

# WE ARE SEU

STUDENT STORIES 16







## \\SIMPLICITY\\

A DEVOUT LIFE DOES BRING WEALTH, BUT IT'S THE  
RICH SIMPLICITY OF BEING YOURSELF BEFORE GOD.  
SINCE WE ENTERED THE WORLD PENNILESS AND  
WILL LEAVE IT PENNILESS, IF WE HAVE BREAD ON THE  
TABLE AND SHOES ON OUR FEET, THAT'S ENOUGH.

1 TIMOTHY 6:6-8 (MSG)



# FOREWORD

When I reflect on the year since the pandemic disrupted our lives, I am reminded of Luke 12:22-23 (NIV), where Jesus tells His disciples to not worry. The verses say, “Then Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes.’”

Reading further into Luke 12, Jesus talks about how the ravens do not store up a supply of food because God provides for them. Jesus says, “And how much more valuable you are than birds” (Luke 12:24). What if we had that same level of trust in God?

This passage of scripture couldn’t be more relevant today. Living in the midst of a pandemic has taught us a lot. We’ve had to grapple with a new way of doing life. We’ve become familiar with uncertainty. For some, it’s brought on a new level of anxiety.

Early into the pandemic, we were asked to stay home. During this time, many of us spent more time with our families. We picked up new hobbies and learned to be creative in how we utilized our time. It was in the stillness of those weeks that we had to learn to trust God.

While we put aside the busyness and spent more time with those close to us, we learned to appreciate the simplicity of life. We began to pause and evaluate what is important to us.

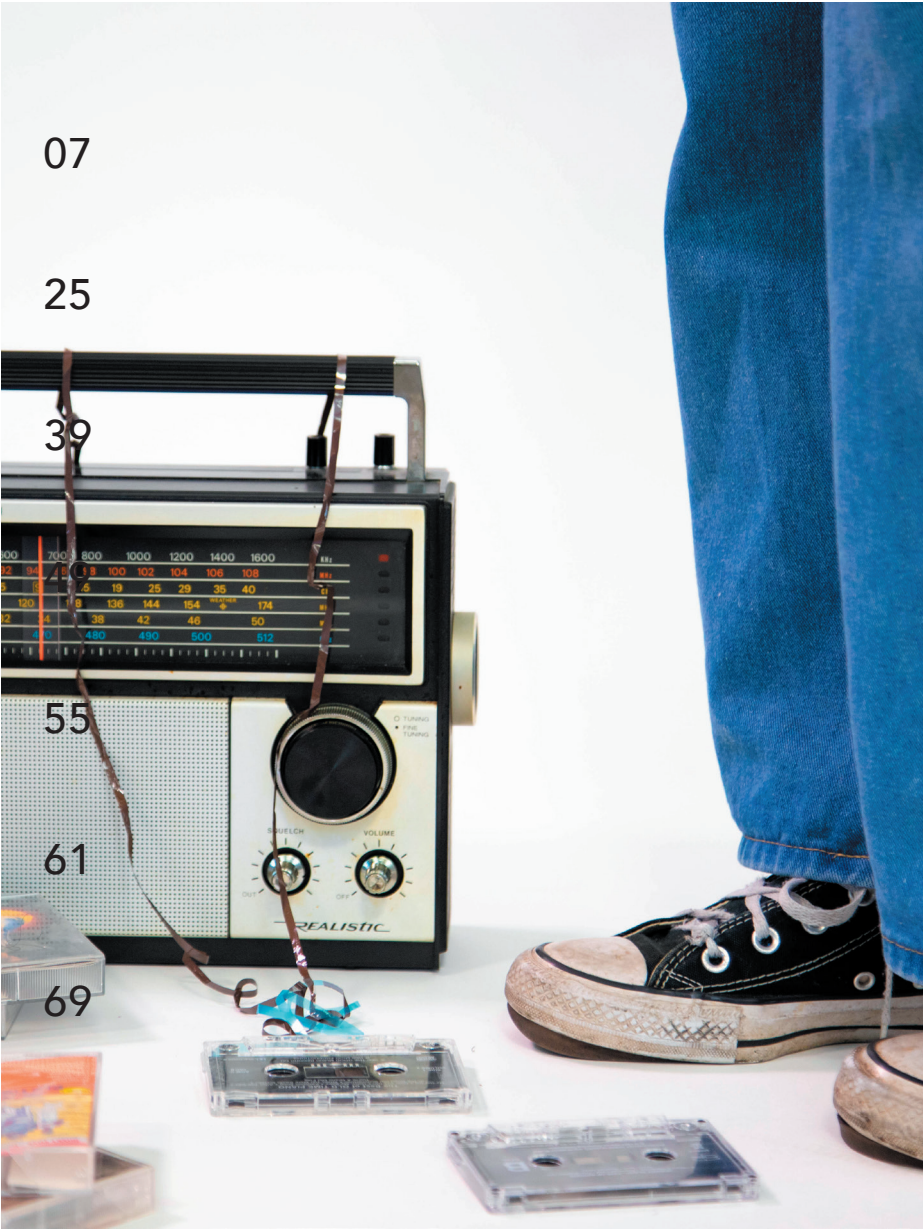
As we look to summer and hope that our world will return to some normalcy, I would encourage you to continue to find moments of stillness with God. As Jesus called his disciples to “seek His kingdom” (Luke 12:31), I encourage you to do the same.

It can be easy to fill our days with worry to the point we forget the faithfulness of God. Take moments to reflect on this past year and spend time alone in prayer. Be grateful for the simple things in life and don’t take any of them for granted. While our world is uncertain, our God remains unchanging.

- Dr. Kent Ingle, SEU President

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## WE ARE SEU // ISSUE 16

The We Are SEU team recognizes a building chaos as our lives begin the return to normalcy, and we wanted to offer a reminder of encouragement. You do not have to prove your worth; you are simply called to live and to love in Christ's name.

The mirage of culture is significantly constricting and misleading, but the simplicity of what truly matters to God is what we are called to live for. Choose to listen for His voice above the cacophony. Choose to seek His truth among the dismay.

Hannah Larson  
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**WE ARE SEU**





# SIMPLICITY

As a thick layer of dust settles in the crevices of our minds, ghost towns begin to creak with life. The return of community is an antidote against the erosion of values inflicted by time. The ringing in our ears fades as we focus on basic truths.

Ghost towns begin to creak with life. The return of community is leading us back to the straightforward path of love. The ringing in our ears fades as we focus on basic truths. Our souls sigh and we turn from the overcomplicated additions to life.

Leading us back to the straightforward path of love,  
**we join hands for relief, in unity, by grace.**

**STORY:** EMMA EAST AND HANNAH LARSON



Dear Incoming Freshmen,

Welcome to the Fire Family! College brings a multitude of opportunities and unforgettable experiences, as well as great challenges and times of uncertainty. Keeping our theme of simplicity in mind, here's a brief list of important lessons I've learned through my college years.

1. Steward your time - Do what you can while you can. Be realistic about what you can and can't do. Calculate exactly how much time and effort will be required of you before you commit to the activity. Say, "I'll get back to you on that." Prepare ahead of time to avoid severe stress and unhealthy cramming behaviors. This can be anything from putting events on your calendar ASAP to cleaning your room before junk piles up. You'll thank yourself when time is short.

2. Ditch people and activities that drain you. It's hard to let go of things you love - but if they are consistently causing trouble or stress without contributing to God's plan for your life, you'll be better off without them.

3. Dare to be different - One of the bravest (and best) decisions you can make is to love and embrace yourself. You will inspire others, too.

4. Small beginnings - Zechariah 4:10 says, "Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin." Do small jobs with excellence, and let your actions prove your character. Inspire yourself with a list of things you've done that you're proud of. Be humble enough to start at the bottom of the totem pole and learn from everyone.

Hard times will come your way - but don't lose heart. James 1 reminds us that challenges lead to perseverance which builds our character and reliance on God. You are loved and appreciated!

Your friend,  
Caroline Birmingham

Dear 2021 Graduating Class

Each one of you has worked countless hours to reach this spectacular transition from student to professional. It's a time where an endless playlist of "what's next?" or "where are you working now?" come from well-meaning friends and loved ones. Please don't let those words strike fear in your heart. Don't let the magnitude of the life ahead keep you from the simplicity of celebrating today.

It wasn't until graduate school that I realized my calling in life was not a vocation but a word from God spoken in due season. It echoed through my soul, "You are not alone." You see, regardless of my title, my calling is to share with others. "You are not alone." That phrase is relentlessly on my heart as I teach or create a new film. You are not alone.

Today, there is the still, small voice of God whispering to you, calling words forth that fill your soul with passion. Today, you can share that calling without the "perfect" career or destination or fill in the blank. Today, you are more than enough. Simply listen, then live out those words. Trust what you have learned here at Southeastern, and enjoy the adventure ahead.

Congratulations!

Sincerely,  
Professor Bethany Miller



# LOCAL HANGS

LAKELAND DOWNTOWN  
FARMERS MARKET

PHOTOS: BEKAH HORSLEY  
STORY: GRACE BALDWIN

## HONEYCOMB BREAD BAKERS



Honeycomb is a local bakery producing artisan bread and pastry, and they are the region's first organic flour miller! Order online for shipping and delivery, and find them at the Downtown Farmers Market on Saturday mornings.

**RECOMMENDATION:**  
**RASPBERRY PUFF PASTRY**





# STICK IT - THAI FOOD



Stick It -Thai Food is a vendor that serves delicious homemade Thai foods: chicken or pork on sticks, pad thai, egg rolls, wantons, and so much more. Also, they have Thai tea, Hibiscus tea, and pineapple dumplings – so yummy!

**RECOMMENDATION:**  
**DRUNKEN RICE AND PAD THAI**

# KRAZY KOMBUCHA



As long time customers of Krazy Kombucha's original location, the new owners have decided to breathe life back into a local favorite!

Krazy Kombucha is made with organic ingredients that invigorate the body. Instead of grabbing a cola, it's time to grab a Kombucha!

**RECOMMENDATION:**  
**ORGANIC GINGER KOMBUCHA**





# VEGETATION PLANT FOOD



Offering mindfully-crafted meals, salads, soups and desserts, Vegetation Plant Food is designed to nourish, satisfy and delight you. Their menu changes weekly, and they seek to help you incorporate delicious vegan meals into your weekly meal routine.

