

Fall 2007

Samford University

Seasons



How Samford Recruits
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4 Reaching 5,000 Enrollment

Samford's strategic planning process determined that 5,000 students—or about 500 more than are currently enrolled—is the university's optimum. President Andrew Westmoreland and Dean of Admission Phil Kimrey talk about reaching that goal and other aspects of the admission process in this question-and-answer feature.

8 1957–58: The First Year

Samford moved to its long-awaited new campus in Shades Valley 50 years ago this fall. *Seasons* looks back at an eventful—and rainy—first year in this salute to the golden anniversary of the Lakeshore Drive location, which ties in with this year's homecoming theme.

12 Master Salesman

Board chairman Frank Park Samford asked James A. Head to lead fund-raising for Samford's new Shades Valley campus because he considered Head the best salesman in the state. Head not only met that challenge, but he also chaired the cornerstone committee for the first campus building, Samford Hall. Now a chipper 102, he still visits the campus regularly.

34 Alumni of the Year

Samford will honor Senate aide Carol Guthrie, renowned cardiologist George Irons, Jr., retired religion professor Sigurd Bryan and insurance executive Walter Barnes as 2007 Alumni of the Year at homecoming. *Seasons* profiles these outstanding graduates.

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Front cover: Samford Marching Band percussionist Evelyn Stagnaro of Annapolis, Md., performs during a rainy Bulldog football opener in Seibert Stadium Aug. 30. The band has new uniforms and is larger than ever, but still has instrument needs. See page 19.

Samford's new 600-car parking deck across from Vail and Smith halls is easing parking congestion on campus.

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The mountains of Jordan rise beyond the Dead Sea. Inset structures: The treasury at Petra (top) and Roman ruins at Jerash

Making a Difference in Jordan and Beyond

“Jordan is a museum.”

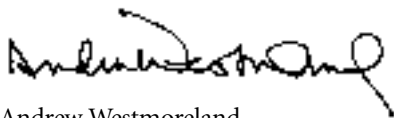
The words from our host rang true as I looked out over the ancient hills of Amman in late August. My wife, Jeanna, and I were there with John Harris of the Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education and Professional Studies to provide a week of training for teachers and administrators at the Amman Baptist School [ABS].

Samford enjoys a strong partnership with the ABS, bolstered by the fact that the principal, Suha Jouaneh Shahin, is one of our distinguished graduates. The ABS has received national recognition in Jordan for its focus on student learning, and several members of the Samford faculty have made the trek to Amman in recent years to play a role in the school's success. Even so, we remarked during our visit that we were the true beneficiaries in the exchange.

Everywhere, in every conversation, history came alive. From the panorama of the Dead Sea, to the Roman ruins at Jerash, to the treasury at Petra (where I had a chance encounter with friends from Arkansas), we understood that the country is, indeed, a museum.

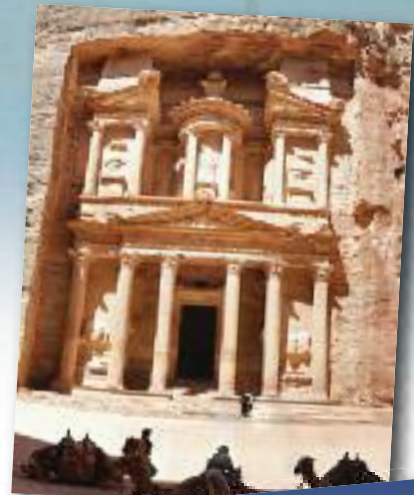
But we also saw that Jordan is a nation on the move, destined by geography and culture to play an increasingly important role on the world stage. In Amman and in other cities across Jordan, Samford graduates are making a positive difference in education, health care, business and ministry. The world continues to be a better place because of a relatively small institution in Birmingham, where expectations are exceeded every day.

As always, please keep Samford in your prayers.



Andrew Westmoreland
President

Dr. Andrew Westmoreland, left, and Dr. Jeanna Westmoreland, right, visit with principals of the Amman Baptist School in Jordan. The principals are, from left, Ibtissam Ghanna, elementary school; Demah Haddadin, kindergarten; Nora Nemri, high school; and Fatin Haddad, middle school.



Samford Ranks High Among National Universities

When Samford was reclassified as a national doctoral research university last year, the question in the minds of many was: How will this affect rankings?

The answer came in mid-August, when *U.S. News & World Report* released its 2008 list of America's best colleges. In its first year of competition against the best national universities in America, Samford ranked number 118 of 262 institutions. That placed Samford in the second of four tiers of national doctoral research institutions.

Samford was the only private institution in Alabama in the national universities category, and one of only three institutions in the state to rank as high as the second tier. The University of Alabama was ranked at number 91 and Auburn University at 96.

Samford previously was ranked among master's level universities in the South but was reclassified as a national university in 2006 because of the diversity of undergraduate and graduate degrees offered. Samford was one of 18 institutions reclassified as national doctoral research universities.

Last year, Samford awarded more than 450 doctoral and professional degrees in divinity, education, law and pharmacy. Samford also is recognized for its active and growing undergraduate research program.

"This significant national recognition confirms what the Samford community has known—that Samford University provides a top-level education," said Samford Provost and Executive Vice President J. Bradley Creed. "Our recent reclassification as a national doctoral research university affirmed our strong faculty and student population. We especially are pleased to be considered among the nation's top universities."

U.S. News & World Report bases its rankings on the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching classifications, noted Sarah C. Latham, Samford assistant to the president who oversees the Office of Institutional Effectiveness. She explained that *U.S. News & World Report* uses several factors to determine the rankings, including academic achievement of entering students, graduation rates, freshman class retention, class size, faculty/student ratio and alumni giving.

The national ranking will have an immediate and positive impact for the university's alumni, according to Mark Davidson '92 of Mobile, Ala., president of the Samford Alumni Association.

"This unexpected and very high ranking makes everyone aware of what Samford alumni already knew, and that is the value of a Samford degree," Davidson said. "This further affirms the quality of education that Samford alumni have received and that Samford students continue to receive."

One Samford leader not surprised by the high ranking is Faculty Senate Chair Don T. Sandley. He noted that the ranking is just one of the many indices measuring Samford's success.

"This latest ranking confirms what we all have known for quite some time—that Samford's reach is national and even global," said Sandley, chair of Samford's theatre department. "We have always exceeded expectations, and now those expectations will be even higher because the bar has been raised."

Among other peer groups, Samford was the highest ranked university representing both the Ohio Valley Conference and the Southern Conference. Samford currently is an OVC-member institution but becomes a member of the Southern Conference in 2008. ■

Four Professors Named Fulbright Scholars for 2007–08

Four Samford University professors were awarded Fulbright Scholar grants to lecture and conduct research at universities in Tunisia, Ecuador, Ukraine and China during the 2007–08 academic year. This is the first year in which more than one Samford professor has received a Fulbright award.

Dr. Mary McCullough, associate professor of French, received a 10-month award to teach and research in Tunisia. She will teach English classes in literature, research methods, advanced writing and film at the University of Tunis-II at Al Manar. She will research reverse migration of Tunisians and stereotypes that colonists had when Tunisia was a French protectorate (1881–1954).

Dr. Perry Tompkins, professor of physics, will teach in Ecuador during the fall term. He will teach workshops and courses on computer instrumentation and data acquisition at the University of Cuenca College of Engineering.

Robert Greene, professor in Samford's Cumberland School of Law, will teach at the Odessa National Academy of Law in Ukraine during the spring of 2008. He will teach a course in comparative environmental law.

Deborah Young, also a professor of law, will serve as a lecturer in law at Xiamen University in Xiamen, China. She will teach evidence and criminal procedure to graduate law students. Her 10-year old daughter, Kate, will accompany her. Young first visited China in 1978 as a recipient of the Corning Traveling Fellowship.

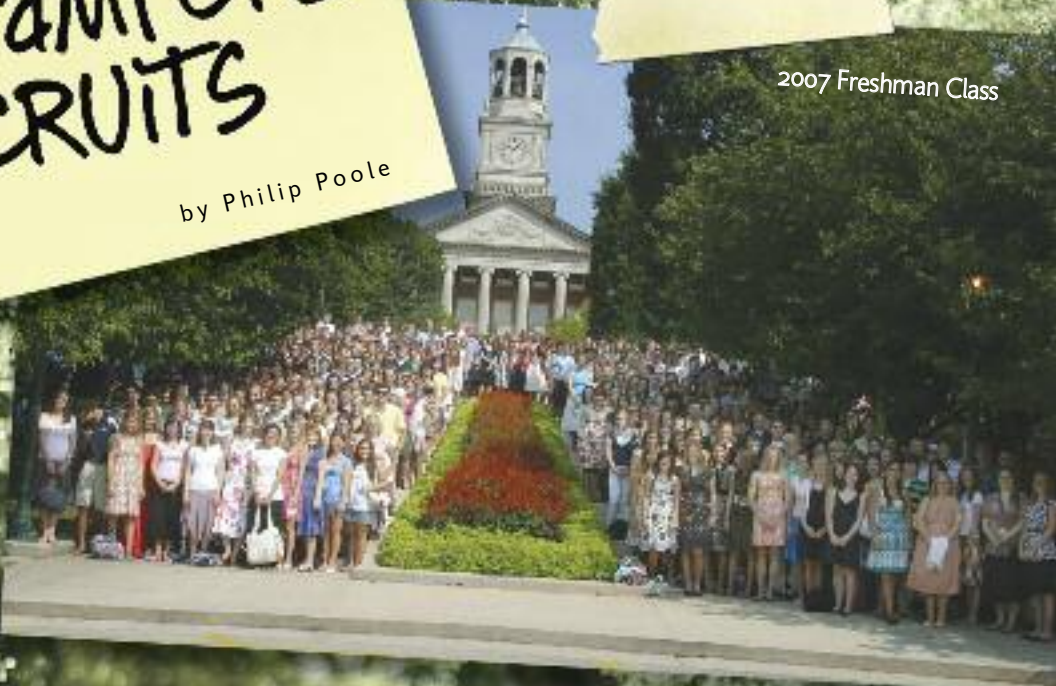
In addition, Samford graduate Anna Swindle '07 received a Fulbright student grant for overseas experience as a teaching assistant in Malaysia during 2008.

The Fulbright program was established in 1946 to build mutual understanding between the United States and other countries. Considered America's flagship international educational exchange program, it was created through legislation sponsored by the late Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. ■

HOW SAMFORD RECRUITS

by Philip Poole

2007 Freshman Class



While Becoming More National in Scope, The University Still Seeks Solid Core from Alabama

Samford University welcomed one of the largest classes in history for the fall 2007 semester. With 730 freshmen expected, the university is nearing its capacity for an entering class. But, even with large numbers, the admission process remains very intense and competitive, especially for a privately funded university.

In recent extensive interviews with Seasons, Samford President Andrew Westmoreland and Dean R. Philip Kimrey, the university's chief admission and financial aid officer, talked about the admission process. Because of space constraints, the interviews have been edited for length. Full transcripts of the interviews can be found at www.samford.edu/News.

What are key factors that attract students to Samford?

Kimrey: We are a university with strong academic offerings. We have a liberal arts core, but we offer professional studies. The Christian context is important. It is real here. You see it in all we do and in our values orientation. Non-Baptist students can fit in well here. The overall campus is important—not just the beauty of the campus, but the way we function. Time and again I get notes and comments from students and parents who visit about the friendliness and helpfulness of the school. [We] want to help folks see and experience what a great place this is.

What are strategic things that Samford does to recruit students?

Kimrey: Admission is like sales. You do the things that have been successful, but you always are looking for new ways. Today, many students gather their information from the web rather than contacting schools first, as they used to do. We do high school visits, church visits, and local and regional college fairs. We also offer workshops at selected high schools and campus visits—both individual and large events, such as Preview Days. We try to personalize the process as much as possible to meet the needs of the prospective student. We do

more and more electronic communication because that is what attracts today's student.

Does Samford have a program designed to reach legacies (students who have a tie to the university through a family member)?

Kimrey: We do track that information. About 30 percent of the fall 2007 class has some previous connection to the university through a parent or other family member. That percentage has been consistent for several years, and I'm pleased that we have that percentage. We are always excited when multiple generations choose Samford, because that further validates the value of a Samford degree.

Are there plans to increase the undergraduate student population?

Westmoreland: The strategic planning process includes strategic enrollment management. We will set enrollment targets for the university and for specific program areas and then work to ensure that we have the right resources to meet those goals. We have determined that our capacity for an incoming freshman class is about 725–750 students. Although the final goals will emerge through the planning process, a total enrollment of about 5,000—or approximately 500 more than we've had in recent years—would be our optimum. Most of that growth would come at the undergraduate level.

Can Samford meet those goals within existing admission parameters?

Westmoreland: If we can continue to recruit a freshman class in the 725–750 range and maintain our present retention rates with upperclassmen, then we can meet those goals. We want appropriate numbers, but it also is important to have the right students and the right mix of student population—demographically.

Kimrey: We can accommodate a freshman class of 725–750 each year with

existing facilities and services.

Is Samford trying to strengthen admission parameters?

Kimrey: We have a holistic approach to admission. We look first at academic performance, the best predictor of academic success at Samford. If students don't make their grades at Samford, they cannot continue to enroll. We look at test scores. We look at overall GPA [grade point average]. Most importantly, we look at the rigor of curriculum. What courses did students take—advance placement, honors and others? Those are the types of courses that will prepare them for the Samford classroom.

This approach allows us to address the needs of the student and the needs of the institution. There may be some students who have lower test scores but they have something to contribute, and there are indicators that the student can offer something to the campus community and can graduate on time.

Westmoreland: Any changes would be made thoughtfully and carefully as part of the planning process, and in harmony with trustee and faculty expectations. Any changes would be made over time, but I believe that rising standards will be a byproduct of the overall enrollment management process as we set goals for the student recruitment process. Through that process, we will be able to see clearly where we are and where we might be able to do better.

Samford is becoming more national in scope as students come from a larger geographic reach. How does this affect the admission process?

Kimrey: In fall 2007, about 74 percent of the incoming freshman class were from Alabama and contiguous states. Some of that is because the class is larger than ever. But, that percentage is shrinking as students come from further distances. We are trying to intentionally expand where those distance markers will be. Where can we go? What are we learning from those areas where we are getting more students?

Samford admission counselor Ricky Thrash, right, conducts a campus tour with a prospective student and his parents. Inset: Samford's 730-member freshman class

In many of the distance pockets, it initially may be because of one or two high schools, but we know that the students from those schools go to several churches. We try to link the school base with the church base to broaden our reach to other schools.

Southwest Airlines also has helped, because it makes transportation easier and more affordable from most major markets and geographic areas.

You've talked about reclaiming Samford's place in Alabama. Exactly what does that mean?

Westmoreland: It means that we need to be intentional in seeking out the best Alabama students and devoting resources to recruit those students. It certainly does not mean that we recruit only Alabama students, but it is important that we are prominent in the minds of Alabama high school students. This is home for us, and we don't want to neglect our own backyard.

For several years, Samford consistently has had about a third of its incoming class from the state of Alabama. Does that change with this emphasis on "reclaiming" Alabama?

Westmoreland: We want to maintain a solid core group of students from Alabama. We start to lose some of our institutional identity if we don't, because Samford was founded in 1841 partly to serve the people of Alabama. If you look at statistics over the last several years, the university has leveled off at about 35 percent of its incoming class from Alabama. For the fall 2007 semester, we have an increase of about 20 students from Alabama compared to last year, but the percentage does not change because we have a larger class. I don't anticipate that the percentage will change significantly even if the raw numbers continue to increase as we anticipate they will.

Who are Samford's primary competitors in the admission process?

