

T sagu Today

Spring 2012

TO EVERY NATION

IN THIS ISSUE

- World Communication Center preview
- Family donates \$1.8 million
- Mabee approves \$1 million challenge grant
- Dr. John and Diana Hagee give \$2.5 million



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Contents

President's Perspective	4
Lion Pride	5
I Blew It!	6
Campus Connection	8
Bridging London	14
To the One	16
Athletic News	18
World Communication Center and Mabee Grant	20
The Making of "To Every Nation"	24
Class Notes	28

Special Content

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



About Today Magazine SPRING 2012 · VOL 15 ISSUE 3

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

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



Kermit S. Bridges, D.Min.
President

President's *perspective*

When SAGU purchased the Waxahachie campus in 1943, the total cost was \$50,000. Adjusted for inflation, that would be \$800,000 today (Bureau of Labor Statistics). When I was selected as president in 1999, the total operating budget was \$11.9 million and the total valuation of the campus was \$13.7 million. Today, the total operating budget is \$34.1 million and the valuation after the construction of the World Communication Center (WCC) will be \$62 million.

Even with those numbers in mind, I stand in awe at how miraculously the Lord has provided over the last 12 months. As reported in the last issue, within a span of a few short months in 2011 SAGU received \$7.8 million in gifts, \$5.1 million of which was designated toward the WCC. Since that issue, SAGU has received an additional \$4.3 million toward the WCC thanks to two phenomenal gifts.

GIFTS FROM FRIENDS LIKE DR. JOHN AND DIANA HAGEE

First, Dr. John and Diana Hagee have made an incredible \$2.5 million commitment to the university. What a blessing for this dear friend and alumnus to step up and help make the vision of the WCC a reality! Second, the amazing family who contributed \$2 million to a scholarship fund and \$5 million to the WCC last September, have contributed an additional \$1.8 million for the WCC. We believe the timing of these gifts is providential in view of the recent news from the Mabee Foundation. Suddenly, the remaining funds needed to complete this project and lay claim to Mabee's \$1 million challenge grant are within reach.

Twelve months ago, I had no idea how the WCC project could be funded, given the fact it would be the most expensive construction project in school history (details on page 20). I am convinced that our Board's enthusiastic support of this project and their faith in authorizing up to \$8 million in financing one year ago set the stage for these miraculous gifts and financial commitments. God's favor and provision have been so evident.

MOVING FORWARD

Alumni from ten years ago recall a campus without Teeter and Bridges Halls. Alumni from twenty years ago recall a campus without the Sheaffer Full Life Center. And alumni from the 1950s remember a campus with just a few buildings adjacent to cotton fields. Similarly, alumni from various generations can recall SAGU's journey from high school, to junior

college, to college, to university.

To borrow from the imagery on the cover of this magazine—here we stand only twelve years into a new century, a new millennium—and we are still scaling taller mountains. Each time we reach the top, we survey our progress, only to look toward taller mountains in the distance. If you have ever watched a travel documentary or movie about mountain climbing, you know that it takes determination and teamwork to reach the summit. I am proud to be scaling these mountains with dedicated faculty and staff and generous and caring alumni and friends, who share my belief that our greatest days lie ahead.

MABEE FOUNDATION

The next step in this journey is the acquisition of a challenge grant approved by the Mabee Foundation (read more on page 23). The Mabee Foundation blessed SAGU with a \$650,000 grant toward the Sheaffer Full Life Center in 1997 and a \$900,000 grant toward Teeter Hall in 2006. This past March we submitted a new grant proposal to the Mabee Foundation and on April 10 their board issued a \$1 million challenge grant to SAGU for the WCC. We now have until April of 2013 to raise a remaining \$3 million. Join with me in praying that God will speak to men and women during this next year to help push SAGU over the top.

SPREAD THE MESSAGE

Our story is a blessed one. And our efforts toward "The whole Gospel for the whole world" continue through efforts such as Mission TEN (To Every Nation) and the "To Every Nation" documentary.

Our job as advocates and alumni of SAGU is to tell that story boldly. You can do that in a number of ways. Take a few moments to view just one segment of the enclosed DVD. You will be so impressed by the ministry and passion of our students, as well as their technical skills in the creation of this documentary. Perhaps you will find a segment beneficial for use in your local church. I encourage you to share a segment in a Sunday School class, small group or church missions service. Pass it along to someone else to view—a prospective student, a parent, or someone who would be encouraged by the vision of Mission TEN. Perhaps you can sow into the lives of students who would benefit from the education that SAGU provides. You can certainly pray and be an advocate for SAGU. Enjoy this very special issue! ■

Charitable Gift Annuities

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

LION PRIDE



Devin Ferguson
Alumni Director

These are exciting days to be a part of the SAGU family. As you can tell from the cover story of the magazine in your hand, remarkable things that are happening around the world are beginning right here in Waxahachie. The Mission TEN documentary is really only the tip of the iceberg. As you read this issue, you will notice that current and former

SAGU Lions are standing head and shoulders above the rest in their respective places of service.

The idea that “every believer is a minister” has been a part of SAGU’s mission since it was first founded by P.C. Nelson 85 years ago. It continues to be a value that our students and alumni champion as they serve Christ’s Kingdom. This is evidenced by our alumni who have left Enid and Amarillo, Goose Creek, Houston and Fort Worth, and now Waxahachie, to pursue Kingdom service wherever the opportunity presented itself. Their pulpits are not only found in churches but also in classrooms, law firms, accounting offices, nonprofit organizations and coffee shops. And, the list goes on.

I consider the great opportunity that I have been given to take a front row seat and observe Lions in action, in their element, changing the world. In reality, the number of stories we could share with you far exceeds the available print space!

SHARE YOUR STORIES

I can’t help but smile when I hear stories of our fellow Lions positively influencing their communities for Christ. I think of church planters, missionaries, law school graduates

and young entrepreneurs. I also think of those whose years of service outnumber many of our youngest alumni’s years of life. They continue to contribute to the Kingdom and have some wonderful stories to share, to boot.

Our alma mater is not just bricks and mortar, or even ideals alone, but a community. A group of people dedicated to the same ambition of service in their communities. And in all of those areas – buildings, institutions and people—we have something to be very proud of. As you read this issue of SAGU Today, I hope you, too, feel some of that Purple and Gold Pride.

We know that we haven’t even begun to hear all of the remarkable things our alumni are doing around the world, and we can only know when you tell us. That’s why we want you to stay in touch with us. Let us know about the big changes and exciting events that are shaping your life after SAGU. We want to share them with your friends, and brag on you too! You can update us at www.sagu.edu/update. In addition to spreading the news, completing this form will also ensure that you receive the monthly edition of “The Lion’s Pride,” our official alumni newsletter, and stay up to date on information about the campus, your friends, as well as Homecoming and special events in your area.

JOIN US FOR HOMECOMING 2012

Mark your calendars now and make plans to attend Homecoming 2012, October 11-13, as we celebrate 50 years of Homecoming. We will give special recognition to the class of 1962, the 50th Celebration of the Gold Jackets Organization, a Davis Hall reunion, and much more. You will not want to miss it!

As we gear up for our annual tour of our District Councils in the region, I look forward to seeing many of you face-to-face and hearing your stories! ■



I Blew It!

Atomic fireballs in a pre-school Easter egg hunt, a “10 Plagues of Egypt” reenactment tour, living on a billboard and living blind. The mastermind? None other than SAGU alumnus Brian Dollar.

Dollar came to SAGU in 1991 in hopes of becoming a senior pastor. He immediately became involved with Oak Cliff Assembly of God (now The Oaks Fellowship) and started directing a youth intern group. Soon after, he was asked to serve as the children’s pastor interim until the church could hire a new pastor.

He volunteered as a children’s pastor for three years before he decided to approach the senior pastor about a youth leader position. Like so many, Dollar had his future planned – he would climb the ministry ladder from youth leader to senior pastor. Little did he know the plans God had in store for him.

Before his meeting with the pastor, he stopped to pray. In that moment, God clearly spoke to him, “I want you to remain in children’s ministry.” He has been a children’s pastor ever since.

On February 26, 1989, a rebellious 15-year-old Dollar knelt at his parents’ bedside and surrendered his life to Christ. Later, he felt the Lord calling him to ministry.

“SAGU prepared me to value the Word of God and to develop strong spiritual disciplines,” Dollar said. “What I learned at SAGU helps me

daily in my ministry and my walk with Christ.”

In 1998, Dollar founded High Voltage Kids Ministry Resources, which provides kids church curriculum, music, games and videos for churches, without replacing the pastor or teacher. The materials are affordable, low-prep and low-hassle.

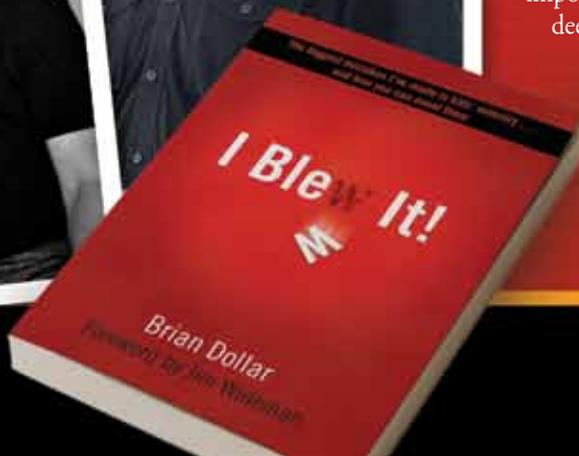
At a critical point in his ministry, Dollar learned to stop seeing children as future leaders and decided to equip them for leadership at a young age. The next year he created a summer ministry leadership program for children called C.I.A., “Christians In Action.” Eventually he created F.B.I., “Fabulous Bible Investigators,” a six-week course that teaches kids how to be servant leaders, read their Bibles, pray, share their faith and make disciples.

Education alone would never prepare him for his experience in ministry. In 2012, Brian released “I Blew It!” through AG’s Influence Resources. Dollar recounts the biggest mistakes he made in his 20 years of kids ministry and shares how to avoid them.

“I have read many books relating to kids ministry, and so many come from the angle of ‘learning from the expert,’” writes Dollar. “That’s not the book I wanted to write.”

“Although I have been a kids pastor for nearly 20 years now, I in no way consider myself an ‘expert.’ I have failed more times than I can count, but ‘Failure is never final.’”

He shares his philosophy about ministry, strategy and communication, but more importantly, he talks about the deeper qualities of fear and hope, pride and humility. He discusses team building and recruitment, parental involvement, keeping your strengths in check, and





“What do atomic fireballs in a kindergarten Easter egg hunt, a 10 Plagues of Egypt reenactment tour, living on a billboard and living blind have in common?”

radical dependence on God.

