

# T sagu Today

Summer 2012

## **LIONS** **ADVANCE** through **INTERNSHIPS**

*(the ultimate social network)*

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- Mission TEN: the first 3 years
- SAGUtv: video on demand
- A living legacy
- President Bridges reappointed to 5-year term



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# T<sup>sagu</sup> Today

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## Special Content

As you read, watch for the following icons. They indicate special content available only online.



**MISSION TEN** [TO EVERY NATION] *tribe & tongue*

**16** SAGU recaps the first three years of progress

**CHRISTMAS** AT **sagu**

Join us for treats, live Christmas music, a visit from Santa, the annual lighting of the campus and more!

**Nov. 27, 6:30 p.m.**

## About Today Magazine SPRING 2012 · VOL 16 ISSUE 1

SAGU Today is a publication of Southwestern Assemblies of God University, a non-profit institution of higher learning.

**MANAGING EDITOR:**  
Ryan McElhany, Director of Marketing and Public Relations

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR:**  
Christina Freeze, Public Relations Coordinator

**GRAPHIC DESIGN & LAYOUT:** Clint James Perez, Ryan McElhany

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:** Christina Freeze, Ryan McElhany, Shannon Hicks, Chantal Jules, Morgan Shaeffer, Mark Warde

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** Ryan McElhany, Christina Freeze, Landon Perry, Elizabeth Monsivais

**DIGITAL EDITION:** Ricky Ramirez, Ryan McElhany

**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*

## Endowed Scholarships

Endowed scholarship funds are vital. These funds provide financial aid that enables students of all financial backgrounds to enroll at SAGU.

Additionally, endowed scholarships allow you to honor an individual, while affording the opportunity to designate how the funds will be distributed.

To learn how to setup an endowed scholarship, call Craig Rinas, CFP®, at 1-888-YES-SAGU.

If you prefer to make a simple, one-time gift to SAGU toward scholarships, please call or use the envelope enclosed with this magazine.

## President's *perspective*

Churchill. King. Armstrong. Reagan. It is amazing how a name can evoke an instant response or memory. We equate Churchill with the struggle against Hitler's evil regime. We equate King with a fight for equality. We equate Armstrong with America's venture to the moon. We equate Reagan with the collapse of Communism.

The history of SAGU is filled with dedicated servants who touched a generation of students – names like P.C. Nelson, M.E. Collins, Klaude Kendrick, Elizabeth Wilson, Josephine Williams, Blake Farmer, and Pearl Ellis. These heroes of the faith, along with so many others, established the foundation upon which we serve today and have left such rich legacies.

We remember our spiritual forefathers in a variety of ways including recognizing them in our written histories or naming buildings, facilities, or programs in their honor. Another significant and meaningful way friends have chosen to honor past leaders, as well as cherished family and loved ones is through the establishment of an endowed scholarship.

The wonderful men and women, whose names are ascribed to endowed scholarships, leave not just a legacy, but a "living" legacy. Their names carry on not only through their memories, but through scholarships that enable SAGU to prepare future generations.

A list on the SAGU Foundation website ([www.sagu.edu/foundation](http://www.sagu.edu/foundation)) reveals 63 individuals, organizations, groups of alumni, or families of such individuals, who have expressed a desire to leave such legacies. We must continue to see this number grow.

Among the names who are honored, I would like to call attention to four who touched many lives, but especially my life. I am referring to George and Anna Brazell, James K. Bridges, and Eleanor Guynes – all great leaders who left rich legacies.

Each of these made an impression – the likes of which I hope each of us endeavor to pass on to those who follow. Our motivation isn't for title or accolade but toward a higher purpose.

The students who walk our halls are committed to a life of higher purpose. It is our privilege and responsibility to pave the way. These impressive students are looking for opportunities to leave their marks.

I encourage you to read "The ultimate social network" on pages 20-23 to learn about students capitalizing on internships to open new doorways of opportunity. It is impressive to see students intern with major companies like Disney or Murphy Oil, and then hired because of their shining talent.

I also encourage you to read the young alumni stories on pages 24-25. You will be impressed by the reach of our young SAGU alumni who serve in business, law, ministry and more.

Although alumni successes speak well for SAGU, we remain committed to improving how we serve them. You have undoubtedly heard of the World Communication Center (WCC) that is now underway. Though much of the work to date is foundational, underground and out of sight, much has already been completed.

To borrow the WCC as a metaphor, we are similarly building the foundation for our students. Initiatives as complex as participating in the Yellow Ribbon program for veterans, or as simple as renaming the World Ministries (Missions) program to Intercultural Studies, are emblematic of changes which position us to more effectively serve students in the days to come.

As never before, we need you, our alumni and friends, to spread the news about what is happening at SAGU. Do you know students who need a gentle nudge to attend a Christian university? Provide that gentle nudge toward SAGU. Do you own a business that would provide a valuable learning experience for SAGU students? Contact our Career Services office to setup an internship program. Do you have a desire to create an endowed scholarship? Contact our office of Planned Giving today.

As an alumnus or friend of SAGU, you are a contributor toward our success. Help us prepare students for tomorrow. ■

# a Living Legacy



**Craig Rinas, CFP®**  
Senior Director of  
Planned Giving

We love stories – the stories of the families who have connected with the vision of SAGU, the stories of students called to SAGU and refined, and the stories that continue as SAGU Lions carry the message of Christ's story to those who have not yet heard. A legacy should be viewed, not as vanity, but rather as an investment in the ongoing stories of our students as they touch future generations.

While some may perceive the desire to leave a legacy as an ambition to lift up one's own name, we have the unique opportunity to lend our names to lift up one greater than our own.

By leaving a legacy with SAGU, you

become an example to others by investing in and cheering on another generation of students. It has been my experience that families and friends are inspired by one person's selfless act. What begins as a monetary gift becomes the provision that a student prayed for and an affirmation to continue their education.

Scholarships are important to the success of SAGU students and make a way for students to return each year. I invite you to visit [www.sagu.edu/foundation](http://www.sagu.edu/foundation) to view a list of donor scholarships.

My office works with donors and their friends and families, to spotlight the life behind the scholarship. Students can learn more about their benefactors, and friends of SAGU are edified by seeing scholarships at work in students' lives. The George and Anna Brazell Scholarship, and specifically the online tribute, is an example of how we honor donors and share their life and legacy ([www.sagu.edu/brazellscholarship](http://www.sagu.edu/brazellscholarship)).

Each year, we have the privilege of hearing from alumni who update us about their progress since graduation. We are reminded of the lasting impact that scholarships make, and see the legacy fulfilled as alumni touch countless lives.

Here is one example of what we hear from our alumni.

*Dear Anna Brazell,*

*I wanted to express my appreciation for providing me with The George and Anna Brazell Scholarship, which I was awarded in the 2006-2007 school year. Your generous donation helped me to graduate in the spring of 2007 from SAGU with a degree in elementary education...*

*...This generous contribution allowed me more time to study and helped me graduate with honors. I was also able to participate in SAGU's first women's soccer program. Without your help, I would not have been able to travel and participate in the women's soccer team or maintain a 4.0 GPA.*

*I started teaching second grade at Red Oak Elementary in the fall of 2007. I have had the chance to touch so many children's lives. One of the best parts of my job is getting to show kids how great they are. One of my goals is that my students leave my classroom at the end of the year knowing that someone loves them and thinks they are amazing. I could tell you story after story of students who have thrived by having a teacher who not only cares for them but is able to show God's love.*

*At the end of my second year of teaching in June 2009, I was awarded Teacher of the Year at my campus. I am truly blessed for the opportunity to serve in this manner.*

*Thank you for your time and contribution to SAGU. Your financial blessing has not only helped me to have a successful college career, but a successful beginning to my career as an educator. Your assistance has touched many children's lives, and I hope hundreds more in the future. I am grateful that I am able to speak for them when I say that your generosity is making a difference in the kingdom of God.*

*With much appreciation,  
April (Francis) Eide*

Will you leave a legacy? I would like to talk with you about opportunities to build your legacy by leaving SAGU a portion of your estate in your will or by setting up a trust. Some donors prefer to provide a gift outright so that they can see the scholarship in action during their lifetime.

Call me if you have any questions (972-825-4662). I welcome the opportunity to walk you through the process and answer any questions you may have. ■

# A WEALTH OF CONTENT ON sagu TV

Did you know that one of the best ways to stay connected with what happens at SAGU is through video content? More than 140 hours of video content is at your fingertips.

SAGUtv offers content for every generation of Lions. Alumni regularly share how they make chapel a part of their weekly family viewing. Parents tune into live and on-demand games for their student athletes. Youth pastors use commercials to recruit future Lions.