Kimrey: In the Southeastern United States, depending on where the student is, our main competitor almost always is

the flagship public university—Auburn and Alabama, the University of Georgia, the University of Tennessee, etc. In that list also would be some selected private universities—Berry College in Georgia, Furman University, Birmingham-Southern College, Baylor University, Centre College, Rhodes College, Millsaps College, Vanderbilt University and others. We compete with all those schools for a certain group of students, especially depending on the majors. And, we will get our share of those students.

We do not compete with regional public institutions.

You are a parent of a high school student and know the massive amount of material that is coming to your prospective college student. Are Samford's materials aimed at the student, the parent or both?

Kimrey: We try to design and target our materials to catch attention quickly. If the student makes a specific inquiry to us, we send a specialized packet designed to that student's specific requests or needs. Sometimes, we will

Admission counselor Ricky Thrash, second from right, chats with Susan and Robert Griffith and their daughter, Victoria, during a campus visit. Below, Samford student Alec Phillips, center, leads the Griffiths on a campus tour.

CAMPUS VISIT TAKES GUESSWORK OUT OF COLLEGE SELECTION PROCESS

Prospective students considering Samford University benefit from a visit to the campus, according to Jason Black '01, Samford's assistant director of admission.

Students who visit campus can meet with financial aid and admission counselors, attend classes, talk with faculty members, attend convocation or other special events, tour campus facilities, eat in the dining hall, meet current students and stay overnight in residence facilities, depending on availability.

Visits can be scheduled at any time, Black said, although there are seasonal restrictions when facilities are closed or classes are not in session. Visit lengths depend on the needs of the prospective student.

Students and their families who visit campus gain visual impressions of the campus that aren't possible through the internet or off-campus visits with admission counselors, Black explained. "Technology has enhanced the college selection in many ways, but it can't do everything," Black said. "The sensory feelings from an on-campus experience take the guesswork out of the decision-making process. Students gain the confidence that everything they have seen is true. We really are who we say we are."

Visits can be scheduled by calling the admission office toll-free, 1-800-888-7218.

The office of admission is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The office also is open many Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.



do things such as blast e-mails that send intentional messages like campus updates such as the new arena, something happening in a specific department or links to certain websites with important information. We can target those messages to a specialized group based on major or geographic region.

What approach does Samford take for students who might have special needs?

Kimrey: Some students may have special needs, whether those are learning-related or family-related. Sometimes we can accommodate those students based on the resources we have, and sometimes we cannot. We work with the students, but they have to be prepared to be here. Again, the holistic approach to admission comes into play.

What do you say to prospective students and their parents who really want to come to Samford but may not be ready?

Kimrey: The first question I ask is “does the student really want to be here?” If the student wants to attend Samford and the parents are willing, it will happen. If either the student or the parents are hesitant, our role becomes one of providing information to help them in their decision-making process. For most, the stumbling block is financial. We have limited resources, and unfortunately, many families have not prepared well for sending their children to college. I encourage families not to eliminate Samford just because they think they can’t afford it. We do our best to help them work out a plan to make it possible.

Westmoreland: I always encourage parents and students to do their own research. If they do, they will discover what we and many others already know: Samford is a tremendous value in private higher education. Our costs are very

reasonable when compared with other comparable institutions. If you compare us with state universities on the basis of tuition only, there is a significant difference. But, you have to look at overall costs, not just tuition alone. Samford makes no apologies about its price, but we also know that we must focus on expanding financial aid opportunities through increased endowment. That will help us to attract and retain good students.

Samford has decided not to admit provisional student-athletes. Will that practice change in the future, especially with the move to the very competitive Southern Conference in 2008?

Westmoreland: The fact that Samford has been competitive athletically with the quality of student-athletes we recruit demonstrates that making exceptions is

SUMMER WORKSHOP GIVES RISING SENIORS A GLIMPSE OF COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS

A new program provided unique opportunities this summer for prospective Samford University students. And, if evaluations mean anything, the effort was a success with the first group to participate.

The first Samford Summer Workshop in July was designed to give rising high school seniors and their families an early glimpse at the campus and Samford’s admission process. The ultimate goal was to make Samford the gauge for those students to use in their decision-making process, according to Jason Black, assistant director of admission and coordinator for the Samford Summer Workshop.

“We want to be the first school these students visit as they start their process,” Black said. “For many, this was their first official visit anywhere. We wanted to set the bar so that Samford was the comparison when they visited other campuses, not the other way around.”

About 160 students and family members were on campus for the day-long workshop.

The most popular session, Black said, was a faculty panel where parents and students heard “how seriously Samford takes academics, and how much we work to nurture relationships between students and faculty.”

Information on future Samford Summer Workshops is available at www.samford.edu/admission.

no necessary for us, and I do not anticipate making a change in that policy. This is something that is important to our board of trustees, our admission staff, our faculty and the larger university community. We don’t sacrifice academics for the sake of athletics. ■

For more information:

www.samford.edu/admission
www.samford.edu/admission/money

See also

<http://www.samford.edu/pubs/seasons/fall2004.pdf> for a series of stories on Samford’s financial aid process.

Samford’s admission staff includes, from left, first row, Assistant Director Ashley Williams, Abi Haas, Sarah Ott; second row, Ashley Martin, Assistant Director Lauren Bean Cushenbery, Laura Beth Trucks; third row, Brad Tomas, Brian Kennedy, Assistant Director Corri Edwards, Kim Davey; fourth row, Ricky Thrash, Assistant Director Jason Black, Director Brian Willett, and Dean of Admission and Financial Aid Phil Kimrey.

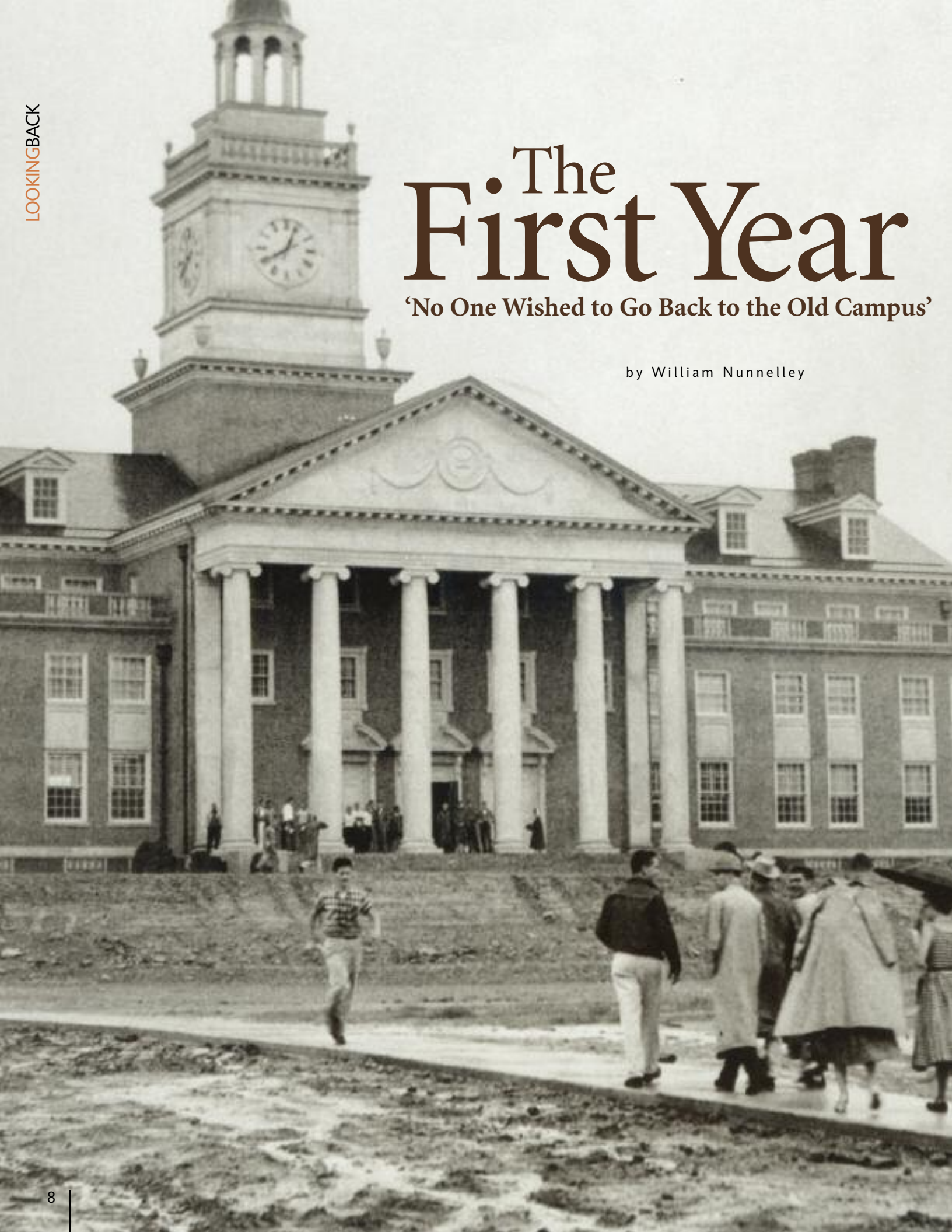
Samford admission counselors are responsible for the following geographical areas: Ashley Martin, central and west Alabama; Brian Kennedy, southeast Alabama, north Florida and southeast Georgia; Lauren Bean Cushenbery, northwest Georgia, North Carolina, east Tennessee; Sarah Ott, central Tennessee, South Carolina; Ricky Thrash, south Florida, western U.S., northeastern U.S.; Ashley Williams, north Alabama, Kentucky; Laura Beth Trucks, Atlanta metro; Abi Haas, southwest Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, west Tennessee; Brad Tomas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Texas; Kimberly Davey, transfers.



The First Year

'No One Wished to Go Back to the Old Campus'

by William Nunnelley



With rainfall more than 20 inches below normal through August, the Samford campus has suffered through a summer of extreme drought this year. The parched conditions are in stark contrast to 50 years ago, when the school moved to Homewood.

Ask anyone who remembers that first year. The refrain is remarkably the same:

Red, red mud. Not a tree in sight.

"I remember walking the sidewalks of the new campus in white rain boots at the beginning of the year," said Evelyn Vickery Freeman '58 of Florence, Ala. "By graduation, they were all red because of the red, muddy water we had to walk through to get to classes."

When then-Howard College moved from East Lake in the fall of 1957, eight buildings stood ready on a sloping hillside of several hundred acres. The Georgian-Colonial structures were an impressive sight, providing a grand contrast to their dilapidated counterparts on the old campus.

But the bare grounds, having been scraped clear of vegetation and trees in the construction process, were also quite different from East Lake, where Sherman Oak and other stately trees shaded a campus green nurtured by seven decades of growth.

Grass was planted on the Homewood campus a few weeks before classes began, but

President Harwell Davis, right, helps business manager Evan Zeiger plant a tulip poplar near Ingalls Hall in the spring of 1958. Today, it towers over the pharmacy building. Below: *The Crimson* takes note of the move from East Lake in its September 20, 1957 edition.

the fall of 1957 was unusually rainy, and most of that grass seed ended up in Shades Creek.

"The first thing that comes to my mind was red mud everywhere and absolutely no trees," recalled Ann Booker Bridgeman '59 of Mobile, Ala. "The old campus was so steeped in tradition and trees."

For Myra Crawford '58 of Birmingham, "What stands out most clearly in my mind is the balancing act required to steady my steps across the random wooden planks strewn about to keep us from sinking into a river of red clay."

Albert Lipscomb, Sr., '58 of McCalla, Ala., remembers another problem.

"The first thing the students had to adjust to on the new campus was a lack of shelter from the wind, which started in earnest in the late fall and seemed always to be accompanied by rain," said Lipscomb. With no trees and few buildings, "there were no wind breaks."

Conditions improved as the school year progressed, Lipscomb said. "A lot of these problems were solved with the coming of spring."

How did the faculty react?

"How could they not be joyous about being able to teach in air-conditioned buildings, with door handles that didn't fall off in their hands?" said Crawford.

Construction continued throughout the school year, a condition not unlike Samford today. The 1958 *Entre Nous* noted, "We lived with the whir and growl of the movement forward. We awakened to the rumble of trucks and cats. We moved in the rhythm of the crane."

Lipscomb transferred to Howard in 1956, attending one year in East Lake and another in Homewood. In East Lake he lived in World War II-era barracks and attended classrooms with wood reinforcing the ceiling plaster.

"The mood was positive on the old campus, and those of us who would continue at Howard looked forward to new classrooms and new dorms," he said. "In spite of



the inconveniences, there was a certain amount of nostalgia for the old campus. It felt comfortable, like an old shoe."

The new campus presented some difficult situations as well for student activities that first year. The unfinished third floor of Davis Library served as an auditorium and theatre, where "acoustics were terrible." There was no football field or gymnasium, and volleyball classes were held on a muddy field across Lakeshore Drive.

Freeman recalled "having to drive back and forth to the East Lake Ruhama Baptist Church for organ lessons and practice, and then for my presentation of my senior organ recital." She added, "I did part of my organ practice in the attic or loft of the new science building, Russell Hall, on the Lakeshore campus with exposed rafters."

Bridgeman, Miss *Entre Nous* 1958, said she had "a feeling of excitement about the new campus, but I missed the tradition and the ability to walk anywhere I needed to go in East Lake." She and her roommate, Sue Townsend Thompson '59 of Selma, Ala., enjoyed climbing out their window in Vail Hall to sunbathe on a deck or play in the rare snowfalls.

"My fondest memory of both campuses was singing in the A Cappella Choir under [director] George Koski," said Bridgeman, who today is choir president and a deacon at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church in Mobile.

The football, basketball and baseball teams drove back and forth to East Lake for practice during the first year in Homewood. Basketball player Rudolph Davidson '58 recalls practicing and playing games in frigid Causey Gym on the old campus, where the heating system no longer functioned. The football team played home games at Shades Valley High School, then located in the Homewood area.

The Crimson
Lakeshore At Last



“I do not remember anyone complaining about these situations,” Lipscomb said. “Most of us looked upon it as an adventure. It was a time of adjustment and adaptation. No one wished to go back to the old campus. We were now the trendsetters and the makers of fashion.”

Lipscomb said the fact that male students had a dorm on campus made a big difference.

“I knew more students since we ran into each other in our comings and goings,” he said. “We also would visit each other’s room and had cram sessions for finals.”

Change continued throughout 1957–58. Major Harwell G. Davis, who led the move from East Lake to Homewood, told the Alabama Baptist State Convention meeting in November he planned to retire as president. In February, the Howard board of trustees accepted his resignation effective Sept. 1, and named Leslie S. Wright, executive secretary of The Baptist Foundation of Alabama, as his successor.

Construction was ongoing, with Buchanan Hall music building being completed and a groundbreaking held at Easter for Reid Chapel and its two wings, Burns and Chapman halls. Work also was

underway on the football field, and Davis announced plans for a gymnasium, baseball field and six tennis courts.

Trustee Clarence Gardner did something about the barren appearance of the campus, providing 345 hardwood trees to be planted at the new location. Although some of these inevitably died, many reached maturity and continue to shade the campus today.

As the 1957–58 school year drew to a close, Major and Mrs. Davis hosted a reception for graduating seniors at their home in Forest Park. Myra Crawford remembered it as “the defining highlight of the year for me,” and added, “They were an icon for what has become known as the gentility of the Old South, and their grace as a couple an inspiration.”

Davis delivered the commencement address May 26 at Dawson Memorial Baptist Church in Homewood, his farewell address as president, and 264 seniors received their diplomas.