“I hope my experiences encourage readers to be honest about their mistakes, but even more, I hope to inspire them to cling to God more tightly than ever,” he continued.

Dollar said that his biggest struggle in ministry is making a daily decision to stop being self-reliant and become God-reliant. He shared, “It’s too easy to rely on ministry skill, technique or tools to carry me through. It’s difficult to crucify my pride, connect daily with my Heavenly Father, and remember that He is the vine and I am a mere branch.”

In addition to his book, Dollar blogs weekly to answer questions and coach kid’s ministry leaders around the world. He has

been a featured speaker at many ministry conferences, seminars, camps and retreats. His curriculum and media resources have been used in more than 5,000 churches worldwide.

“I think one of the biggest benefits of being a ‘lifer’ is that I am able to speak from years of experience in the same ministry area,” Dollar shared.

He continued, “I have watched kidmin (kid’s ministry) evolve and become the hotbed of ministry that it is today. I am able to speak directly into the lives of today’s kidmin leaders as ‘one of them’ and not as someone who did children’s ministry once upon a time. I have a credibility that only comes with longevity.”

Dollar received his bachelor’s degree in

Pastoral Ministries from SAGU in 1995. He has been a children’s pastor since 1992. He and his wife, Cherith, have been married for 14 years and have two children, Ashton and Jordan.

Dollar has served at The Oaks Fellowship in Dallas, Texas (1992 – 1999) and First Assembly of God in North Little Rock (NLR), Arkansas (1999 – present). Under his leadership, First NLR’s children’s ministry has grown from an average weekly attendance of 200 to over 600 children with a volunteer staff of over 150.

View his blog at www.briandollar.com. ■

Buy your copy online at www.highvoltage-kids.com or on iBooks, Kindle or Nook.

Campus Connection



Alumnus leads opening prayer for U.S. Congress

Alumnus Bryan Thiessen was selected by Pennsylvania Congressman Tim Murphy (18th district) to give the invocation for the U.S. Congress on Monday, December 5, 2011.

Thiessen says, "This was an incredible honor! It will go down as one of the greatest days of my life."

Thiessen met Congressman Murphy during a community day event last July that Journey Assembly of God participated in. With more than 400 congressmen, Murphy was allowed to select a minister for the daily invocation for the first time during his time

in office. He contacted Thiessen shortly after the event.

"After reading other prayers on the congressional chaplains website, I noticed that previous prayers seldom, if ever, quoted Scripture, mentioned anything in regards to Romans or Hebrews 13, or prayed for our enemies. I wanted my prayer to include those things, and acknowledge that the only Name through whom man can be saved is Jesus Christ."

"This was truly an opportunity of a lifetime!" says Thiessen. "It was very humbling to think that a farm boy from

southern Missouri who was a 'C' average student, who was barely accepted into SAGU, could lead the U.S. Congress in prayer."

Thiessen is the lead pastor at Journey Assembly of God in Bridgeville, Pennsylvania. He is earning a Master of Divinity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and earned his bachelor's degree in Pastoral Ministries from SAGU. His wife CaRanda also graduated from SAGU with a bachelor's in Psychology and plans to return to SAGU to earn a master's degree. ■

Students raise more than \$24,000 for giving project

Students and sponsors raised \$24,105 for the fall semester giving project, surpassing the \$22,000 goal. All proceeds went toward the building of a school for the Tukulor people in Matam, Senegal.

SAGU's Student Missions Association (SMA) partnered with alumna Amy to raise money for the Matam Project. SMA hosted several events to raise money for the cause, including the 5K Matam Run, Teeter Coffee House, t-shirt sales and the collection of donations.

"Once I return to Africa in June 2012, I will be partnering with the national church in Senegal to build a team of Senegalese believers for each church plant," Amy shared. "Each team will consist of a pastor, school director, and two teachers. We will

add teachers as the school grows each year. The school will operate as a community center for the town as well as a meeting place for the church plant."

The 5K Matam Run took place on October 29, 2011, on the SAGU campus. The event raised a total of \$5,000.

Student also donated money during chapel services. The SAGU family alone raised \$17,105. For one particular chapel service, Dallas First Assembly of God, under the leadership of Pastor Tom McMahan, made a pledge to match the amount that students gave. Students gave \$1,487, while the church surpassed their commitment and raised \$2,000.

SMA also encouraged a Buddy Barrel competition between dorms and individual

halls. Student of each dorm placed containers throughout the building to collect money during the week. Over \$6,000 dollars was raised from the competition.

"This is more than SAGU has given in a single semester to any project," says Director of Missions Chad Germany.

SMA treasurer Mary Duong notes that on the last pick-up many were worried about reaching the goal. "After the Matam Run we had raised \$15,000, which left another \$7,000 to be raised in one week."

"God has brought us to the next level," says Duong. "This shows how passionate students are about what God is doing." ■

Psychology department hosts HopeLine Crisis Call Center

The Psychology department participated in SAGU's HopeLine Crisis Call Center. The HopeLine is a 24-hour crisis hotline featured through Dawson McAllister's live radio show. The program is syndicated on both Christian and non-Christian stations. This year, The HopeLine will receive more than 75,000 calls and chats from teens and young adults who desperately seek answers to their problems. Approximately half of calls are on Sunday during the live radio program.

In September 2011, Manager of the Dallas HopeLine Greg Wilson asked SAGU's Psychology Department Head Robert Mapes to consider developing a national call center on the SAGU campus. "It's a ministry opportunity we had been searching for," says Mapes. "It's perfect for our department."

Participating students are trained through Professor Jeff Logue's Crisis Intervention course, as well as through DMLive. Logue believes that the experience will be a key factor in future employment for students.

"The training received through DMLive is consistent with some of the training received to become a licensed counselor," says Logue. "Students are taught how to listen and what to listen for. They are also taught how to file reports with Child Protective Services."

SAGU student Robert Cenzano stated,

"It's a big responsibility knowing that we may be talking someone out of a life-threatening situation. However, it's a great opportunity to practice outside of the classroom."

One of SAGU's computer labs has been devoted to answering HopeLine calls in the Sheaffer Full Life Center. The department receives calls from 9 p.m. Sunday evenings to 3 a.m. Monday morning.

SAGU senior Amanda Harvey has had life changing experiences while working with The HopeLine. Thus far, she has had three conversations with suicidal young adults. In one conversation, she spoke with a young woman for three hours who had been sexually abused by her father for years. It took the young woman an hour to share why she was suicidal.

Harvey spoke with another young lady who had never heard about Jesus. After being prayed for, she asked Harvey why no one had ever told her about Christ until now.

"Counseling is all about touching lives and changing people. SAGU students have an opportunity to be like Jesus through internet chat or a phone call," says Logue. "I'm so proud of the courage, integrity and compassion our students have shown."

For more information on The HopeLine and DMLive radio show, visit www.thehopeline.com. ■



SAGU Worship song featured on Worship Leader Song DIScovery

SAGU original worship song "Shine" from the "In All The Earth" album was featured on Worship Leader Media's Song DIScovery.

Every two months, Worship Leader Magazine produces a special publication that includes a CD comprised of a special selection of songs chosen from thousands of submissions. SAGU's chapel worship director Meredith Jones submitted the recently released "In All The Earth" album, a live recording of Late Night Worship in March 2011. All the tracks on the album are original songs written by students.

"Shine" was written and performed by SAGU student Binil Chacko. "Shine" will be included on the compilation album with 12-14 other tracks, which will be available to subscribers of Worship Leader Magazine throughout the nation. The Song DIScovery album will provide artist information, the original album covers and song chord sheets.

"The album is on a new platform," says Binil Chacko. "It will travel beyond word of mouth and be accessible on a greater level."

The "In All The Earth" CD was the first live recording in ten years. "It is my dream that SAGU would put out a worship recording every year, and I think this is the first step," says Jones. "It is exciting that our first project is receiving this kind of recognition." ■



Carrie Abbott addresses students about biblical perspectives of gender

Carrie Abbott, a leading communicator and educator on human sexuality and relationships, spoke during chapel on January 25-26, 2012.

Twenty-three years ago, Abbott began her ministry as a volunteer in the abstinence program at a crisis pregnancy center. She said, "I love watching people's lives change because they are learning the truth and able to apply it to their lives."

Her message is about living with sexual integrity. "Sexual integrity is living out your nature in line with God's design in all five areas of your life: physically, intellectually, emotionally, socially and spiritually," said Abbott.

The Wednesday evening session included a Q&A where students submitted anonymous questions. Abbott addressed topics including the Five Levels of Intimacy, homosexuality, sexual abuse, differences between males and females and the Stages of Bonding. The chapel sessions are archived at www.sagu.edu.

Abbott is the President of the Legacy Institute, an organization that promotes a message of sexual integrity according to God's intentional design. Abbott speaks across the nation in state legislatures, churches, schools, medical associations and other venues. She is the author of "The Sexual Integrity Program" and "The Biblical Blueprint for Sexuality" video series as well as an author and developer of "Relationships With Integrity," a K-12 curriculum. ■



Student wins \$23,000 Dr. Pepper scholarship

On January 6, 2012, SAGU junior Glorie Ndongala won the runner-up \$23,000 tuition prize after competing for the grand prize of \$100,000 at the 2011 Dr. Pepper Million Dollar Tuition Giveaway Promotion and Contest. The pass competition aired during the 76th AT&T Cotton Bowl's half-time show at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

Dr. Pepper asked college students (ages 18-24) to post college football and Dr. Pepper-themed videos that were no more than one minute in length, an original creation, and suitable for publication. Videos were judged on the impact of tuition prize on contestant's life and overall presentation quality.

Finalists tossed footballs into a 2-foot hole in an oversized soda can replica from five yards away. The fan who successfully completed the most throws in 30 seconds won the grand prize scholarship.

Originally from Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ndongala's family was forced to flee when he was still an infant due to political unrest. Ndongala was introduced to SAGU by his youth

pastor Joel Sosa, a SAGU alumnus, who brought his youth group for a campus visit. Ndongala said, "I knew I was supposed to be here as soon as I set foot on the campus." With only \$3,000 in his pocket, he asked Sosa for a one-way ticket to Texas.

College has been financially difficult for Ndongala. But he shares how God has miraculously provided for him each year. "Since I arrived at SAGU, I have experienced one financial blessing after another," says Ndongala. "To God be the glory. Prayer moves the heart of God, and through prayer, God does the impossible."

Ndongala will graduate with a bachelor's degree in Church Ministries and associate degrees in Psychology and Bible in the fall of 2012. He attends University Church in Waxahachie. He and his fiancée Katie Winkowitsch will marry May 12, 2012. They will move to New York to work with street ministries while preparing a team to return to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where they will partner with local churches to build an orphanage. ■

Alumnus leaves mark as hospital chaplain

Alumnus James Austin serves as a chaplain resident for Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. As a hospital chaplain, Austin provides spiritual care to patients, family and staff.