Here is a glimpse of the wealth of content available on SAGUtv. ■



## Sports

*Select athletic events are streamed live or archived for video on demand.*

Football  
Men's and Women's Basketball  
Volleyball

# sagu IN 60



## Featured Chapels

*By the end of Fall 2012, more than 100 chapel services will be available online. Recent notable additions include services with:*

David Barton, *best-selling author*  
Brigadier General Michael Miller  
Zollie Smith, *AG U.S. Missions executive director*

Greg Mundis, *AG World Missions executive director*

Carrie Abbott, *founder/president of Legacy Institute*

Jim Hennesy, *pastor of Trinity Church, Cedar Hill, Texas*

Mike Evans, *Middle East analyst*

Scott Wilson, *pastor of Oaks Fellowship, Red Oak, Texas*



# Channel Guide

- Featured
- Campus Life
- Chapel
- Commercials
- Seminars
- SAGU in :60
- Sports
- Student Films
- The Vault

Stay up to date with the most recent SAGU developments through "SAGU in :60." Each month throughout the semester SAGU produces this brief video report to keep alumni and friends connected.



## Seminars

Academic and service departments produce seminar content each year. This fall SAGU will add a new "SAGUtv Special Lecture Series" on topics such as biblical archaeology to join other content already available.

- Archaeology
- America in the 1890s-1920s
- Relationships
- Engagement

## Student Films

SAGUtv regulars are among the first to see new student films. SAGU Cinema's newest project is in production. Meanwhile, you can watch previous films online.

- "To Every Nation"
- "Murdoch"
- "Breaking News"



## The Vault

Discover footage from the 40s, 60s and 70s, as well as old SAGU commercials.

## Campus Life

Alumni enjoy reminiscing as they watch content from some of the most popular events that have become SAGU traditions.

- Commencement
- Homecoming
- Campus Days
- Southwestern Live
- Late Night Worship
- SAGU Snowstorm



## Commercials

Many active alumni use SAGU commercials and promotional videos to help recruit new Lions. Every new commercial makes it into the channel at SAGUtv.

# Campus Connection



## Construction continues on World Communication Center

SAGU broke ground on the World Communication Center (WCC) on Friday, April 27, 2012. Since then, 3i Construction has relocated major utility feeds, finalized design and engineering for the footings, floor and structural steel, and drilled foundation piers.

Jay Trewern, Vice President for Business and Finance says, “The highly visible portions of construction, such as the steel going up, will likely happen in September.”

Meanwhile, 3i is running storm drain and sanitary sewer lines across campus to the Sycamore Street-Highland Street intersection. Landscape plans include two fountains, benches and antique fixtures, and abundant trees and shrubs. SAGU is completing design work on the staging systems, stage lighting, security systems, building controls and the Einstein’s Bagels layout.

The WCC is the most expensive initiative SAGU has undertaken to date. In the last ten years enrollment has increased 16 percent. Growth in the communication arts led to the need for

the World Communication Center. The 79,000-square-foot project will be the second-largest building on campus and is expected to be completed in Fall 2013.

The facility will house a performance arts auditorium, black box theater, TV and film studio, audio recording studio, digital video editing lab and suites, piano lab, music library and listening lab, music practice rooms, classrooms, rehearsal halls, film screening/preaching and speech labs, offices, concessions, café, workshops, dressing rooms and more. ■



## SAGU within \$1 million of goal

SAGU received a \$2 million gift toward the construction of the World Communication Center (WCC) on Friday, April 27, 2012. President Bridges announced the contribution at the WCC groundbreaking.

The donor family, who wished to remain anonymous, had already donated \$6.8 million to the project, bringing their total WCC contribution to \$8.8 million. The gift put SAGU within \$1 million of its \$21 million goal.

Dr. John Hagee also presented a \$500,000 check to President Bridges on the day of the groundbreaking. Dr. Hagee, an accomplished SAGU alumnus, committed a total \$2.5 million toward the World Communication Center and provided the invocation to begin construction.

“The generosity of these dear friends have given us great confidence in our ability to raise the remaining funds by next April,” said President Kermit Bridges.

On April 13, SAGU was also awarded a \$1 million matching grant from the Board of the Mabee Foundation (Tulsa, Oklahoma). ■



## SAGU celebrates 101st Commencement with Rep. Jim Pitts, graduates 391 students in '11-'12

SAGU celebrated its 101st Commencement ceremony on Friday, April 27, 2012, with commencement speaker Texas Representative Jim Pitts. Two hundred seven students graduated. During the Fall 2011 - Spring 2012 school year, a total of 391 students graduated.

"SAGU has had a long-standing relationship with Representative Pitts, and we are honored that he was able to join us for our 101st Commencement ceremony," said SAGU President Bridges.

Representative Pitts addressed the students, "As I look at each of you graduating tonight, I am not able to discern what your dreams for the future may be. But, I do want you to know one important thing: you can make your dreams come true."

He continued, "I challenge you, whatever your vision is, follow it. The world is waiting for you."

In 1992, Representative Pitts was elected to the Texas State Legislature as the House Representative for District 10. Among his recognitions, Representative Pitts was Waxahachie's Outstanding Citizen of the Year in 1999, and Texas Monthly Magazine named him one of

Texas' Ten Best Legislators in 2005. Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas gave him the "Leader of Excellence Award."

Dorothy Megan Timmerman (Midlothian, Texas) was the Spring 2012 student speaker. Timmerman completed a Bachelor of Arts in English with dual specializations in literature and writing.

Timmerman spoke of how she and her colleagues stand on a foundation created by the past generations and are entering a time when they will lay the foundation for future generations. She said, "God gave us two stories: the crucifixion of Christ and our personal testimony. God said that with these two weapons we can impact the world."

Citing the literary dragon as a metaphor for the challenges ahead, Timmerman continued, "There will be dragons in our story. But the wonderful thing about dragon slayers is the more dragons they slay, the more adept they become at slaying them."

She concluded, "So, I wish you, Graduating Class of 2012, to have very good lives – through the progressive power of imagination and the faultless foundation of family." ■

## SAGU renames World Ministries program to Intercultural Studies

SAGU changed the name of the World Ministries program to Intercultural Studies this summer.

The change was approved by the President's Cabinet in May and is reflected in the new undergraduate and graduate catalogs. The undergraduate degree is now a Bachelor of Science in Intercultural Studies. The graduate degree is now a Master of Arts in Theological Studies in Intercultural Studies.

Intercultural Studies Director Chad Germany explains that the core content of the degree remains unchanged. "Missions is in SAGU's DNA. We remain deeply committed to the Great Commission, church planting, raising up indigenous churches and preparing workers who will serve on foreign mission fields."

Germany further explained that the name change was necessary to reduce security risks for students heading to creative access nations, to use terminology that appeals to future students, and to make the degree more valuable in the secular marketplace.

Graduates will benefit from the name change. "A bachelor's or master's degree in Intercultural Studies provides a stronger academic impression on a resume for alumni who work professionally while preparing for the mission field or who later seek a profession in a related field," said Germany.

Germany emphatically stated, "In no way are we backing away from missions. Just the opposite, this change is a reflection of our commitment to send workers to places that do not welcome missionary efforts."

SAGU's continued emphasis on missions is further illustrated by Mission TEN. The Mission TEN effort has now completed three years of a 10-year goal to reach every country of the world and every Chinese and Indian state by the year 2020. To date, SAGU has sent more than 350 workers to nearly 80 countries. ■

# Campus Connection



## Ransomed ministers in Costa Rica

Traveling worship band Ransomed went to Costa Rica on March 31, 2012, to lead worship at a youth retreat for Assemblies of God missionary kids (MKs) for the Caribbean and Latin American regions.

Ransomed is comprised of five vocalists and a live band that covers a wide spectrum of genres, from contemporary worship to a cappella and gospel stylings. The group traveled to the outskirts of San Jose, Costa Rica, to provide music leadership in a week-long retreat for missionary kids at LaGarita campgrounds.

Ransomed led worship during morning and evening services and ministered as camp counselors to approximately 50 teenagers and young adults of missionary families.

The retreat was sponsored by the International Society of Missionary Kids, a global support and development ministry led by Chad Phillips. The organization is a part of the Assemblies of God World Missions (AGWM) Personnel and Member Care organization.

Del and Christi Guynes are faculty advisors of Ransomed and believe ministering to the children of missionaries is vital. "A lot of them are coming to the end of their formative years at home and are making very important decisions about their future," said Del Guynes.

"We know missionary kids have unique challenges living abroad," Christi Guynes said. "Having the opportunity to be around students who love God can be a great encouragement." ■



## Theatre department performs "Shakespeare in Hollywood"

SAGU Theatre, formerly known as Drama, performed Shakespeare in Hollywood in March. The playful show is a reimagining of Shakespearian characters in modern times. It's 1934, and Shakespeare's most famous fairies, Oberon and Puck, have magically materialized on the Warner Bros. Hollywood set of Max Reinhardt's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Instantly smitten by the glitz and

glamour of show biz, the two are ushered onto the silver screen to play themselves.