The first year on the new campus was transitional in many ways. The school still relied on old athletics facilities in East Lake, and music students trekked to Ruhama for practice sessions. The football team played in a nearby high school stadium, and Dawson Memorial

provided the nearest setting appropriate for commencement.

But Howard was settling rapidly into its new home in Shades Valley. By 1958–59, the process would be complete. ■



Rising to the Challenge of a New Campus by Lee N. Allen

Rain, rain, rain. Rain and mud everywhere.

That was the first thing I heard when I asked about the new campus in Shades Valley. When I came to Samford in 1961, the school had been on Lakeshore Drive for four years. Rain and mud were the first and most vivid recollections that everyone had.

Many years later when I began research for a 50-year history of the Shades Valley campus, I learned that there was so much more. It was certainly true that rain was dominant, and unfortunately, it seemed to drown out all other memories.

President Harwell G. Davis almost shed tears as he looked out his Samford Hall office and watched tons of topsoil and thousands of dollars worth of grass seed wash away. Students complained because the paved sidewalks seemed to serve as channels for runoff water, which they then had to slog through. They arrived at class with feet soaking wet,

having tracked mud across the beautiful new terrazzo floors. The undeveloped athletics field was the “Mud Bowl.”

Unmentioned by reminiscing alumni was that the SGA was a bicameral body. Members of the Senate represented individual classes and were elected by students. The Senate enacted legislation. The House of Representatives was composed of delegates from all student organizations. They discussed but did not pass laws. The experiment lasted only two years.

When classes began, there were only eight buildings on campus: two massive dorms, a partial student union building, Samford Hall, Ingalls Hall, Ramsay Hall (the eight-unit faculty apartments), the library and the biology building. Not quite ready was the building that became Buchanan Hall.

Later generations know these buildings as housing a single school or department. In Fall 1957, every

building housed many disciplines. More than half of Samford Hall, for example, was dedicated to classrooms and faculty offices. The Division of Music was scattered all over campus. Pianos were in many classrooms, which doubled as practice rooms. Chapel services and other public meetings were held at the east end of the third floor of the library, now called the second floor, until construction of Reid Chapel. So much was makeshift in 1957–58.

There was no gymnasium, so indoor P.E. classes were held in the basement of



Right: Students celebrate H-Day.

Left: Eight buildings were completed for the opening of the new Lakeshore Drive campus in the fall of 1957. Bottom Left: The football field (now Seibert Stadium) slowly takes shape. Below: Showing off 1957 homecoming decoration trophies are, from left, Elizabeth Ritchey, Jeanne Lamb, David Davidson and Steve Allgood.



Crawford Johnson Hall. Basketball practice and most home games were played in the decrepit Causey Gym on the old East Lake campus. During the winter, the boiler gave out and was not repaired, leaving it unheated in the depths of winter. Students were responsible for getting themselves across town for practices and games. Football practice was at Berry Field on the old campus, and home games were played at Shades Valley High School.

There was no athletics department. All varsity sports were run from the physical education department, of which James Sharman was head, while serving as athletics director. All the coaches did multiple duty, including teaching classes. Virgil Ledbetter coached football, basketball and baseball. Sharman was assistant football coach, and Walter Barnes assisted football and basketball, and coached track and field. Sharman coached tennis and would have coached golf if enough

students had turned out to make a team. Except for baseball (17-4), records are best forgotten. There were no athletic scholarships. President Davis did not believe in subsidized sports.

Like athletics, drama had no place to call home. The first production, directed by English-born Helen Steer, was staged in the low-ceiling, makeshift chapel-auditorium. It was *The Importance of Being Earnest*, starring Bonnie Buckner, Yon Koski, John (Bo) Porter and Gordon Bryars. Ignoring the inconveniences of the setting, the *Birmingham Post-Herald* reviewer referred to it as “a delightful play” put on by “a talented college cast.”

Baptist Student Union [BSU] was a powerful influence on the new campus, functioning through the BSU choir, Young Women’s Auxiliary, Brotherhood, Ministerial Association, Agape, Mission Band and Religious Drama Guild. Ben J. Connell was the new BSU director, and his wife of only

a few weeks, Shirley, was campus nurse. Charles Stroud, a drama major from Birmingham, was BSU council president.

Davis was in his final year as president. He would soon turn over reins to Leslie S. Wright. What he bequeathed was a new, very incomplete campus. It was a school with many traditions, a strong administrative staff and an outstanding student body that rose to every challenge that they faced during that trying first year. “The Major,” as Davis preferred to be called, might not recognize the school a half century later, but he could not fail to be proud of what developed on the solid foundation that he, the trustees, the faculty, the staff and the students laid that first year. ■

Dr. Lee N. Allen is university historian at Samford. A member of the history department faculty and former dean of the arts and sciences and graduate schools, he is completing a history of the Samford’s first 50 years in Homewood.

Master Salesman James Head

Answered Frank Samford's Call to Lead Lakeshore Fund-Raising

by Jack Brymer



When Howard College trustees approved the relocation of the campus from East Lake to Homewood in the late 1940s, they knew it would require a gigantic selling job to raise the financial support needed from the Birmingham community.

But trustee chair Frank Park Samford felt he could call on the best salesman in the state to lead the fund-raising committee, his friend James A. Head, president of a highly successful office supply and equipment company.

Head accepted Frank Samford's call. Samford University's celebration this fall of its 50th anniversary in Homewood is a tribute to Head's success.

Head and Samford first met in 1926 when Samford's firm, Liberty National Insurance Company, moved its headquarters from Philadelphia, Pa., to Birmingham, Ala. Head was a member of First Baptist Church, which at the time was located on 5th Avenue and 22nd Street downtown. The church had just dedicated a six-story education building. Head arranged for some of the new building to be used temporarily by Liberty National.

During the next quarter century, the two men pursued different careers with equal success, Samford in life insurance, and Head in office supplies and equipment. They also became members of Southside Baptist Church.

Head had decided at age 18 that "throwing newspapers and cutting grass" was not for him. That's when he took a door-to-door sales job with Library Bureau, a manufacturer of library system products and furniture headquartered in Cambridge, Mass. As a result, he had "knocked on the door" of practically every business in his territory, Birmingham.

At age 22, he started his own business—James A. Head and Co. The firm grew rapidly and prospered, and Head became an icon in the library community.

In addition to his success in the library, office supplies and equipment business, Head distinguished himself as a salesman for a better Birmingham and Alabama. Through the National Conference of Christians and Jews, now the National Conference for Community and Justice, he assembled a committee of 15 young, progressive, like-minded businessmen and traveled to 31 cities in Alabama promoting justice and equality for all people.

"It took us 30 years, but we broke the back of the KKK mentality that had permeated the city and state since the turn of the century," he said. "That's one thing I've spent 66 years in, and I believe that the good Lord directed me to do that job."

One of Head's selling points for a better city and state was the need for more educational opportunities, as well as cultural and civic activities. It wasn't difficult for him to accept the challenge of the promotion campaign for a new Howard campus in the early '50s.

His first challenge from Samford, he recalled, was to raise \$1 million in 60 days. "Now that was a lot of money in those days, and I was prohibited from contacting Baptists," he said. That effort was to be organized through churches.

Although he couldn't recall if he and his committee raised the full amount in 60 days, they were successful. One of the first major gifts he acquired was \$100,000 from a client of his company's attorney.

John Pittman, a new Samford trustee at the time who continues to serve, said that Head was a most effective

leader in the Birmingham community at the time, although he was not a Samford trustee.

"Frank Samford asked him to do that, and he [Head] went out and enlisted the most prominent Jewish and Catholic leaders in the city to help him," Pittman said. "I suppose Jim represented the Protestant community."

Head then was asked and agreed to chair the cornerstone-laying committee and organize the ceremony. As president of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, he was viewed as representing the entire city in the historic event.

In his remarks during the ceremony April 29, 1955, Head said, "The strengthened educational facility will help keep more Alabama students in careers at home, as well as attract new families to the state. Industries seeking new locations consider carefully a community's educational facilities and cultural resources. Howard will be 'the beauty campus of the South,' and a great benefit to Birmingham and the entire state."

That same year, he was elected to the Howard College Board of Trustees. In 1979, he became an honorary life trustee. He served on the executive committee of the board as well as numerous other committees, including student affairs and development (which he chaired) until 1993. He was awarded the doctor of humane letters degree in 2002.

Head's daughter, three grand-

children and a great grandchild are all Samford alumni: Virginia Head Gross '61, Lynn Head Cline '78, Vivian Head Wright '80, Gene Head, Jr., '95 and Lee Wright '06. A second great granddaughter, Barbara Cline, is currently a senior.

When the Rotary Club of Birmingham awarded Head its highest honor for distinguished service in 1996, it cited his role as chair of the promotion campaign for the relocation of Howard as one of many accomplishments of his "life of servitude and accomplishments."

Likewise, when he was inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor in 2002 at the age of 97, his role in the fund-raising effort was cited along with numerous other honors. "His belief in the dignity and worth of all individuals has been the cornerstone of his distinguished life," said his nomination.

His fellow Samford board member, Harry B. Brock Jr., said, "Jim is truly a self-made man. He has built a fine company, and has devoted himself to many wonderful charitable and civic projects that have benefited not only the greater Birmingham area, but also the entire state of Alabama. His seven decades of service have been tendered with kindness, integrity and courage."

Head has amassed numerous accomplishments and honors. He was the Young Men's Business Club Man of the Year in 1950 and was inducted into the Alabama Business Hall of Fame in 2001. He served as president of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and as a member of the Alabama advisory committee to the Civil Rights Commission, Jefferson County Personnel Board, Homewood Library Board and Homewood City Council.

Head, who will celebrate his 103rd birthday in October, lives across the street from the Samford University campus and continues a busy lifestyle, including weekly meetings of the Rotary Club and various civic organizations. ■



Above: James A. Head, now 102, revisits the cornerstone of Samford Hall in August. He used the trowel above to help lay the cornerstone in 1955, right.

Atcheson Directs Graham Library

by Jack Brymer

When Franklin Graham offered him the job as director of the new Billy Graham Library in Charlotte, N.C., Samford alumnus Wayne Atcheson '64 said it was "the highest honor and privilege of my life, and the dessert of my career ministry."

Atcheson's ministry began early. His father was pastor of Maplesville Baptist Church in rural Chilton County, Alabama, in the 1940s, and also conducted a radio ministry and tent revivals on the streets of six small nearby towns. Atcheson began accompanying his father when he was five years old.

"My evangelism upbringing fits well here," he said, where the story of Graham's remarkable evangelistic career is told in exhibits, displays and films.

When Atcheson enrolled at Samford in 1959, it was a foregone conclusion by his family and friends that he would follow in his dad's footsteps and become a preacher. But they discounted Wayne's interest in athletics.

"As a boy, I dreamed of playing football at Alabama," he said. "But everybody always thought I would be a preacher like my daddy, so I went to Howard thinking that God might call me there."

Atcheson was never ordained, but he turned his life in athletics into a ministry.

He attended Howard with the help of a work scholarship, living in a room in the basement of Seibert Gym with another work scholarship student, Paul Miller '64. He served as student sports information director throughout his undergraduate days. He was also sports editor of *The Samford Crimson* and *Entre Nous*, president of the Baptist Student Union Brotherhood and president of the H-Club. He received the 1964 James Walker Award as the student making the greatest contribution to the athletics program, an award that normally went to an athlete.

Along the way, he attended numerous H-Day programs as a layman speaker and began his long involvement with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes [FCA].

(Miller, who was the football manager and trainer as a student, is now executive director of



the Alabama Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministry.)

"For a starry-eyed freshman from Clanton, Ala., Samford made a lifetime impression on me," Atcheson recalled. "It [Howard] was like Heaven for me. I even enjoyed chapel. The speakers just amazed me, and many fellow students inspired me."

Following graduation, Atcheson earned a master's degree in journalism from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, where he served as a graduate assistant in the sports information department. Alabama won the national football championship both years he was there (1964–65).

Along with eight other student athletes, Atcheson led in founding and organizing the Alabama FCA chapter, which still meets weekly after 42 years. He served as secretary the first two years.

'My evangelism upbringing fits well here.'

—Wayne Atcheson

In the spring of 1965, evangelist Graham preached at Alabama's football stadium and stayed in the athletics dormitory as a guest of Coach Paul (Bear) Bryant. "Five of us who started FCA at Alabama that year, including All-Americans Steve Sloan and Paul Crane, had our picture taken with Mr. Graham in the lobby of the dorm, a prize photo," he recalled. Later, the photo was included in the FCA's 50th anniversary commemorative book, which Atcheson wrote.

In 1967, Atcheson received the Charlie Compton Award given for outstanding Christian leadership to a member of the Alabama football team. He is the only nonfootball player ever to receive the award.

After a year as director of public relations for Judson College, Atcheson joined the FCA staff at its national headquarters in Kansas City, Mo., and served from 1967–79 as associate director of programs. He was also FCA area representative for Indianapolis, Ind.

He worked in athletics promotions/marketing at the University of Richmond for a short time. Then "the Lord gave me my dream job in athletics—sports information director for the Alabama Crimson Tide," Atcheson said. He remained there for 20 years, the latter years as associate director of Tide Pride, the university's donor support program for athletics.

Wayne Atcheson '64 is director of the new Billy Graham Library in Charlotte, N.C., in the background.

"My real joy was serving as Alabama FCA adviser for 28 years, a ministry that the Lord has used mightily with this high and visible platform," he said.

During all those years, Atcheson kept up with Graham. In April 1999, he served as director of the West Alabama Franklin Graham Festival in Tuscaloosa. "It was an 11-month process, and I got to know the Graham team members quite well, including Franklin," he said. Franklin, Graham's son, serves today as president of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

In 2003, Atcheson joined the Jerry Jenkins Christian Writers Guild in Colorado Springs, Colo., as admission manager. His role was to advise and give students guidance in improving their writing skills with the guild's courses and annual conferences. Two such conferences were conducted at the Billy Graham Training Center in Asheville, N.C.

When he received a call from the Graham organization in March of 2006 to submit a vita for consideration of the position, Atcheson said he was "highly honored."

"I never dreamed I'd be submitting a résumé for a job at age 63, when so many of my friends are retired," he said. "I'm now 65 and never plan to retire."

After two interviews, he was selected as the first director, effective June 1, 2006. The library opened in early 2007.

"Our goals are high, and so far, the library has exceeded all expectations," he said. "In the first month, people from every state and from around the world visited the library. Our 28-member staff and 200 volunteers are anointed people who dearly love this ministry."

There is no admission charge, and the library is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Sundays, when it is closed. It is also closed Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Atcheson and his wife Barbara, "a Kansas sunflower," have two adult daughters. Elizabeth Atcheson Poplin is a 1997 Samford alumna. She met her future husband, Jared Poplin '99 of Charlotte, N.C., at Samford, where both served as ambassadors. They are the parents of the Atchesons' only grandchild, Jackson Wayne, age 16 months, and also live in Charlotte.

Daughter Amy Atcheson Snyder lives in Tuscaloosa with her husband, Bobby, a high school coach and teacher.

Atcheson is the author of several books, including *Our Family Was a Team* (1990), *Impact for Christ: How FCA Has Influenced the Sports World* (2003) and *In Due Time: The Struggles and Triumphs of Alabama Quarterback Jay Barker*, which sold more than 62,000 copies.

For someone who was never ordained to preach, Wayne Atcheson continues to be one effective evangelist. ■

CALENDAR OF events

For details or the complete Samford University calendar, go to www.samford.edu/calendar/html.