Austin said, "Chaplaincy is a challenging and fulfilling ministry. I try to be Jesus in skin to everyone I meet and in the process witness spiritual, emotional and physical healing. I have seen people come to Christ and people who are comatose open their eyes and begin talking. Every day when I clock out, I feel that I have served God well."

Austin is enrolled in the Clinical Pastor Education (CPE) program through the Assemblies of God Chaplaincy Department. The CPE program is designed around a learning method of action and reflection. Through hands-on experience, students practice what they learn and discuss with peers their experiences and how to improve.

In 1992, Austin graduated with bachelor's degrees in Missions and Bible from Central Bible College. After graduation, Austin and his wife Karma served a two-year missionary assignment in Guam and neighboring Rota Island, where they worked with Yigo Assembly of God and its accompanying Bible school.

They later served as the children's



pastors at Raytown First Assembly of God in Kansas City, Missouri, for nine years. In 2004, Austin became senior pastor at Bourbon First Assembly of God in Bourbon, Missouri.

After four years of pastoring, Austin sensed that God wanted him to further his education in preparation of a particular ministry. He enrolled in the SAGU graduate program and graduated with a Master of Divinity in 2011.

Austin deals with the challenges of diversity on a daily basis as he encounters a wide variety of cultures and belief. He encounters folk religions, superstitions, animistic influences, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Wicca, atheism and various denominations within Christianity. Among approximately 20 chaplains, chaplains residents and contract chaplains at Barnes-Jewish, a variety of these belief systems are represented. Austin said, "Professor Harden's teachings prepared me to serve in such a diverse environment. I have learned it helps to capitalize on similarities."

Austin relies on the Holy Spirit to give him wisdom and insight. Austin said, "I have no idea of a patient's spiritual background when I walk into a room. In only 30-40 seconds, I must ascertain the person's beliefs from their responses.

Often God reveals to me knowledge about a person that I could not know, or He directs me what to say and do or not say and do."

With a medical staff of 1,800 members, Barnes-Jewish is the largest hospital in Missouri and the largest private employer in the St. Louis region. Barnes-Jewish is an affiliated teaching hospital of the Washington University School of Medicine. ■



SAGU hosts 2011 Credentialing Day

SAGU held its fourth annual Credentialing Day on October 27, 2011. Credentialing Day allows students to meet with district representatives regarding ministerial credits with the Assemblies of God.

There were more than 15 representatives present at the event and a total of 212 students that participated. Students who did not have their district representative present visited with other district personnel. Also, students were able to begin their application process.

The represented districts included Arizona, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, North Texas, Oklahoma, Rocky Mountain, South Texas and West Texas. Students who participated in the event were from the following districts and countries: Alabama, California, Florida, Gulf Latin District, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, New Jersey, North Dakota, Pen-Del, Southern Missouri, Tennessee, Texas-Louisiana Latin District, Washington, Wisconsin and Argentina. ■



Students witness spiritual awakening at “Revival Prayer”

SAGU Revival Prayer is a weekly prayer meeting hosted by Southwestern Missions Association (SMA). Students meet in the Jeter Prayer Room in the Sheaffer Full Life Center (FLC) from 8 - 10 p.m. to pray for revival in schools, families, churches and communities throughout the world.

Revival Prayer leader Stacy Jones says, “We focus on revival here on campus, but our desire is for revival to spread. We want to witness God moving in our community and all over the world. Prayer is effective and allows us to change the world around us.”

Healing, deliverance, prophecy and baptisms in the Holy Spirit are characteristic of the prayer meetings. When freshman Salvador “Chava” Avila attended for the first time, he was

baptized in the Holy Spirit and later began operating in the gift of healing. He shares, “That night, I was simply worshipping and praising God. No one was praying for me or laying hands on me. I began to sense God’s presence more strongly than I ever had before. I began speaking in a language I did not recognize and shaking in the presence of God.”

The use of spiritual gifts is encouraged and is overseen by the leadership team during the prayer meetings. Revival Prayer leader Cade Leuschner says, “We encourage spiritual gifts for the purpose of edification. Revival Prayer is an environment in which people can find out their spiritual giftings and learn to operate in them.” ■

Students receive Making THE Difference Scholarships

Nine Southwestern Assemblies of God University (SAGU) students were awarded Making THE Difference (MTD) Scholarships. A total of \$120,000 in MTD Scholarships were awarded to 116 students representing the 18 Assemblies of God colleges and universities located across the United States. MTD Scholarships are made available by the Assemblies of God Trust and the AG Alliance for Higher Education.

Making THE Difference scholarships are awarded annually to students selected by the 18 individual Assemblies of God schools as AGTrust funds are available. Listed below are the 2011 Making THE Difference scholarship recipients from Southwestern Assemblies of God University. ■

Kyndra Ables Temple, TX
Steffanie Gerbereux Skiatook, OK
Kathryn Heth Johnston, IA
Amanda Reich Fort Worth, TX
Stephen York El Dorado, AR
William Carther Waxahachie, TX
Valarie Goff Big Spring, TX
Mason Musick Dallas, TX
Kenneth Wallace Liberty, MO

SAGU NEWS ONLINE

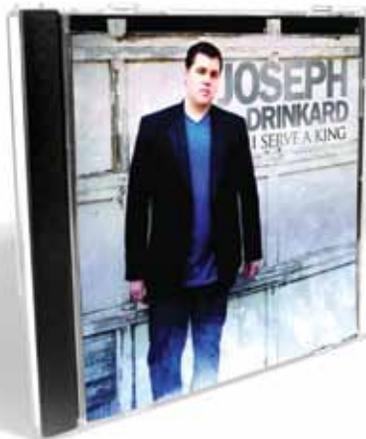
Follow SAGU news weekly on www.sagu.edu/news, SAGU’s Facebook page or Twitter @sagu.

Student produces worship album

Sophomore Joseph Drinkard recorded his first album titled "I Serve A King" that released February 7, 2012.

After a series of personal crises, one of Joseph's mentors encouraged him to put what he was going through into his music. "I can remember walking into my church not knowing what to write," said Drinkard. "I sat down at the keyboard and began to worship. I decided that I wanted to be honest with the Lord about what I was going through and what I was feeling."

Drinkard completed the title track of the album "I Serve A King" soon after. Drinkard says that writing the first song was confirmation from the



Lord to continue to write from his experiences. The album is comprised of seven original tracks.

"This album was birthed out of brokenness, but is all about hope. It's a testimony of God's faithfulness in uncertain times," says Drinkard. ■

Remembering Christmas at SAGU

Monday, November 28, 2011, SAGU held its third annual "Christmas at SAGU," presented by Southwestern Women's Auxiliary, SAGU Alumni Association and Aramark. There were Christmas treats, live Christmas music presented by SAGU's Jazz Band, a visit from Santa Claus, and the campus lighting. SAGU's Career Services offered free ornament decorating for the second year in a row.

2011 marked the largest lighting of the campus including the Sheaffer Full Life Center, three campus entrances, the Farmer Administration Building, the Nelson Library, the Davis Building, and more trees than ever on the front lawn.

Make plans to attend the next "Christmas at SAGU" on November 26, 2012. ■



New Program: Management Information Systems



SAGU's Business Department now offers a Management Information Systems (MIS), a specialization intended to teach business students how to manage and use technology to position themselves as the expert in data-driven decision making.

Careers in Management Information Systems are expected to grow 16% in the next five years. The degree is not about programming or server management, but rather about how to use information systems to aid management, or how to manage information technology departments. The specialization

covers basic management systems, theories and practices and will delve into emerging technology and IT security and privacy issues. SAGU is providing academic scholarships for MIS enrollees in Fall 2012.

SAGU Program Manager for Marketing and Management Information Systems John Jemison explains, "The MIS Program will provide the business student an awareness, understanding, and confidence in information systems as applied in the management of businesses."

SAGU is accepting applications for Fall 2012. ■

Bridging London



On August 4, 2011, London police shot and killed Mark Duggan, a young man suspected of a premeditated revenge attack following the fatal stabbing of his cousin. That evening, riots broke out across the city as alleged gang members set cars and buildings afire, beat down public commuters and police with batons, and ransacked local businesses.

Onlookers identified the criminals as wearing “blues, yellows and reds” – the colors of local gangs. Some said the riots were motivated by religious prejudice.

According to BBC News, at least 450 people were arrested over four days in connection to the riots, and more than 6,000 officers were deployed in London to stop robberies, looting and arson.

In addition to civil unrest, London has one of the highest unemployment rates in the UK (9.1%) and an increasing trend toward radical Islam. Recently, Al-Qaeda-inspired Muslim terrorists admitted to plotting to bomb the London Stock Exchange in 2010. In 2006, Muslims

threatened violence at the Religion of Peace Demonstration where signs read “Europe, you will pay. Your 9/11 is on its way.”

“Not only is it the fastest growing religion, but they have a strong voice,” says SAGU faculty member Nathan Jones. “Radical Islam causes a general sense of fear among the people.” The Joneses note that

**“Radical Islam causes a general sense of fear among the people.”
The Jones’s note that many of the empty churches of London are being sold to Islamic groups for mosques.**

many of the empty churches of London are being sold to Islamic groups for mosques.

The Joneses noticed the spiritual and moral depravity and the post-Christian attitude amongst the people. “Many consider themselves intellectually above or beyond Christianity,” says Nathan.

“The people have a desperate need for God. It’s hard for Americans to see the

need in this land,” Meredith Jones says.

SAGU faculty members Nathan and Meredith Jones will become the first Assemblies of God world missionaries to London, England, later this year. Nathan and Meredith met as students at SAGU. Meredith had a desire to be involved in missions from an early age. Nathan had been raised in a missionary family and shared a similar desire to be involved in missions.

Meredith had an unexplainable interest in London since she was a young girl. “I used to look through encyclopedias, searching for anything I could find on England and the culture,” she says. “God put that love in my heart for a reason.”

Although they both felt called to missions, London was not Nathan’s first choice. “Even though I never had a desire to go to England, God began to grow a love for the culture in my heart,” Nathan says. Soon Nathan developed the same passion for London through dreams and constant reminders of London in the

news. Meredith's fascination with the architecture, music and art of British culture and Nathan's passion for missions fueled the couple's decision to move to London as missionaries.

"A minister currently living in England told us of two things that the people respond to – the supernatural and music," says Nathan. The couple plans on being involved with church planting and music ministry for the two years they are overseas.

Finding a way to England was not an easy journey. The Joneses had not originally planned to go to England as missionaries because they had always heard that England was not open to receiving US AGWM missionaries.