The cast performed in McCafferty Hall located in the Farmer Administration Building. The show selection follows a number of well-known plays including "Over the River and Through the Woods," "The Boys Next Door," "1984," "Pride and Prejudice," "It's A Wonderful Life," and "Arsenic and Old Lace." ■



# SAGU participates in Yellow Ribbon program

Beginning Fall 2012, SAGU will participate in the Yellow Ribbon program. The program ensures full educational benefits to qualifying veterans and military family members.

“SAGU will be the only university in the South Dallas area to be a participant in this program,” said SAGU’s Veteran Affairs Coordinator Shaun Eide. “This fall, at least 50 percent of our current student-veterans are eligible to take part in the program.”

The Yellow Ribbon program is a fund-matching grant that will cover the cost of the remaining tuition that military families will have to pay out-of-pocket. The government will pay half of the remaining balance while SAGU pays the other half, up to \$22,500 in addition to the monies awarded for the housing allowance and books.

For veterans and current service men and women, SAGU offers free counseling, academic assistance and accommodations at the learning centers, free gym membership, and will also waive the application fee. Additionally, SAGU encourages student and staff veteran networking.

“While the registrar hosts an annual fellowship to introduce new veterans

to current student and staff veterans, we hope to see a veterans’ student organization started in the near future,” said Eide.

Since 2008, SAGU’s student-veteran population has doubled. In the past six years, The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs has commended SAGU for its accuracy in reporting VA benefits. The university also has a full-time VA liaison to manage veteran educational benefits throughout their enrollment.

Eide continued, “Our veterans are some of our most elite students. We appreciate their leadership and influence on our campus. And, I hope this program will encourage more to enroll at SAGU in the coming years.”

SAGU certifies enrolled students the following benefits: Chapter 33 (Post 9/11 G.I. Bill-Active Duty and Yellow Ribbon), Chapter 30 (Montgomery G.I. Bill – Active Duty), Chapter 31 (Vocational Rehabilitation), Chapter 35 (Veteran’s Spouses or Dependents), Chapter 1606 (Selected Reserve), and Chapter 1607 (Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP)). Eligibility and chapter are determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs (888.442.4551). ■



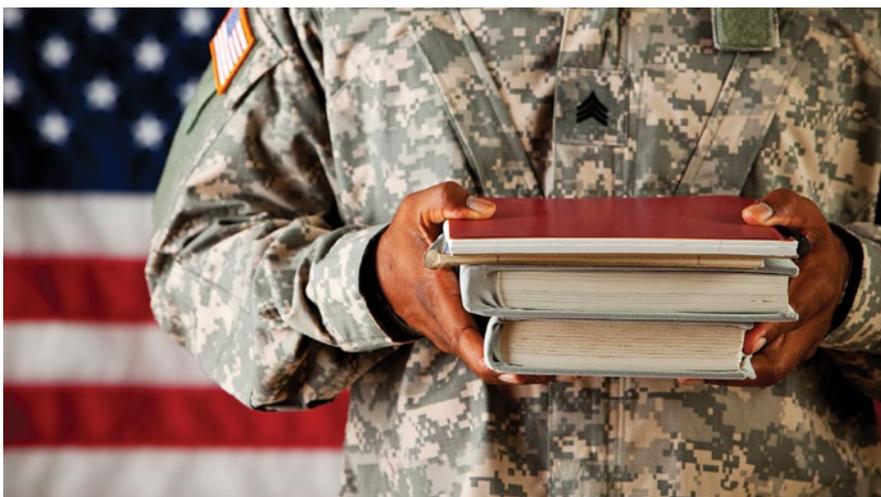
## Students help with Lancaster disaster relief

SAGU students joined Convoy of Hope and North Texas Assemblies of God to aid in disaster relief in Lancaster, Texas, after the damaging storms on April 3.

Criminal Justice and other SAGU students participated in disaster relief work on April 5-6. Volunteers met with other local Assemblies of God churches including The Oaks Fellowship, Trinity Church and The Promise Church at Harmony Tabernacle Church in Lancaster.

Harmony Tabernacle Pastor and SAGU staff member David Bush noted the devastation in some areas of Lancaster, but also acknowledged that there were no fatalities and few injuries following the disaster. “We wanted to show those in Lancaster that have been affected by the tornadoes that God is here for them spiritually, emotionally and practically,” said Bush.

SAGU students and volunteers from various churches divided into teams and offered water and boxes to victims, helped sift through debris and cleaned houses and yards. In addition to Convoy of Hope, North Texas Assemblies of God and SAGU donated clothing, food and household items. ■



# Campus Connection

## SAGU ranks as a national leader preparing Hispanic students for ministry

SAGU was recognized in June as a national leader in preparing Hispanic students for vocational ministry by "Diverse: Issues in Higher Education."

SAGU led nationally among all accredited universities for Hispanic ministry graduates at the bachelor's level for 2010-2011. SAGU is followed by other notable universities including Biola University, Southern Adventist University, Southeastern University, Moody Bible Institute and Dallas Baptist University.

Eddie Davis, Vice President for Enrollment and Retention says, "This report illustrates the heart of SAGU. We serve and train ministers from a variety of backgrounds to minister to the needs of an ailing world."

Assistant Dean of Admissions Bryan Brooks adds, "This confirms that we are fulfilling our founding purpose. This is a great achievement, but it's just the beginning. These graduates reflect the heart of SAGU and her values. I am excited to hear about their future successes."

The magazine has ranked the top 100 for minority students in other academic disciplines for years, but debuted the "religious and ministerial studies and theology" category this year. The report is based on research of Victor Borden at Indiana University Bloomington, using U.S. Department of Education data.

SAGU also remains a top producer of pastors and missionaries within the Assemblies of God. ■



## SAGU sets Campus Days record

SAGU hosted Campus Days Thursday, March 22 - Friday, March 23.

Campus Days is a 2-day opportunity for prospective students to experience SAGU campus life. More than 720 students attended the event, breaking a previous attendance record set in Spring 2009.

Student registration began at 2 p.m. on Thursday. SAGU's Admissions Department offered campus tours, an academic fair, and sessions about applications and Financial Aid during the day. On Friday, admissions counselors were available for individual appointments with guests, while other guests attended classes with current students.

In the evening, campus groups hosted events including a student-produced sketch comedy show "Southwestern Live," a block party, Jazz and Java, SAGU Unplugged, mechanical bull-riding, sports tournaments, and Late Night Worship. Pizza, cotton candy, beverages

and other refreshments were provided.

Guests also attended the chapel service. During Friday's chapel, SAGU prospect Destiny Rivercomb was awarded a \$4,000 scholarship. Randy Ijeh, a SAGU church ministries major, was the chapel speaker for the day.

Professors were impressed with the participation of the visitors. Faculty member Dana White said, "There was one young lady in particular who not only came to class but fully participated in our class discussion."

SAGU professors were also impressed with the consideration SAGU students showed to visitors by offering their seats and including them in discussions.

Professor Gary Royer said, "My 42 regular students in my 'Understanding the Spirit World' class were awesome! They invited the visitors to take the desks while my students sat on the floor in front. Then they allowed me to teach our guests as though they were the students and not just observers." ■

### SAGU NEWS ONLINE

Follow SAGU news weekly on [www.sagu.edu/news](http://www.sagu.edu/news), SAGU's Facebook page or Twitter @sagu.

## SAGU Cinema tackles fifth summer production

SAGU Cinema is filming “Under the Sun,” the university’s third summer film and fifth major production in the past five years. The crew indicates an expected November 2012 release.

Principle photography occurred in April and May. SAGU senior Taylor Johnson wrote the script while Communication Arts Instructor Rob Price and SAGU senior and Film Director Krystle Sonmore provided additional screenwriting assistance.

According to the SAGU Cinema team, “Under the Sun” balances drama and comedy to explore how to negotiate life when an unexpected tragedy occurs. Main character Jacob Richards grapples with the aftermath of a senseless high school shooting and a second shooting exactly six years later at the same school.



A favorite teacher is seriously wounded, and Jacob is thrust into a powerful journey to figure out the ultimate meaning of life.

“I wanted to write about the universal feeling that comes after a traumatic event where you question everything,” Johnson said. “Most people have lost a family member, or known someone with cancer. I wanted to explore that part of life that doesn’t always make sense on the surface.”

“The bar has been raised, and this film will showcase our school’s best scriptwriting and highest production values to date,” Price said. “That’s a major credit to the students who have already graduated from SAGU. They were the pioneers when we were getting the digital media arts program off the ground. ‘Under the Sun’ stands on top of their shoulders.” ■



## Alumna walks 250 miles for pro-life cause

SAGU alumna Carisma Reyes walked 250 miles in 21 days with 38 other women for the “Back to Life” movement in an effort to raise awareness of the injustices of abortion.