- Sept. 14–18** **Greek Life recruitment**, (205) 726-2345
- Sept. 14–27** **A Celebration of Latin American Art Exhibit**, Samford Art Gallery, Swearingen Hall, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Monday through Friday
- Sept. 18** **Walking with the Saints:** Perpetua and Felicitas, Speaker: Bridget Rose, curator, Hodges Chapel, 11 a.m., Andrew Gerow Hodges Chapel
- Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing continuing education seminar**, 5–9 p.m., (205) 726-2626
- Alabama Symphony Orchestra Concertmaster and Friends series**, 7 p.m., Brock Recital Hall. For ticket information, contact the ASO box office, (205) 251-7727 or go to www.alabamasymphony.org.
- Sept. 20** **Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing continuing education seminar**, 5–9 p.m., (205) 726-2626
- Sept. 21–23** **Family Weekend**, www.samford.edu/ activities or call (205) 726-2345
- Sept. 21** **Cumberland School of Law continuing education seminar**, 7 a.m.–5 p.m., Memory Leake Robinson Hall, (205) 726-2865
- Sept. 22** **Admission Preview Day**, www.samford.edu/ admission, (205) 726-3673
- Sept. 23** **Old-Song Sing-Along**, 2 p.m., Reid Chapel, featuring Joseph Hopkins, dean, school of the arts; concert pianist Barbara Bamberg and concert organist Ken Varner
- Puccini's *La Bohème*** simulcast from the Washington National Opera, 1 p.m., Wright Center Concert Hall. (This live performance is made available free to the public by an anonymous donor.)
- Sept. 24** **School of Business Dean's Leadership Forum**, 11:45 a.m., Brock Forum, www.samfordbusinessnetwork.com, (205) 726-2051
- Sept. 25** **Walking with the Saints:** Thomas Aquinas, Speaker: Neville Callam, General Secretary, Baptist World Alliance, 11 a.m., Andrew Gerow Hodges Chapel
- Sept. 27** **Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing continuing education seminar**, 5–9 p.m., (205) 726-2626
- Sept. 28–30** **Consortium for Global Education annual meeting**, hosted by Samford
- Leadership Samford**, sponsored by the Office of Student Involvement, (205) 726-2345
- Sept. 28** **Cumberland School of Law continuing education seminar**, 7 a.m.–5 p.m., Memory Leake Robinson Hall, (205) 726-2865
- Alabama elementary all-state choir festival**, Samford performing arts complex, (205) 726-2651
- Oct. 1** **Samford Board of Ministerial Mentors fall meeting**, 10 a.m., (205) 726-4200
- Oct. 2–3** **Missions Festival**, hosted by Samford's Global Center, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Ben Brown Plaza, (205) 726-2170
- Oct. 2** **Walking with the Saints:** Lottie Moon, Speaker: Gordon Fort, vice president, Southern Baptist International Mission Board, 11 a.m., Andrew Gerow Hodges Chapel
- Faculty recital:** Jeff Flaniken, violin, Angie Flaniken, viola, Don Sanders, piano, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall
- Oct. 3** **Theological Education Day**, hosted by the Office of University Ministries, Robinson Hall plaza, 9 a.m.–2 p.m., (205) 726-2927
- Oct. 5** **Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing nurse anesthesia hooding ceremony**, 2 p.m., Andrew Gerow Hodges Chapel
- Oct. 6** **Admission Preview Day**, www.samford.edu/ admission, (205) 726-3673
- School Violence Prevention Workshop**, 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m., 233 Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education, (205) 726-2433
- "Pedals, Pipes and Pizza: an Introduction to the Pipe Organ"** for ages 11–16, hosted by Samford and the American Guild of Organists, (205) 910-5111
- Oct. 7** **Alabama Pharmacy law seminar**, 1 p.m., Wright Center Concert Hall, (205) 726-2722
- Oct. 8** **Baptist Center for Ethics film and panel discussion**, 5–9 p.m., Brock Forum, Film: *Faith and Politics*, Panel: Rev. Jim Evans, Dr. Susan Pace Hamill, Rep. Artur Davis, (205) 726-4226
- Oct. 9** **Walking with the Saints:** Jan Hus, Speaker: Gregory A. Thornbury, dean, School of Christian Studies, Union University, 11 a.m., Andrew Gerow Hodges Chapel
- Oct. 11** **Birmingham Art Music Alliance concert**, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall, (205) 726-2489

- Oct. 15–16** **Fall Break**
“Worship in Your World” conference hosted by the Resource Center for Pastoral Excellence, www.samford.edu/rcpe or (205) 726-4064
Jefferson County Water Festival, (205) 726-4246
- Oct. 16** **Walking with the Saints:** E. Stanley Jones, Speaker: Stephen Graham, associate professor of political science, University of Indianapolis. 11 a.m., Andrew Gerow Hodges Chapel
- Oct. 17–21** **Homecoming**, go to www.samford.edu/alumni for a complete schedule of events
- Oct. 19** **Dedication ceremonies for Pete Hanna Center**, 6 p.m.
- Oct. 20** **Concert: “Little Big Town,”** 8:30 p.m., Pete Hanna Center, Tickets: www.samforduniversityrelations.com
- Oct. 20–21** **Alabama Ballet presents “Where the Wild Things Are.”** For performance times and ticket information, go to www.alabamaballet.org.
- Oct. 23** **Walking with the Saints:** Athanasius, Speaker: Carl Beckwith, assistant professor, Beeson Divinity School, 11 a.m., Andrew Gerow Hodges Chapel
- Oct. 27** **Ohio Valley Conference** cross-country championships, hosted by Samford
ACT exam, 8 a.m.–2 p.m., Brooks Hall, (205) 726-2561
“Walk to D’feet ALS,” sponsored by ALS Association and hosted by Samford, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., Seibert Stadium, (256) 519-9030
- Oct. 28** **Faculty recital:** Brad Sargent, trumpet, 2:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall
- Oct. 30–Nov. 1** **Reformation Heritage Lectures:** Gwenfair Walter Adams, 11 a.m., Andrew Gerow Hodges Chapel, www.beesondivinity.com
- Oct. 30** **Alabama Symphony Orchestra Concertmaster and Friends series**, 7 p.m., Brock Recital Hall. For ticket information, contact the ASO box office, (205) 251-7727 or www.alabamasympphony.org.
- Nov. 1–2** **Word Players fall performance**, 6:30 p.m., Bolding Studio, Swearingen Hall
- Nov. 1** **Joint Faculty/Guest Recital:** Randall Richardson with Melanie Williams, University of Montevallo, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall
- Nov. 5** **School of Business Dean’s Leadership Forum**, 11:45 a.m., Brock Forum, www.samfordbusinessnetwork.com, (205) 726-2051
- Nov. 6** **Walking with the Saints:** John Chrysostom, Speaker: Douglas Webster, professor, Beeson Divinity School, 11 a.m., Andrew Gerow Hodges Chapel
Fulbright Scholar Lecture, 3 p.m., Brooks Hall Auditorium, (205) 726-2995
University Chorale Concert, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall
- Nov. 8** **Samford Auxiliary** meeting, 10 a.m., Brock Hall
- Nov. 9** **Miss Samford pageant**, 7 p.m., Wright Center Concert Hall, (205) 726-2345
- Nov. 10** **Admission Preview Day**, www.samford.edu/admission, (205) 726-3673
National Federation of Music Clubs Hymn Festival, 7 a.m.–5 p.m., School of the Arts, (205) 726-4049
Samford in Mission Outreach Youth Workers summit, 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Brooks Hall, (205) 726-4203, www.samford.edu/SIM
- Nov. 13** **Walking with the Saints:** Sojourner Truth, Speaker: Wilton Bunch, professor, Beeson Divinity School, 11 a.m., Andrew Gerow Hodges Chapel
- Nov. 15** **School of Business young business leaders convocation**, 10 a.m., Brock Forum, (205) 726-2051
- Nov. 16–17** **School of the Arts scholarship auditions**, (205) 726-2778
- Nov. 17** **National Federation of Music Clubs Hymn Festival**, 7 a.m.–5 p.m., School of the Arts, (205) 726-4049
Samford Percussion Ensemble concert, 2:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall
- Nov. 18** **Super Jazz Big Band** concert, 3 p.m., Brock Recital Hall
- Nov. 21–23** **Thanksgiving Holiday**, no classes; offices closed Nov. 22–23
- Nov. 29** **Hanging of the Green** ceremony, 6 p.m., Reid Chapel
Lighting of the Way ceremony, 6:45 p.m., Centennial Walk
- Nov. 29–Dec. 2** **School of the Arts presents *Twelfth Night*.** For performance times and ticket information, go to www.samfordarts.tickets.com
- Dec. 1** **Admission Preview Day**, www.samford.edu/admission, (205) 726-3673
Festival of Christmas Music, 7:30 p.m., Wright Center Concert Hall

For schedules and information on Samford athletics, go to www.samfordsports.com.

For a list of Samford After Sundown classes, go to www.samford.edu/sundown.

For the complete academic calendar, go to www.samford.edu/calendar.html.

For ticket information, performance details and schedule updates on art performances go to www.samford.edu/arts.

Information was compiled from the university calendar as of Aug. 15, 2007. Dates, times and details are subject to change. Please go to www.samford.edu for updated information.

Music Professor Wins Buchanan

Several aspects of teaching at Samford appeal to music professor Paul Richardson. He enjoys teaching half his courses to individual students and the other half to classes of 12 or more. He likes team-teaching with professors from other disciplines in the Honors Program. He especially enjoys the fact that Samford draws good students.

But what he likes best is getting to know those students.

“I love to teach, and I especially like the interpersonal aspect of teaching,” he said. “It’s never the same person. They are all different.”

Dr. Richardson teaches voice and vocal pedagogy, “teaching people how to teach voice,” in the music division of Samford’s School of Performing Arts. Voice students all “are learning to perform,” he noted, whether they are preparing to be professional performers, to teach or to direct choirs in schools or churches.

Freshmen, especially music students, need to learn about themselves, says Richardson.

“For one thing, music students need to discover whether they love music enough to go in those little rooms and practice every day,” he said.

One of his students noted recently that the professor consistently and systematically challenges students to raise the bar in every aspect of their learning. Another said that, rather than trying to make everyone fit the mold of the same perfect student, he recognizes and encourages individual differences.

Traits such as these helped make Richardson the winner of this year’s Buchanan Award for Excellence in Teaching. The annual award and its \$1,000 check went to the hymnody scholar during opening convocation Aug. 28.

“Students who nominated [Richardson] describe him as a good model of someone who loves to teach and who truly cares about his students,” said Provost and Executive Vice President J. Bradley Creed in presenting the annual award, based partly on recommendations from the previous spring’s senior class.

Richardson has taught at Samford since 1995. He was previously a professor and chair of doctoral studies in the school of church music at Southern Baptist Seminary.

“After I finished my doctorate, I couldn’t get a teaching job, so I worked in administration four years,” he said. “I met a wide range of people, and the experience made me a better teacher.”

As an expert in hymnody, the vast body of hymns, Richardson was chosen several years ago to revise and update Erik Routley’s classic 1979 book, *A Panorama of Christian Hymnody*. Richardson’s revised edition appeared in 2005 and has received favorable reviews in North American and British journals.

Richardson recently was named Research Professor 2007–09 at Samford. Although he will continue to teach, this new faculty status will provide more time for research and writing. He has three large projects scheduled—helping to compile and edit a hymnal for Mercer University

Press, editing a collection of articles and essays in honor of church music scholar Donald Hustad, and preparing a new edition of a hymnology textbook.

“I enjoy research and I love writing,” he said.

The author of numerous book chapters, articles and reviews in his field, he recently completed a book, *I Will Sing the Wondrous Story: A History of Baptist Hymnody in America*, co-authored with David Music of Baylor University, to be released later this year by Mercer University Press.

Richardson is past president of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, and contributing editor to its journal, *The Hymn*. ■

Dr. Paul Richardson



CAMPUS update

Dr. Larry Davenport
Named Director
of Vulcan Materials
Center at Samford



Davenport

Biology professor Larry J. Davenport has been named director of the Vulcan Materials Center for Environmental Stewardship and Education at Samford University. Davenport, an expert in field botany with an emphasis on aquatic and wetland plants, has taught at Samford since 1985.

Davenport will continue to teach basic botany and ecology courses as well as specialized courses in plant taxonomy and local flora in the undergraduate program, and wetlands in the master of science in environmental management program.

He is an acknowledged expert on the Cahaba lily, a rare plant found only in 31 counties across central Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina. His work to protect the lily and its habitat helped in the establishment of the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge in 2002.

Davenport holds a bachelor's degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and master of science and doctor of philosophy from the University of Alabama.

The Vulcan Materials Center is a partnership between Vulcan Materials Company and Samford. It promotes environmental science education and research. Established in 2001, the partnership encompasses three areas—education, environmental stewardship and innovative solutions in environmental management. ■

Band Sports New Threads, but Still Needs Instruments

There will be lots of new things at Samford University football games this fall, including new uniforms for the Samford Marching Band for the first time in more than 20 years. With more than 70 musicians in this year's band—the largest in recent years—the uniforms will add to the band's growing reputation as one of the best music groups in the area.

After many of the old uniforms were determined to be beyond repair, a campaign began in the spring to help raise funds for new uniforms. The uniforms arrived this summer, along with new instruments, according to James Smisek, Samford's director of bands.

One of the band's creative ways to raise funds was to create pillows from the old uniforms. A limited number of pillows still are available for \$50 each. For more information, e-mail Smisek at jjsmisek@samford.edu.

The band includes students representing most academic disciplines at Samford. Many students also participate in the Samford Wind Ensemble, the Symphonic Band and other instrumental ensembles throughout the year.

Band members returned to campus in mid-August for two weeks of grueling rehearsals. During the semester, they rehearse three days a week. Students receive one hour of

academic credit for participation, and there are limited scholarships available, Smisek said.

This year, the band will play at six home football games and travel to the Georgia Tech game. The band also will be featured throughout homecoming weekend, Oct. 19–21.

More than \$43,000 still is needed for additional instruments, Smisek said. Donors interested in helping with new instrument funding or scholarships can e-mail Smisek at jjsmisek@samford.edu.

Samford University Instrument Needs

Description	Quantity	Cost per unit
C trumpet	2	\$1,895
Cornet	5	\$1,925
Bass clarinet mouthpieces	2	\$250
Contra-bass clarinet	1	\$17,518
E-flat alto clarinet	1	\$4,695
Contra-alto clarinet	1	\$1,395
Piccolo	1	\$1,939
Euphonium	2	\$1,925
TOTAL NEEDED		\$43,312

For more information on Samford's instrumental programs, go to www.samford.edu/arts. ■

IABCU Elects Corts Executive Director

Samford President Emeritus Thomas E. Corts was elected executive director of the International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities [IABCU], formerly the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools, at its annual meeting in Williamsburg, Va., in June. He succeeded Bob Agee, who retired.

Samford is one of 52 member schools of the IABCU. The IABCU corporate office is in Nashville, Tenn., but Corts will continue to reside in Birmingham.

The former Samford president was interim chancellor of the Alabama College System for the State of Alabama from mid-2006 until the spring of 2007. He was Samford's president from 1983 until his retirement in May 2006.

He also served as president of Wingate University in North Carolina from 1974 until 1983 and as coordinator of the Higher Education Consortium of Kentucky from 1973 to 1974. Corts is a graduate of Georgetown College in Kentucky with a Ph.D. from Indiana University. ■

Harbingers of Hope Opens Hull Legacy Project

by Jack Brymer

Harbingers of Hope is more than a collection of thoughtful sermons on God's promises to today's world by distinguished theologian William E. Hull '51. It is the forerunner of a series of publications that will extend and perpetuate Hull's half-century ministry as a preacher and teacher.