"So we knocked on every door to see which one God would open." The couple looked into getting job transfers, pursuing graduate study and personal connections, but every door seemed to be closed.

The Joneses finally connected with the AGWM Northern Europe Area Director, Tim Southerland, who currently lives in Wales. Southerland became the Joneses' connection to England and told them that the British Assemblies of God had just recently opened the door to missionaries from the US. The conversation was yet another confirmation of their call to England, specifically London.

SAGU's Student Missions Association (SMA) chose the couple as the focus of

their Spring 2012 giving project. SMA treasurer Mary Duong surprised the couple during a missions chapel service by announcing that they would be financially supported by students and faculty of SAGU.

SMA began a Buddy Barrel



competition, which allowed students to collect loose change in containers and compete with other dormitories and dorm halls for the most raised funds. Spring semester's winning hall wins tickets to a Texas Rangers game with President Kermit Bridges.

During another chapel service, students and faculty were able to take a music note from the chapel walls. Each note cost \$25, totaling to the project goal of \$15,000.

This semester's giving project encourages monthly faith commitments from students and faculty to support the family during their two years in London as missionaries.

A student-led benefit concert titled "Bridging London," on February 26 involved local churches and other

ministries in an effort to raise money for the Jones family. Performances included musicians Binil Chacko, David Belt and Nathan and Meredith Jones.

"This project is so personal to SAGU, and we are honored to send them off as missionaries," says Duong. The project goal is \$15,000, excluding any faith promises to support the family month-to-month.

SAGU's Gold Jackets, a Student Congress service organization comprised of female students, hosted a London-themed fundraiser on February 11, raising more than \$1,300.

Meredith Jones has been SAGU's chapel worship director since Fall 2008 and a professor since January 2006. Since 2008, Nathan has been a guitar instructor in the

music department. The couple has three children.

Nathan and Meredith are both SAGU graduates. Nathan received his bachelor's in Church Ministries with a focus in music, and Meredith received a bachelor's in Music Performance. Meredith earned a master's in Music from Texas A&M University at Commerce with a specialization in Music Education.

The Joneses are documenting their journey on their blog and website. For more information on the couple's ministry in London or to support them financially, visit www.nathanmeredithjones.com. ■

Online student Vandy Saenz benefits from SAGU's Missionary Spouse grant to hone skills to reach Buddhists, prostitutes and outcasts in Thailand.

LEADING THE PLURALISTIC TO **THE ONE**

"Having a heart for something and being called to do it is one thing. But, no matter your calling, you have to continue to refine your skills," said SAGU student Vandy Saenz.

Four years into her missionary tenure, Vandy decided that she needed to pursue a higher education. She knew that she couldn't have the traditional college experience as a full-time missionary in Thailand with a family to take care of.

"At first, I made all types of excuses. I thought it was too late for me to go back to school. Then, I was embarrassed because I thought that I would be older than my classmates."

The only way that Vandy would be able to pursue her education while working on the mission field was to find a degree that worked around her demanding schedule. She began to research and discovered that the average SAGU undergraduate SDE student is a 31-year-old working professional.

"My family and I lived in Waxahachie for a few years, so I was already familiar with SAGU," Vandy said. "I was interested in counseling, and I knew that SAGU's Psychology department was reputable."

She continued, "After researching several AG schools, SAGU was the most robust online program that I found. Plus, it is one of the only AG universities that offers tuition discounts to spouses of missionaries. It was exactly what I was looking for."

Two years into her program, Vandy sees how much her education helps her ministry. Between working with Burmese ethnic tribes in refugee villages to Thai prostitutes in red light districts, she incorporates counseling

techniques on a daily basis.

"Because my classes address multi-cultural counseling, I am learning how to be more effective in the culture that I am living."

She continued, "Not only am I learning more techniques to minister to people in a more holistic, therapeutic way, but I am learning how to better understand the people's



real need, instead of responding to what I perceive the need to be."

"Ministering to these women and children is about more than just saying they are living a sinful life or teaching them a trade for stable income. They need a strong support network for them to successfully leave prostitution."

According to Vandy, Buddhism is the prevailing religion of the country, but it is a different Buddhist faith than what is found in other eastern countries. Many Thai are pluralistic to ensure they are eternally secure.

Many say they believe in Jesus Christ, but they only believe that he existed. "Because of the prevalence of prostitution, their understanding of Jesus is skewed. They believe that because He is good and loves you, he

becomes your 'sugar daddy' and gives you things that you want," Vandy said.

Many people believe that mistakes of their past result in their present life circumstances. Thai Buddhism focuses more on choices and outcomes than moral standards. People cannot easily comprehend that man is innately sinful.

Vandy shared, "They also strongly believe that choice is the determining factor for a person's current condition without taking into account a person's background, socio-economic factors, their mental health or if they have a history of being abused."

Recently, Vandy began helping another missionary build a school in Northern Thailand for a small village of Burmese refugees. In Burma, just north of Thailand, the government has oppressed ethnic national tribes for years, forcing the tribes to flee for safety. The refugee children are not allowed to attend Thai schools because

they are stateless. Although there is a long history of prejudice between the Thai and Burmese, the Thai government has agreed to install electricity and a water system in the village once the school is built.

The Thai government does not allow open evangelism but does allow people to share their faith when asked. Saenz plans to start a coffee house ministry with conversational English rooms that allow the opportunity to share the Gospel.

Saenz served four years of active duty and four years in the Navy Reserves. ■

SAGU receives Champions of Character Five Star Award

SAGU is a recipient of The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Champions of Character Five Star Award for the 2010-11 school year.

SAGU received the award based on a demonstrated commitment to character and earned points in each of the following categories: character training, conduct in competition, academic focus, character recognition and character promotion. The Lions also earned points based on exceptional student-athlete grade point averages.

“We are pleased to be recognized as a Champions of Character Institution,” said Jesse Godding, SAGU’s Athletic



Director. “This award means that our athletes and coaches are carrying out the mission of not only the institution but the athletic governing body it associates with in the NAIA.” ■

Athletic Awards

Football

NAIA Academic All-Star

- Nate Kallala (1)

CSFL All-Academic Team

- Joshua Aldrich (2)
- Kendal Evers (3)
- Reid Golson (4)
- Joshua Harris (5)
- Brad Heathcock (6)
- Michael Hendon (7)
- Nate Kallala (1)
- Cade Leuschner (8)
- Jason Rice (9)
- Ramsey Sanchez (10)

All-CSFL 1st Team

- Richard Donte Embry (11)
- David Howard (12)

All-CSFL 2nd Team

- James Gish (13)
- Brad Heathcock (6)
- Jonathan Hulett (14)
- Jason Rice (9)
- Paul Sielski (15)
- Stephen Stewart (16)

Men’s Soccer

Danny Martinez (17)

- NCCAA 2nd Team All-American
- 2nd Team All-Conference

Volleyball

Tina Brown (18)

- NCCAA Academic All-American
- NAIA Champion of Character

Taylor Calverley (19)

- RRAC All-Conference 2nd Team
- NCCAA All-Central Region 1st Team

Krystal Cisneros (20)

- NCCAA 2nd Team All-American
- #7 in the Red River Athletic Conference
- RRAC All-Conference 1st Team for the second year in a row
- NCCAA’s All-Central Region 1st Team

Kassy Cox (21)

- RRAC All-Conference 2nd Team

Laura Espinoza (22)

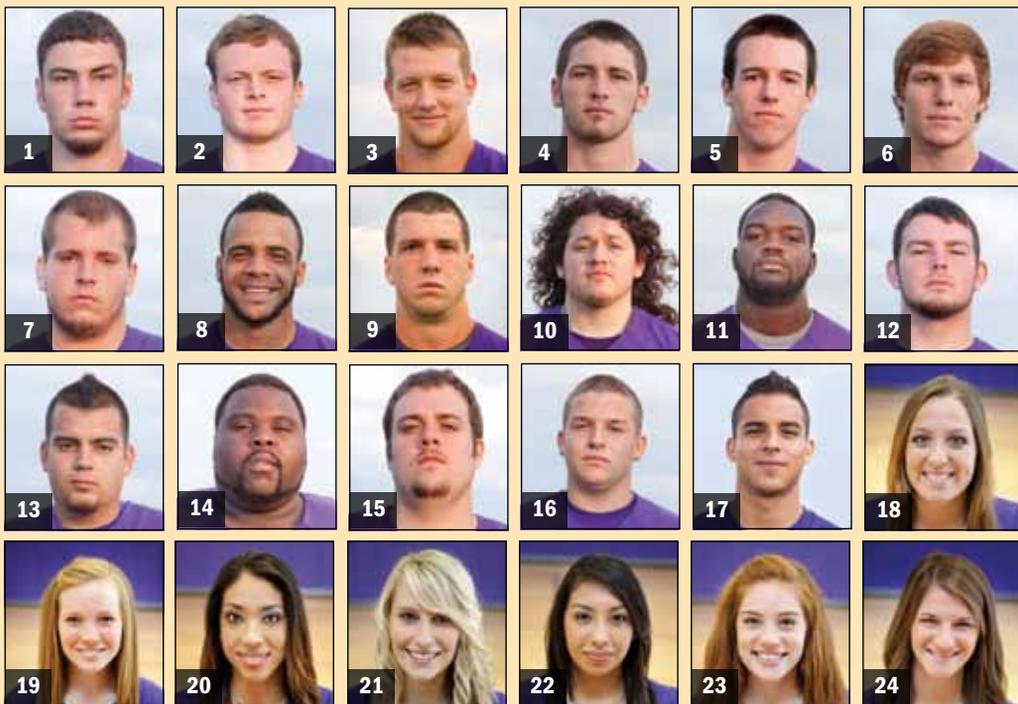
- #23 in the NAIA, RRAC record of 687 digs

Alissa Kirk (23)

- NAIA Champion of Character

Jessica Sodich (24)

- RRAC All-Conference 2nd Team
- NCCAA All-Central Region 2nd Team



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Weekly scores and statistics



Streaming and video on demand



Photos



Men's Basketball finishes 3rd in NCCAA

SAGU (25-9) and Dallas Baptist University (17-13), schools separated by a 30-minute drive, met nearly 700 miles away in Lakewood, CO, for the NCCAA regional championship. SAGU was the #2 seed taking on the defending champions and #1 seed.

With a couple of minutes remaining in the game, the Lions pulled within two points, only to see their efforts fall short in a narrow 87-80 loss. However, the Lions' season record earned an at-large nomination to the NCCAA National tournament at Grace College in Winona Lake, Indiana. Six days and 1,120 miles later, the #4 seed Lions defeated #5 seed The Master's College (CA) in the quarterfinals in a 80-73 overtime victory. In the semi-finals, the Lions faced #1 seed Cedarville University. Trailing by two at the half, the Lions hit the wall, falling to the eventual National Champions.