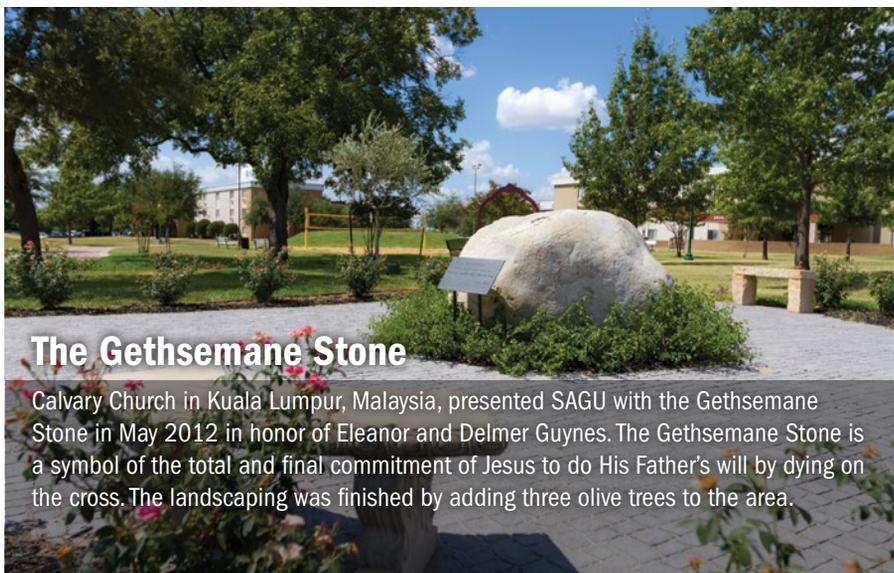
The 39 participants sacrificed their time to walk from a Planned Parenthood abortion facility in Houston, Texas, to the Dallas courthouse where Roe versus Wade was tried. The walk began on Saturday, March 17 and ended Friday, April 6. The women averaged 12 to 13 miles per day.

Each of the 39 women represented the number of years that abortion has been a legal practice in America. All participants, including Reyes, have been touched in some way by abortion. On the “Back to Life” movement website, Reyes shares her testimony.

Supporters were able to view a live stream online of the 39 ladies’ journey, complete with updates and testimonies from each of the participants.

Current SAGU student Charis Bobb-Semple is a strong supporter of the “Back To Life” movement, frequently using social networking to spread the word about the cause. She suggests that it is not the only way to get involved with the movement. “Another way to get involved is to pray fervently,” she said.

The 39 walkers were joined by thousands of women across the nation as they entered Dallas. ■



### The Gethsemane Stone

Calvary Church in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, presented SAGU with the Gethsemane Stone in May 2012 in honor of Eleanor and Delmer Guynes. The Gethsemane Stone is a symbol of the total and final commitment of Jesus to do His Father’s will by dying on the cross. The landscaping was finished by adding three olive trees to the area.



# reappointed

Each of SAGU's 12 presidents since 1927 has served a distinguished role – elevating SAGU and nurturing the Christian principles upon which it was built. President Kermit Bridges has reached a distinct milestone. Newly elected to a fifth term, he will become SAGU's longest serving president, shepherding SAGU's growth for 16 years.

President Bridges spent most of his childhood in Waxahachie, Texas. Upon graduation from Waxahachie High School, he enrolled at SAGU where he graduated in 1982.

SAGU Professor John Wyckoff shared, "I remember in the early years of my teaching career, there was a young student named Kermit Bridges in my Biblical Hermeneutics class. Since then, it has been amazing to see him progress, grow in challenging career positions, and develop into a quality leader. As a Bible and theology professor, I am especially pleased to know that President Bridges is leading SAGU from a personal, biblical and theological foundation that is solidly evangelical and Pentecostal."

Bridges attended and received graduate degrees from Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in Springfield, Mo.; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas; and Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., where he was awarded a Doctor of Ministry. His doctoral program focused on church leadership and management.

Bridges served as vice president for University Advancement from 1994 to 1999, during which he directed what was SAGU's most effective capital campaign, resulting in the construction of phase one of the Sheaffer Center and the acquisition of the former North Campus. He also provided oversight to a student recruitment strategy, which produced seven consecutive record enrollments.

In December 1999, the Board of Regents selected Bridges to succeed Dr. Delmer R. Guynes as president. Under Bridges, SAGU has added 25 new academic programs, eight of which

were in the Harrison School of Graduate Studies. Nineteen additional degree programs are being evaluated for addition in the next five years. Enrollment has increased 16 percent since 2001, from 1,738 students to 2,023 in 2012.

"President Bridges works diligently to ensure academic excellence for SAGU students and a healthy workplace for those who work here," Dean of Academic Services Donny Lutrick said.

"He allows employees to take ownership of their projects – to invest in SAGU's vision – and is quick to recognize a job well done. Making the Dallas Morning News Top 100 Workplaces is a testament to President Bridges's leadership and genuine concern for SAGU employees."

Following the completion of the World Communication Center in Fall 2013, SAGU's developed square footage will reach 706,000, of which 392,932 was constructed in last 10 years. Including his service as Vice President, Bridges has been instrumental in the construction of SAGU's four largest building projects.

"During Dr. Bridges' presidency, I have appreciated his commitment to staying relevant and progressive while maintaining biblical values and standards in morality, conduct, biblical truth, and Pentecostalism," shared SAGU Professor Danny Alexander.

Bridges is an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God. Prior to his service at SAGU he served as senior pastor of First Assembly of God in Grand Prairie, Texas, and as associate pastor at Oak Cliff Assembly of God in Dallas, Texas, Park Crest Assembly of God in Springfield, Mo., and First Assembly of God in Garland, Texas.

While serving on the staff at Oak Cliff Assembly of God, Kermit met his wife Jan Quistad, native of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mrs. Bridges has been a teacher in public and Christian schools, filled education administration roles, and now serves as an adjunct faculty member at SAGU. The Bridgeses have two sons, James, 18, and Forrest, 15. ■

# Faculty Notes



**Ronnie Blout (M.A.)** completed 12 hours of theatre toward a Master of Arts in theatre education in the University of Houston's Theatre Education program.



**Tyrone Block (M.M.)** received the Colonel Finley R. Hamilton Military Outstanding Musician Award on January 13, 2012. The National Band Association and John Philip Sousa Foundation presented Block with the award, recognizing his exceptional musical and leadership excellence.



**Donnie Bostwick (M.Ed.)** was named NCCAA Region Coach of the Year. He also serves on the NAIA Executive Basketball Committee. This

summer, he traveled to Bhutan with SMA student missionaries.



**Tom Ferguson (M.A.)** was named inventor for U.S. Patent 8,218,740 issued on July 10, 2012. The patent describes an invention that

makes it possible for a telecommunications network to recover more quickly from problems caused by heavy user demand.



**Amy George (MFA)** signed a contract with Finishing Line Press for the publication of her second print collection of poetry titled

“Desideratum.” The book includes poetic reflections on biblical characters and poems of devotion to the Lord. The book has received an endorsement by Dr. Ben Witherington, New Testament scholar and frequent contributor to Christianity Today. The book's pre-release sale period is Sept. 25 - Nov. 9, 2012. The book will be officially released on Jan. 5, 2013.



**Kristi Martin (Ed.D.)** was elected as the ACSI Vice Chair on the Accreditation Governance Commission. The commission oversees

accreditation for ACSI. She also designed and implemented a preschool music lab for her school, Harvest Child Development Center. It was named an Exemplary Education Program by ACSI, an honor only bestowed upon a couple of programs each year worldwide.



**Brigadier General Michael Miller (Ph.D.)** was recently hired as a full-time distance education associate professor for the business department. His

vitae includes a Ph.D., Walden University; M.S.S., Air War College; M.B.A., University of North Dakota; and B.A., University of New Orleans. General Miller was Assistant Surgeon General, Strategic Medical Plans, Programs and Budget, and Chief of the Medical Service Corps, Office of the Surgeon General, Arlington, Virginia.



**Clancy Hayes and Bruce Rosdahl** spent two weeks in May 2012 teaching “Principles of Teaching” and “Christian Ethics” respectively at the Mongolian Assemblies of God Bible Training Center. They also spoke at local churches and conducted a church conference at Hope Assembly of God in Ulan Bator.



**Garland Owensby (D.Ed.Min.)**

served as the camp evangelist for six summer camps (South Texas, West Texas, Louisiana, Arizona, New Jersey and Butterfield Assembly of God, Van Buren, Ark.).



**Ava Pickard (MSSW)** will release her first book “The Healing Power of Home: Seven Virtues You Need When You Hurt” through Creation House Publishers on Oct. 10, 2012.

# MISSION TEN

TO EVERY NATION  
tribe & tongue



Over the years, SAGU has remained dedicated to The Great Commission – bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. In 2010, SAGU began Mission TEN (To Every Nation), an initiative to preach the Gospel to 193 countries and all Indian and Chinese states by the year 2020. Within three years, more than 350 SAGU students have traveled to 80 countries, with another 31 slated for next year.