Known as the Hull Legacy Project, the series of publications will present a body of Hull's best work on various Christian themes. The project is sponsored jointly by Mountain Brook Baptist Church and Samford University.

Described by Mountain Brook Baptist senior minister James D. Moebes '63 as "one of America's premier Biblical theologians," Hull has served as a seminary administrator, Baptist pastor and university professor. He has written 12 books, contributed to 24 others, and lectured widely on college and seminary campuses.

Today, he is the theologian in residence at Mountain Brook Baptist Church and research professor at Samford, where he was provost from 1987 until 1996.

Hull "has cultivated an indescribable capacity to juxtapose the Christian faith against the great ideas of modern man," said Samford President Emeritus Thomas E. Corts. He is "one of the most analytical, synthesizing, eclectic minds ever to grace the Christian pulpit," said Corts.

Harbingers of Hope, published by Samford University Press in partnership with the University of Alabama Press, will be available this fall. While his role at Mountain Brook Baptist is that of a teaching minister, Hull said the book "derives not from my classroom teaching or academic research, but from my preaching to a congregation in the Baptist tradition."

He adds that the book "seeks to suggest how preaching may fulfill both a pastoral and a teaching function as called for in Ephesians 4:11d (... and some to be pastors and teachers)."

Samford President Andrew Westmoreland and Corts encouraged support of the Hull Legacy Project as a way to serve Alabama Baptist churches. Since the material in the project has been "field-tested" in a congregational setting, they felt it would support churches in ways that more technical scholarly works would not.

"At first glance," Hull noted, "it might seem strange that an academic press would want to put out a book of sermons, a genre often thought to lack scholarly substance. As a Christian university, Samford is founded on the premise that good education and good religion are mutually reinforcing, that faith and reason are not sworn



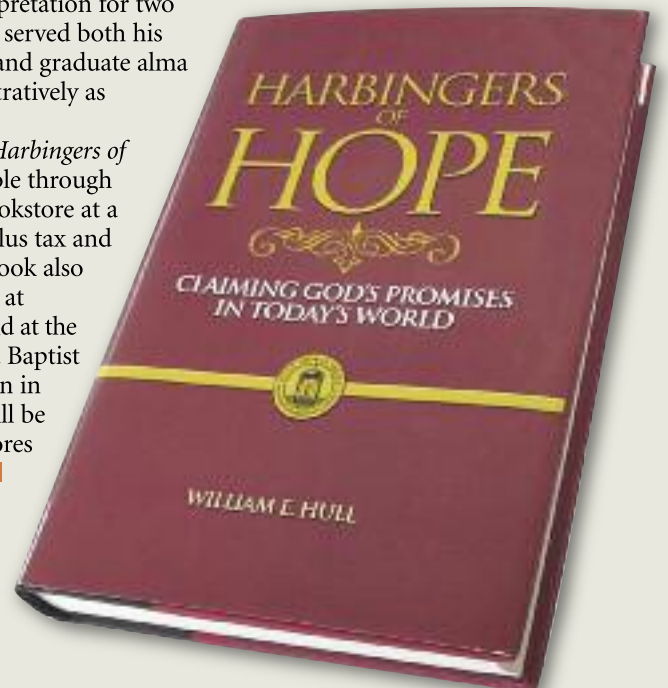
enemies, and therefore that piety and truth should not only coexist but become inseparable. If this book succeeds at all, it seeks to make the subtle point that serious scholarship can enhance the witness of the Christian faith."

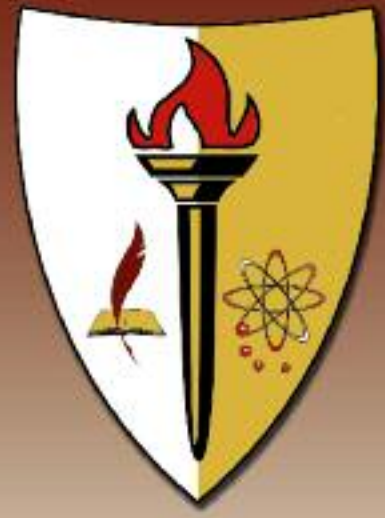
Hull is a graduate of Samford and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, with postdoctoral study at the University of Göttingen and Harvard University.

He pursued dual careers in the church and Christian higher education. Pastor of four congregations for 20 years, he has preached continuously in a wide variety of denominational and ecumenical settings. A professor of New Testament interpretation for two decades, he also served both his undergraduate and graduate alma maters administratively as provost.

Copies of *Harbingers of Hope* are available through the Samford Bookstore at a cost of \$29.95 plus tax and shipping. The book also will be available at homecoming and at the annual Alabama Baptist State Convention in November. It will be in most bookstores by early 2008. ■

Principals involved in producing the Hull Legacy Project include, from left, Samford Vice President for Business Affairs Harry B. Brock III, Mountain Brook Baptist Church pastor James D. Moebes, Legacy committee members Tom Merrill and David Carder, and author William E. Hull, seated.





collegium

A Newsletter of the Howard College of Arts and Sciences

From Culture Wars to Cultural Perspectives



During the 1980s and 1990s, a controversy swept through many college campuses about the content of humanities courses. Often referred to as the “culture wars,” these arguments focused on the reading lists of required courses in history, literature, philosophy, etc. Many classic writers fell into disrepute for views that were unquestionably sexist and elitist. Great thinkers such as Plato, Aristotle, Augustine and Milton often were replaced by more contemporary authors. In return, the new books that were added to the curriculum often were disparaged by traditionalists, such as E. D. Hirsch and Allan Bloom, who believed in the enduring importance of classical works.

The polarization of these early years has given way to two approaches to general education in the humanities. One path was simply to create a smorgasbord of electives. Students could decide if they

wanted to take Native American Writers or Gothic Fiction, Ancient World History or Protests of the 1960s. Few chose to study Plato and Aristotle. Other schools created a core curriculum that provided a common foundation for all entering students. The core curriculum recognized the importance and lasting influence of classic writers, but didn’t hesitate to critique their views.

Samford’s Cultural Perspectives [CP] requirement is the product of years of discussion about what books freshmen should read and how these works should be taught. Former dean Rod Davis presided over many hours of discussion about the nature of this course. In the end, the faculty agreed to a short list of common texts that would serve as the unifying focus. Two anthologies were developed to supplement these works. The anthologies not only include Aristotle and Augustine, but also Marie de France and Mary Wollstonecraft. There was also an agreement that the course would include some non-Western elements, such as Buddhism and Islam in CP 101 and the Global Village in CP 102.

Our courses in Communication Arts and Biblical Perspectives also were created out of a cauldron of faculty concerns. Communication Arts is an interdisciplinary course that includes writing, speaking, media literacy and communication technology. Virtually no faculty member could claim expertise in all these areas, and it took a major effort to prepare faculty for this challenge. Biblical Perspectives replaced the previously

required Old and New Testament courses. Instead of rote knowledge of Bible facts, the course emphasized understanding the historical context of the Bible and how hermeneutical perspectives affected Biblical interpretation. Again, the faculty was stretched to teach outside traditional specializations.

We have now reached the 10-year milestone of our core curriculum. Arguments continue about the nature of the reading list in Cultural Perspectives and how much emphasis should be placed on technology in Communication Arts. What is clear is that the core serves as the defining experience for entering students. Whether you agree with Plato that society is best served by a ruling elite of gifted thinkers, or you support Aristotle’s view that ordinary citizens should take part in decision making, everyone agrees that these ideas are just as important now as they were in ancient Athens.

Not long ago, I spoke with one of our graduates, a leader in our state government, about his Samford education. “My only regret,” he said, “is that I didn’t have a course that required me to read the great books of Western civilization.”

“That,” I confidently replied, “has been rectified.”

David W. Chapman, Dean
Howard College of Arts and Sciences

Samford Phonathon Provides Vital Support

Samford alumni have come to expect yearly contact from current students, asking them if they want to make a gift to the university. Donors have always been able to have their gift designated for a specific department, but they weren’t always aware of this option. This year, arts and sciences graduates can expect to hear about a specific need in the department where they met their major requirements: new lab equipment for science students, international travel scholarships for students who couldn’t afford to go otherwise, media equipment for classrooms, etc. In every case,

these funds will have an immediate impact on the quality of a Samford education. In many cases, alumni giving is the difference between just getting by or moving ahead.

For instance, gifts for arts and sciences this year made it possible for students to participate in a summer research project under the guidance of an individual faculty member. Such a program would have been impossible without the funding received from generous supporters. Last year, major gifts strengthened the bioinformatics program, funded a debate scholarship, funded a partnership with the Department of

Journalism and Mass Communication and the *Washington Post*, supported the new Scholars Initiative and enhanced many other programs.

Also, many endowed funds have been built up steadily by loyal alumni making small gifts for many years.

Samford is making a difference in our world. When the phone rings this fall, we invite you to make a difference in Samford.

Collegium cover (page 21): Biology/biochemistry major Amanda Jones uses an automatic pipetter to extract a water sample from a Florence flask. Jones studied the production of androgens from paper mill sediment as her undergraduate summer research project.

E-Folios Provide Edge in Job Market

by Rhonda Parker and Charlotte Brammer

Everyone seems to be using them. Olivia Keaggy '06 and Amy Bonds Meyer '06 used theirs to parlay entry-level job offers into something that better suited their skills and interests. Bethany Rushing '06 showed hers during an interview and was hired on the spot. Claire Kimberley '07 says hers was critical in landing a graduate assistantship.

What's the secret? Excellent references? Strong résumés? No, think more 21st century . . . electronic portfolios. Even though the electronic portfolios developed in the Department of Communication Studies were designed primarily as tools for assessing academic competencies of graduating seniors, many students find that they are important tools in their job searches.

Since 2005, seniors in the Department of Communication Studies have created electronic portfolios to demonstrate what they have learned during their time at Samford. Students select sample papers, speeches and other artifacts that highlight their learning experiences. Perhaps the most crucial component of these projects is the reflective essay that students create to unify the disparate pieces of their university experience.

The e-folio also can bring into focus a student's interests and strengths. As a recent graduate explained, "The e-folio allowed me an opportunity to organize my work from the past four years, which helped me see the primary areas I was interested in. It helped me narrow down my field of interest and helped steer me



Olivia Keaggy '06 used her electronic portfolio to land a better job with International Expeditions. Here, she visits the Sphinx in Egypt.

toward the correct vocation."

Professors from Texas Tech University, the Illinois Institute of Technology and the University of South Alabama have taken a close look at Samford's e-folios, and the students have earned high marks from these reviewers.

For Kimberley, the e-folio was invaluable in her postgraduate plans. She interviewed for a graduate assistantship on the phone. She then sent the e-folio. After

her interviewer received the e-folio and viewed her speeches, she was hired as program coordinator for academic enhancement at the University of Kentucky.

Electronic portfolios allow students to highlight their skills and distinguish themselves from other college graduates. To learn more about this program, go to www.samford.edu/commstudies/index.html.

Core Curriculum Commemorates 10th Anniversary

Samford is commemorating the 10th anniversary of the core curriculum this fall with a series of special events that will enrich courses in the core: Cultural Perspectives I and II, Communications Arts I and II, Biblical Perspectives, and Concepts of Fitness and Health.

Provost J. Bradley Creed delivered a keynote address to incoming freshmen, "A Conversation on the Nature of the University," and introduced students to many of the books they will be reading in core classes.

"The greatest part of the story of *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* was what happened after the war was over," he noted. Odysseus made his way back

home but recognized that his mind no longer could remain static and comfortable if isolated from new experiences and ideas.

Dr. Creed encouraged students to approach their own learning with a spirit of adventure and discovery that combines the best of a liberal arts education with the foundation of a Christian university.

Central to the fall commemoration will be an exhibit in Davis Library during October. "Great Books, Great Thinkers: From the Classical World to the Global Village" will showcase texts and artifacts that are central to freshman core courses.

Lecturers will include Dr. Richard Hays, professor of New Testament at Duke Divinity School; Walter Isaacson, author of *Einstein: His Life and Universe* and chief executive officer of the Aspen Institute (see page 25); and Dr. Saban Ali Duzgun, Fulbright Scholar of the University of Ankara, Turkey.

Samford University Theatre will perform Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* Nov. 29–Dec. 2 to coincide with the Renaissance unit of Cultural Perspectives. The commemoration will conclude with a 5K run on campus Dec. 8, sponsored by Concepts of Fitness and Health classes.

Journey to the Center of the World: A Summer Adventure in the Land of the Equator

by Myralyn Allgood

What do a poet, a physicist, a pharmacist and a political scientist have in common? What is it that drew them, just days after the close of a busy school year, to undertake a two-week study trek across the Ecuadorian Andes?

The bond they share, along with 14 other colleagues, is Ecuador itself—and a keen interest in Latin America, its people, language and culture. These 18 faculty members, who represent a broad range of teaching disciplines, are Samford's Latin American Studies Fellows. Their immersion trip to Ecuador was the culminating event of a yearlong series of on-campus seminars, colloquia and language classes funded by a two-year foreign language and international studies grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

The two-year project, which aims to create pockets of expertise on Latin America across campus, features faculty development activities for the fellows as they prepare new Latin America-focused courses or units in areas as diverse as sociology, nutrition, communication, education and nursing. Though their disciplinary perspectives are unique, the fellows are bound by their common interest in this area of the world and their commitment to share their experiences with students.

In Ecuador, they were students themselves, learning about the country's indigenous people, its history and way of life, its ecosystems and agricultural production, all while traversing its mountains, walking its streets, eating its food and worshipping in its churches. Equally instructive was the experience of living with host families and studying Spanish at the Cuenca campus of Estudio Sampere, the affiliate language school that has been home to Samford's language study-abroad programs since 1985.

Mornings in Cuenca were committed to intensive Spanish classes that were small and interactive. After lunch "en casa" with their families, where conversation practice continued, fellows spent the remaining hours of their busy days in lectures, museums, local shops and markets, cooking and salsa classes, and meetings with disciplinary counterparts at the nearby University of Cuenca.

Partnerships formed with Cuenca colleagues bore immediate fruit, with



Samford faculty and their hosts celebrate their Ecuador visit with a series of mini-hot-air balloons at a closing gala.

plans for more collaboration in years to come. Samford pharmacists Mary Worthington and Jennifer Beale, for example, met with pharmacy faculty and spoke in their classes. Nursing professor Janet Alexander explored exchange opportunities with the Cuenca dean, and visited local hospitals and clinics. Physicist Perry Tompkins began a collaboration with Cuenca physics professors that will continue throughout the fall semester when he is back in Ecuador funded by a follow-up Fulbright grant.


Literature professors Mark Baggett, Bryan Johnson, Nancy Whitt and Heather West enjoyed an evening with local literati, who shared their ideas and creative work and explored possibilities for literary collaboration. "This was the single best experience so far," recalled one professor. "I was completely in my element and more so when they asked if I would continue the night by reading some of my poems under the broken bridge. I simply couldn't replicate this cultural experience at home. They were delightful, energetic and enthusiastic about their work and about hearing mine."

Becky Atkinson, David Finn and Clara Gerhardt also spent a lively afternoon brainstorming teaching methodologies with Cuenca education faculty, as did sociologist Theresa Davidson, nutritionist Pat Hart Terry, historian Jeff Northrup and communication professor Amanda Borden with their respective

Ecuadorian counterparts. Project leaders Fred Shepherd, Maria Whatley and Myralyn Allgood met with the university rector and vice rector to discuss plans for future exchanges and shared academic projects between the two universities.

On the fellows' final night in Cuenca, the group was honored at a Noche Cuencana fiesta, a gala farewell dinner with Sampere language teachers—two of whom will come as visiting professors to teach in Samford classrooms in the coming year—and the University of Cuenca professors. It was a wonderful evening, complete with Ecuadorian food, folk dances, fireworks and handmade hot-air balloons.

