-part series that Mortenson wrote on technique for painting self-portraits. "Mortenson is one of the most accomplished in a new generation of painters who have embraced the rigorous of training in the atelier tradition," said an American Artist contributor in a special edition of the magazine titled "50 Greatest Artists of All Time.”

Mortenson majored in art at Southern Virginia, and after graduating, went on to spend two years studying classical painting in an apprenticeship and then completed the four-year curriculum at the Grand Central Academy of Art in New York. He said that Southern Virginia was a “stepping stone” to his other artistic pursuits and helped him to “develop a good work ethic.”

“As a liberal arts school, it gave me some freedom to explore a lot of different things,” said Mortenson. “I tried in creative writing, which I don’t know if I would have done at a different school. I found there was a wide variety of good teachers and courses to study.”

In addition to developing his technique and participating in exhibitions across the globe, Mortenson instructs at the Grand Central Academy of Art.
From Recent Speeches

David R. Stone
Former member of the Second Quorum of the Seventy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

“TO THE UTTERMOST ENDS OF THE EARTH”

DEVOTIONAL | MARCH 15, 2013

“You are here at this wonderful university because of your abilities and the choices that you have made. You may look at some of your classmates, and see some, maybe many, who appear to have more abilities than you do. And yet, as Dumbledore says to Harry Potter, ‘It is our choices Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities.’ . . . The Lord expects you to use the talents and wisdom you have acquired to make wise decisions, and to have the faith to let him lead you.”

Russell T. Osguthorpe
Sundy School General President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

“CAN WE CHANGE OUR DESIRES?”

DEVOTIONAL | NOVEMBER 2, 2012

“Whatever you think you can achieve in this life, you can achieve more. You are more important than you think. The Lord has more prepared for you, more in store for you than you could ever imagine. You are a key part of His kingdom on earth. What you learn here, what you do here, and what you do with the rest of your life will determine the contribution that you are going to make. However you are planning right now, I urge you to keep planning and aiming higher. The Lord has great things ahead of you. . . . All we need to do is pray for His strength to do what He has in store for us.”

Aaron Sherinian
Vice President of Communications and Public Relations, United Nations Foundation

“GOING GOOD IN A GLOBAL ERA: YOUR RENAISSANCE 2.0 ROLE”

FORUM | FEBRUARY 23, 2013

“With all this technology happening, it still takes a person to make the good happen. It’s not about the platforms, it’s about the people, and that’s what I’d like to discuss here . . . The liberal arts education is part of this Renaissance 2.0 moment. As you leave here today, I want you to remember one thing—you have a role in a world that’s never been seen before. . . . Your generation will tell us that doing good is more important to you than any generation in the past. Twenty-seven percent of you will say that you are going to do good as part of your career. You’re going to do good as part of your home. You’re going to do good as a person of faith. No one has ever had that sort of an impulse, in terms of a generation, in the history of the world.”

Stephen H. Coltrin
Chairman and CEO, Coltrin & Associates, Inc.

“LEADERSHIP THROUGH COMMUNICATION: A 21ST-CENTURY NECESSITY”

LEADERSHIP LECTURE | OCTOBER 17, 2012

“[T]here is a great need in the world for clear communication . . . If you’re going to be a leader, you must learn how to communicate . . . Great ideas, without the ability to communicate them, fall on the floor of the conference room, never to be realized . . . It has been my pleasure to work with great people. You have them here at Southern Virginia University. They’re here for the same reason we all exist. There is a God—contrary to what many people would have you believe. That God is active. He is not a distant God. He knows you personally. He knows that each one of you has a mission to perform, if you will live up to your standards and communicate.”