**RECOMMENDATION:**  
**VEGAN CAULIFLOWER TACOS**

# MK BOBA TEA



Providing a variety of flavors, MK Boba Tea is a must stop during your Saturday visit. Flavors range from Red Bean to Horchata, from Matcha to Strawberry, and everything in between! Instead of traveling to get your Boba fixing, stay local!

**RECOMMENDATION:**  
**STRAWBERRY LATTE BOBA**







# TRACK AND FIELD



Effort and sacrifice. By applying these words, Head Coach Nick Dodson and his team have brought the Track and Field program to new heights this year. Even as a relatively young program to Southeastern University's roster of sports, this team has been making enormous waves in the scene from the beginning. Proverbs 14:23 says, "All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty."

This verse is the foundation of Coach Dodson's program and his team. Their training regimen and results show how they have taken this verse to heart. "Effort" is the word the team has strived to live up to its first year. When asked about the effort of the Track and Field program Coach Dodson responded, "I've been a firm believer of that if you do

enough good things consistently, good things will happen. Not sure of the timing of when it will happen, but it will happen."

With all sports, many teams sacrificed their season last year with the global pandemic; the SEU Track and Field Program was no different with many of their athletes losing their opportunity to compete in nationals. Making the best of the situation, they shifted focus to academics and rest to prepare themselves for the next year.

Coming back this past fall, the team was itching for a chance to get back onto the track. In November, 12 athletes placed on the roster for nationals.

**STORY: MATTHEW HOLMAN**  
**PHOTOS: BEKAH HORSLEY**



Their impressive season has only continued as they dominated in the Indoor Sun Conference, winning both the men's and women's titles by 142 and 156 points respectively. For the first time in the program's history, the women's team achieved a national title in the NAIA Indoor National Championship in the 4x400 meter relay. The team was composed of the student-athletes Yuriah Bigos, Miyah Ford, Namiah Simpson and Courtney Gales for a combined time of 3:49.12. Between the men and the women, there were 12 podium placements in the championship meet. Now, shifting into the outdoor season, the team is driven to take their success even further.

As Coach Dodson says, "We are a better outdoor team, there is no question."

Among the other college Track and Field programs, this team has stood out not just because of the results, but because of their comradery.

"There's a family-like connection between the throwers, sprinters and distance runners on

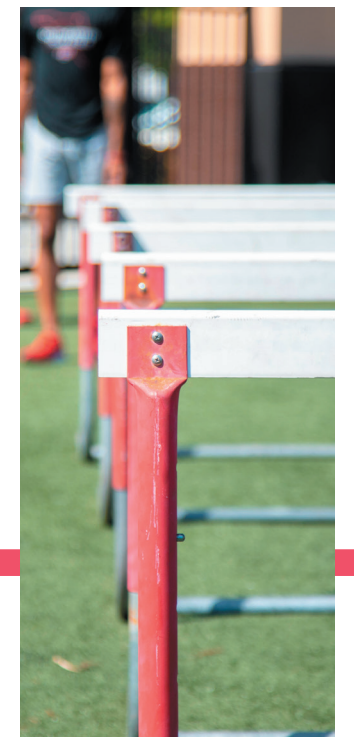
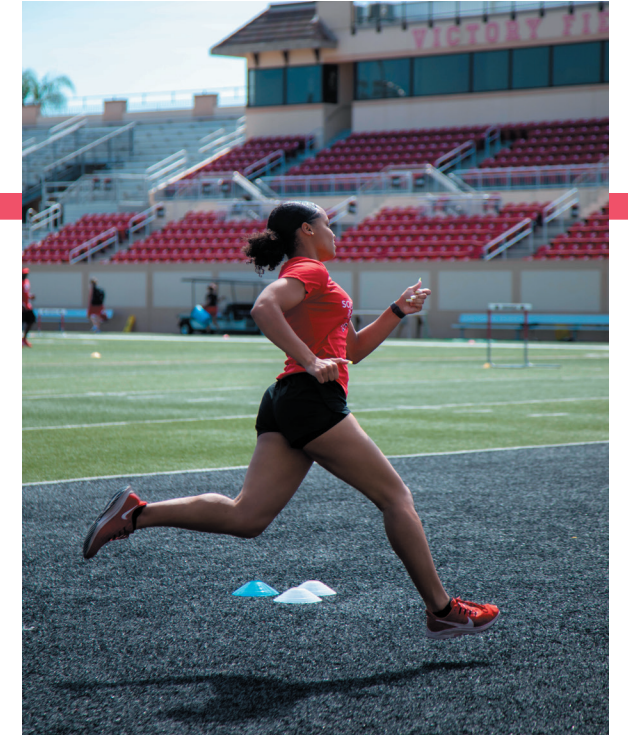
the team," said senior distance runner Luke Kathman, who placed third in the 3000-meter run at The Sun Conference meet.

Having survived brutal training regimens together, the bond of this team has grown incredibly strong. There is never a moment where an athlete is competing without other teammates cheering him or her on.

"This Track program is one of a kind," said Kyle Manual, who placed third nationally for shot put.

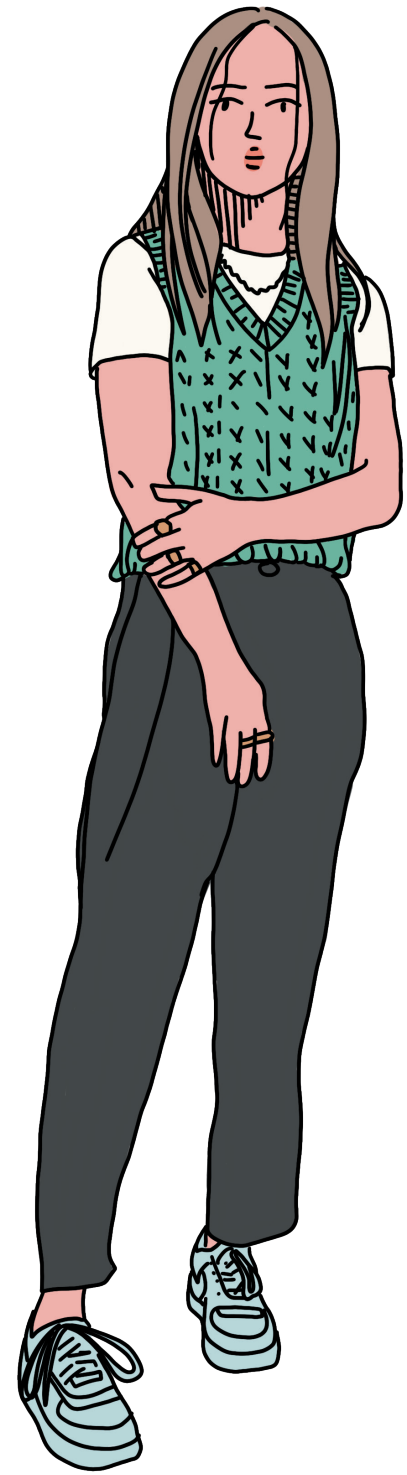
"I have fallen in love with this program not because of the medals/recognitions I did receive, but for the life changing experiences I have been through," said Courtney Gales, who helped achieve the national title for the 4X400 meter relay.

Rising to the occasion for every challenge, this program has excelled against all odds and achieved results in stellar times.





# SEU CAPSULE CLOSET



While SEU fashion varies from year to year, this semester dominant trends stormed campus! Trending outfits consisted of white Air Force Ones paired with bright, bold or solid colored shirts. Walking down El Prado, you're sure to see a fresh take on a vintage patterned shirt.





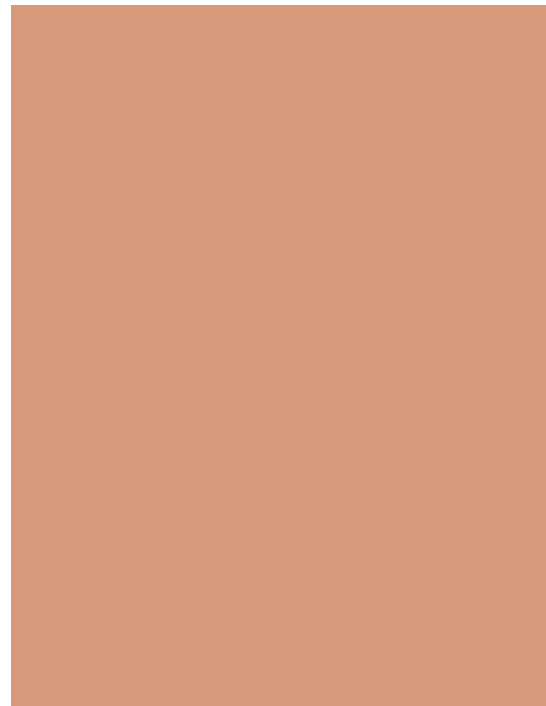


# CRYSTAL LAKE ELEMENTARY

**STORY: JADA CORLEY**

Community is not limited to those who you surround yourself with, but it extends to those who reside outside of your immediate radius. Being involved in your community is a great opportunity to use your time to serve and connect with others. To develop a richer perspective of the world we live in, it is important to never turn a blind eye to those in need. As opportunities arise to connect with people from different walks of life, a chance to view life through a different lens emerges.

Southeastern creates many opportunities for students to meet and connect in a variety of different ways. From dorm room gatherings (pre-COVID-19), to student leadership hangs, coffee dates, and going on mission trips overseas, getting involved is attainable; students always have a chance to meet people with different backgrounds and stories. These opportunities shape the way you view life and the outside world. However, a group that is often overlooked is the one right in front of us: the Crystal Lake community, a community we drive through everyday to get to and from SEU.







**SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY  
VOLUNTEERS AT CRYSTAL LAKE ELEMENTARY**

Crystal Lake Elementary School is located only a few streets behind Southeastern University's campus. Multicultural Affairs' community outreach group, One Love, has been working in the Crystal Lake Community by partnering with Crystal Lake Elementary.

SEU's Multicultural Affairs department helps facilitate the opportunity for students on campus to get involved with the Crystal Lake Community. Students and staff at SEU are involved with food distribution to the community and working with the Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring programs for the elementary school students.

The SEU and Crystal Lake Community focuses on practical solutions to real problems. To assist in improving the literacy rate within the Crystal Lake area, SEU's Multicultural Affairs team is building little libraries and working with the teachers to provide more resources and support to the students.

If you'd like to get involved, contact Ray Allen or the Multicultural Affairs Team!



# Q AND A

**(Q) WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON THAT SOUTHEASTERN HAS LEARNED AS A RESULT OF COVID-19?**

(A) Bethany: Our students are resilient and really adaptable to change. At the beginning of the pandemic, we did not know what to expect or how long it would last, but despite all the uncertainties of the past year our students remained flexible throughout the process.