Most importantly, it was a time to celebrate new friendships, lessons learned and experiences shared. "It was a memorable experience," one traveler reflected, "and illuminated the Ecuadorian culture . . . I am left with an indelible impression of the richness, diversity, generosity and sheer beauty of the Ecuadorian people, and particularly the children who captivated us."

The journey was "probably the best trip in my life and definitely a life-altering experience," another fellow wrote. "My heart overflows. I want to perfect my Spanish. South America is a place I have come to love . . . a place with a face and a character and a heart. I will go back. It is already calling me." 

Review of Walter Isaacson's *Einstein: His Life and Universe*

by Chris Metress

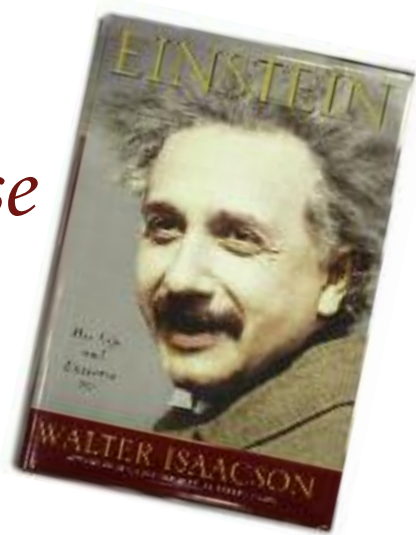
On May 29, 1919, two teams of English scientists—one in the Amazon jungle of northern Brazil and the other on the tiny island Principe off the coast of equatorial Africa—photographed a total eclipse of the sun. It took several months for the plates to make it back to England for measurement and comparison, but when the results were in, the verdict was clear: Albert Einstein was right—the sun's gravity bent starlight to the exact degree he had calculated in 1915. And because Einstein was right, his theory of general relativity was right. Time and space would never be the same again.

According to biographer Walter Isaacson, the 1919 eclipse coincided with the birth of a new celebrity age, turning the unassuming German physicist into a "scientific supernova." Today, of course, "Einstein" is synonymous with "genius," and Isaacson's compelling biography traces out the arch of that fame. In doing so, however, Isaacson reevaluates our understanding of the man's genius. Rather than the "brute strength of his

mental processing power," Isaacson celebrates Einstein's "imagination and creativity," in particular his ability to devise ingenious thought experiments with equally ingenious solutions that would overturn conventional thinking on everything from ether and atoms to matter and energy.

Isaacson proposes that, a "century after his great triumphs, we are still living in Einstein's universe." Illustrating Einstein's theories in clear and lively prose, Isaacson reveals a universe of joyous if puzzling surprises: light beams move toward us at the same speed no matter whether we are standing still or rushing straight at them; watches slow down as we travel at faster and faster speeds; time, as well as space and distance, lose their absoluteness; gravity becomes indistinguishable from acceleration; matter becomes one with energy; and the universe curves back upon itself.

As a primer on Einstein's theories, Isaacson's biography is unmatched. However, Isaacson's understanding of



Einstein biographer Walter Isaacson will deliver the J. Roderick Davis Lecture at Samford Oct. 18.

Einstein's universe is more than simply the sum of the man's scientific discoveries. When he tells us that we are still living in Einstein's universe, Isaacson means more than just a cosmos of bending light and warping space. Just as Einstein's theories revealed wondrous and surprising physical laws, Einstein's life also illuminates vital truths. By "questioning conventional wisdom, challenging authority, and marveling at mysteries that struck others as mun-

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Samford Students Are First to Study at Oak Mountain Interpretive Center

Students enrolled in Samford biology courses this fall will be the first to incorporate studies at the new field station at Oak Mountain State Park. Wildlife specimens will be studied at the interpretive center during class and then released back into the forest. The laboratory contains a full suite of supplies and equipment for studies in environmental science, ecology, botany and zoology.

The director of the Oak Mountain Interpretive Center [OMIC], David Frings, has been working with the biology staff and faculty to collect field data on the plants and animals that inhabit the park. "Before we can design exhibits indoors, we have to know what is swimming, flying and crawling outdoors," he said. The team began work this summer by seining various creeks that snake their way through the mountains and valleys to document various species of fish.

Other ongoing projects include collecting field data on the park's geological formations, wildflowers, butterflies and a delineation of habitats and ecosystems. "We hope to engage students in a variety of research projects at the center," Frings



Dr. Robert Stiles, left, and Dr. Jason Heaton seine Hog Sucker Branch to catalog specimens at Oak Mountain State Park.

emphasized. Students who wish to volunteer for projects at the interpretive center should contact Frings at 726-4537 or 121 Sciencenter.

Funds were raised through grants and donations to purchase furnishings

for the meeting room and wet lab, and to develop a master plan for exhibits on the diverse ecosystems that can be observed throughout Alabama. The first phase of

continued on page 28

Updating Samford's Prehealth Professions Programs

by George Keller

Samford students' interests in medicine come at different times in their lives. For twins Bradley and Rodney Dennis '73, the desire came from working summers as technicians at Flowers Hospital in Dothan, Ala. While at Samford, the Dennis twins worked as unit clerks at Brookwood Medical Center with their two other brothers, David '75, Pharm.D. '76, and Gary, Pharm.D. '76.

After graduation from the University of Alabama School of Medicine, Rodney completed a residency at Vanderbilt University, while Bradley performed his residency at the Mayo Clinic in internal medicine. The twins then returned to the Birmingham area. Rodney is a urologist in Homewood, and Bradley is the chief medical officer for Brookwood Medical Center. Bradley also serves on the Howard College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board.

For James Kelley '02, medicine and biomedical research reignited the spark of curiosity he felt as a boy growing up in Opelika, Ala. "Experiments are frustrating and full of failure, but every once in a while, something works," he said. "I discover something new, and it's fun to be that five-year-old again."

Kelley received a Goldwater Fellowship upon graduation, which allowed him to study at the University of Cambridge, receiving a Ph.D. in 2006. Among the science faculty at Cambridge are physicist and black-hole expert Stephen Hawking, and geneticist and DNA helix codiscoverer Francis Crick.

Kelley's work used computational genetics to locate patterns in genes that control the immune system. He was able to study at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York and at L'Université de Provence Aix Marseilles. His work as a graduate student was funded by grants from the Wellcome Trust and the Medical Research Council (similar to the U.S. National Institutes of Health). After being accepted to Caius, he was selected the Perse Scholar of Gonville and Caius College, a centuries-old scholarship that helped with living expenses.

For Kyle Rudemiller '07, a Huntsville, Ala., double major in chemistry and biochemistry, the urge to practice medicine didn't come until near the

end of his freshman year at Samford. A human anatomy class first stimulated his interest, and a course in biochemistry piqued his interest further.

An important part of Rudemiller's undergraduate experience was his research work with Dr. David Garza. Rudemiller has been working on the "synthesis and crystallization of different platinum-alkyl complexes. These complexes are intermediates in the process of hydroformylation, which is used to make plasticizers." Rudemiller did some of his work during the summer of 2005 as part of the Samford Summer Undergraduate Research Program [SURP]. Scholars in a variety of arts and sciences disciplines are paid to conduct research with Samford faculty as mentors. Rudemiller credits his SURP work as helping him land a full four-year scholarship to the University of Alabama School of Medicine this fall.

One constant feature in all three of these success stories is the preparation they received at Samford. Bradley Dennis calls now-retired biology professor Mike Howell "the best science teacher in all my years of training." Bradley also credits Samford with providing a nurturing environment during the turbulent 1970s.

Kelley expresses the wish that "all the biology professors at Samford would quit and come teach at the medical school at UAB." He also found that courses in world languages helped him gain the confidence to travel the world. Samford further helped Kelley develop caring, ethics and faith—qualities that aren't measured on entrance exams.

Rudemiller appreciates the problem-solving emphasis that a Samford education requires, an acquired skill that will help him in his medical education and practice.

The prehealth program at Samford has been phenomenally successful over the last several years. From 2004 to 2006, four students have gone to veterinary school, five to optometry school, 13 to dental school and 54 to medical school. Accepted students had nine different majors, including biology, biochemistry, sports medicine, history, psychology, musical theatre, musical performance, business and classics.

For more information about Samford's prehealth program, go to <http://www.samford.edu/prehealth/index.htm>.



Certificates on the wall of the Sciencenter foyer recognize students accepted into medical and health-related schools. Here, health professions adviser George Keller, assistant dean of arts and sciences, visits the area.

Meet the New Arts and Sciences Faculty

Howard College of Arts and Sciences conducted more faculty searches this year than any other year in recent history. The school is certainly pleased with the caliber of the faculty who began teaching this fall.



Malia Fincher completed her doctoral work at Tulane University, where her greenhouse experiments survived the ravages of Hurricane Katrina. She has done extensive research on the interactions between plants and insects, including several stints in Costa Rica. She is an assistant professor in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences. Her husband, Grant Gentry, is a research associate in the department. Fincher enjoys traveling, outdoor activities, reading, costume designing and cooking.



Andrew Konitzer joins Samford's Department of Political Science. He has long been interested in the politics of Eastern Europe, and is a frequent visitor to Russia and other former communist states. He was a research scholar for the Woodrow Wilson Center and has published widely in journals such as *Europe-Asia Studies*, *Post-Soviet Affairs*, *Publius: The Journal of Federalism* and *East European Politics and Societies and Electoral Studies*. Johns Hopkins University Press recently published his study of regional politics within the former Soviet Union, *Voting for Russia's Governors: Regional Elections and Accountability under Yeltsin and Putin*. He is working on a new project comparing the processes of democratization and European integration in Croatia and Serbia following the collapses of their respective nondemocratic regimes in 2000. Konitzer and his wife, Maja, enjoy traveling, outdoor activities and spending time with their one-year-old son, Sasha.



Mike Ledgerwood, a native of Oak Ridge, Tenn., spent most of his teaching career at SUNY-Stony Brook, where he directed the Language Learning and Research Center and coordinated French Studies. He is the new chair of the Department of World Languages and Cultures. He has done pioneering work in the use of technology for language instruction, and is president of the International Association for Language Learning and Technology. His hobbies include traveling, reading, biking, swimming, computers, cuisine of all kinds, his flat-coated retriever, Foggy, and music. He was a vocal and instrumental soloist (clarinet and recorder) at a small Episcopal church in New York.



Jennifer Rahn taught at Baylor University and Old Dominion after completing her Ph.D. at the University of Florida in physical geography. One of her current projects includes monitoring erosion and accretion rates of the estuarine coastal response to the placement of oyster reefs (living shorelines) in the Chesapeake Bay near Norfolk, Va. She looks forward to research on the Alabama coast, near her dissertation research area in the Florida Panhandle, looking at beach geomorphology, and continuing research in the Caribbean. She enjoys scuba diving, traveling, running, biking, swimming and javelin throwing. She is an avid reader and science fiction fan, and she enjoys painting, photography and graphic arts.



James Strange is a visiting assistant professor of religion. He recently completed his doctoral degree in New Testament and Christian origins at Emory. He has long been involved in archaeological research and has produced technical drawings for the University of South Florida's [USF] excavations at Sepphoris, Israel. He has taught courses in biblical Hebrew, the archaeology of Palestine, world religions,

and Koine Greek at USF, Eckerd College and Candler School of Theology. His main research interest is the archaeology of Palestine in the Hellenistic through Byzantine periods. He enjoys cooking, singing and karate.



Abi Williams completed an M.A. degree in communication studies and worked with the debate team at Georgia State University. Her main role at Samford is as a debate coach, but she will continue her research on rhetorical criticism, especially the rhetoric of white supremacists. Her hobbies include arts and crafts, nature walks, her cats, current events magazines and trying vegetarian recipes. She and her husband, Anthony, expect their first child, a daughter, in November.



Will Womack completed his doctoral work at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London. He specializes in the history of colonial Burma (Myanmar), where he lived briefly after his graduation from the University of the South. His research interests include 19th century publishing, sociolinguistics, Southeast Asian tattooing, Buddhist sectarianism, early Baptist missions and the global history of literacy. He enjoys music, home improvement and the great outdoors. He is working on an article on Ellen Mason, an early Burmese missionary.



Geoffrey Wright will strengthen Samford's film studies sequence. His Ph.D. is from the University of Tulsa, where he was book review editor for the *James Joyce Quarterly*. He wrote a dissertation on *Textual Geographies: The Landscape of Experience in Modern American War Prose and Film*. His professional interests include war literature and film, geography, Southern literature and film adaptation, and American novels. His hobbies include camping, hiking, golf and Xbox. 

New Additions to the Family

Alexander Benjamin Coulter Galloway was born Nov. 29, 2006, to Ryan and Becky Galloway. Ryan is an assistant professor in the Department of Communication Studies and is director of debate at Samford.

Retirement

The faculty and staff of the Department of World Languages and Cultures will sorely miss their colleague and friend, **Linda Wood Ables '65**, who retired after 12 years of dedicated service. In addition to her roles as Spanish teacher and hands-on language missions coordinator, Ables was the editor of the department's newsletter, *World Notes*, adviser to education and international relations students with majors in Spanish, mentor for students in directed teaching experiences, and professor-in-residence in Samford's study-abroad programs in Costa Rica and Spain.

Ables often went the extra mile to be active in all aspects of campus life: service learning, international studies, student affairs, connections and faculty senate, to name a few. She was an avid supporter of the Gospel Choir and Samford's sports programs. Samford wishes you well in all your future endeavors, profesora!

Having already retired from a career in the U.S. Air Force, **Paul Blanchard** experienced his second retirement in May 2007. He joined the Department of Biology in 1990 as an assistant professor and quickly rose to the level of professor. During his tenure at Samford, he worked with colleagues to establish strong programs in environmental stewardship and education. He greatly expanded course offerings in the area of microbiology. During his Samford career, he received many accolades and awards, including the Buchanan Award for Teaching Excellence. Blanchard will be missed at Samford and will, no doubt, seek out many new projects in his retirement.

Greg Jeane founded the Department of Geography at Samford. He worked to create a geography major at Samford and molded the program as a center for geographic information science [GIS] by establishing the environmental science/ GIS major with the Department of Biology. During his 18 years at Samford, Jeane taught both introductory and upper-level classes including political, historical and cultural geography. He traveled extensively and believed that students could understand geography best through actual experience. He led

student groups on extended field excursions through the American West. They traveled west to the Rockies, criss-crossed the mountains north into Canada and eventually to the Pacific, later returning via the Pacific coast and the Grand Canyon. They camped along the way and visited many national parks.

Jeane also developed an interest in Africa. Working with Rotary International and Independent Presbyterian Church, he took several mission trips to the village of Mwandia in Zambia. Last fall, he took students from his Geography of Africa class to Zambia, and they worked in the village, getting a firsthand view of life in Africa.

Jeane and his wife, Karen, plan to continue traveling and exploring the world. He also plans to continue work on a manuscript about Southern cemeteries.

Ellen McLaughlin retired in August 2007 after 40 years of teaching biology. She plans to spend more time in Maine during the summers at her family cottage on Bottle Lake where she can enjoy canoeing, kayaking, fishing, sailing, being with her family, moose and eagle watching, and eating fresh lobster. She plans to read, write up data from her wildlife surveys, take a few genealogy courses, learn to play the hammered dulcimer and banjo, and, of course, travel. McLaughlin's service to Samford, her accomplishments in teaching and the tremendous impact she had on students will be long remembered.

Bob Stiles retired in May 2007 following a 35-year distinguished career as a faculty member in the Department of Biology. He established strong programs in zoology, ecology and conservation science. For many years, he served as Samford's liaison with the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, making a marine science major possible for Samford students.

