

## Southern Dedicates Land for Future School of Business Facility

Southern students, employees, donors, and community members gathered in February to dedicate land for a new building to house the School of Business. The group formed a large circle around the future facility's location and prayed together over the land.

"We're very grateful that many have stepped up with their donations, time, and energies to make this project possible," said Franklin Farrow, '93, chairman of the fundraising campaign for the School of Business. "Southern is in the business of changing and equipping hearts, and as we take on this challenge of creating a new building, let's remember that it's more than bricks and mortar. It is a place that will shape characters for generations to come."

The School of Business is the second-largest academic area on the university's campus, with a 10% increase in its enrollment over the last five years. At



Southern students, employees, donors, and community members gathered to dedicate land for the new School of Business building.

approximately 42,000 square feet, the new building will house a large, multipurpose auditorium, and its investment lab will include 12 Bloomberg Terminals—computer software systems on which students can analyze real-time financial market data.

Thanks to alumni, donors, and other friends of the university, more than \$16 million of the \$20 million campaign, which also includes an endowment, has been raised through donations and

commitments. Groundbreaking for the new facility is planned for early Fall 2023.

"God has anointed our students to be kingdom builders in the marketplace," said Stephanie Sheehan, PhD, dean of the School of Business. "He has called and will continue to call many students here, and we are thankful they will soon have a new facility to call home."

For more information, visit [southern.edu/gobusiness](https://southern.edu/gobusiness).

— by Amanda Blake

## Professor Calls for Help Spotting Invasive Spider in Southeast

The proliferate Jorō spider, an East Asian species that is currently spreading rapidly in Southeast regions of the United States, is the elusive subject of a research team that includes David Nelsen, PhD, Southern biology professor. These researchers are appealing to communities in Tennessee, Georgia, and South Carolina to be on the lookout and report any sightings.

"More eyes in the field will contribute immensely to our research efforts and results," Nelsen said. "Anybody can be a scientist in this case, and photographs can give us strong data for tracking and measuring this ongoing invasion."

In 2021, four sightings of the yellow, red, and silver-blue arachnid—harmless



Photo: David Nelsen

to humans—were reported in the Chattanooga area, including one on Southern's campus. Last year, sightings increased to approximately 20, along with the presence of males, which suggests a stable breeding population.

Nelsen has involved Southern's ecology students in the research by incorporating the project into labs and educational

outreach. For example, students taught several young outdoor adventure groups about spiders, including the Jorō spider.

"Research brings what the students are studying to life," Nelsen said. "This work helps them answer the questions: 'How do I take what I'm doing as a biologist and give back to the community? How do I get people excited about the wonders of God's creation?'"

The project will continue for several more years in order to determine whether or not the arachnid newcomer is harming native species. If you spot what appears to be a Jorō spider, email [dnelsen@southern.edu](mailto:dnelsen@southern.edu) and include a photo of the findings.

— by Amanda Blake

## Symphony Orchestra Hailed for Performance at National Conference

Southern's Symphony Orchestra received emphatic applause from a crowd of talented musicians and professional conductors during the National Conference of the College Orchestra Directors Association in Jacksonville, Florida, this spring.

"When you get an instantaneous standing ovation from a room full of conductors from across the country, you know you've made a good impression," said Laurie Redmer Cadwallader, director of the 75-member troupe. "People approached over the next couple of days to say how great our orchestra was."

Cadwallader applied for the event in Spring 2022, unsure of what to expect, as the ensemble had never attended a national conference before.

"I knew the competition would be fierce, so I was thrilled to learn we had been chosen," she said. "It was an honor to showcase our students in such a public way."

The students were elated, especially at the opportunity to give an hour-long performance in an actual concert hall. Cadwallader described the orchestra's superb performance as a manifestation of their pursuit of excellence.

"It is rare for a school our size to have the opportunity to attend and perform at a national-level conference. The students recognized this honor and rose to the occasion," she said. "When you challenge yourself to strive for something new, it makes you better. The students sound different now, more confident. I am very proud of each member."

— by Amanda Blake

## Exhibition Featuring Student Work Opens in Southern's Archaeology Museum

A riveting new exhibition, titled "Peace and War: The Assyrian Conquest of Lachish," is now open in Southern's Lynn H. Wood Archaeology Museum. Members of Southern's campus excavated a number of the artifacts from Lachish, the most important city in ancient Israel after Jerusalem.

Visitors can view significant seal impressions from King Hezekiah, the prophet Isaiah, and biblical nobles; stroll by a replica of a house overlooking Lachish; and study an artistic display commissioned by the Assyrian king Sennacherib celebrating his victory over the royal city. The diverse collection will immerse guests in the Assyrian conquest and miraculous deliverance of Judah, a story of hope that is vividly described in the Bible.

Almost all of the objects on display were uncovered during the Fourth Expedition to Lachish, a multi-disciplinary field project that occurred from 2013 to

2017 and was sponsored by Southern's Institute of Archaeology and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. More than 200 Southern students and employees helped excavate the city and investigate its Iron Age history.

"This exhibit is the culmination of a decade of excavation and analysis," said Michael G. Hasel, PhD, director of Southern's Institute of Archaeology. "I am so pleased for the diligent work of my students and other staff to be recognized and seen in public for the first time."

The museum, located in Hackman Hall, is free and open to the public during the school year, allowing visitors to explore one of the most important periods in Near East history. The exhibition, in cooperation with the Israel Antiquities Authority, will remain at the museum until May 31, 2025. For more information, visit [southern.edu/archaeology](https://southern.edu/archaeology) or call 423.236.2030.

— by Amanda Blake



The new exhibit in the Lynn H. Wood Archaeology Museum features numerous objects uncovered in Israel by Southern students and employees.