**(Q) WHAT MEASURES WILL BE IN PLACE IN THE FUTURE FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN IMPACTED BY THE VIRUS?**

(A) Bethany: the CRT and Southeastern Emergency Response Team (SERT) will continue to assess each scenario, case-by-case, to best decide how to create a solution(s) in the best interest for the student(s).



**BETHANY THOMAS**  
VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

**(Q) AT WHAT POINT DID YOU REALIZE IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR STUDENTS TO RETURN TO CAMPUS IN THE FALL?**

(A) Bethany: The leadership team met consistently throughout the summer. There was a lot of prayer and consideration before coming to the decision to have students return to campus. Knowing that we were all making spirit-led and educated decisions made me feel without a shadow of a doubt that we were okay in moving forward with bringing students back to campus (fall 2020). Bottom line, students need to be in community and not isolated away from each other.

**(Q) WHAT WAS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF KEEPING SOUTHEASTERN FUNCTIONAL THROUGHOUT A GLOBAL PANDEMIC?**

(A) Bethany: The most challenging part was trying to keep students from being in close contact with each other while also trying to build community. Our students did an incredible job at keeping up with the various changes that we had to make throughout the semester, which allowed us to have a successful Academic year.

**(Q) WHAT DID THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COVID RESPONSE TEAM (CRT) LOOK LIKE?**

(A) Bethany: We believed that having the right people at the table to help make the most appropriate decisions would be crucial in having a successful and safe return. Therefore, we developed a team that was comprised of various departments to provide insight and perspective to the decision-making process. The team included both representatives from the faculty and staff. Once the team was created, they worked hand in hand with the Leadership Team (LT) to use the information gathered from the (CDC) to implement policies and procedures to maintain the health and safety of our campus.

**(Q) WHAT ARE SOME OF THE KEY DECISIONS MADE THAT WERE HELPFUL IN CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE RETURN OF STUDENTS?**

(A) Bethany: The CRT decided that screening our students’ health would be of the utmost importance. Therefore, we decided to host health screenings off campus as a part of the orientation process of returning to our campus. Masks wearing, social distancing protocols, daily symptoms and temperature checks were all implemented during the summer and were effectively communicated as soon as students arrived. Once the students were cleared to be on campus, the CRT held meetings every Thursday to assess the health and functionality of the campus and to ensure that our campus was filled with healthy citizens.



# COVID-19





# AHNA MCCROAN

## TO LOVE AND TO SERVE

**STORY:** HANNAH LARSON  
**PHOTOS:** GRACE BALDWIN

For Ahna McCroan, simplicity is not just a temporary state of being, but a consistent lifestyle. Throughout her life, McCroan has defined simplicity as a way to focus our minds on the aspects of life that are of the utmost significance: not what matters to us in our earthly condition, but what truly matters to God. In every season of her life, the Lord has revealed the beauty of simplicity to McCroan.

"To me, simplicity is about coming back to what is most important in life, and for me that's my faith, family and the people I've gotten to know at Southeastern," says McCroan. "I'm grateful for the life that I have and the places that God has led me."

Looking back on her childhood, McCroan can see how God has continuously shown His plan for her life from the very beginning.



**"TO ME, SIMPLICITY IS ABOUT COMING BACK TO WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT IN LIFE"**

"I was born in China and my parents adopted me when I was very young," says McCroan. "I was saved when I was fourteen years old at the Christian school I went to, and faith has been a major part of my life ever since. Through the building of my faith, I learned that we are to spread love, live life like Christ would and touch other people's lives; we are called to be doers for the kingdom of God."

As she entered into college, however, McCroan began to see the vast expanse of God's plan for her life to impact the lives of others.

"The beginning of my life is pretty simple, but once I got to college, I had a greater opportunity to learn more about what I want from life and figure out what type of career I wanted to pursue," says McCroan. "I started at a Christian college in Pensacola with a focus in humanities which later changed to criminal justice. I soon realized that wasn't exactly what I wanted to do with my life, but I knew I wanted to help people. I then discovered the social work major."

The social work major just so happens to be how God brought McCroan to Southeastern. After she discovered the major of social work and she learned of the outstanding social work department here at Southeastern, McCroan knew that this is where she belongs for this season of her life. Her passion for all of the possible career paths within social work keeps growing with every passing semester, and the goodness of God's plan continues to lead her with perfect direction.

"I've always thought I wouldn't want to stay in one specific job for years and years, and social work would allow me to be involved in advocating for people in several different ways," says McCroan. "I'm very passionate about mental health care and foster care reform alongside adoption, and the degree in social work that I'm earning here at Southeastern is really opening my mind to all of the different avenues in the field."

**"WE ARE  
CALLED TO  
BE DOERS  
FOR THE  
KINGDOM  
OF GOD."**







### AHNA MCCROAN, SOCIAL WORK MAJOR

"I am interested in visiting Asia to help with the adoption process. I would love to help others have the same opportunities that I had in my life through adoption."

As her education continues, McCroan is excited for the opportunity to take her learning overseas.

"I'm really thinking about doing a study abroad program my senior year to enter into international social work," says McCroan. "I am interested in visiting Asia to help with the adoption process. I would love to help others have the same opportunities that I have had in my life through adoption."

Most importantly, however, McCroan simply wants to help others. "I know that I am grateful for the people who have supported me and loved me in my life, and I want to be that person for others," says McCroan. "I think that's an important part of being a Christian and person:

to help other people live their life to the fullest. When you help others, there are testimonies that are discovered and healing that takes place."

In all things, McCroan purely strives to live by the words found in Philippians 2:3-4 (NLT): "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."



# SEU CONF 2021

**"WE CAN'T MAKE THE MISTAKE OF  
GIVING A GREAT DEAL OF ENERGY  
GETTING PEOPLE EXCITED ABOUT OUR  
MINISTRY INSTEAD OF EQUIPPING  
THEM FOR THEIRS,"** -Ryan Leak

## **MATTHEW 7:21-23**

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness'". (NIV)



PHOTOS: WE ARE SEU



No Turning



"OUR GO  
STRATEGY  
HAS TO BE AS  
STRONG AS  
OUR INVITE  
STRATEGY,"

-Ryan Leak



### EPHESIANS 3:20-21

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen". (NIV)





# CLUB FEATURE: SOUL FOOD

**STORY: MATTHEW HOLMAN**  
**PHOTOS: BEKAH HORSLEY**

Soul Food is a culmination of storytellers and actors coming together to create memorable performances. Entertaining audiences with original skits, dances, monologues and even occasionally music, this club has many talented members from all walks of life.

"Soul Food does a little bit of everything," says Co-Director Kirsten Gerlak. She explained that if someone brings a new skill to the table, they work to incorporate it into their shows.

Because their content is created originally, their performances are extremely personal with many of the actors contributing to the script.

"Soul Food is really big on this idea of using your story to minister to other people. Somebody needs to hear your story," Gerlak explained.

Tight-knit like a family, Soul Food spends all year working together and getting to know each other through worship nights, improv and team-building games and practices. The impacts of such a project usually extend past the audience it's made for, with those involved feeling moved by what they create.

Gerlak commented on the shows saying, "Even if this show didn't minister to anyone else, it ministered to us."

The club is independent and run by students who fund their own shows from past revenue made from selling tickets to their performances. While the club currently has 13 members, Soul Food is hoping to expand this coming Fall semester through events such as club rush and auditions. At times, Soul Food has had up to thirty members participating.

Soul Food focuses on producing one major performance a year, along with several smaller shows. Both the writing and acting teams tackle each challenge head-on.

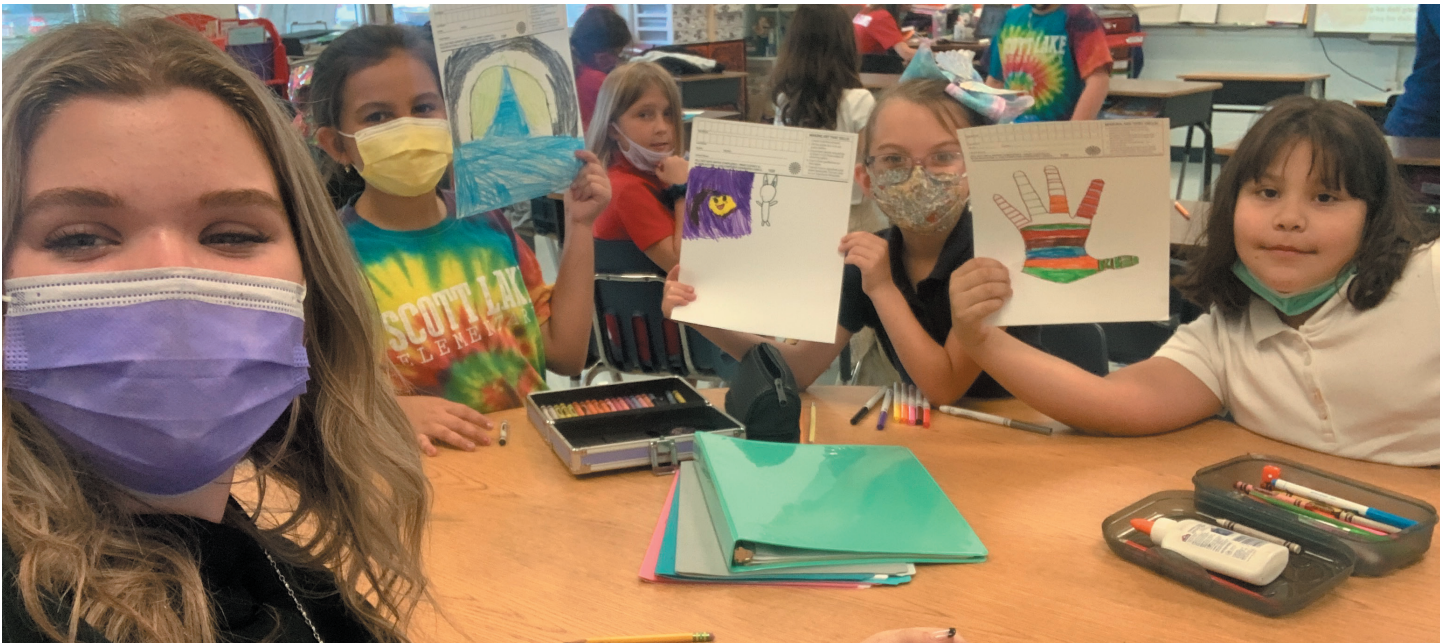




# INTERN LIFE: ABBEY TURNER

HEADSHOT: DEBRA ZUNIGA

I am the Social Media Intern at The JOY FM. Over the past three semesters, I have had the opportunity to intern remotely with this company, taking on various roles. Currently, I am in charge of planning all content for the @joy.worship account, which is dedicated to the music portion of The JOY FM. Additionally, I also manage messages sent to @thejoyfm, @joy.worship and @themorningcruise accounts across all platforms. My most memorable experience so far is helping produce a live streamed event from The Morning Cruise featuring the band CAIN. I was responsible for manning all the comments on the livestream as well as providing content for the interviews shown in the live stream. My favorite part of this internship is being surrounded by such amazing and godly people who shape my life for the better. I am so thankful for this incredible opportunity; throughout this experience I have grown both spiritually and academically.