In the third-place game, SAGU battled back from a double digit deficit with five minutes to play to defeat Hope International University 84-81. The third-place finish completed a record setting season for SAGU. The 27 wins marked the most in SAGU history since joining the NAIA and the NCCAA and tied the most wins in SAGU history matching Terry Bryan's 1989-90 team. ■



Fans witness the birth of a tradition, SAGU Snowstorm

During a SAGU Men's Basketball game Saturday, November 12, 2012, fans launched more than 2,000 pingpong balls onto the court to celebrate after senior Ronald Horne converted a shot inside the lane. Horne's shot marked the first home basket in the first home game of the season and began a new SAGU tradition – the SAGU Snowstorm.

Head Men's Basketball Coach Donnie Bostwick organized the event and explained his view that traditions are some of the most enjoyable moments of college athletics. Regarding the origination of the SAGU Snowstorm, he shares, "My wife had mentioned to my kids that it rarely snows in Texas. That triggered the idea of throwing pingpong balls. It is harmless, but still has a pretty cool effect. Plus, it's a great marketing tool to get fans out to see our first game."

Cheerleaders, players and other volunteers successfully cleared the pingpong balls from the court in less than five minutes. The referees enforced an administrative technical foul against the

Lions. "We believed the risk of suffering a technical foul was worth the reward of pulling more fans to the game," says Bostwick.

When asked about the timing of SAGU's newly forged tradition, Bostwick explains, "It needed to happen after the first point or at the final buzzer if we won. But, holding on to that many pingpong balls until the end of the game did not seem wise, and throwing them at the end did not seem sportsmanlike." He continued, "The opposing coach thought it was a great idea and, of course, welcomed the points from the technical."

Players and fans had a positive reaction to the event. SAGU Vice President of Business and Finance Jay Trewern said, "The anticipation in the stands was a lot of fun. People were laughing and looking forward to that first basket. It also put extra pressure on the team to score at the start of the game." Trewern's sentiment was illustrated by the crowd's audible sighs after each of the first three SAGU shots missed.

SAGU won the game 76-72. ■

FCA awards athletic trainer 2011 Male Huddle Coach of the Year

The Greater Dallas Fellowship of Christian Athletes awarded SAGU Athletic Trainer Jaroy Carpenter the 2011 Male Huddle Coach of the Year.

The award was presented during the annual FCA Coaches Appreciation and Leadership Dinner held at Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, featuring special guest Jon Kitna, a former quarterback for the Dallas Cowboys.

"We have a dedicated group of student-athletes at SAGU who see the value of how FCA can benefit schools, the community and the greater Dallas area," Carpenter added.

He joined the FCA as a Huddle Leader from 1983-1987 while at Greenville High School before doing the same at J.J. Pierce High School from 1987-1991.

While serving as a youth pastor at Calvary Temple for more than ten years, he continued to be involved on the campuses of the Irving Independent School District as well as encouraging his students to be involved with FCA. He also served on the Irving FCA Adult Chapter.

Carpenter serves as SAGU's Director

of Sports Medicine and continues to maintain his own ministry, Solid Rock Resources. He is also the campus FCA Huddle Leader and coordinates SAGU's athlete outreach ministry. Carpenter lives in Midlothian with his wife Kim and their children Carli (15), Cade (12) and Corbin (10). ■



FCA staff member Danny Noah with Jaroy Carpenter.

SAGU hosts Coaches versus Cancer

SAGU hosted Coaches versus Cancer, Saturday, February 18, 2012, on SAGU's campus in the Sheaffer Full Life Center gymnasium. SAGU women's and men's basketball teams played against LSU – Shreveport.

"Cancer is a terrible disease that effects all of us," says SAGU Women's Basketball Coach Arlon Beadles. "We want to do our part as coaches and players to fight this disease."

SAGU donated all proceeds made at the gate to the American Cancer Society (ACS). Additionally, attendees donated during the game as SAGU coaches shared their personal battles with cancer. SAGU raised more than \$1,000.

The National Athletic Intercollegiate Association (NAIA) national office will present a check to the ACS at halftime during the NAIA Men's Division I National Championship. All donations will be dispersed to local ACS chapters according to where the donations were collected. ■



SAGU debuts women's fast-pitch softball

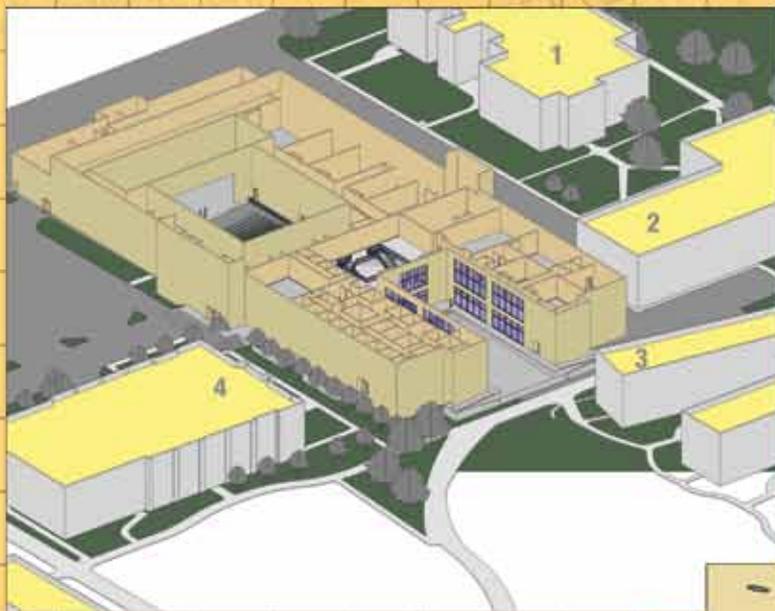
SAGU began the first season of its newly created women's fast-pitch softball against Hillsdale Baptist College on Saturday, February 4, 2012, in Moore, Oklahoma.

After 17 games on the road, the Lady Lions finally returned March 29, 2012, to play their first home game against Langston University. They will soon play at their new campus park. The new facility includes an expanded dugout for SAGU, a clay infield and a regulation outfield with 6-foot fences.

The team had their first fall training camp in October. They worked on fundamentals, live batting, game situations and base-running. Additionally, SAGU Professor Sally Ford has been developing player quickness and agility as the team's speed coach. ■

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

79,000 SQUARE FEET
\$21 MILLION



At left, you can see the position of the WCC nestled among Nelson Memorial Library (1), Farmer Administration Building (2), Davis Building (3) and Claxton Athletic Center (4).

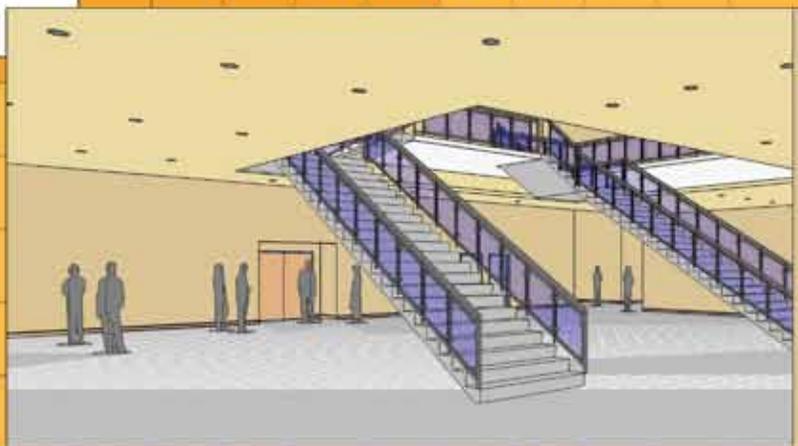


INTERIOR VIEW FROM MAIN ENTRY

COSTS IN PERSPECTIVE

In comparison to other recent construction projects, the significant pricetag of the WCC reflects the high construction costs for these technology-intensive facilities.

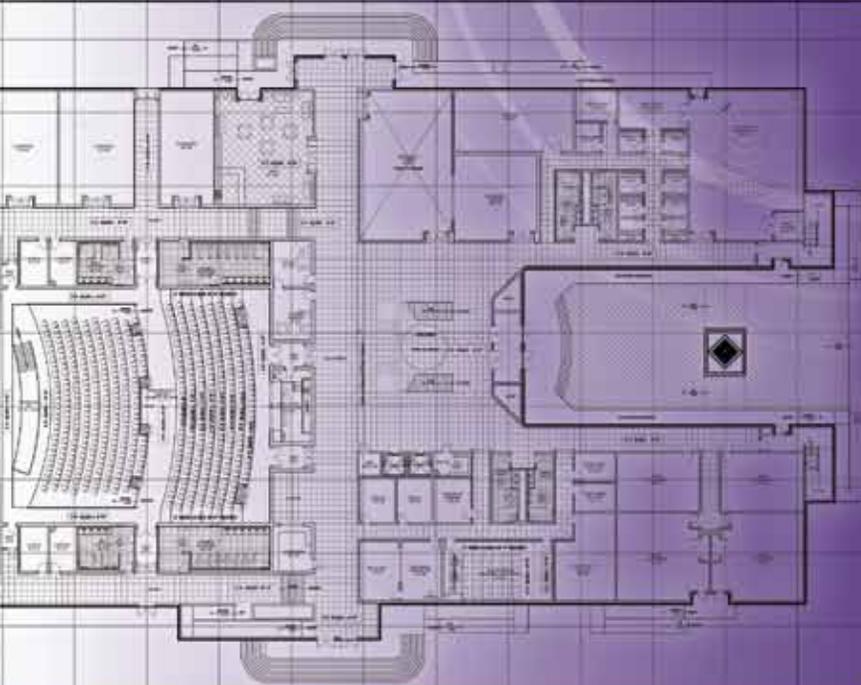
-  SHEAFFER FULL LIFE CENTER: \$7.5M
-  TEETER AND BRIDGES HALLS: \$16M