On the mission field students have taught Christian

education, passed out literature, hosted prayer and healing services, participated in street evangelism, and partnered with Convoy of Hope and King's Castle Ministries. In sensitive nations, students have found creative avenues for ministry like teaching English, partnering with medical mission teams, working at coffee houses, helping with home and school construction, volunteering at orphanages, and leading sports camps. ■

# MISSIONTEN

## YEAR 1

- Belize
- Costa Rica
- Dominican Republic
- France
- Ghana
- India
- Kenya
- Mexico
- Moldova
- Peru
- Russia
- Rwanda
- South Africa
- Southeast Asia
- Southern India
- Sweden
- Uganda



# MISSIONTEN

## YEAR 2

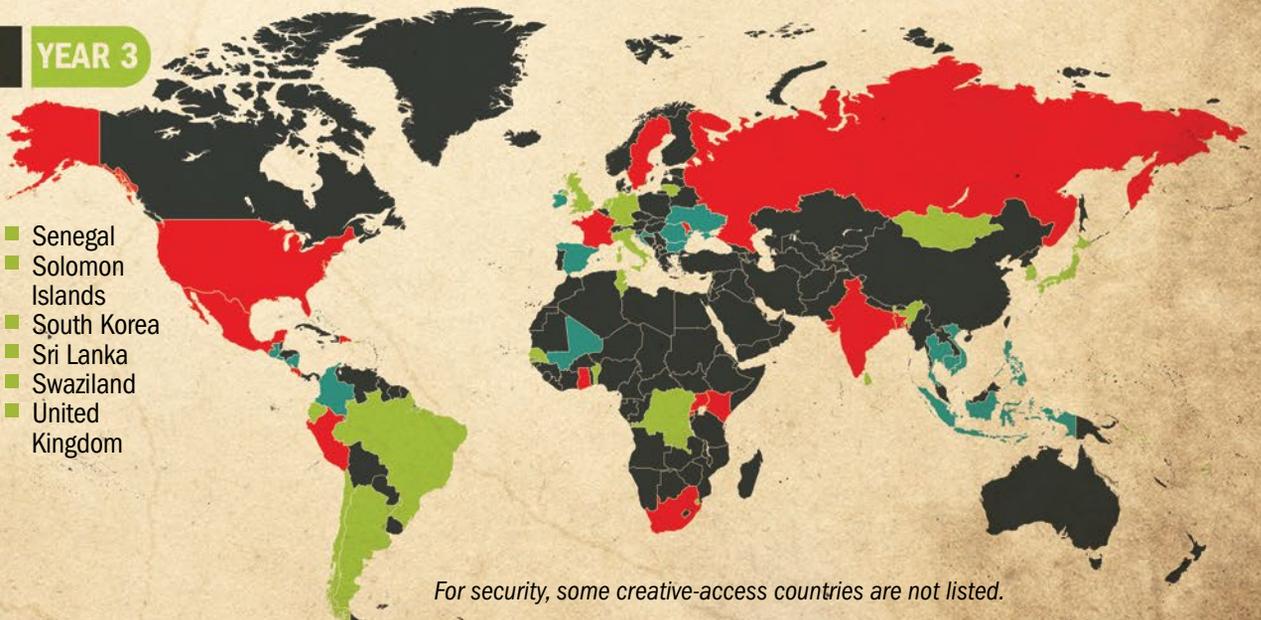
- Bahamas
- Bulgaria
- Cambodia
- Colombia
- Croatia
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Indonesia
- Ireland
- Mali
- Nicaragua
- Philippines
- Romania
- Spain
- Sweden
- Thailand
- Ukraine



# MISSIONTEN

## YEAR 3

- Argentina
- Benin
- Brazil
- Chile
- Ecuador
- Fiji
- Germany
- Italy
- Japan
- Lithuania
- Mongolia
- Netherlands
- North Africa
- Puerto Rico
- Scotland
- Senegal
- Solomon Islands
- South Korea
- Sri Lanka
- Swaziland
- United Kingdom



For security, some creative-access countries are not listed.



## Athletes named "Players of the Year"

On April 19, 2012, Krystal Cisneros and Danny Martinez were named SAGU's 2012 Players of the Year at the annual sports banquet.

Volleyball player Cisneros was a two-time First Team All-Conference selection at middle blocker. She led the team with an average of 2.7 kills per game and was third in the Red River Athletic Conference (RRAC) with 128 blocked shots. The team finished fourth in the RRAC while posting a 23-18 record.

Junior soccer forward Martinez led the RRAC in scoring with 15 goals and eight assists. He led the men's soccer team (10-9-5) in their first-ever winning season. The team rose from last to seventh and went 3-0, winning the NCCAA's Central Regional. ■

View other athletic feature content at [sagu.edu/athletics](http://sagu.edu/athletics)



Weekly scores and statistics



Streaming and video on demand



Photos

## Student athletes earn academic honors

The Red River Athletic Conference (RRAC) released a list of academically notable athletes during the past school year, including 59 from SAGU.

The RRAC has 15 members from four states; Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and New Mexico.

SAGU ranked fourth in the number of student athletes who achieved a 3.0 grade point average or higher. The only schools ahead of SAGU were the University of the Southwest (NM), Texas Wesleyan University and Bacone College (OK).

SAGU is represented by seven sports

teams in the RRAC: volleyball, men's and women's soccer, men's and women's basketball, baseball and softball.

The Lions had another 10 from the football team, who were previously recognized by the Central States Football League, giving SAGU 69 scholar athletes.

Of the eight competitive team sports on campus, the men's soccer team placed 12th on the All-Academic Team. The baseball and football clubs were next with 10. Each unit was well represented with at least seven on the honor roll. ■

## Athletic academic honor roll

### Baseball

Rockie Davis  
Jared Denton  
Dustin Jett  
Timothy Kolczak  
Nic Morgan  
Michael Reeves  
Johnathan Savis  
Trevor Schexneider  
Chris Stanley  
Donovan Vess

### Basketball (Men)

Caleb Feemster  
Samuel Haynes  
Michael Nwelue  
Clayton O'Neill  
James Southerland  
Dadrian Taylor  
Nathaniel Ward  
Jacob Whitman  
Christian Wood-Dvorak

### Basketball (Women)

O'Kevia Bratchett  
Kristina Brown  
Gabrielle Bruner  
Kassy Cox  
Brittany Griffin  
Sierra Hankins  
Bethany Krock  
Sascha Lewis

### Football

Joshua Aldrich  
Kendal Evers  
Reid Golson  
Joshua Harris  
Bradley Heathcock  
Michael Hendon  
Nathan Kallal  
Cade Leuschner  
Jason Rice  
Ramsey Sanchez

### Soccer (Men)

Samuel Cabrera  
William Elliott  
Cesar Espana  
David Flores  
Rolando Hernandez  
Brenden Kowalski  
Samuel Mills  
Erick Quan  
Jacques Rogers  
Jordan Salvato  
Stephen Sturgeon  
James Swearingin

### Soccer (Women)

Kristina Armbrust  
Alyssa Christensen  
Emily Jones  
Kendall Murders  
Jessica Powell  
Noelle Pugliese  
Haley Shingleton

### Softball

Theresa Ballard  
Gabrielle Bruner  
Shannen Davis  
Iliana Jimenez  
Cassandra Mata  
Tabitha Ray  
Kayla Westbrook

### Volleyball

Kristina Brown  
Taylor Calverley  
Kassy Cox  
Carleigh Dollar  
Laura Espinoza  
Jessica Giese  
Devan Guynes  
Alyssa Kirk  
Amanda Laney

2011-2012

*Season Highlights*



2012 marked the inaugural season of Lady Lions fast-pitch softball.



After a 27-11 season, the Lions finished third at the Division I NCCAA National Championship.



Men's soccer had its best season in SAGU history by winning Regionals and advancing to the NCCAA National Tournament.



The Lady Lions returned to the NCCAA Nationals for the fifth time in seven years.



Lions baseball increased their season wins by 50 percent over last year.

# THE ULTIMATE SOCIAL NETWORK



It has often been said that getting a job is more about who you know than what you know. But, as the world changes at breathtaking speed, and the economy becomes more global, it is also becoming more competitive. Now, both who and what you know are critical – extending beyond the classroom to real-work experience.

So how do college interns get the upper hand? Internships.

From apprenticeship to internship, craftsmen and businessmen alike have used training programs to educate aspiring professionals. Babylonian artisans were required by law to teach their craft to the youth. In the middle ages, young Europeans' social statuses notably improved when they became craftsmen. It wasn't until the 1960s that internships became what America knows them as today.

SAGU senior Bianca Alarcon found out about Chicago's ABC Channel 7 News' internship through an acquaintance of her uncle. After applying and interviewing, Bianca didn't hear anything for a month. After a long wait, she was notified that she was selected.