For the past four years, I have stressed, cried and fought for my final internship. I was always told that student teaching would stretch, break and renew you in ways that you couldn't imagine. I would have to agree. Student teaching has been the most rewarding experience of my life. Going into this, I thought it would be easy because I have been taught exactly what to do and how to do it for the past four years. However, after these last three months, I have never felt more unqualified for this journey, but I think that's the miraculous thing about God; He qualifies the unqualified. Throughout this internship, I have been reminded that we need the next generation far more than they need us. Student teaching also revealed that I would not have lasted a day without the wisdom that the College of Education professors poured into me. This experience has reiterated that the best days were the simple ones: the days when I built relationships with my students and learned more about what makes them, them. I challenge you all

# INTERN LIFE: ALEXIS JORDAN

to pour life into the younger generation. You might just find them pouring more into your life than you ever thought possible. Student teaching left me with hope for the next generation, passion for education and the full-time job of my dreams.

HEADSHOT: JORDAN RANDALL





# Authentically Unified

**STORY:** MADI SCHAAF  
**PHOTOS:** CAMI BUTLER  
**LAYOUT:** MAKAYLA BLACK

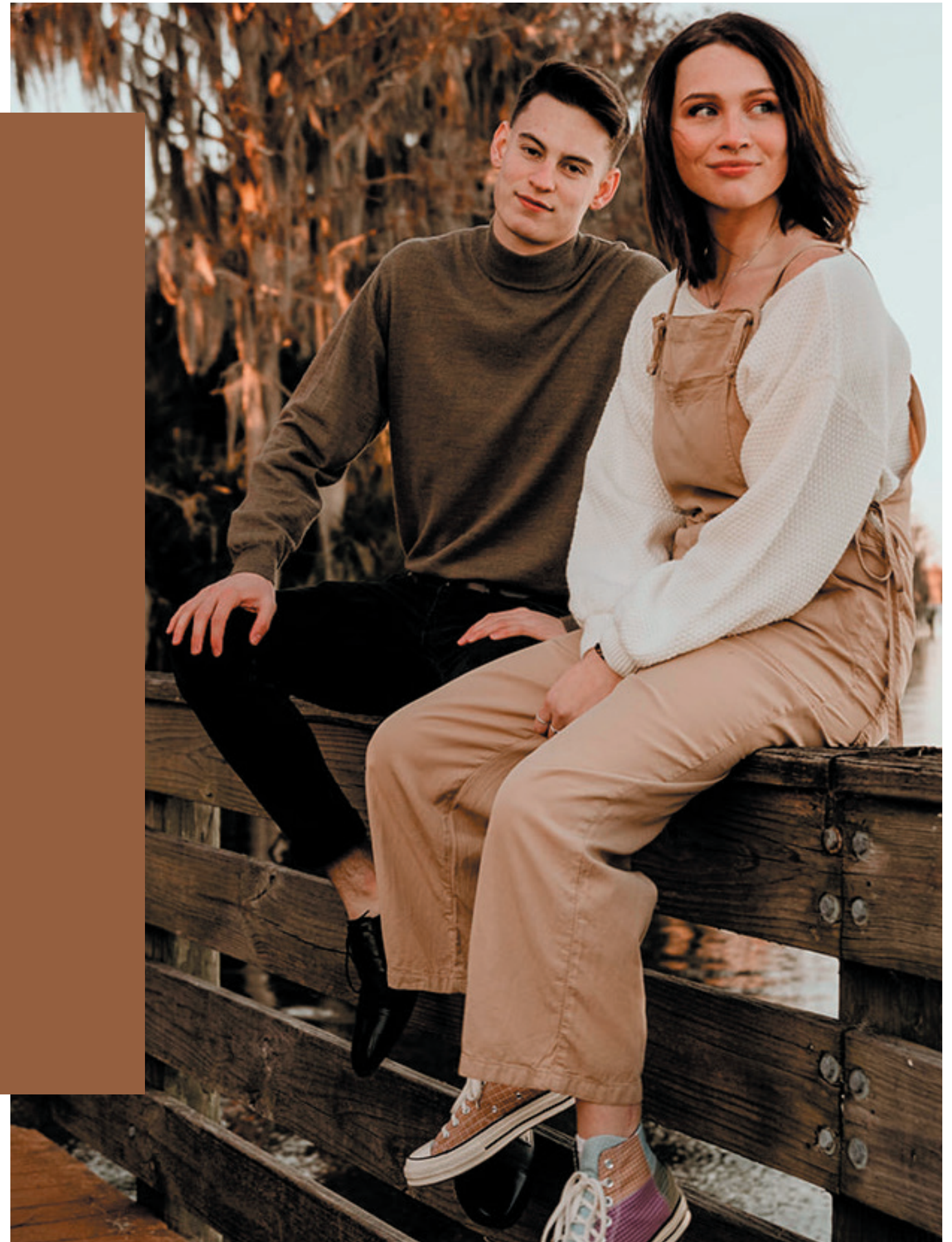
For the past year, we've heard many sermons about the spiritual masks that we wear. Though it may seem repetitive at this point, in every analogy, there lies a grain of truth. The reality is, while you stroll down El Prado or stand in line for the Buena Vida elevator, countless other students are wearing a proverbial mask, craving to express their authentic selves yet worried about what others might think of them. President Elect Josiah Krause knows what it feels like

to crave authenticity. His journey began in an SEU small group he led last year, where every member was asked to scribble down their current struggles on a small index card. While he assumed that he would read some heavy responses, the answers he read later that night were heavier than he could've imagined.

"I asked my group, 'How many of you are talking to at least one person about this?' and hardly any of them raised their hands. That's when I realized this [was] a bigger issue on campus, and my heart was so burdened for the student body," explains Krause.

Grabbing hold of this hunger for authenticity and drive for unity, Krause and his vice president, Sydnie Roberts, are setting out to shift the campus culture here at Southeastern and promote genuine community.

"I want this school to become connected in a way that builds and cherishes relationships built on Christ first, so that people [come together as one]. Isolation won't be a thing on campus. People will have people. Commuters won't just be commuters, they're a part of the body, and athletes are a part, they are SEU," says Krause.





Some may question how a student body president and vice president can initiate a concrete shift in campus culture. Roberts explains that while they can't necessarily have a direct influence on every student's relational experiences and encounters with God, they are firmly determined to create opportunities for students to find community that will influence their college experience and walk with God.

Among these community events are town hall meetings, where students' ideas and perspectives will be heard, as well as individual one-on-ones, where Krause and Roberts will meet with students and get to know them personally. Through community outreaches and monthly hangouts, the campus community will grow with one another and impact the larger Lakeland community.

"What makes us unique as a team is that what we want to do practically, we can [essentially] do without the administration's approval. It's something we can do from day one. For example, with holding our one-on-ones with people, we already have our Calendly set up where people can schedule appointments with us," explains Krause.

"We want to [meet with students] consistently as well," says Roberts, "whether that's through a town hall where all the students come and shoot out their ideas, or through one-on-ones where we can schedule coffee dates with students."

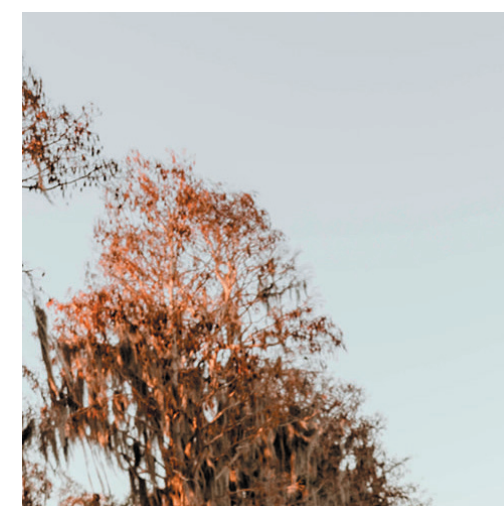
When it comes to their emphasis on community events over physical policies, Krause explains, "It could have been easy to say, 'We want more of this here, more of this there.' But you literally can't get to that without going to the students first."

Roberts chimes in, "We didn't want to run on something that the students didn't want."

With this, Krause and Roberts realize that the roles of student body president and vice president have existed as a somewhat closed-off, separate entity in the past, but they are intent on redefining these roles.

"Our main responsibility is to be a bridge between the student body and administration...we want to be vocal and accessible within [our community] and integrate it like puzzle pieces of the campus [coming] together," Krause notes. "I see God bringing people up into this community so that SEU isn't a [college] that's split up and particularized, but rather united."

With their motivation to establish authentic and real relationships at SEU, Krause and Roberts look forward to representing the student body!





## WE JOIN HANDS FOR RELIEF, IN UNITY, BY GRACE.

Our souls sigh, and we turn from the overcomplicated additions to life.  
We sync our hope to the rhythm of the promises of the prophets.

We join hands for relief, in unity, by grace, as  
we remember the purity in the purpose of our creation: to worship.  
We sync our hope to the rhythm of the promises of the prophets,  
and take the next simple step towards wholeness in this devout life.

We remember the purity in the purpose of our creation: to worship,  
to seek an antidote against the erosion of values inflicted by time.  
We take the next simple step towards wholeness in this devout life,  
as a thick layer of dust settles in the crevices of our minds.