ON TER



FRONT VIEW FROM NORTH



EXTERIOR VIEW FROM COURTYARD



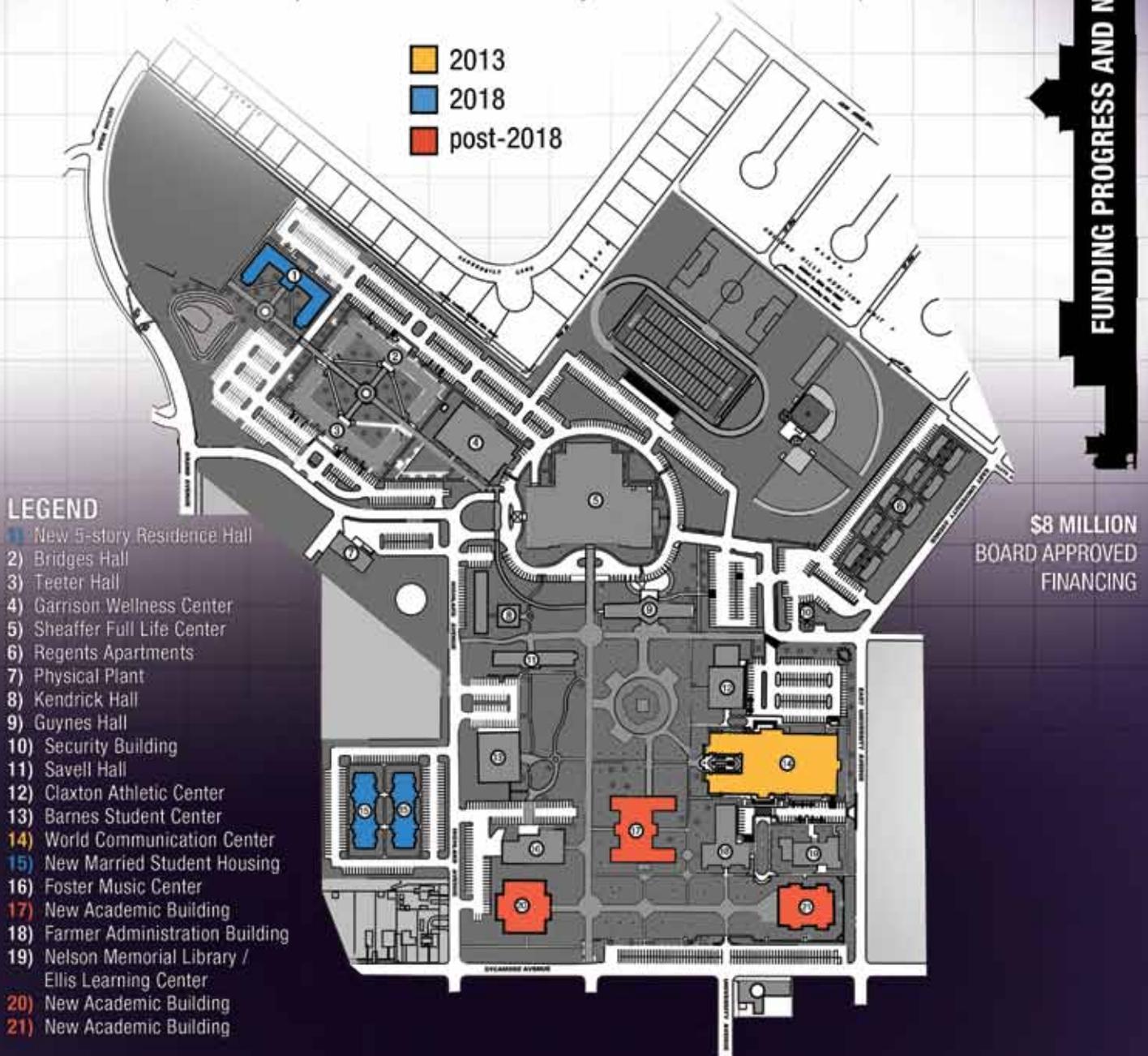
AMENITIES

- Performance Arts Auditorium – seating capacity of 637; supporting areas: main stage, back stage, light and audio control room
- Classrooms
- Rehearsal Halls – instrumental, choir and drama
- Film Screening/Preaching and Speech Lab
- Black-Box Theater
- TV and Film Studio
- Audio Recording Studio
- Digital Video Editing Lab
- Digital Video Editing Suites
- Music Theory Room
- Piano Lab – equipped with music notation software, digital pianos and computers for the use of teaching and arranging choral and instrumental pieces
- Music Library and Listening Lab
- Music Practice Rooms
- Departmental Office Complex
- Concession booth – refreshments during events
- Café – provides daily refreshments for purchase
- Receiving and Loading Dock
- Green Room
- Storage Rooms
- Workshops – Scene Shop, Paint, Electrical, Woodworking. Room located behind the main stage for building of props, storage and housing of technical equipment.
- Wardrobe Storage
- Dressing Rooms

2013 AND 2018 CAMPUS PREVIEW

\$1 MILLION
MABEE CHALLENGE GRANT

With the development of the World Communication Center, SAGU is already looking toward further campus development and beautification. Shown below, you can see plans for the demolition of Davis Building to creating a central corridor and greenspace through the center of campus, as well as plans for another student dormitory on the northwest corner of campus.



SAGU receives \$9 million in gifts, \$1 million Mabee Challenge Grant

\$21 MILLION
TOTAL COST

\$3 MILLION
BALANCE NEEDED BY
APRIL 2013

\$9 MILLION
CURRENT DONATIONS

In the last ten years SAGU enrollment has increased 16 percent. Meanwhile, the combined enrollment of Communication Arts, Language Arts and Music has doubled. The growth of these programs created a need for additional space and learning tools.

In 2009, representatives from the administration and Communication Arts faculty traveled to another university to tour that institution's state-of-the-art Communication Center. The administration appointed faculty member Rob Price to assimilate concepts and identify desired components for a new facility on the SAGU campus. Thus began the process that would result in the university's plan for its own World Communication Center.

A monumental endeavor, President Bridges and his

administrative team knew the project would be a challenge, totaling an estimated \$21 million. The initial plan was to build the WCC in two phases. Segmenting the project would allow SAGU to construct the facility as resources became available. An unexpected \$5 million gift to the WCC last September from a generous family, combined with \$8 million authorized by the Board of Regents for financing, compelled the administration to consider the feasibility of constructing the entire facility at once.

God has miraculously provided for SAGU throughout its 85-year history and the last six months is evidence of His continued provision. Since September, the university has received an additional \$1.8 million from the same generous family who gave

the \$5 million, as well as a \$2.5 million gift from Dr. John and Diana Hagee. The gift was timely in view of SAGU's most recent news concerning a challenge grant from the Mabee Foundation.

The Mabee Foundation was instrumental in the construction of Sheaffer Full Life Center and Teeter Hall. This March, the university submitted a grant proposal for the WCC. On April 10, their Board convened and authorized a \$1 million challenge grant on the condition that SAGU raise the balance toward the project by April 2013. The aforementioned gifts have placed SAGU within striking distance of funding this 79,000-square-foot facility, which will be the second largest building on campus. ■

Dr. John and Diana Hagee commit \$2.5 million

This year Dr. John and Diana Hagee committed \$2.5 million toward the construction of the World Communication Center.

Dr. John Hagee is the founder and Senior Pastor of Cornerstone Church in San Antonio, Texas, a non-denominational evangelical church with more than 20,000 active members. Pastor Hagee is President of John Hagee Ministries, which telecasts his national radio and television teachings throughout America and in 245 nations worldwide.

Hagee received a Bachelor of Science from SAGU, Bachelor of Arts from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, and master's degree from the University of North Texas.

He is the author of 32 major books, including four on the New York Times Best Seller's List. Among his works are commentary study Bibles, novels and



numerous devotionals. In 2006, Dr. Hagee founded, and is the National Chairman of Christians United For Israel, a grass roots national association through which every pro-Israel Christian ministry, parachurch organization, or individual in America can speak and act with one voice in support of Israel in matters related to biblical issues. ■

the making of TO EVERY NATION

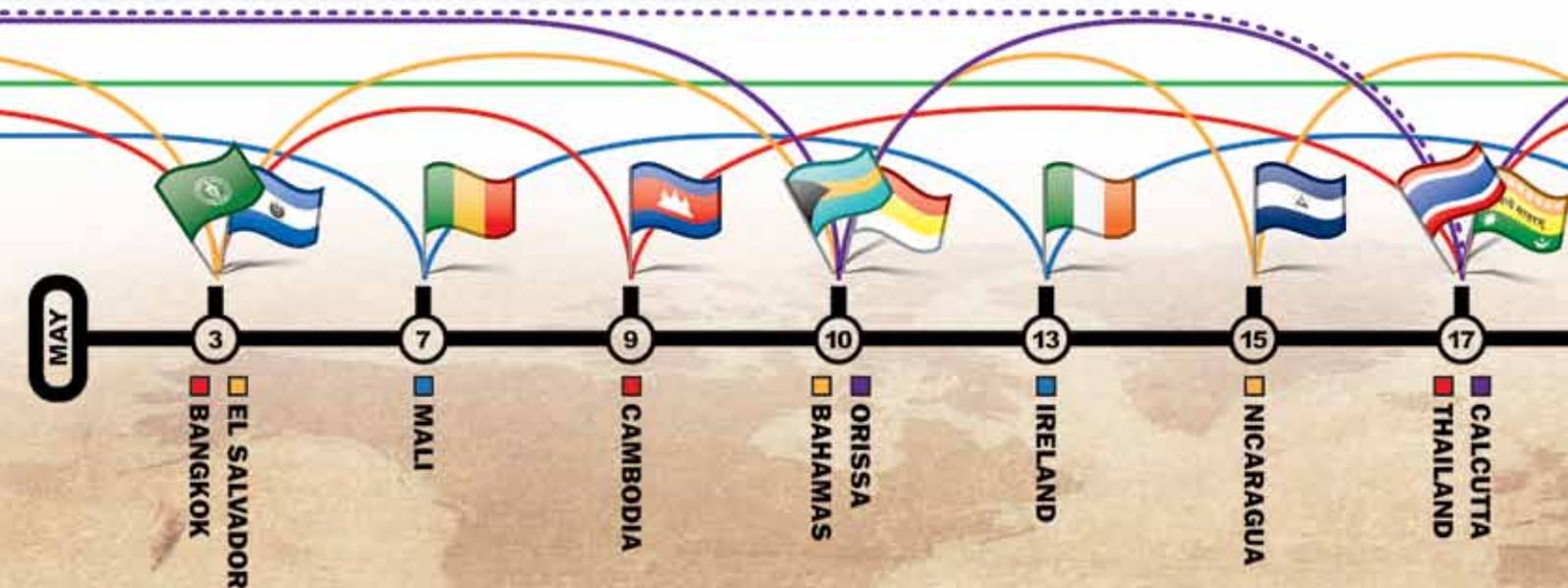
THE MISSION TEN DOCUMENTARY

- **Team 1:** Landon Perry & Brianna Woodson
- **Team 2:** Jason Rutel & Richie Kotwica
- **Team 3:** Krystle Sonmore & Richie Kotwica
- **Team 4:** Shelby Valdez & Matt Deras
- **Team 5:** Josh Freethy, Josiah Hartmann & Jason Rutel

“I remember getting out of our van in India in the middle of the night and seeing hundreds of people sleeping on the street,” said student Josh Freethy. “That image is something that I will never forget.”