"I couldn't believe that my boss had picked me, from a school that he had never heard of,

when I was competing against students from local, well-known universities like DePaul, Northwestern and Columbia," Alarcon admitted. "It was God's favor."

Initially, Bianca was interested in becoming a media journalist, but after her internship, she found that she could enjoy working in production. From casting local guests to researching the "question of the day," she made her internship valuable – so much so that her boss is making her internship a full-time position. She is hopeful it will be offered to her.

Internships provide students with supplemental experience outside of the classroom and give businesses a way to test drive talent before they hire. SAGU Director of Career Services Beverly Robinson shared, "Internships are a great way to increase productivity, take advantage of low-cost labor, increase employee retention rates, and give back to the SAGU community."

Internships can fulfill unmet needs that the company might not even be aware are present. Not

only can interns provide the manpower to try out new ideas, but they can also give a fresh perspective that can increase the company's profits.

SAGU alumnus Trey Mitchell, a small town boy from El Dorado, Ark., landed an internship with Murphy Oil Corporation before his last semester of college. Murphy Oil had never offered internships until Trey approached them. By the end of his final semester, Murphy Oil launched a permanent internship program and offered him a position as an accountant.

Mitchell shared, "Most corporations like to hire from within. So, you come in, work hard, shake hands, be courteous, and be a team player. If they see your work ethic, know your name and face, and can trust you, they'll hire you."

"I couldn't believe that my boss had picked me from a school that he had never heard of...I was competing against students from local, well-known universities like DePaul, Northwestern and Columbia. It was God's favor."

**Bianca Alarcon** ▶  
Intern, ABC News, Chicago, Ill.





# THE ULTIMATE SOCIAL NETWORK

CONTINUED

“Most corporations like to hire from within. So, you come in, work hard, shake hands, be courteous, and be a team player. If they see your work ethic, know your name and face, and can trust you, they’ll hire you.”



According to NACE (National Association of Colleges and Employers), 60 percent of paid interns were offered job positions this year, increasing intern hiring within companies by 8.5 percent.

Retention rates of full-time hires who were interns with an organization were noticeably greater than the rates of hires without such experience. After one year on the job, employees who were hired from the organization’s internship program had a 75.7 percent retention rate while only 66.5 percent of hires that had no internship experience of any kind were still with the organization. After five years, 62.4 percent of intern hires remained with the company, compared to just 48.1 percent of non-intern hires.

SAGU alumna Crystalyn Maloney always had an affinity for the Disney brand and over time grew to love the imagination and focus on customer service. When she heard about Disney’s student internship through Beverly Robinson, she jumped at the opportunity.

◀ **Trey Mitchell**  
Interned with Murphy Oil, El Dorado, Ark.,  
Hired as Accountant for Murphy Oil



**Crystalyn Maloney** ▶

Served student and professional internships with Disney  
Hired in Disney's recruitment marketing division

"I knew that Disney would be the perfect place for me to practice what I love most – marketing and business – and I would be challenged and have opportunities to grow," Maloney shared. "I wanted to be a part of Disney's unique creativity and ever-stretching of the imagination."

After completing a college internship, she began her professional internship earning a spot in Disney recruitment marketing. She has now been working for Disney for five years.

SAGU emphasizes the integration of education with real-life experience to give its students a leg up in the job market. Thirty-seven of the 40

undergraduate programs that SAGU offers require an internship to graduate.

Internships at SAGU are broad-reaching. Students have recently interned with

**"Internship opportunities at SAGU are broad-reaching. Students have recently interned with companies such as Walmart (Headquarters), Haliburton, Nordstrom's, Arlington Police Department, film studios in California and professional sports teams."**

companies such as Walmart (Headquarters), Haliburton, Nordstrom's, Arlington Police Department, film studios in California and

area professional sports teams.

SAGU continues to network with companies who offer internships to students. Career Services is looking to partner with alumni who own businesses or work within companies that may benefit from an internship program.

If you are interested in offering internships to SAGU students, contact Career Services at [careerservices@sagu.edu](mailto:careerservices@sagu.edu) or call 1-888-YES-SAGU. ■

# YOUNG CHAMPIONS

ALUMNI FROM THE LAST 10 YEARS DEMONSTRATE PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE



One of the greatest testaments to a university's success is the achievements of her alumni – particularly young alumni who are forging their paths and finding their unique ways to leave their marks. Alumni Relations has the privilege of catching up with young alumni to reflect upon their successes within the first ten years following graduation.

**1 Aaron Burke - B.S., History, 2006; J.D., Baylor Law**

Associate Attorney, Hartline Dacus Barger Dreyer, LLP, Dallas, Texas

Aaron's practice concentrates on injury defense for domestic and international companies such as automobile and RV manufacturers, oil and gas companies, surveyors, government contractors, equipment rental companies and construction companies. He graduated Magna Cum Laude and was an editor for Baylor Law Review. Aaron says, "Being a trial lawyer is much like being a teacher, only our students are the jury and judge."

**2 Jeanene Mutchler - B.S., Church Ministries, 2006; M.Div. with a focus in Urban Ministry, Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary**

Teen Center and Family Ministries Director, Metro Baptist Church and Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries, "Hell's Kitchen" Manhattan, New York, New York

Jeanene, who specialized in cross-cultural ministry at SAGU, explains, "The principles I learned in my classes enable me to work with the diverse population of Hell's Kitchen. When I came to Metro, I was able to combine two things I care most about – faith and social justice work."

**3 Sarah Moody - B.S., Psychology and Theology, 2002**

Creative Design Operations department, The Estee Lauder Companies, New York, New York

Sarah is the creative material project manager for Estee Lauder Fragrance, Aerin Beauty, Breast Cancer Awareness Foundation, and other special events. Her responsibilities include TV, collateral, merchandising, advertising, scent pieces and print.

**4 Emily Van Wie - B.S., Accounting, 2002; M.P.Aff., Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management, UT at Dallas**

Executive Director, Bridges Safehouse, Inc., Cedar Hill, Texas

Emily serves in domestic and foreign nonprofit support. "I believe that each time God has spoken to me through those partnerships and experiences. My education helped form the passions I now have and am living out."

**5 Robien Christie - B.S., Business Marketing, 2011**

Director of Marketing, VAR Resources, Inc., Mesquite, Texas

Robien enjoys the freedom of creativity. He says, "Typically in a corporate position you work inside a cubicle and have a mundane

routine. Because I work in the marketing department, I am able to express my creativity in developing new promotions and examining new approaches to position our products or services."

**6 Kristin Jonker - B.S., Business Management, 2008**

Revenue Analyst, Southwest Airlines, Dallas, Texas

Kristin is in charge of revenue management for 26 markets and four cities. She monitors traffic flow and demand during holidays, special events, games and other activities. Kristin recalls a chapel sermon by Business Department Chair Barry Gordon as a pivotal moment in her college career – realizing that she was preparing to be a "business missionary."

**7 Ryan Beaty - B.S., Church Ministries, 2002; M. Div., Expository Preaching, AGTS**

Lead Pastor, VillageHouston Church, Houston, Texas

Ryan launched VillageHouston in August 2011, a church plant in the University Place neighborhood of Houston, Texas. He has also received several notable honors: Samuel J. Martinez Award in Excellence (2010), Princeton Honors in Business Leadership (2010), "Burnett Fellow" AGTS (2008), and Who's Who Among American Young Professionals (2007).

**8 Lindsay Guynes - B.S., History, 2008; MBA, SMU**

Senior Consultant, Hitachi Consulting, Dallas, Texas

Hitachi is a global business and Information Technology consulting company. Lindsay lends her skills in problem solving to an industry filled with ambiguity. She credits SAGU's faculty for shaping her career path: "I can point to several significant times of prayer with professors that helped shape who I am and the path that I'm on."

**9 David Roark - B.A., English, 2009**

Content Manager at The Village Church, Dallas, Texas; Freelance Writer for Christianity Today, Paste Magazine and Relevant magazine

"In my English courses, my professors taught me all that I didn't know about the English language (which was a lot) and how to dissect and analyze literature – something that has really translated into the way I now watch, criticize and write about movies." ■

# Class Notes



## 1940s

**Edgar (1949) and Dorothy (1949) Mitchell** were pastors of Trinity Assembly of God in Woodville, Ohio, for 30 years. Dorothy passed away in 1977.

## 1960s

**1 Barbara (Carrington) Sheddan (1962)** received her ordination certificate from Superintendent James Braddy and his wife Judi during the Northern California/Nevada's District Council in April 2012. She serves on staff as the music minister at Lakeport Christian Center in Lakeport, Calif.

**Gene Finkenbinder (1963)** and his wife own the Alps Motel in Leadville, Colo.

**\*\*Lewis and Sandra (Ross) McCown (1964)** continue their 34th year with Assemblies of God Foreign Missions in the Latin America/Caribbean

Area. They worked in Haiti for two terms and are now with the Caribbean School of Theology, a mobile seminary with locations in Jamaica, the Bahamas, Trinidad, Turks and Caicos Islands, Guyana, Suriname and Belize.

