

SOUTHERN WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2024



This academic year marked 175 years since the founding of Freedom's Hill, the first Wesleyan abolitionist church in the South. Today, Freedom's Hill Chapel stands as the spiritual epicenter of SWU's campus. One example of this is the prayer and commissioning service for all new faculty held in Freedom's Hill Chapel every August. This was founded by our Provost and Chaplain, and quickly became a key moment at the start of the academic year. Another example is our University Ambassadors leading new students, parents, faculty, and staff on tours with special stops at Freedom's Hill throughout the year. Freedom's Hill was also the final goal of a "Warrior Run" during Orientation, where I was proud to join our Chaplain and a group of new students on a 1.5-mile jog around campus ending at Freedom's Hill. Once there, we received an inspiring message delivered by Prof. Mark Wilson. Students heard about the relevance of the Freedom's Hill story and its application for our lives today. We have also hosted a number of special events and worship services there throughout the academic year. At Homecoming, Dr. Bob Black offered a stellar lecture titled, "Conscience and Commitment: A 175th Anniversary Tribute to Freedom's Hill Church." Later in the weekend, Mr. Bob Woodson, one of the original Civil Rights activists who worked with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered a keynote address also following this theme. Freedom's Hill is cherished, honored, and put into service for worship and prayer in a variety of ways. So, why do I take the time to share these

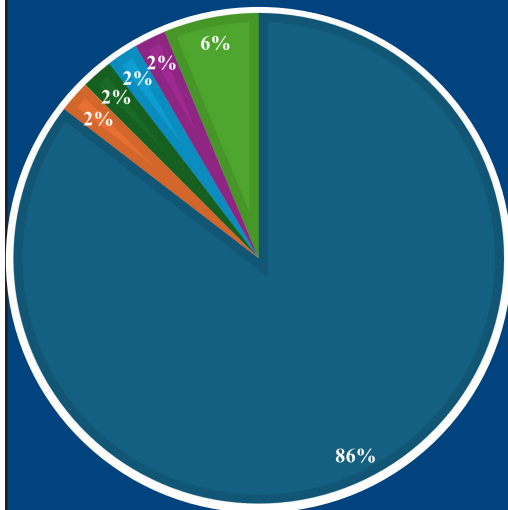
reflections at this particular moment? Because in many ways Freedom's Hill is more than just a site on our campus. It is holy ground. It epitomizes the life of worship we seek to instill in our students. It is also a symbol that reminds us that no matter how much change takes place on our campus, we are always guided by our past into a faithful present and future. The Spirit of God that motivated and sustained the founders of Freedom's Hill (and our university founders nearly 60 years later) is the same Spirit we seek to honor and worship today. That is why we strive to see our holy university become a true stronghold and oasis for God's Truth, Goodness, and Beauty. It is also why we seek The Four Outcomes for each and every Southern Wesleyan University student, so that they might graduate with 1) Biblical Faithfulness, 2) Academic Rigor, 3) Vocational Effectiveness, and 4) Financial Sustainability. Through all of this and beyond, please join us in our thanksgiving to God and our prayers to be a university that is pleasing to Him – a university not just informed by its past, but faithful now and into its future.

William D. Barker, Ph.D.
President, Southern Wesleyan University



2023-2024 Chapel Speakers By Denomination

- Wesleyan
- Assemblies of God
- Non-Denominational
- Baptist
- Global Methodist
- All Others



Over seventy-six chapel services held in the 2023-2024 academic year

Chapel Services—66
Come & Go Communion—5
Lenten Meditations—3
Outdoor Worship Concerts—2

Wesleyan Students

For the 2023-2024 Academic year, Southern Wesleyan has awarded **\$1,267,189** in institutional aid to **74** Wesleyan students for an average of **\$17,124** per student. Each student has a story of how they ended up at SWU and many would not be able to attend college without the institutional aid we provide. As the numbers show, Southern Wesleyan invests heavily in Wesleyan students each year.



Caleb Caldwell

(NC West District)

Caleb's parents met while they were students at Southern Wesleyan in the 1990's. Caleb has followed in their footsteps by leading the chapel band and summer worship team, The Difference.



Noah Brayerton

(South Carolina District)

Noah is a third generation SWU student. Noah serves on the chapel band and is a recipient of the SWU Fellows Scholarship.



48

New Hires
2023-2024



154

FT Faculty
& Staff



800+

Undergrad Students
(fall 2023)

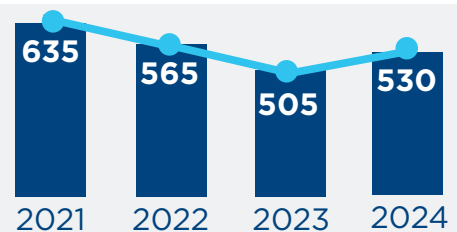


149

May 2024 Grads

2021-24

Enrollment trend for
incoming class
(spring data)



BIBLICALLY FAITHFUL • ACADEMICALLY RIGOROUS
VOCATIONALLY EFFECTIVE • FINANCIALLY AFFORDABLE

**Southern
Wesleyan**
UNIVERSITY

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