**STORY:** EMMA EAST AND HANNAH LARSON  
**ILLUSTRATION:** GRACE BALDWIN

# SIMPLICITY

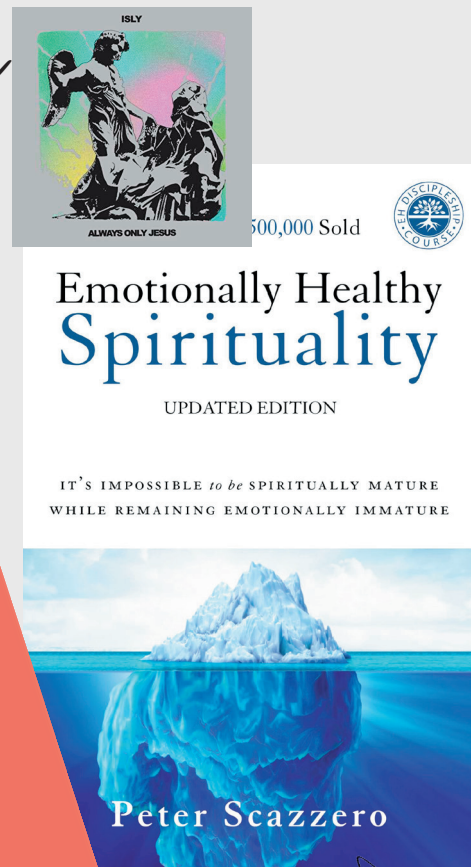
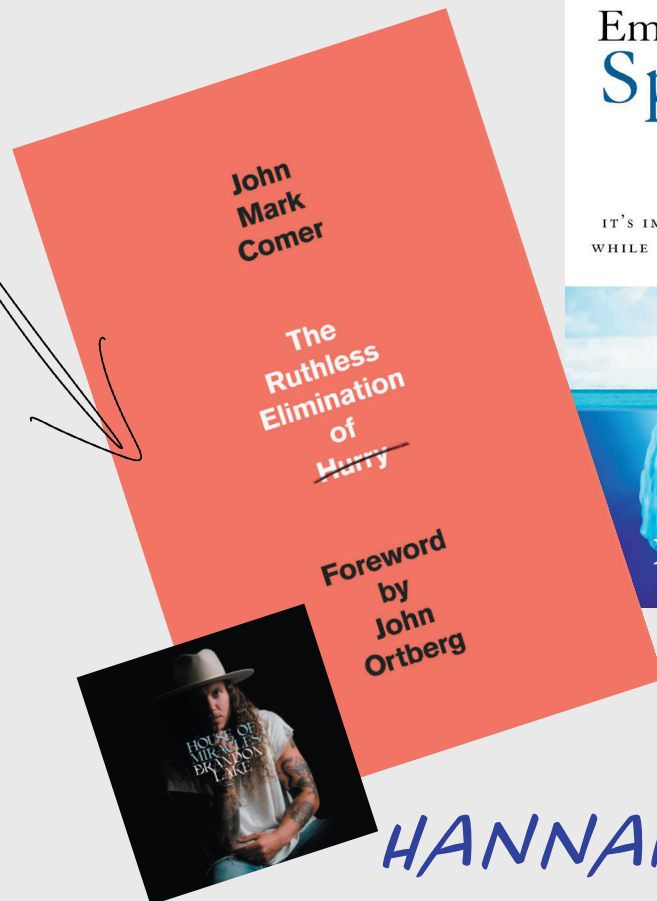


# GOOD READS

A COLLECTION OF FAVORITE READS AND ACCOMPANYING MUSIC FROM GRADUATE ASSISTANTS.

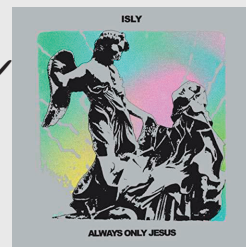
**JACOB CARTER**

THE RUTHLESS ELIMINATION OF HURRY  
BY JOHN MARK COMER  
LOST IN YOUR LOVE BY BRANDON LAKE



**HANNAH MASON**

EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY SPIRITUALITY  
BY PETER SCAZZERO  
ALWAYS ONLY JESUS BY ISLY



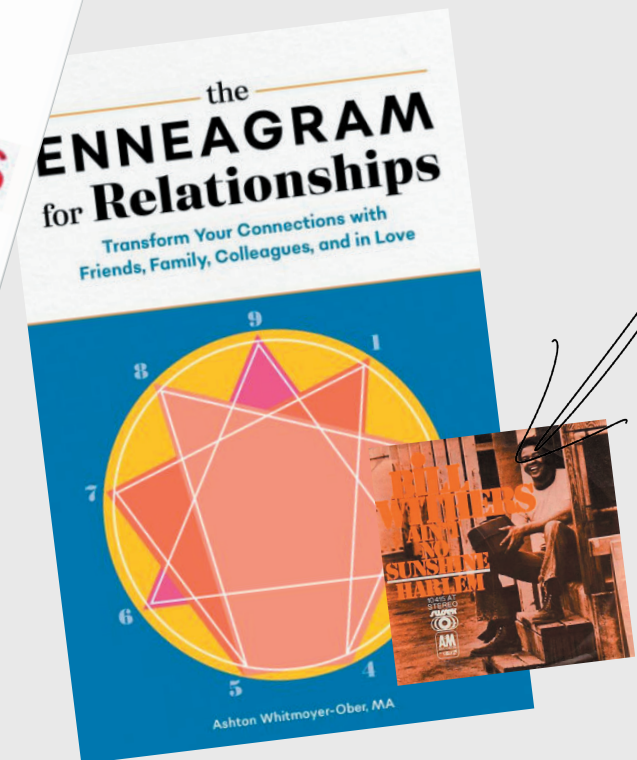
**JADA CORLEY**

BOUNDARIES BY HENRY CLOUD  
THE LIGHT BY THE ALBUM LEAF



**KEILA BOYCHAK**

ENNEAGRAM FOR RELATIONSHIPS  
BY ASHTON WHITMOYER-OBBER  
AIN'T NO SUNSHINE BY BILL WITHERS

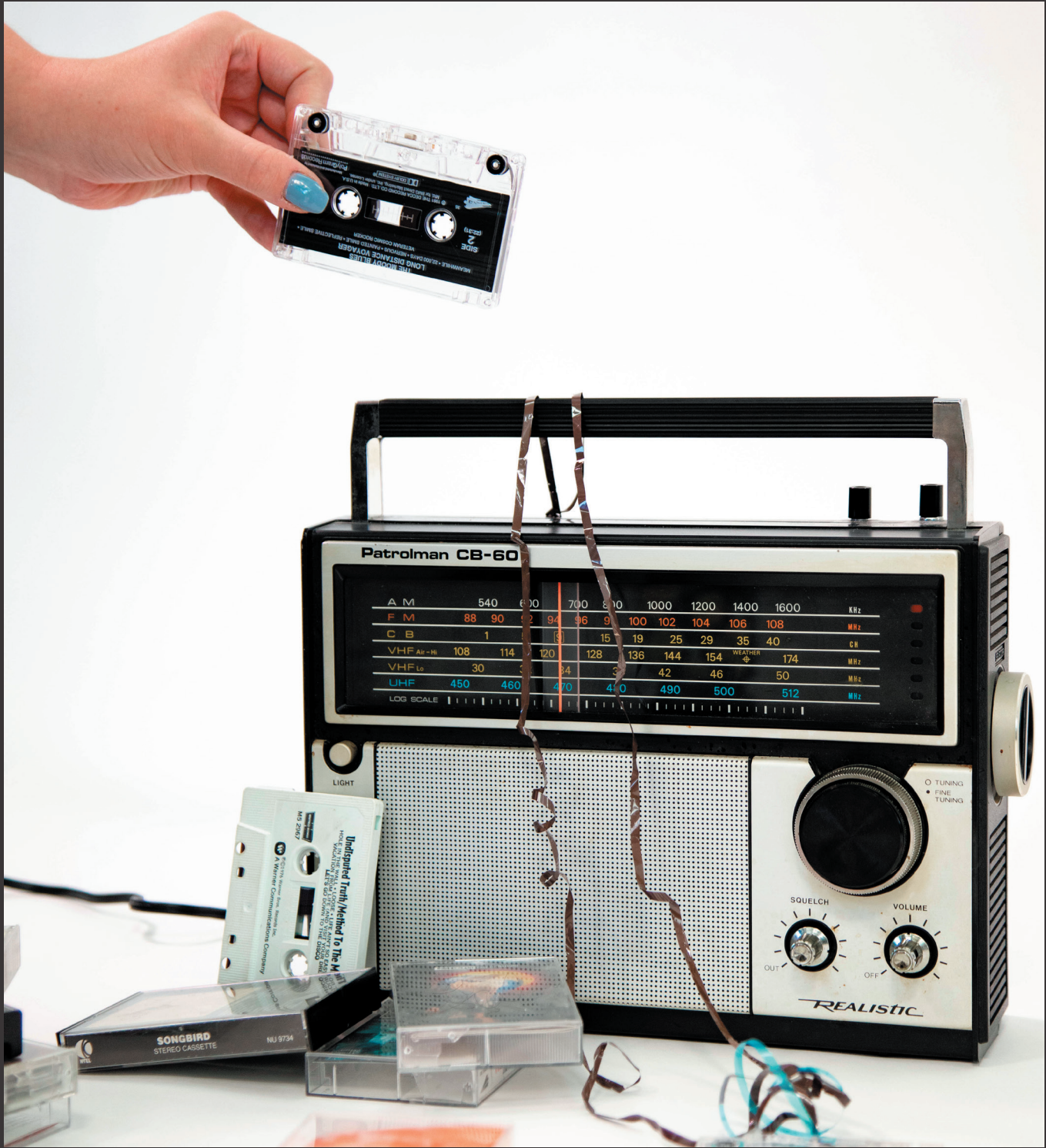


**BEN ESTES**

ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE BY ANTHONY DOERR  
CLAIR DE LUNE (MOVEMENT 3) BY CLAUDE DEBUSSY







# THE MIXTAPE

A CRAFTED SELECTION OF OUR FAVORITE SONGS FROM WE ARE SEU

03

QUIET  
ELEVATION  
RYTHYM

02

LOST IN YOUR  
LOVE  
BRANDON LAKE

01

HE IS  
CROWDER

04

FOUNTAINS  
MOSIAC MSC

05

APART  
FOXHILL

06

FIRST LOVE  
KARI JOB

09

UPPER ROOM  
WITH YOU  
GRACE CITY

08

ALL THE TIME  
SWOOPE

07

IYKYK  
ELEVATION  
RYTHYM

PHOTO CREATIVE VISION:  
BEKAH HORSLEY AND ELLA GUILD



# THEOLOGICAL DISCUSSION: THE EXCHANGE

The labyrinth of love leaves poets writing, singers sighing and heartbroken souls crying. In hopes of understanding the mysteries of love, Southeastern University's School of Honors hosted a panel focused on relationships. Moderated by Professor Molly Owen and her husband Dr. Chris Owen, the panel consisted of Pastor Ben and Jessica Gomez and Coach Clay and Darcee Roberts.