In the Bahamas, SAGU students helped a local church and ministered to the elderly on the island of Xuma. “I could say that it was the worst living conditions that I had ever seen, but that wouldn’t even prepare you for what we experienced – what we saw and smelled,” shared student missionary Christine Mercer.

“In El Salvador, gang leaders say that if they can get a child by the age of nine to commit their first crime, which is usually





armed robbery or murder, the child will never leave the gang lifestyle,” missionary assistant Josh Sears shared.

For the first time in its history, SAGU’s Digital Media Arts program released a groundbreaking, full-length feature documentary, “To Every Nation.” SAGU embedded journalists (EJs) joined Southwestern Missions Association’s (SMA) 2011 missionary teams to record the stories of missionaries worldwide.

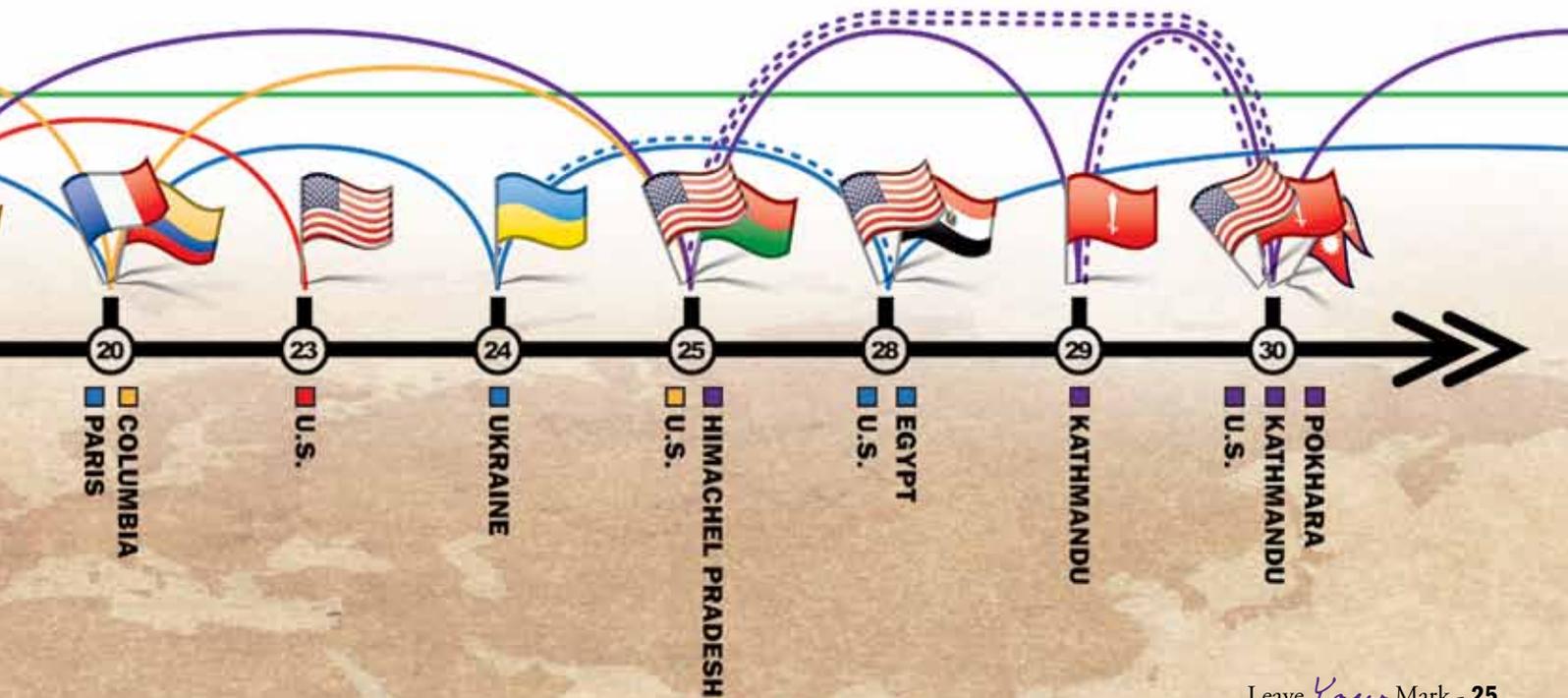
In 2010, the SAGU Missions department

introduced Mission TEN (To Every Nation), a vision to send students to serve in 192 nations, 34 Chinese provinces and 35 Indian states by the year 2020. Mission TEN is an opportunity for SAGU to actively express its core value of mission-mindedness and participate in evangelism throughout the world.

SAGU Digital Media Arts faculty member Rob Price proposed the documentary idea to SAGU Director of World Missions Chad Germany in August 2010. “The Holy Spirit

planted this vision on my heart,” Price said. “I had to find a way to make this happen.”

The documentary would be a powerful way to integrate SAGU’s core value of mission-mindedness into one of SAGU’s liberal arts programs. A veteran of more than a dozen mission trips over 20 years, Price sensed a deeper and more personal implication. “I prayed that God would use this project to wreck my students – to give them a heart for missions service that would motivate them for the rest of their lives,” he shared.



SAGU's Mission TEN has ministered to 35 of the 261 locations it plans to reach. In 2009-2010, 103 students engaged in a total of 15 trips. In 2011, 114 students traveled to 20 countries. Nine Digital Media Arts students divided into 2-person teams traveling to a different country every three to four days over a two-month period.

Before the EJs began their journey, they accompanied the Mission TEN teams for a week of leadership training in Arizona. While student missionaries trained for their ministries, the EJs filmed the camp as preparation for the mission field. The EJs studied other documentaries, brainstormed framework, talked through story mapping, and practiced interviewing.

Like other student missionaries, each embedded journalist raised between \$1,200 and \$2,200 for their trips. SAGU alumni gave more than \$50,000 during Homecoming in 2010 to cover the cost of the recording equipment needed. Each team carried a backpack containing a laptop, a high definition camera that shoots video and still photos, a tripod, two external hard drives, a wireless audio kit, and a light and reflector kit.

Embedded Journalist Krystle Sonmore shared, "I didn't realize how much traveling there would be. We went from one flight to another to another, some of us having 18-hour layovers. Plus, we had to be cautious because we were carrying around a canvas

out which countries were closest together and would be the easiest to travel between took hours."

"During their travels, the EJs were struggling to figure out where they were supposed to be because of the language barriers," Price said. "But, they had to make decisions quickly because so many of them had little time between their connecting flights."

The journalism teams filmed and reported 2-3 personal interviews or ministries while in each country. Students filmed a total of 119 hours overseas. But, the embedded journalists were not alone in the creation of "To Every Nation." Four thousand hours of work from 44 people in three classes went into creating the 90-minute documentary.

For every hour of raw footage, only one minute was used in the final documentary.

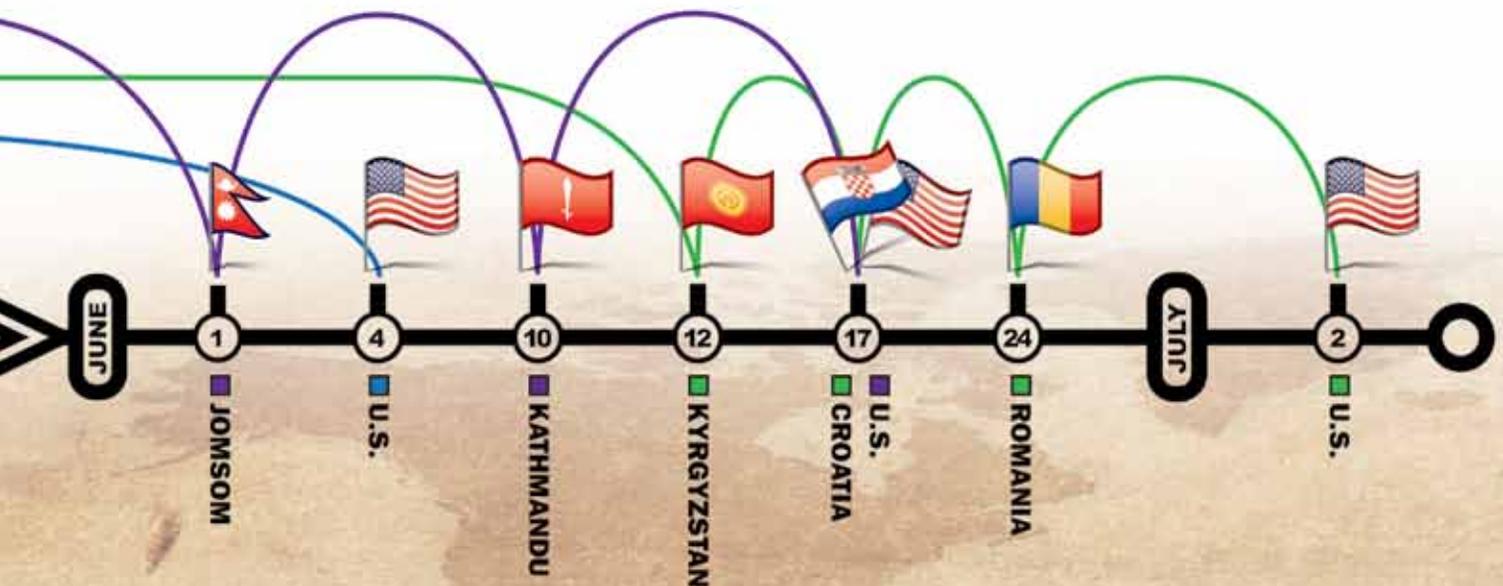
The EJs begin the documentary with an exposition of the countries they visited and the people they encountered. The interviews are of students, missionaries or locals in each country. The EJs took particular care to protect missionaries' identities.

Embedded Journalist Landon Perry shared, "In some countries it was difficult because we had to be incredibly mindful of who we interviewed and what we asked. We



backpack with \$7,000 worth of new equipment."

Price explained, "One of the most difficult parts of our journey was scheduling when and where our EJs would go. Trying to figure



didn't want to put the missionary, our teams or ourselves in danger."

He continues, "But we still had opportunities to capture some powerful moments. One of the interviews that I conducted was with a Muslim headmaster who expressed his appreciation to the team and their Christian ministry. This experience taught me how to interact with people from different cultures, backgrounds, and belief systems."

After returning to the states, each Scriptwriting student was assigned one of the EJs' stories to script. The Electronic Field Production (EFP) class edited the raw footage according to the script. The Studio Production class filmed the EJs' introduction of the countries, and then recorded their scripted voice-overs. After the project was completed, SAGU presented the documentary to the missionaries and the Assemblies of God World Missions for final

approval.