Stiles also honed his knowledge as a comparative anatomist and taught a very popular course in Mammalian Anatomy to many premedical and predoctoral biology majors. His expertise in aquatic and stream biology are still widely recognized, as evidenced by the many grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFW], which he received to study and characterize various fish populations and species.

In retirement, he plans to continue research on fish. He has a contract with the USFW to study the distribution and life history of the rush darter in Winston County, Ala. He also will teach and work occasionally for the Oak Mountain Interpretive Center.

In Memoriam

Ron Jenkins died on April 27, 2007, after an eight-month struggle with cancer (*Seasons*, Summer 2007). He loved teaching and was in the classroom until a week before his death. He had a deep reverence for God's creation in all its manifestations.

Jenkins is survived by his wife, Kitty Noordermeer Jenkins, his son, Ben, daughter, Anna-Lea, mother, Helen Jenkins of Atlanta, Ga., and sister, Barbara Jenkins Riddle. The family requested that memorial gifts be made to the Samford Undergraduate Research Program [SURP] for research in biology, in care of the Department of Biology, Samford University, 800 Lakeshore Drive, Birmingham, AL 35229.

Einstein continued from page 25

dane," Einstein did more than make great discoveries. He became a man who, because of his rebellious intelligence, learned to embrace "a morality and politics based on respect for free minds, free spirits and free individuals."

More than a scientific supernova, Einstein is also a "humanist icon," and for Isaacson, this is the true mark of the man's genius. Einstein understood the human condition as deeply as he understood the movement of light through space. In this stirring portrait of "a loner with an intimate bond to humanity, a rebel who was suffused with reverence," Isaacson celebrates Einstein's genius in all its dimensions.

Editor's Note: Walter Isaacson, president of the Aspen Institute, will give the annual Davis Lecture in the new Pete Hanna Center on October 18 at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited.

Oak Mountain continued from page 25

exhibits should be ready for viewing in Spring 2008.

The three largest contributors for the project have been Shelby County (\$150,000), the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham (\$15,000) and the Vulcan Materials Center (\$10,000). Other donors include Red Mountain Bank, Gallet and Associates, AWIN Management, Inc., Greenbriar, Ltd., Till, Hester, Eyer and Brown, The Birmingham Audubon Society, Insite Engineering, Wal-Mart Foundation, and state representatives Cam Ward and Mike Hill.

Thank you Class of 2007

for your participation in the Senior Campaign!

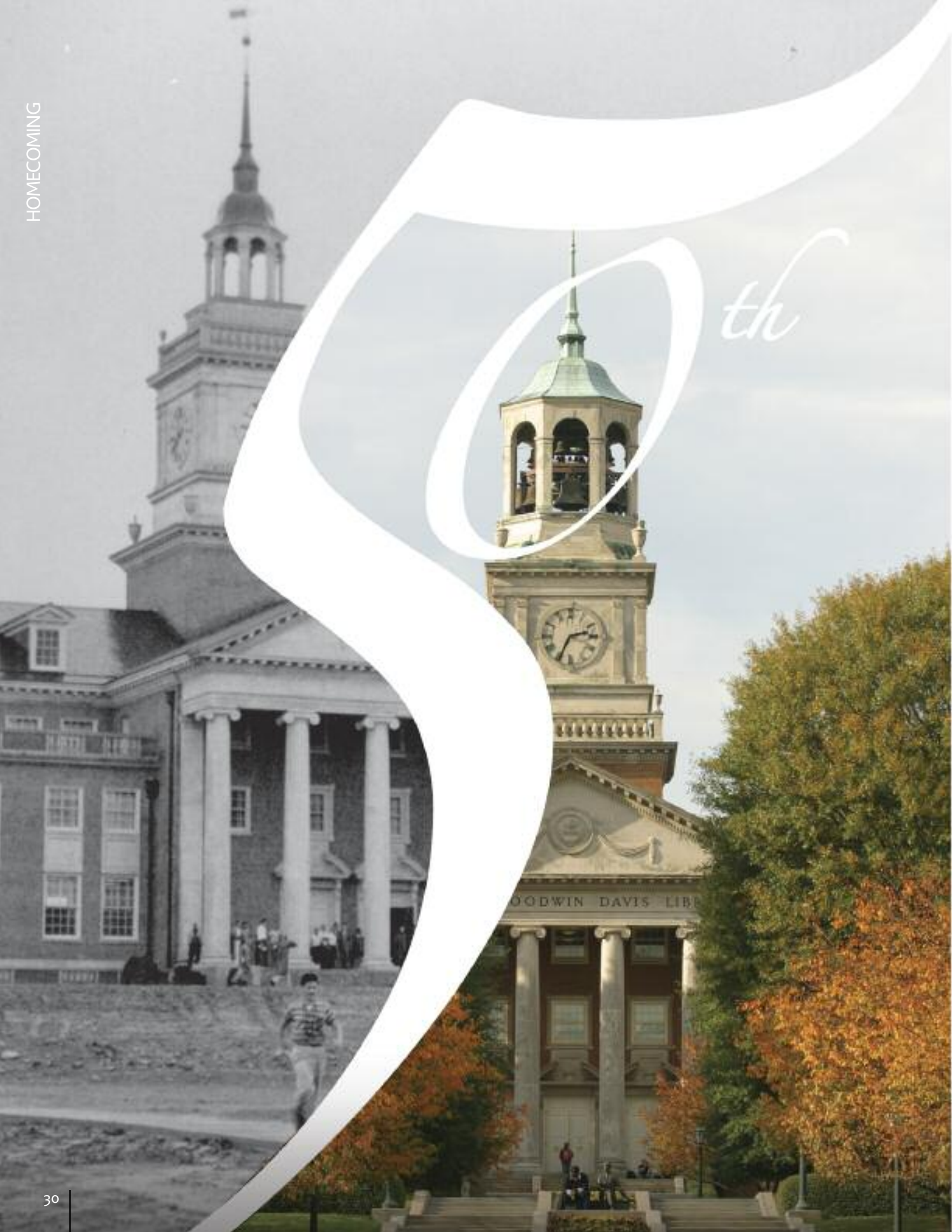


The Senior Campaign is the first undergraduate initiative to promote an awareness of the importance of giving to Samford University. As current students experiencing the gifts of our alumni, we must begin to take responsibility for future generations. As alumni, we are accountable for the continual success Samford achieves.

Bill Anderson, in honor of
Ms. Sharon Jackson
Patrick E. Barker
Brittany Bergquist
Emily Bourke, in honor of
Sheri Ransome
Emily Broeseker, in memory of
Dr. Ron Jenkins
Lainee M. Buchanan, in honor of
Dr. Becky Atkinson
Lauren E. Cantrell
Mary Kathryn Covert
Ashley Crafton
Cassandra L. Crawford
Keith Davis
Michael Dove, in memory of
Dr. Ron Jenkins
Erin M. Eades
Blake Eckert
Roderick J. Evans
Raven Everidge
Ashley Finley
Matthew A. Francisco

Anne Marie Gewin, in honor of
Drs. Jennings Marshall, Jeremy
Thornton, Betsy Holloway and
Steve Jones
Elizabeth Jo Godfrey
Sheila Goebel, in honor of
Susan Dale Goebel
Adam Hancock
Lindsay Helmbock
Katherine Herring, in honor of
Dr. Beers and Ms. Berry
Gatewood Hogan
Kimberly M. Holland, in honor
of the journalism and mass
communication professors
Lauren E. Horner
Amanda Howes
Dawson Hull
Peyton Huston
Aaron Hutchens
Kacie R. Janney
Chitra Kirpalani
Larry Kloess, in honor of
Dr. Stephen Chew

Katie Lantz, in honor of
Sheri Ransome
Laren H. Lott
Lindsay Macfarland
Matt Mitchell, in honor of
Mark and Kelly Mitchell
Kathryn Murnane, in honor of
Dan and Pauline Murnane
Alex Nguyen
Katherine F. Norton
Lauren Obermann
Twinkle Patel
Bradford Philpot
Melissa Poole
Jeremy C. Sandefur
Lauren Schmidt, in memory of
Dr. Ron Jenkins
Katie Sellers
Patrick D. Sewell
W. Andrew Stevens
Kristen A. Straw
Dana Warren
Jennifer Wilmore



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Celebrating TRADITIONS

2007 Samford University Homecoming October 18-21, 2007

Samford University alumni, parents and friends can expect a full weekend Oct. 18–21 as the university community gathers for 2007 homecoming.

The theme for the weekend is “Celebrating Traditions,” and includes a 50th anniversary celebration of the Homewood campus and the 120th anniversary of Samford’s relocation to Birmingham from Marion, Ala. Samford moved to the present campus in fall 1957 from the East Lake area of Birmingham.

The homecoming concert features the award-winning group Little Big Town. Two members of the group, Karen Fairchild and Kimberly Roads, met as Samford students in the late 1980s and are returning home to headline the first major concert in Samford’s new Pete Hanna Center. The concert is at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 20.

Grand opening of the Hanna Center is one of the showcase events of homecoming weekend. A dedication ceremony and ribbon cutting are set for 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 19, followed by a gala banquet that celebrates the dedication, the anniversary and honors Samford’s 2007 Alumni of the Year (see stories beginning on page 34).

The first official event in the new Hanna Center is the annual J. Roderick Davis Lecture at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18. The speaker is Walter Issacson, CEO of the Aspen Institute and author of a new biography on Albert Einstein (see page 25).

The weekend includes a full array of athletics events, including the annual homecoming football game at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 20 against Ohio Valley Conference rival Austin Peay State University. The Samford soccer and volleyball teams also have home matches that weekend, and several other teams are planning scrimmages and reunion events.

Reunions are an important part of homecoming weekend, and several groups have events planned. Many organizations will gather on the University Quadrangle from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday. A picnic lunch will be available on the quad, while the all-alumni reunion luncheon is scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Beeson University Center dining hall. Tickets for both are \$6 per person.

The Golden Bulldogs brunch, for graduates of

50 years or more, begins at 9 a.m. on Saturday in the Flag Colonnade of Beeson University Center. This event is free.

A golden reunion dinner for the Class of 1957 is set for 6 p.m. Saturday in the Beeson Center for Healing Arts. Tickets are \$15 per person.

Many homecoming weekend activities are free and family-friendly, according to David B. Goodwin, Samford’s director of alumni and parents programs. The Homecoming Bash, featuring a bonfire, pep rally and fireworks, begins about 8:30 p.m. Friday near Seibert Hall. A hot-air balloon will be on the University Quadrangle Saturday morning, weather permitting, and the annual homecoming parade will wind through campus beginning at 11 a.m.

The weekend will culminate with the homecoming worship service at 10 a.m. Sunday in Hodges Chapel. Worship leaders are Esther and Bob Burroughs of Greenville, S.C. Esther Burroughs is a former campus minister at Samford. Bob Burroughs will lead a reunion choir of former members of the Baptist Student Union/Student Ministries Choir. Other Samford alumni will assist with the worship service.

Overflow parking will be available Saturday at Homewood High School. Shuttles will run on campus throughout the weekend.

Admission is free to homecoming events unless otherwise noted on the schedule. Ticket prices and order forms also are included online at www.samforduniversityrelations.com.

Schedule updates and complete details are available at www.samford.edu/alumni.

See also:

“Little Big Town: It All Began at Samford,” *Seasons* 2007 summer issue



2007 Homecoming Schedule

To register for homecoming and to purchase tickets, go to www.samforduniversityrelations.com (Ticket sales open Sept. 1)

A complete homecoming schedule and details on events is available at www.samford.edu/alumni.

Thursday, October 18

7:30 p.m.

J. Roderick Davis Lecture, Pete Hanna Center

Speaker: Walter Isaacson, CEO, the Aspen Institute and author of *Einstein: His Life and Universe*

This special evening is the first public event in the new Pete Hanna Center.

Friday, October 19

4–5 p.m.

Samford Alumni Association Annual Meeting, Brock Recital Hall

All alumni are invited to attend this short meeting with great fellowship!

For more information, contact alumni@samford.edu or 205-726-2337.

5 p.m.

Evensong, Hodges Chapel

A worship service modeled after the British Evensong tradition and led by Samford students, faculty and alumni.

Timothy P. Banks '74, professor of music, will be the celebrant.

6 p.m.

Dedication ceremonies and ribbon cutting, Pete Hanna Center

6:30 p.m.

Gala, Pete Hanna Center

The gala re-creates the tradition of the alumni candlelight dinner to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Homewood campus, the dedication of Pete Hanna Center and the Thomas E. and Marla Haas Corts Arena, and those who have made significant contributions to Samford during the past year. The 2007 Alumni of the Year—Walt Barnes '56, Sigurd Bryan '46, Carol Guthrie '93 and George Irons '52—will be recognized.

Note: This event is by invitation only, but the Samford Alumni Association has a limited number of seats available on a first-come, first-served basis.

7 p.m.

Soccer: Samford vs. Tennessee Tech, Bulldog Soccer Field

Enjoy the exciting sights and sounds of Samford Soccer and cheer the defending Ohio Valley Conference regular season champions.

7 p.m.

Volleyball: Samford vs. Tennessee–Martin, Seibert Hall

Coach Michelle Durban and the Samford volleyball team anticipate exciting play in their final season in the Ohio Valley Conference. Enjoy the fast-paced action of Samford volleyball.

8:30 p.m.

Homecoming Bash/Pep Rally/Bonfire/Fireworks

Enjoy refreshments, live music, a bonfire and pep rally featuring the Samford Marching Band, cheerleaders, Spike the Mascot and presentation of the 2007 Homecoming Court. A fantastic fireworks finale concludes the evening.

Saturday, October 20

8 a.m.–2 p.m.

Registration, Beeson University Center
Be sure to register so that classmates and friends can find you during homecoming. An updated and complete list of homecoming events and locations will be available at registration.

Note: If you cannot make it to homecoming but want others to know where you are, send an update to homecoming@samford.edu and it will be posted at registration.

8:30–10 a.m.

School of Business alumni breakfast, Dwight Beeson Hall

For alumni and friends of the School of Business

For more information, contact 205-726-2364 or chdahlke@samford.edu.

9 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Samford Band alumni gathering, Brock Hall

Activities include breakfast, rehearsal, watch party for the homecoming parade, a barbecue lunch, and sitting and playing together at the football game.

If you ever were a member of the Samford marching band and would like to receive more information about this year's reunion and other band activities, please e-mail jjsmisek@samford.edu.

9–11:30 a.m.

Hot-Air Balloon, University Quadrangle
Times are approximate; weather permitting
Sponsored by Samford Business Network

9–11 a.m.

Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing and Birmingham Baptist Hospitals School of Nursing reunion, Rotunda, Center for the Healing Arts

Visit with graduates from 1922 through 2007, and enjoy coffee and pastries.

For more information, contact 205-726-2047 or mwcarter@samford.edu.

9–10:30 a.m.

Golden Bulldogs brunch, Flag Colonnade, Beeson University Center

Alumni from classes of 1957 and earlier are invited for brunch and informal visiting with friends and former classmates. The Lockmiller Award will be presented to the oldest alumnus and alumna attending the brunch.

There is no charge for this event, but advance reservations are appreciated.

9:30 a.m.

Live @ the Library, 235 University Library
Popular Alabama author, historian and storyteller Kathryn Tucker Windham will be featured.



10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Art alumni reunion and minishow, Swearingen Hall

Alumni artwork will be displayed informally, so bring your work to share. Computers will be available to display digital images. Refreshments and lunch provided by Samford's art department. <http://www.samford.edu/alumni/artreunion.pdf>

To make reservations, e-mail rdsnyder@samford.edu.

11 a.m.