Navigating the seas of love and relationships is a daunting task. Where should we even begin? Society tells us that individuals complete each other. Countless songs and movies are centered around people who are lost until they find "the one." This misconception leads to consistent frustration and heartache.

Mrs. Jessica Gomez comments on this false understanding of love that many people buy into, "I need to know who I am as a person. I need to love myself first. He needs to love himself, and then together we can love each other."

Self-growth is a critical part of any healthy relationship. But the bottom line is that while change is necessary, it is hard. All healthy relationships require work, but the reward is worth it.

Pastor Ben Gomez adds insight from a Christian point of view that illuminates the importance of relationships, "God doesn't just bring people together; he brings calling and ministries together to complement each other."

He continues by emphasizing the importance of knowing the motive behind your feelings. "What do you desire most in life? Like if you're crushing on somebody, what is the desire of your heart? You want companionship. You want to be noticed. You want to be recognized. You want them to fulfill something that is broken or is missing in you. Or is it that there are characteristics and qualities in this person that you find that you are compatible with what you think God is bringing together?"

**STORY: EMMA EAST**  
**PHOTOS: BEKAH HORSLEY**







## **“DON’T TRY TO WIN SO MUCH! YOU NEED TO WORK IT OUT TOGETHER. LEARN TO LISTEN AND DON’T TRY TO WIN ON EVERYTHING.”**

Oftentimes the type of person you are attracted to acts as a reflection of your own values and desire. But no matter how perfect an individual's character is, all relationships have to work through disagreements.

Coach Roberts advises on how to handle such conflicts: “Don’t try to win so much! You need to work it out together. Learn to listen and don’t try to win on everything.”

Communication is key. A beautiful part of relationships is that, while both people are growing and changing, individuals are helping each other through this process. Together a couple grows stronger both individually and as a unit; this growth is only achieved through selflessness in actions and intentions.

“Your partner should help you find your gifts and fulfill your calling in life,” Darcee Roberts states. She continues, “Love is not a feeling. Feelings are fickle. They change.”

While the panel shared their wisdom, the moderators, Dr. Chris Owen and Professor Molly Owen, chimed in.

Dr. Owen confirmed perhaps the scariest part of love, “Love is a risk. Love in and of itself is you being vulnerable with someone else and giving them the opportunity to hurt you and wound you in a way that no one else can.”

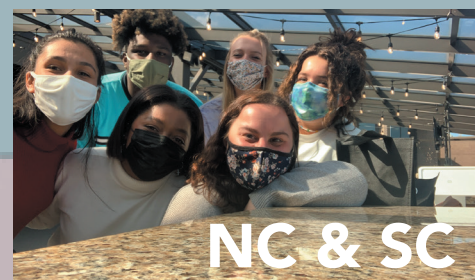
Love is fun and terrifying, messy and beautiful. Simply put, love is a selfless sacrifice.





# MISSIONS TRIPS

A COLLECTION OF PHOTOS TAKEN FROM THIS SEMESTER'S MISSIONS TRIPS







# DR. HACKETT

## PROFESSOR FEATURE

Dr. William Hackett is a kind-hearted, genuine soul. Through the past 33 years, Dr. Hackett's love for Southeastern University has shown through various roles, but his motivation for everything he does is the students.

While at SEU, Dr. Hackett has been a full-time faculty member, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Resident Director, Director of RDs and most recently, the Provost. Even though he is retiring from his tenure as Provost, his time at SEU is not over. His passion for the education of students is too great to retire just yet so he will continue to teach and serve as the Provost Emeritus.

"Students are why I'm here," Hackett said. "When people ask you what you teach, you say students."

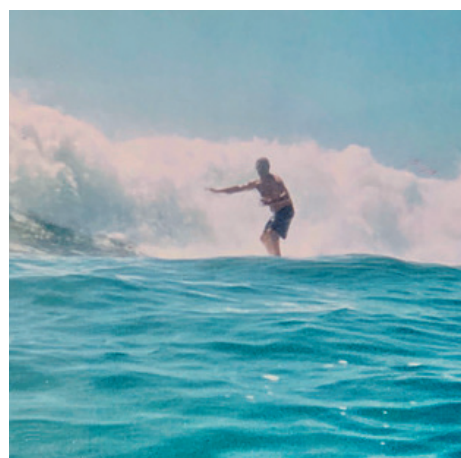
Dr. Hackett's journey to SEU began on a road trip to Alaska with his wife in a pickup truck camper. Along the way to their destination, they stopped to see

his sister and brother-in-law in northern Minnesota. At this time, neither Dr. Hackett or Mrs. Hackett were saved in Jesus Christ, but his sister and brother-in-law were new believers. They invited the Hacketts to church, and while at the pastor's house that evening, they accepted Christ.

When they returned home to Pennsylvania after their trip, they began to look for a church of their own and were directed to a small Assemblies of God community. They met Pastor Dave, who was the lead pastor and a senior at the Northeast Bible Institute, now called the University of Valley Forge. After discussing future plans with a coworker and their pastor, Dr. Hackett decided he wanted to enroll as a student at this school. A year later from when they were saved, Dr. Hackett and his wife moved on the college campus and he started attending NBI.

**STORY: SKYLA SEAMAN**  
**PHOTOS: JOSH ROBERTSON**  
**LAYOUT: MAKAYLA BLACK**





While there, Dr. Hackett was mentored by a professor, Hobart Grazier, who provided him opportunities to teach. In the summer, between his sophomore and junior year, Dr. Hackett taught a six-week Greek I course by himself with Professor Grazier serving as the professor on record.

Through these opportunities, he fell in love with teaching. Through his relationship with Professor Grazier, Dr. Hackett met one of Grazier's former

mentorees, Dr. John Higgins. Higgins was later called to be a missions theology professor at SEU and eventually became the Vice President of Academic Affairs. Remembering Dr. Hackett, Higgins sent a letter asking him to come and teach Bible and practical theology. Hackett was pastoring in Phoenix, Arizona, at that time, so the college flew him out for an interview. Two weeks later, he had the job.

**"Students are why I'm here," Hackett said. "When people ask you what you teach, you say students."**





"I just saw God in that," said Dr. Hackett. "I'm here because of that pastor and college. They really mentored me. And that just really made me want to teach in a university setting because I saw the impact of it on my own life."

Dr. Hackett appreciates his time as Provost and will miss the direct leadership of Dr. Kent Ingle and the team as a whole. He looks forward to continuing as a full-time professor in the classroom and being around the students more often.

"Summer is the most boring time around here," Dr. Hackett commented. "The students give it life. I love being in the classroom."

Outside of campus, Dr. Hackett thoroughly enjoys boating, surfing, and most of all: cars. If someone ever spots a turquoise blue, classic Chevy pick-up truck outside of the Welcome Center, that

belongs to Dr. Hackett himself. Having owned an astounding 72 cars and 17 motorcycles in total, he has a passion to keep them running and clean. All of these hobbies help provide a break from the busy schedule of his position.

The students here provide a great sense of joy in Dr. Hackett's life. Even in his provost position, he has taught at least two classes every semester. It acts as a source of energy and motivation.

"Teaching reminds me of why I'm a provost. This is why we do what we do," Hackett expressed.

There is no doubt that Dr. William Hackett has left a lasting impression on Southeastern and the students who thrive here. Thankfully, he will remain for a while longer, and his legacy will only continue to grow.





# SUSTAINABILITY IN FASHION

A PHOTO ESSAY BY BEKAH HORSLEY

*For something to be sustainable means that it is in relation to a lifestyle involving the use of sustainable methods. Through sustainability, resources can be used continuously over a long period of time rather than a single use. Fashion is no exception—pictured in this photo essay is Matthew Peaks wearing thrifted looks he has accumulated.*









# SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT CELEBRATES 10 YEARS



On February 5, Southeastern University's president, Dr. Kent Ingle, celebrated a decade at the university. During his tenure at SEU, the university has seen a tremendous enrollment increase, from 2,546 students in 2011 to nearly 10,000 in 2020. Due to the steady rise in enrollment, SEU has been recognized by The Chronicle for Higher Education as the sixth-fastest growing master's level university in the U.S.

Under President Ingle's leadership, SEU opened its first extension site in 2012. The partner-site model was designed to provide students with a high-quality learning experience at an affordable price. Since then, the unrestricted education model has launched 175 sites in 40 states, with a total enrollment of 4,810 students.



Over the past 85 years, SEU has trained over 5,974 graduates who are ministering around the world. Nearly half of those graduates (2,259) trained for ministry in the last 10 years at SEU.

This trend has continued. Last year alone (2019-2020), 2,640 students were enrolled in classes to prepare for ministry-related positions, making SEU the largest Pentecostal university in the United States. Almost 75 percent of these students studied at one of SEU's partner sites.

Within President Ingle's tenure, the first doctoral program – a Doctor of Education – began in 2014. Since then, the university has developed doctoral programs in the fields of leadership (Ph.D. & D.S.L) and ministry (D.Min.). Now there are a total of 259 students pursuing doctoral degrees. The university has launched 28 new undergraduate programs, seven new master's programs and four additional doctoral programs.

SEU opened Pathways School of Excellence, a private middle and high school for students with intellectual disabilities and/or other mild learning and/or physical disabilities, on its campus.

Academics are not the only areas that have flourished under President Ingle's leadership. Fire Athletics added 9 new varsity sports, including men's and women's cross country, men's and women's track and field,

**PHOTOS: ELENA ESPINOZA**  
**ILLUSTRATION: GRACE BALDWIN**





wrestling, women’s golf, beach volleyball, softball and football. In this athletic season alone, SEU Athletes have earned two NAIA National titles in wrestling and a NAIA National title in Women’s Track and Field for the 4X400 meter relay. Along with the sport team additions came Scorch the mascot, a 3,500 seat football stadium—equipped with fire cannons and all—and a new wrestling room. Looking toward the future, SEU hopes to construct an eight-lane NCAA track and field facility.

In addition, SEU has added more than 400,000 square feet of educational, residential and student-services buildings to the Lakeland campus. Halfway into his tenure, Presidential Ingle broke ground on the two new Buena Vida buildings and the Natural Health and



Sciences building, which contain a food court, a music hall and a nursing simulation lab, respectively. The newest architecture endeavor is the Welcome Center, which houses incredibly designed offices, an SEU experience room, a banquet gathering space and an eternal flame.