Sonmore shares, "Being a part of 'To Every Nation' made me realize that we may be the only Christians that they interact with in their lifetime. We have to make a lasting impression, and we have to share their stories."

For the first time in its history, SAGU's Digital Media Arts program released a groundbreaking, full-length feature documentary "To Every Nation." SAGU embedded journalists (EJs) joined SMA's 2011 missionary teams to record the stories of missionaries worldwide.

"This project taught me how to deal with talent professionally and how to capture their story," Perry said. "The documentary style filming taught me how to frame shots on the go to get the best shot possible."

Previous SAGU student films have

received numerous awards. The team for "Murdoch" received three awards at the WorldFest Film Festival in Houston, Texas. The film won a Gold Award (2nd place) for all Short Film Cinematography and two Platinum Awards (1st place) for Short Film Editing and Short Film Screenwriting.

Earlier this year "Murdoch" won 3rd place for Student Productions at the National Religious Broadcasters Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. It recently won "Best Short Feature" at Minnesota's On the Edge Family Film Festival.

SAGU Cinema's first film "Breaking News" received Best Cinematography for Short Film at the World Fest Film Festival in 2009. "Breaking News" broadcast nationally on NRB network, TCT network, TBN network and the Australian Christian Channel. ■

INSIDE THE BACKPACK

- ▶ Lumix GH2 Digital Camera
- ▶ Benro Collapsible Tripod
- ▶ 13-inch MacBook Pro
- ▶ Impact Collapsible Light Reflector
- ▶ Bescor LED Battery Powered Light
- ▶ Sennheiser Wireless Audio Combo Kit



Class Notes

1940s

Paul Spinden (1946) has two sons: Paul M. and Frank. Paul M. is a retired Judge and is currently a professor at Liberty University. Frank is an ordained minister.

1950s

Betty Latham Grant (1954) was named "Who's Who Among American Teachers." The "Who's Who" award honors America's most respected teachers and acknowledges their excellence as distinguished educators. Betty played violin and traveled with the orchestra during her first year at SAGU. During her second year she sang with the Harvester Choir. Following a morning chapel featuring the Missionaries Quartet for Speed the Light, she met one of its members and later married Warren Grant in Memphis, Tennessee. Betty moved to California and received her bachelor's degree in Education with honors from Sacramento State University. For 40 years Betty taught elementary students in Idaho, Tennessee, Missouri and California as a reading specialist. She later graduated (with honors) with a master's degree from Drury University.

Horace Hardwick (1957) was recently appointed to the Arkansas Higher Education Board by the governor after serving six years in the Arkansas State Legislature. He and his wife of 55 years,

Jeretta (Clark) (1956), live in Bentonville, Arkansas. They have three children and eight grandchildren.

Sherry (Briot) Williams (1959) lived and worked in Israel from 1980 to 1982. She also worked for 10 years at a large health maintenance organization. Her son Greg Williams also attended SAGU and earned his master's degree in Human Services Counseling in 2009.

Margaret (Margo) (Elliott) Cook (1959) had two years at SAGU that were life changing for her as she came straight from India. Margo graduated from high school her first semester and went on to complete one and a half years of Junior College. The chapel services, revivals and driving to attend Harvester Choir tours are favorite memories.

2000s

Bethany (Ball) Arie (2002) was appointed Fannin County Extension Agent of Family and Consumer Sciences. It was announced jointly by County Judge Creta Carter and Hurley Miller, the District Extension Administrator. Bethany will be in charge of planning, implementing, evaluating and interpreting extension education programs in 4-H and Youth Development, and in Family and Consumer Science departments.

Celia (Crane) Ersch (2011) graduated from SAGU and one month later married the love of her life, Camerand Ersch. He graduated from University of Texas at Arlington and was commissioned into the Air Force in May 2011. The couple is now stationed in Great Falls, Montana.

Celebrations

Bearett Wolverton (December 2009) and Jennifer Webb (December 2008) were engaged October 2010 at Niagara Falls while she was working on her master's degree in upstate New York. The couple married June 4, 2011, at First Assembly of God in Waxahachie, TX. They currently reside in Brazoria, TX, where Bearett

serves as the youth pastor at First Assembly of God, and Jennifer is a director of an education-based afterschool program through the Boys and Girls Club.

In Memoriam

Eulma Lee (Cunningham) Montgomery (1946) at age 87 went to be with the Lord on September 20, 2011, at Rockport, Texas. She was born October 3, 1923, at Crush, Texas, to Reverend Will and Lula Mae (Moseley) Cunningham, Sr. In 1941, she enrolled at Southwestern in Waxahachie, Texas, graduating in the spring of 1946. She later became the Dean of Women at Southwestern. For several years during the mid-40s, Eulma Lee and her younger sister and brother, Melbajo and Billy, traveled in ministry as a trio, holding revivals and vacation Bible schools. She was an ordained Assembly of God minister for many years, pastoring churches throughout Texas. Eulma married Merlon Montgomery on February 6, 1960.

Reverend William Carl Smith (1950) was born on February 14, 1924 and passed away on Saturday, October 15, 2011. Rev. Smith was a resident of Athens, Texas.

Reverend Alva Ralph Sill (1950) passed away on October 5, 2011 at age 85 in Springfield, Missouri. He was born October 20, 1925 in Purdin, Missouri, the son of Thomas and Bertha (Black) Sill. On March 25, 1948, Sill married Mary Lois carter in Ovilla, Texas. In 1953, he was ordained as an Assemblies of God Minister. He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Ruth Miller; four brothers; three sisters; two nephews; and one niece.

Reverend Russell Reed Gipson Jr. (1951) passed away Monday, September 26, 2011, in Odessa, Texas. He was born June 30, 1928 in Osage County, Oklahoma, the 5th of 6 children. In 1950 he married Wilma Jean Bascom. Wilma went to be with the Lord in 1976. In October 1978 Reed married Gwendolyn Davis. Reed is survived by his wife, 6 children, and 13 grandchildren.

Dr. William (Bill) Lauren Shell (1953) went to be with the Lord on Saturday,

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November 19, 2011. He was born April 22, 1930 in Excel, Alabama where he grew up. Shell earned a Bachelor's of Theology from Southwestern, a Bachelor's of Education from Florida Southern University and a Masters and DED in Education from the University of Oklahoma. He was ordained as a minister in the Assemblies of God in 1951. Bill was preceded in death by his parents; wife of 56 years, Retha (Stratton) who attended Southwestern from 1949-52; great-granddaughter, brother, and sister. He is survived by his two sons, five grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren.

Travis Wallace (1953) went to be with the Lord on August 22, 2011.

Reverend Wayne R. Smith (1958) age 79 of Rowlett, Texas, passed away December 14, 2011. He was born June 13, 1932 in Sullivan, Indiana, to William & Ethel (Johnson) Smith. Rev. Smith served in the United States Air Force for eight years. He was an ordained minister in the Assemblies of God for 50 years and pastored churches in Indiana, Oklahoma and Arizona, as well as several in the Dallas area since 1965.

Reverend L.V. Price (1962), a minister of Jesus since age 17, went to be with the Lord on September 14, 2011. Rev. Price was born January 16, 1943 in Wichita, Kansas. He met his wife Linda at Southwestern and they were married in 1962 and began to pastor in 1965. Rev. Price was ordained in 1968. He pastored churches in Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana.

Judith Mattes (1999) of Yuma, Arizona, passed away on December 15, 2011 at age 63. She was born April 22, 1948 in Indianapolis, Indiana to Slavko and Arline Mattes. Judith obtained her Doctorate in Education in 1982 and later became an ordained minister. She served as a missionary at the American Indian College.

Reverend Derrell Lewis Miles, resident of Grove, Oklahoma, passed away Sept. 30, 2011 at age 69. Rev. Miles had been a minister for 48 years, serving in the General Council of the Assemblies of God as well as pastoring in Georgia, Missouri, Kansas, Indiana, Arkansas, Florida, and Oklahoma. He had also served as a missionary in the Ivory Coast, and West Africa. He had served as a professor at the West African

Advanced School of Theology as well as a church planter in the Ivory Coast. He married Gayle Elaine Brooks (1963) on June 8, 1963. Derrell is survived by his wife, son, brother and two sisters.

James Rose was born on August 1, 1934 and passed away on Thursday, June 16, 2011. James was a resident of North Little Rock, Arkansas at the time of his passing. He is survived by his wife Doris.

J.O. Belin was born on May 11, 1931 and passed away on Friday, August 12, 2011. Belin was a resident of Camden, Arkansas.

Reverend Arthur Curtis Parker Sr. of Story, Arkansas, passed away July 20, 2011. He was born on January 3, 1944, in Hot Springs, Arkansas. He was an ordained minister of the Assemblies of God. Rev. Blevins pastored churches in Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas before retiring after 55 years.

Reverend Robert F. Pruett was born on July 18, 1927 and passed away on Monday, August 22, 2011. He was a resident of Temecula, California.

Quick Facts

Enrollment.....2,023

Student/Teacher Ratio..... 19:1

Cost Per Year..... \$19,320

Based on full-time tuition with room and board for 2012-2013.

Cost Per Hour (SDE, HSGS)

Undergraduate \$525

Graduate \$540

Financial Aid..... 92% receive financial aid.

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About the School of Distance Education

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Accreditation

Southwestern Assemblies of God University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award the Master, Bachelor and Associate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Southwestern Assemblies of God University.

Academic Programs

Master's

Counseling Psychology

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Education ¹

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

History ³

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Thesis Track
Non-thesis Track

Master of Divinity ¹

Organizational Leadership ²

Theological Studies ¹

Bible & Theology
Children & Family Ministries ³
Missions
Practical Theology

Middle & Secondary ¹

English Language Arts/Reading ¹
Social Studies/History ¹

Music Education (Instrumental, Piano, Vocal) ²
Physical Education ²

English ¹

History ¹

Human Services ¹

Management ¹

Management Information Systems

Marketing ¹

Media Ministries ²

Music Ministries ²

Music Performance (Instrumental, Piano, Vocal) ²

Occupational Leadership ¹

Pastoral Ministries ¹

Professional Development ¹

Psychology ¹

Social Work ²

Sports Management ²

Theological Studies ¹

World Ministries ¹

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Bachelor's

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Ancient Studies ¹

Biblical Studies ¹

Business Administration ¹

Children & Family Ministries ¹

Church Ministries ¹

Church Planting & Revitalization ¹

Communication ²

Counseling ¹

Counseling Ministries ¹

Criminal Justice ¹

Digital Media Arts ²

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Education ¹

Bilingual Education ²

Elementary Education ¹

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Bible ¹

Business Administration ¹

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² Partially offered online. Some on-campus coursework required.

³ Exclusively offered online.

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