**2 Carolyn Vail (1964)** worked 34 years for Texas Instruments, primarily in finance and accounting. She retired in 2001.

**3 Doug Rose (1965)** and Dolly travel with Living Portraits, a Bible-based drama ministry. They have traveled to Great Britain, Germany, New Zealand, Mexico and the United States in ministry. Dolly received the Woman of the Year Award in the St. Louis area for Religion. She recently appeared at the Summit Theatre in the Dallas area Easter presentation of Mary Magdalene. Doug is a freelance writer for Guideposts and Gospel Publishing House. The Roses reside in Grand Prairie, Texas.

**4 Roy (1968) and Vickie (1986) Smeya** served in El Salvador and Honduras for 18 years along with their two sons Shanon and J.J. After grieving the death of J.J., Vickie received a Master of Arts in Christian counseling at AGTS. During the

last 19 years she continued her missions service stateside to Latin Americans. Roy served 20 countries in preparing Latin Americans for full-time ministry. After counseling for a few years, Vickie became a commissioned Assemblies of God Hospice Care Chaplain, and now provides research for Roy's evangelization and discipleship of Latin Americans with disabilities. Last year, Vickie received a community service award from the Branson Chamber of Commerce, in Branson, Mo.

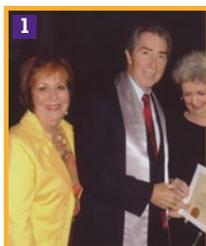
## 1970s

**5 Stan and Sue (Gray) Drew (1970)** are Assemblies of God missionaries in Swaziland, South Africa.

**6 John N. Hall (1977)** completed the final book in his Oak Cliff Assembly of God historical trilogy, "The Good Stuff." He also published a historical family opus called "One American Family - The Hall Saga." He and his wife Andrea are proud grandparents of a little girl, Ellie Rai.

## 1980s

**7 Rafael Herrera (1987)** received his Master of Arts in mass communications and his Master of Divinity in theology. He teaches at Fresno Rescue Mission in California. He disciples, equips, and trains students for ministry. Herrera also started The Word Walk School of Ministry in Selma and Fresno, Calif. The school's focus is training and equipping men and women in pastoral, evangelistic and teaching ministries, lay leadership and church leadership, apologetics, hermeneutics, and homiletics. In addition to the school of ministry, he writes a column for the local newspaper called "The Word Talk."



## 2000s

**8 Dr. Scott T. Bottoms (2002)** and his wife **Linda (Miller) Bottoms (1990)** recently became lead pastors at the Church at Briargate in Colorado Springs, Colo. Linda continues to serve as the District Girls Ministries director.

**Jim and Melissa (Archer) Kautz (2002)** married on March 10, 2007. They have pastored First Assembly of God in Texas City, Texas, for three years. On December 20, 2008, their first daughter Kayden Alyse was born and on June 15, 2012, Isabella Ann was born. Melissa is the Women of Excellence director at Texas City First Assembly and is the WM's Gulf Coast sectional director.

**9 Kristie Boggs (2004)** earned a Master of Arts in community counseling from Louisiana State University. She graduated Aug. 3, 2012.

**Reverend Jeremy Lopez (2004)** is a full-time pastor at Salem United Church of Christ.

**10 Aimee Montgomery (2006)** works for Deloitte, one of the largest management consulting companies in the world, as an account management professional and lead client marketer. In her free time she started a nonprofit ministry to promote ministries on a worldwide radio broadcast with nearly 22,000 listeners. She authored her first book in 2009 and recently launched her own on-demand show on an online network.

**11 Kellen Moore (2009)** serves in Lancaster, Calif., as his church's junior high, middle school and children's pastor. Since adding the children's ministry, he has been working with ages 5-14 years. He also works as Yo Gabba-Gabba's DJ Lance Rock at children's birthday parties.

**12 Thomas Witschi (2009)** graduated from SAGU with a Master of Arts. He recently celebrated the publication of his first children's picture book titled "Sammy is Special." Witschi plans to write more picture books and at least one children's series.

## 2010s

**Brian (2010) and Krista Spatz** married July 16, 2011, in Snohomish, Wash. Krista is finishing her undergraduate degree at Northwest University while Brian is the full-time student ministries pastor at Shoreline Community Church.

**Joseph Kelley (2011) and Sherri Davis (2011)** married on May 21, 2011. They are now youth pastors at Monticello First Assembly of God in Arkansas.

**13 Serena (Delatorre) Trimmier (2011)** is a case manager for a Christian foster/adoption agency called Arrow Child and Family Ministries. She manages the foster home and the holistic care of children (e.g. spiritual, emotional, medical, psychological).

## Celebrations

**Royce and Marzelle (Buford) Parish (1947)** celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on August 31 with their family of three sons and their wives, five grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

**Paul (2002) Franks** and wife Tina Marie welcomed Oliver Nathanael Franks into their family on July 14, 2012. Alexander Franks (born January 2010) enjoys being a big brother. Shortly before Oliver's arrival, Paul successfully defended his dissertation, "A Rational Problem of Evil: The Coherence of Christian Doctrine with a Broad Free Will Defense," and earned his Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma. Paul and Tina Marie currently reside in Toronto, Canada, where Paul is an assistant professor of philosophy, and Tina Marie is assistant director of Seminary Admissions, both at Tyndale University College and Seminary.

**14 Jennifer VanEgdom (2002)** married Ty Fuller on May 4, 2012, in Greeley, Colo. Jennifer received an Associate of Arts in media communications and a Bachelor of Science in

business administration from SAGU. Jennifer is office manager for the Board of County Commissioners of Weld County, Colo.

**15 Dustin Johnston (2009) and Cara Miles (2010)** married Sept. 24, 2011. Dustin is student ministries pastor at Central Assembly of God in Bossier City, La. Cara acts and directs theatre in the community.

**16 Blake (2011) and Ana Mauldin** were married on June 4, 2011, in Houston, Texas. Blake became a father to Matthew, Ana's son. They are expecting another. Blake has worked for Macy's for three years and has worked his way up in the company. He has now been promoted 6 times and is an executive. The Mauldins live in Houston but are open to Macy's taking them anywhere in the country.

**17 Landon Perry (2011) and Audrey Reyes (2012)** married on June 24, 2012.

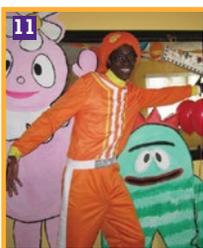
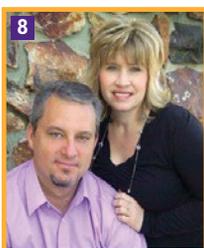
**18** In April 2011, **Vanessa Valle (2011)** married Lowell Perry, an alumnus of Northwest Assemblies of God University. Vanessa works at Anchorage Community Mental Health Services. The Perrys celebrated the birth of their first child Isaac Wallace Perry on April 20, 2012.

**Jose Lopez, Jr. (2012) and Natassia Giles** married on July 7, 2012.

## In Memoriam

**Velma (Keel) Hutchinson (1941)** of Pryor, Okla., went to be with Jesus on May 25, 2012. She attended Southwestern Bible Institute in Enid, Okla., and also attended Shield of Faith in Fort Worth, Texas. Velma was the widow of Alfred "Uncle Al" Hutchinson, a former SAGU professor. She is survived by her sister, Leslie (Keel) Yates, also a SAGU alumna.

**David Lafayette Savell (1955)** passed away July 23, 2012, in Baytown, Texas. He was born the son of Rev. James and Ibbie Savell in Chalmette, La., in 1932. He was preceded in death by his wife Carole (Savage) Savell. Savell is survived by



# Class Notes

his three children, two grandchildren, and one great granddaughter.

**Rev. Harold Wade Thompson (1942)** was born on Jan. 17, 1926, and passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011. Rev. Thompson was a resident of Fort Smith, Ark. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II as a Yeoman Third Class from 1944-1946. He is survived by his wife Merle Thompson.

**Rev. George Elrod (1948)** was born on July 6, 1925, and went to be with Jesus on Friday, Sept. 16, 2011. Rev. Elrod graduated with his bachelor's degree from Southwestern Bible Institute in May 1948. He was a resident of Modesto, Calif.

**19 Mary Frances (Graham) Waltrip (1948)** passed away early Friday morning, July 6, 2012. She was born in Austin, Texas, to ordained ministers W.S. and Catherine (Winder) Graham on Sept. 26, 1927. She attended Southwestern Bible Institute upon graduating from Texas High School in Luling, Texas. She was preceded in death by both her parents and her first husband Nelson Keen. She and her second husband and childhood sweetheart B.A. Waltrip celebrated their 22nd wedding anniversary in February 2012. Mary Waltrip's daughter, Karen Bigaouette, her granddaughter Cheri Wagner, and her husband B.A. were with her when she passed. She is survived by her daughter, son, two brothers, and many grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

**20 Glydle (Savage) Wiley (1951)** passed away on June 7, 2012. She was born on April 17, 1930, to Floyd and Josie Savage. Wiley was an active member of the Southwestern Women's Auxiliary (SWA). She was preceded in death by her husband Dave Wiley.