We take time to honor both the accomplishments that President Ingle has fulfilled and the character he exemplified through the process. His hard work adds to the foundation on which the future of Southeastern University rests.



People will remember you not so much for what you said, but for how you authentically came alongside them creating a tangible impact on their lives. Conveying emotion, direction, leadership, and passion is critical for visionary leadership.

-Dr. Kent Ingle, SEU President



# SIM PLI CITY

## SUBMISSIONS

ILLUSTRATIONS: GRACE BALDWIN

## RELATIONSHIPS

**STORY:** BILLY ADAMS

Dear Friends,

How about these past semesters?

Many of us seeing each other less and less,

I'm sure many of you wish everything could've gone better.

Thousands of viruses spread each year

with their intent of spreading sickness and fear.

Despite the danger behind these diseases,

remember our Lord and Savior Jesus.

His purpose for the world is to learn of His kingdom

through which we are presented with obstacles to gain

knowledge and wisdom.

Now isn't a time to go home with your mind full of doubt.

But instead of giving up, persevere through this difficult drought

with grace and determination,

and look at life with an optimistic interpretation.

So friends, gather around and listen to my story.

No, I'm not here to share with you a fairytale of success and glory,  
just a message to the ones who feel weak or hopeless.

Don't put your head down—get up and take notice;

this generation needs strength and heart so that we can focus  
towards a bigger picture.

Ladies and gentlemen, look back in your Biblical scripture,

God tells us to love your neighbor as you love yourself.

These individuals have impacted your lives on a broad spectrum.

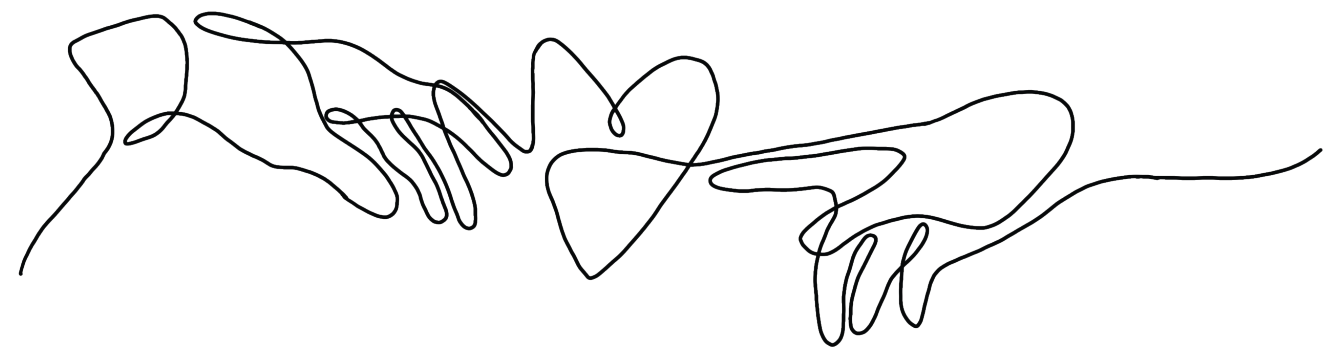
Be grateful for their part in pointing your growth in the right  
direction.

I'll end this by saying, love each other, be hopeful and pray to

God at any point in the day;

otherwise, your best life doesn't exist with time passing in dismay.

Sincerely, a Better Life.





# SIMPLICITY OF

Beauty is pain. Beauty is unattainable. Beauty is complicated.

Beautiful places are exotic. They require long drives or a plane ticket, and must make the perfect Instagram picture. Beautiful places have waterfalls, canyons and mountains, all too large for humans to conquer, but accessible enough for them to enjoy it. We see beauty as a black and white to do list of go here, say the right things and never look like that. Nevertheless, beauty standards change with the seasons as things go in and out of fashion. We can't keep up with this image of beauty.

However, looking beyond societal understandings to the true meaning of beauty, we see a much simpler definition. Beauty is a word we use to describe things we find pleasing. It's as easy as something we enjoy looking at.

Beauty isn't some far-off thing like we imagine it to be. It's right in front of us. It's the palm trees down El Prado, the laugh of your roommate and the sound of your car starting after Christmas break. It's craving Chick-Fil-A not on Sunday, and the first time your professor remembers your name. It's in the natural, our lakes and beaches can testify to that; but it's also in the relational, the good test grades and "Want to grab a coffee with me?"

This definition of beauty is more accurate and attainable than the one we see all over social media. It doesn't require you to determine a specific aesthetic—it only asks for you to enjoy what you like. Let's all start valuing our own personal definitions of beauty and leave behind the beauty that gets the most likes.

## BEAUTY

**STORY: EMMA STRAVERS**

## SPIRITUALITY

**STORY: ABBEY TURNER**

Breathe in, breathe out.

Throw away the stress, fear, and doubt.

We overcomplicate things,

even though we are just called to sing

of His great name,

with an all-enduring flame.

We are commanded this in Matthew 6:34:

"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow,

For tomorrow will worry about itself.

Each day has enough trouble of its own."

What if we held onto this commandment alone?

A burden would be lifted,

eternal life would be gifted.

Joy, bliss, and excellence:

the power we hold through these elements

is given to us for free

laid out in the Bible just for you and me!

What if we began focusing on simplicity?

We would possibly be filled with felicity.

Wouldn't that be amazing,

For us to feel like a blossoming flower in the spring?

Growth, peace, and focus

only seeing what matters not to us,

but to HIM.

Your life was not thought of on a whim,

you were bought with a price.

Isn't that so nice?

God called us to thrive,

How can we do so if we live each day to just survive?

Let go of the chaos, anxiety and fear,

declare that this will be the year

that you decide to live simply,

free of all the burden that comes so easily.

Focus on how the rainbow follows the rain,

how the smile always follows the pain.

The way we are given grace,

even when it feels like we are in a never-ending race.

it is something to hold onto

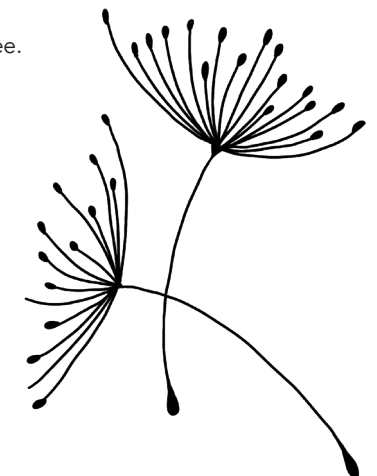
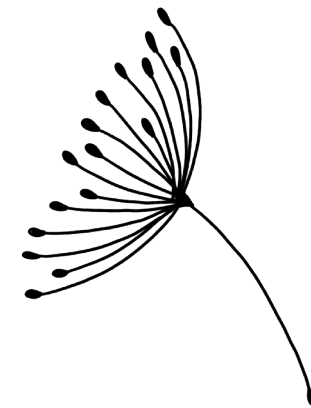
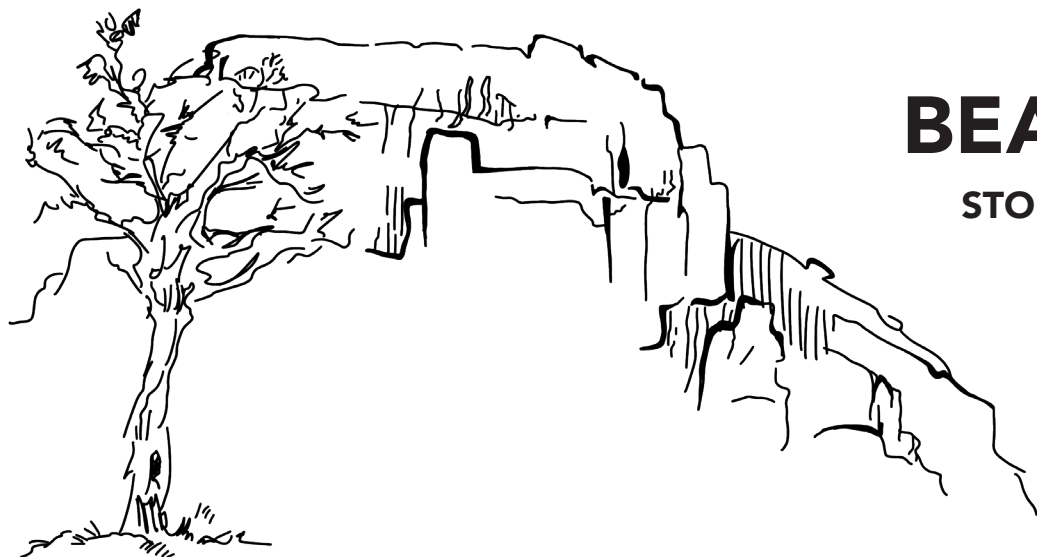
even when we can't see through.

enjoy today,

And the overall contentment you feel when you follow God's way.

Just simply be,

to finally be set free.





# SIMPLICITY OF

## BALANCE

**STORY:** MATTHEW HOLMAN

Many scientists hold to the belief that the universe was formed from a gas cloud. In this cloud, gravity pulled together different particles creating stars, galaxies and planets. This means that everything on this earth—you, your parents, your morning coffee, even the world itself—is from this cloud. I want to remind you what one of God’s most common symbols in the Old Testament is: a cloud.

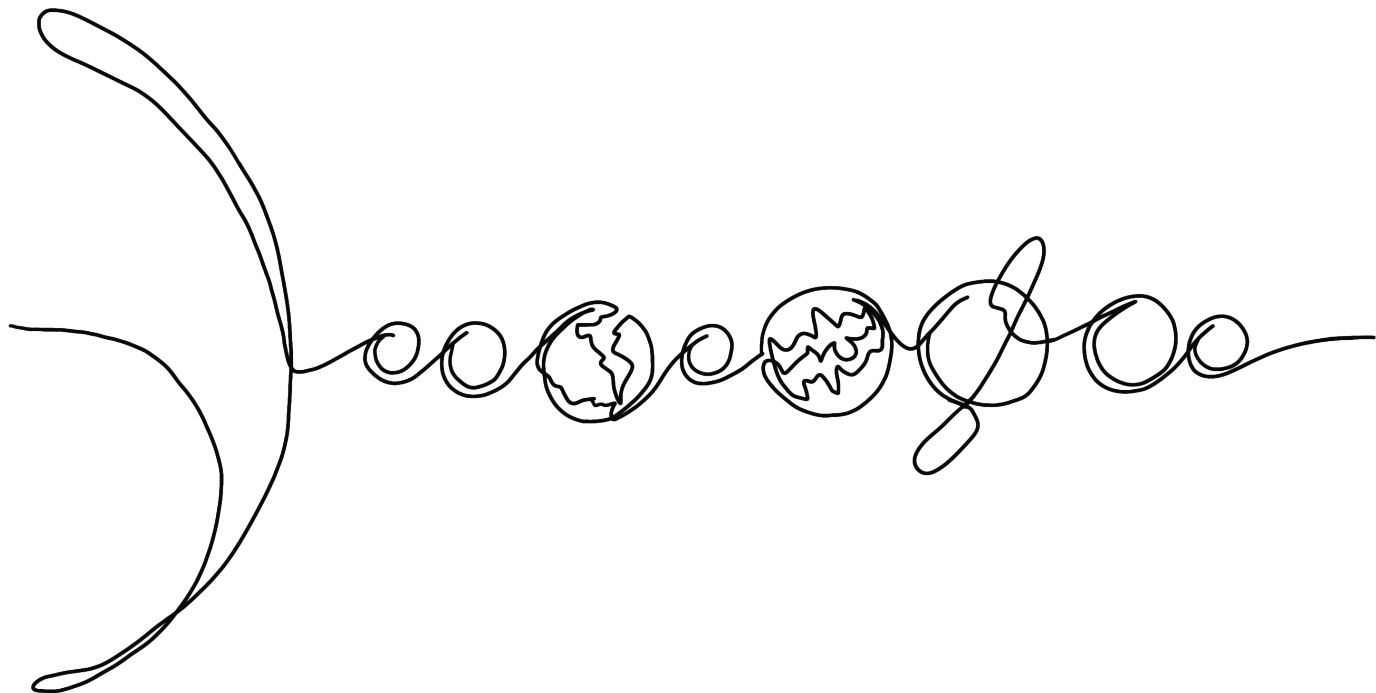
Now, I am not trying to question your theology or make you rethink everything you have ever known, but perhaps I could help you realize that nature is more a part of our theology than we think. After all, we worship the One who created the heavens and the earth, so everything we see on this earth

should be looked at through the lens of our Creator. Just as art often represents the artist, creation represents the Creator. From the way that cells work to the awe of the Milky Way Galaxy, it all points back to the Lord.

The best reflection of God in nature is through his people. Everyone on Earth has been created in the image of God. I believe that the closer we are with our Creator, the more we can find His nature within us. I encourage you to look for how everyone and everything in your life reflects their Creator within their nature. This is the simplicity of nature: that it is found in everyone and in every day.

## NATURE

**STORY:** LAUREN BOSS



Balance: a state of equilibrium. A state that many times seems to be lacking in the bustling life of college. All the classes, extracurricular activities, plans and commitments feel overwhelming, complicating our life to the point of suffocation. But what if things didn’t have to be like this? What if we could find simplicity and balance the things we need to do and take time to rest? In Ecclesiastes 3:1, King Solomon writes, “To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.” God created us as beings to have balance, hardworking, yet restful. Do you allow yourself this rest? When I first began college at Southeastern, I was on the track and field team and working to keep solid grades in my new classes. Between the tireless training nearly every day, and the larger portions of homework compared to high school, I never took a day off. Even with eight hours of sleep a night, I constantly had bags under my eyes, and people ceaselessly



commented on how exhausted I always seemed. I was stressed and felt myself slipping as the semester dragged on. “I’m so done with this.” I remember telling my pastor over the phone. He asked me if I had a sabbath day—a day simply to rest and take care of myself. Looking back, I realized there hadn’t been a day since I arrived that I took a day off from school. He challenged me to set aside every Saturday and plan to simply do nothing. If I wanted to, I could go out and hang out with friends, or I could stay inside and watch Netflix. Soon, I began looking forward to my Saturdays because of the freedom it brought. Funnily enough, my productivity increased, and having a day to de-stress improved my attitude. It’s been two years since then, and I still hold to this tradition. God called us to balance, and I believe God rewards us when we take steps to achieve that.



# LAKE MIRROR

LAKELAND, FL

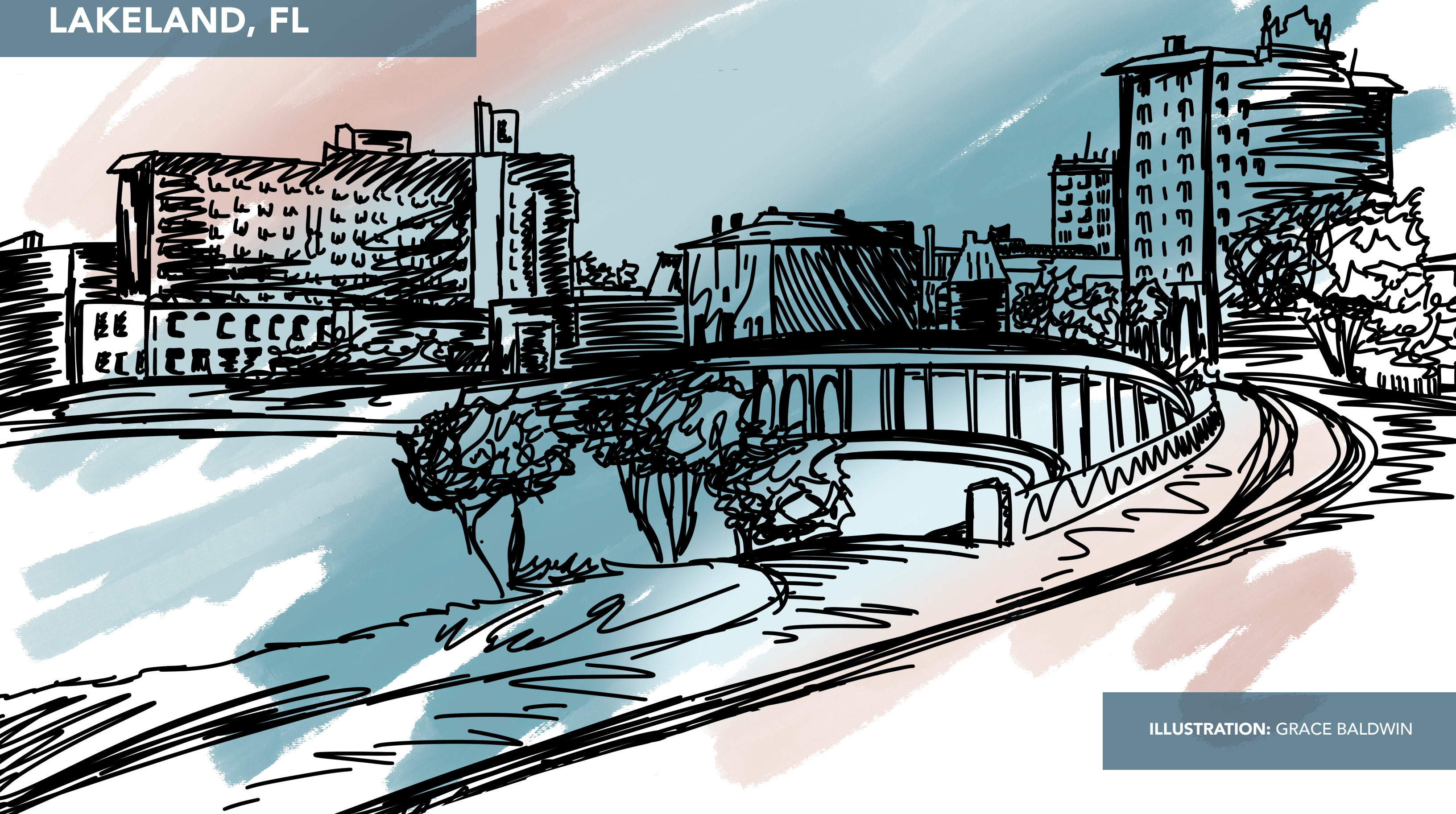


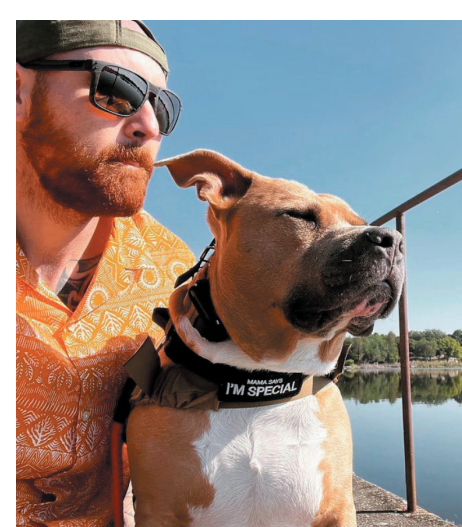
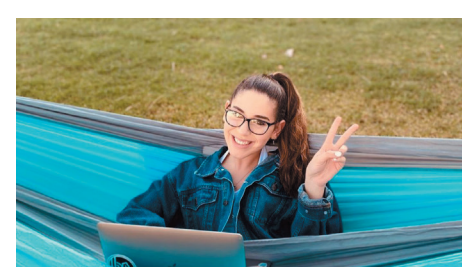
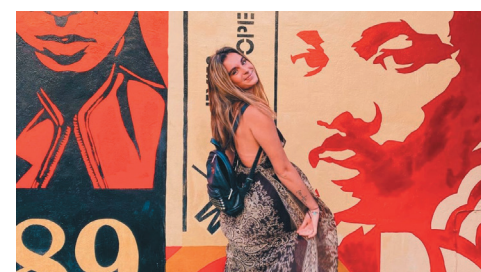
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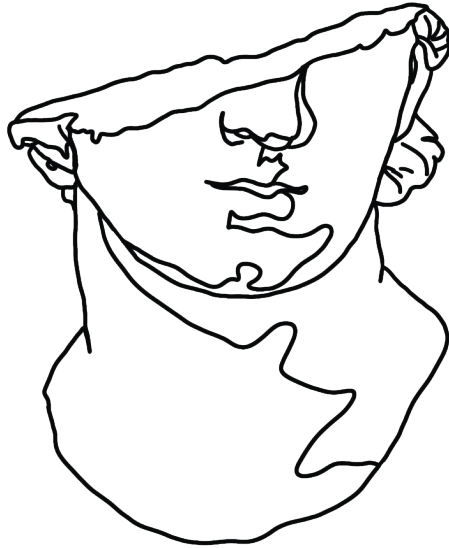
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