**Oren Coy Paris (1955)** passed away on June 21, 2012. He was born in Cache, Okla., on June 24, 1935. Paris was the founder and chancellor of Ecclesia College. He graduated from Texas Wesleyan University and Southwestern Bible Institute. He is survived by his wife Inez Paris (1955), his son and three daughters.

**Rev. Wallace Eddlemon (1961)** passed away on March 12, 2012. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. Rev. Eddlemon was a resident of Eudora, Ark., at the time of his passing. He is survived by his wife Pearlle Eddlemon.

**Rev. Jeff Ortner (1976-1980)** went to be with the Lord on May 1, 2010, after his battle with cancer. He pastored in Meridian, Texas, for 23 years and preached until his death. He and his wife **Ellrena (Sullivan) Ortner (1976-1980)** pioneered the church in Meridian. Rev. Ortner and his wife had two children: **Awnya**, who graduated from SAGU (1999-2003) with an education degree, and Jeffery, who ranches with his mother.

**21 Verlene Hope (Gajewski) Edwards (1982)** went to be with the Lord at 56 years old on June 10, 2012. Verlene was a teacher and a resident of Mansfield, Texas. She is survived by her husband **David Edwards (1984)** and her two sons Jordan and Joshua Edwards.

**22 Cheryl Elizabeth Stanley (2008)** went to her heavenly home on Sunday, Dec. 12, 2010, after battling cancer for more than a year. Cheryl was born on Oct. 7, 1966, and was a resident of Waxahachie, Texas.

**Charles Utah Sutterfield**, age 79 and a resident of Russellville, Ark., passed away on June 1, 2012. He was born May 14, 1933, at Landis, Ark., to Samuel Carol and Gertrude Lawrence Sutterfield. He was a retired Assembly of God evangelist and pastor. Sutterfield was preceded in death by his parents, sister, and nephew. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Lea Sutterfield, four sons and daughters-in-law, brother, 11 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

**Reverend Granville T. Duncan** was born on June 20, 1947, and passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2011. Rev. Granville was a resident of Seminary, Miss.

**Rev. James S. Edwards** was born on April 19, 1918, and passed away on Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2011. Rev. Edwards was a resident of Van Buren, Ark.

**Rev. Murray Wallace Kemper** was born in Poplar Bluff, Mo., on April 25, 1919, to John and Iza (Dempsey) Kemper. On June 18, 2011, he went to be with the Lord. He was preceded in death by his wife Shirley (Curtis) Kemper. He is survived by seven children, his brother and his sister.

**Rev. Glenn L. Oden** was born on April 1, 1919, and passed away on Sept. 11, 2011. Rev. Oden was a resident of Paris, Ark.

**Rev. Hayward Youngblood** was born on Dec. 28, 1929, and passed away on Saturday, Aug. 20, 2011. Rev. Youngblood was a resident of Braxton, Miss.

**Rev. Billy Honnell** died Jan. 27, 2012, at 67 years old. He was a member of Cullendale Assembly of God, a retired AG minister, and was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jim and Gussie May Honnell.

**Rev. Wayne Danner** of Springdale, Ark., died Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012, at 87 years old. He was born October 27, 1924, in Tuttle, Ark., the son of Lee and Gladys (Smith) Danner.

**Rev. Robert L. Cobb** was born on Sept. 15, 1926, and passed into Heaven on Monday, Feb. 27, 2012. Rev. Cobb was a resident of Broken Arrow, Okla.

**Rev. Annie Mae (Farmer) Allen** went to be with the Lord on March 8, 2012. She was pastor of Pioneer Assembly of God for 53 years, an ordained Assemblies of God minister and the Women's Ministries Director for the Northeast Section of the Assemblies of God for 35 years. She was preceded in death by her parents, her first and second husbands, and two sisters. She is survived by her daughter, son, step daughters, brothers, remaining sisters, twelve grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren.

**Mrs. Mary (Greer) Oliver** passed away on March 8, 2012, at 81 years old. She was a resident of Jonesboro, La. She was a certified Assemblies of God minister and was involved in ministry since she was 16 years old.



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**23 Rev. Ada Mae (Hinkle) Combs** was born Sept. 22, 1920, in Godley, Texas, to George and Mary Hinkle. She was preceded in death by her husband Reverend Ervin Combs, and nine brothers and sisters. She passed away Wednesday, April 18, 2012, in Arlington, Texas.

**24 Rev. Billy Ralph Shipp** was born Aug. 4, 1933, in Fort Worth, Texas. He began his journey in ministry in December of 1963. He pastored churches in Richton, Miss.; Nocona, Texas; Haltom City, Texas; and Balboa, Panama. He married Charlene Brumbalow in 1950, and they had two daughters.

**Rev. Gladys Mae Vaught** passed away Feb. 21, 2012, at Silsbee Oaks Health Care. A native and lifelong resident of Silsbee, Texas, she was a loving

wife, mother and grandmother.

**Rev. James Robert Hembree, Sr.** went to be with his Lord on April 25, 2012. He was born May 4, 1929, in Picher, Okla. In August of 1950, he married Marjorie Anne Goss and began his ministry in the Assemblies of God. He pastored throughout Missouri, Illinois, Oregon, and Texas. He was a minister for 57 years.

**Rev. John A. Spain** passed away on June 2, 2012. He was in ministry for over 50 years. Survivors include his wife Sybil, three children; Charlotte Burbage, Donald Spain, and Sharon Grayson; nine grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

**Rev. Joseph Jackson** passed away on March 21, 2012, at 77 years old, in Hot Springs, Ark. He was

a credentialed Assemblies of God minister for 64 years and was a member of the First Assembly of God church in Hot Springs, Ark. He pastored in Oklahoma, Iowa, Arkansas and Texas. ■



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#### Human Services Counseling (Non-Clinical) <sup>2</sup>

#### Education <sup>1</sup>

Curriculum Development  
Christian School Administration  
Early Childhood/Elementary Education  
Early Education Administration  
Middle & Secondary Education  
Principalship  
School Counseling

#### History <sup>3</sup>

Education Track  
Thesis Track  
Non-thesis Track

#### Master of Divinity <sup>1</sup>

#### Organizational Leadership <sup>2</sup>

#### Theological Studies <sup>1</sup>

Bible & Theology  
Children & Family Ministries <sup>3</sup>  
Intercultural Studies <sup>1</sup>  
Practical Theology

#### Middle & Secondary <sup>1</sup>

English Language Arts/Reading <sup>1</sup>

Social Studies/History <sup>1</sup>

Music Education (Instrumental, Piano, Vocal) <sup>2</sup>

Physical Education <sup>2</sup>

English <sup>1</sup>

History <sup>1</sup>

Human Services <sup>1</sup>

Intercultural Studies <sup>1</sup>

Management <sup>1</sup>

Management Information Systems

Marketing <sup>1</sup>

Media Ministries <sup>2</sup>

Music Ministries <sup>2</sup>

Music Performance (Instrumental, Piano, Vocal) <sup>2</sup>

Occupational Leadership <sup>1</sup>

Pastoral Ministries <sup>1</sup>

Professional Development <sup>1</sup>

Psychology <sup>1</sup>

Social Work <sup>2</sup>

Sports Management <sup>2</sup>

Theological Studies <sup>1</sup>

Youth & Student Ministries <sup>1</sup>

### Bachelor's

Accounting <sup>1</sup>  
Ancient Studies <sup>1</sup>  
Biblical Studies <sup>1</sup>  
Business Administration <sup>1</sup>  
Children & Family Ministries <sup>1</sup>  
Church Ministries <sup>1</sup>  
Church Planting & Revitalization <sup>1</sup>  
Communication <sup>2</sup>  
Counseling <sup>1</sup>  
Counseling Ministries <sup>1</sup>  
Criminal Justice <sup>1</sup>  
Digital Media Arts <sup>2</sup>  
Drama <sup>2</sup>  
Education <sup>1</sup>  
Bilingual Education <sup>2</sup>  
Elementary Education <sup>1</sup>

### Associates

Bible <sup>1</sup>  
Business Administration <sup>1</sup>  
Early Childhood Education <sup>1</sup>  
Education <sup>1</sup>  
English <sup>1</sup>  
Foreign Language <sup>2</sup>  
General Business <sup>1</sup>  
General Studies <sup>1</sup>  
Media <sup>2</sup>  
Music <sup>2</sup>  
Psychology <sup>1</sup>  
Social Studies <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Fully offered online.

<sup>2</sup> Partially offered online. Some on-campus coursework required.

<sup>3</sup> Exclusively offered online.

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