Homecoming Parade

This year's homecoming parade will be a special treat with floats, the Samford Marching Band and other guest bands, cheerleaders and dignitaries winding through campus from Riley Road around Montague Drive and back through the University Quadrangle. Winning floats will be parked at Seibert Stadium following the parade and throughout the football game.

11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Homecoming Festival, University Quadrangle

Ever wonder what happened to others who were at Samford at the same time as you but were not in your graduating class? Rather than single class-year reunions, the Samford Alumni Association and Student Government Association are hosting reunion gatherings by affinity groups and student generations. Featured classes are those from 1957, 1982 and 1987, but graduates from all years are invited to participate. Other groups already planning special reunions are art department alumni, nursing alumni, Baptist Student Union/Student Ministries Choir alumni, Samford bands, Sigma Chi, Chi Omega and Pi Kappa Alpha alumni.

Reunion picnic lunch available on the quad

Samford students wishing to eat lunch on the quad will need to purchase a ticket at registration or have their cards scanned in the cafeteria to receive a ticket. Tickets: \$6 per person, adults or children

11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

All Alumni Reunion Luncheon, University Center Dining Hall

Enjoy lunch and reminiscing with friends, former classmates, former teachers and administrators, and the entire Samford family.

Tickets: \$6 per person, adults or children

11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing barbecue luncheon, Center for the Healing Arts plaza

Advance reservations are requested.

For more information, contact 205-726-2047 or mwcarter@samford.edu.

Tickets: \$5 per person (children 5 and under free), payable on-site

12 p.m.

Bulldog FunZone opens, Seibert Stadium

Children enjoy games, inflatables and other fun activities. The FunZone remains open throughout the football game. *Note: A football game ticket is required for admission to the FunZone for each adult and child.*

2 p.m.

Football: Samford vs. Austin Peay, Seibert Stadium

Cheer the Bulldogs to victory. Enjoy a halftime performance by the Samford Marching Band and other festivities. The 2007 Homecoming Court will be presented. Parade float winners will be announced.

The alumni band will play throughout the game. Stick around after the game as the Samford Marching Band presents its traditional postgame concert. Tickets are available at www.samfordsports.com.

Tickets: \$12 per person, general admission; \$5, children 12 and under, general admission

6 p.m.

Class of 1957 Golden Reunion dinner, Rotunda, Center for the Healing Arts

Tickets: \$15 per person

6 p.m.

Volleyball: Samford vs. Murray State, Seibert Hall

8:30 p.m.

Little Big Town concert, Pete Hanna Center

Enjoy the exciting music of this award-winning band that includes two former Samford students, Karen Fairchild and Kimberly Roads, who attended in the late 1980s.

Student tickets: \$5 with valid Samford identification card

\$25, chairback seats, lower bowl

\$15, upper bleachers, general admission

Sunday, October 21

10 a.m.

Samford Family Homecoming Worship Service, Hodges Chapel

Worship Leaders: Esther Burroughs, former campus minister, Bob Burroughs, former Hear and Now Singers director, and Melinda Howard Dressler '74, organist, Brookwood Baptist Church, Birmingham. Samford family from all generations come together for a worship service climaxing homecoming weekend.

The Samford BSU/Student Ministries reunion choir will sing, and other Samford students and alumni will help lead this service.

Were you a part of the BSU or Student Ministries Choir? Did you perform with the Hear and Now Singers? If so, let us know so that we can send you information about a special reunion. Contact dbgoodwi@samford.edu.

2 p.m.

Soccer: Samford vs. Austin Peay, Bulldog Soccer Field

All activities are free unless noted otherwise.

Information for this schedule was provided by organizations and departments. If there is an event not listed, check with the sponsoring department for information. Overflow parking will be available at Samford's overflow parking lot and on Saturday at Homewood High School across Lakeshore Drive. Shuttle service will be provided throughout the weekend from overflow parking and around campus. ■

Guthrie Views Senate Work as a Mission

by Robert Marus

Alumna of the Year Carol Guthrie '93 said it was “not a bad night” at work Aug. 2—even though it was nearly midnight when she finally left the office. But to the high-level United States Senate aide, expanding a federal health-insurance program for poor children—which had kept the chamber in session late that night—was worth the hard work.

It’s the kind of job for which her Samford education prepared her well, Guthrie said.

“When you’re talking about whether or not we should make sure that low-income kids in America are able to go to the doctor, you’re talking about a pretty powerful moral question,” she said.

“Certainly, the grounding I had at Samford and the grounding I had growing up as a Christian make it obvious to me that we should definitely reach out and help take care of ‘the least of these.’”

Guthrie serves as the communication director—the chief press officer—for the Senate Finance Committee’s new Democratic majority. It is her second full-time Senate post, and the latest in a string of media jobs she has had since earning her bachelor’s degree in journalism and English.

Guthrie’s other jobs have included stints as a reporter for WVTM in Birmingham and for television stations in Baltimore, Md., and Washington, D.C.

In 2000, she began doing media work for then-Vice President Al Gore’s presidential campaign. Along with a temporary move from Washington to Nashville, Tenn., Guthrie said, came a realization that it was time to move from one side of her reporter’s notebook to the other.

“Though I dearly love television news, it seemed a logical time to try my hand at political communication,” she said.

In 2001, Guthrie went to work for Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.). After moving up in that office, she attained her current post with the powerful Senate finance panel. In her daily work, she comes into regular

contact with some of the nation’s most influential politicians—such as her boss, committee chairman Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.)—as well as famous journalists.

None of that would have been possible, Guthrie said, without the lessons she learned in Samford’s journalism classes. In particular, she cited classes with Dr. Jon Clemmensen and Dr. Dennis Jones.

“The teachers in the journalism department gave me a really good grounding in my craft. I can have all sorts of great ideas about what to say to advance a policy—but if I can’t articulate them well to reporters or the public at large, then it doesn’t make it worth it to have the idea,” she said.

Communicating such ideas must be worth it to Guthrie and other high-level congressional aides, who tend to work long hours for salaries far below what they could make in the private sector. Her hours in the office per week, she said, range “anywhere from 50 in a regular session week to 70 on up when you’re in a really pitched legislative battle.”

Despite her schedule, Guthrie has made time for her alma mater, working actively in the Samford Alumni Association. As a result, the 35-year-old is the youngest graduate to earn the Alumna of the Year title. Asked how she feels to receive an honor usually reserved for people in their 50s and older, Guthrie said, “Undeserved is what it feels like.”

She continued, “There are so many of my friends and people I didn’t know at Samford who spend their lives in service to the world, and I think that everybody who is educated at Samford is encouraged to go out into the world and live a life of service.”

Guthrie also marvels at the talented Samford alumni who continue to pop up in the nation’s capital. “It’s amazing how many sharp folks from Samford keep showing up in Washington. It’s really interesting and good to see how many different kinds of service people find in coming from Birmingham to Washington,” she said.

“I always wanted to come to Washington,” Guthrie concluded, “and Samford made it possible for me to do that.” ■

Robert Marus is Washington bureau chief for Associated Baptist Press.

Carol Guthrie

Bryan Combined Preaching with Teaching

by Mary Wimberley

Sigurd Bryan had seen the Howard College campus once before he enrolled as a freshman. “I visited as a high school senior, riding the train from Dothan to Birmingham,” recalled the 1946 graduate and 2007 Alumnus of the Year.

“I had a joyful time and had fun with the long days of class. I enjoyed the teachers and the church. I went to the church and went downtown. “I was awed by the streetcars and the two-story F. W. Woolworth’s store,” said Bryan.

The trip began a long and close association between the school and the south Alabama native, who retired in 2002 after 46 years on the religion faculty.

“Samford has meant a lot to me, both as a student and a faculty member. It is a special place,” said Bryan. “I’ve never had to be ashamed of my training. I was well prepared for seminary. Samford gives a student a very fine education.”

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He received a brief, two-sentence letter from Howard College president Major Harwell G. Davis:

“He wrote, ‘There is a possibility of an opening in our Bible and Religious Education department. Would you be interested?’” recalled Bryan, who had enjoyed his teaching experience as a professor’s fellow at seminary but still felt led to pastor a church.

Bryan accepted the college position with the agreement that he could continue to preach in churches, which he has done for decades, serving as interim pastor, supply preacher and Bible study teacher throughout Alabama.

In the classroom, he taught hundreds of students, including freshmen in required Bible courses and religion majors in advanced courses. He served two stints as department chair, 1980–86 and 2001–02.

He received the John H. Buchanan Award for Excellence in Classroom Teaching in 1968.

“I’ve always enjoyed teaching,” said Bryan. “The Bible is a fascinating book. No matter how many times I taught it, there was always something new that I could learn.”

Through the years, he enjoyed sabbaticals at Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge University, Oxford University, and most recently in Hong Kong, China, where he was interim pastor of Kowloon International Baptist Church in 1996.

For many years, he worked closely with the Ministerial Association, which he had joined as a freshman, and the H-Day student-preaching program. He continues to serve as director of the Samford Sunday program, which pairs student preachers with Alabama Baptist

churches for pulpit experiences.

His autobiography, *Because They Lived* (Samford University Press), was distributed—and well received—at the 2006 meeting of the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

Bryan met his wife, **Sara Pate Bryan ’62**, when she was a freshman member of the Baptist Student Union Choir and he was its faculty sponsor. They did not date, however, until she had graduated and had taught school for several years.

Their daughter, **Catherine Bryan ’91** is completing a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. ■



Sigurd Bryan

Irons Still Making His Mark in Cardiology

by Mary Wimberley

George V. Irons, Jr., M.D., had hefty scholarship offers to several prestigious colleges, but the Woodlawn High School all-A graduate and recipient of a Bausch & Lomb award as the nation's top high school science student chose to stay close to home and attend Howard College. It was a choice he does not regret.

"It just seemed right for me," said the 1952 graduate and 2007 Alumnus of the Year, citing his familiarity with the faculty and students, the school's Christian environment and its premedicine program's reputation for sending well-qualified students to medical school.

"I have never had occasion to regret my decision," said Irons, who went on to graduate the University of Alabama medical school with the highest academic average in school history (a record which still stands), and serve as president of his class and medical honor society.

After an internship at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis, Mo., service as medical officer and flight surgeon in the U.S. Air Force, a residency at University of Chicago's Billings Hospital and three years on the medical faculty at Duke University, he soon established himself as one of the nation's leading cardiologists.

The first board certified cardiologist in western North Carolina, he is founding partner and president of Mid-Carolina Cardiology, Charlotte, N.C., one of the largest cardiovascular groups in the Carolinas.

His professional accomplishments have been noted by resolutions of the legislatures of North Carolina and Alabama, where he was born in Roanoke. The first Alabamian inducted as a Fellow in the American College of Cardiology, he is also a recipient of the National

Association of Cardiologists' Award of Merit for his ground-breaking research in coronary disease.

Irons' father, the late Dr. George V. Irons, Sr., was a longtime history professor and department chair at Samford. "He made breakfast entertaining with true tales of American

history," said Irons, who never had his dad for class. His earliest memories of Howard are of Renfroe men's residence hall, where the family lived when his dad first joined the faculty. The family would later include a second son, **William L. Irons J.D. '66**.

During undergraduate days, Irons found time to letter in track, serve as senior class vice president and Religious Emphasis Week chairman, and enjoy activities with Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. He was named to top academic honor societies such as Trident and Omicron Delta Kappa, and received the John R. Mott award, one of the school's highest recognitions for service and leadership. He finished his undergraduate work in 35 months with a perfect all-A record. Off-campus, he was active at Ruhama Baptist Church.

Some of his fondest extracurricular memories are of track meets in neighboring states.

"It was very low tech back in those days," he said of intercollegiate competition. "The team would pile into two or three cars with the coaches and make the trip. We had great times on those trips and formed lasting friendships, win or lose," said Irons, whose teammates included famed football coach Bobby Bowden.

He remembers his Howard professors as being outstanding, wise, knowledgeable and entertaining.

"I really enjoyed being a student and learning new things, and still do," said Irons, now in his sixth decade of medical practice.

"It has been a wonderful and rewarding career, mixing intellectual challenges with human interaction at the basic levels of life and death," he said of his vocational choice. "Patients are always grateful for your help and give you more credit than is deserved."

He has participated in scores of research programs and published ground-breaking articles in professional journals. He chose cardiology as a specialty because, he said, "it seemed important and also manageable."

"With a good history, physical exam, chest x-ray and electrocardiogram, plus an echocardiogram, you can make a correct diagnosis about 90 percent of the time," said Irons, who continues to see patients and do diagnostics such as exercise tests and echocardiograms.

"I haven't retired yet because I still really love what I do. I'll probably continue as long as they'll have me and my health holds out," said Irons, who only recently quit running regularly for exercise.

He and his wife, Linda, live on Lake Norman near Mooresville, N.C., where they enjoy boating activities with family. He is the father of two sons, Dwight Garner and the late David Michael. ■



George Irons, Jr.

Consistency Is a Barnes Hallmark

by Mary Wimberley

Walter Barnes prefers being considered a consistent producer over a shooting star. That is good rule to follow in all aspects of life, says the 1956 graduate and 2007 Alumnus of the Year.

The credo has helped Barnes, president of Insurance and Investment Consultants, Inc., be a 41-year member of his industry's Million Dollar Round Table designation for top producers.

The message of consistency and perseverance is one he hopes to share with students in a Samford School of Business mentoring program that he eagerly signed on for recently. "Maybe I can help them learn things about the insurance business," said Barnes, who looks forward to the role.

Birmingham

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His contributions include support of the James Auchmuty Fund for Congregational Leadership, which honors his former pastor, and the Luke 2:52 Award, which he established to be given to a male and female students each spring.

The scholarship recognizes students who live their lives according to the verse, which stresses a balanced pursuit of academic, spiritual, physical and social areas. Barnes first knew the scripture when he was a Royal Ambassador growing up at Central Park Baptist Church in west Birmingham. "It fascinated me that if you want to be Christ-like, it's a pretty good yardstick," he said.

checked

year

9, **Carol B. Whitley** and **Susan B. Howerton** '85.

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Walter Barnes

CLASSnotes

Let us hear from you!
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samnews@samford.edu

This issue includes Class Notes received through August 22, 2007.

ALUMNI

'43 **Vivian Langley** of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, and Camp Hill, Ala., is a retired teacher who still serves as a missionary and helps supply teaching materials and Bibles to pastors in the West Indies.

'56 **Ron and Josephine Heriford Hampton** '57 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The retired educators live in Donna, Texas, in the Rio Grande Valley.

James I. Harrison, Jr., of Tuscaloosa, Ala., was elected to the 2007 Alabama Academy of Honor, which recognizes living Alabamians for meritorious accomplishments. Founder of Harco drug chain, the former Samford basketball player is known for his philanthropy and vision for improving lives. This year's other inductees included baseball great Henry (Hank) Aaron, businessman T. Michael Goodrich and former Samford history professor Dr. Leah Rawls Atkins.

Charles H. Talbert of Waco, Texas, is the author of *Ephesians and Colossians: Commentaries on the New Testament* (Baker Academic).

'57 **Cecil O. Brown** is hospice chaplain at Gadsden Regional Medical Center, Gadsden, Ala.

Buddy L. Thorne of Jasper, Ala., celebrated 46 years in dentistry in July.

'58 **Ralph Helms Thomas** of Northport, Ala., retired after 50 years of ministry in Alabama.

'63 **Kay Calfee Wideman** sang at Carnegie Hall in New York City in June with the

Douglas County, Ga., Chamber Singers. As president of the Delta Omicron International Music Fraternity Foundation, Dr. Wideman presented a certificate of honor to composer/conductor John Rutter, who conducted the 200-voice choir in Mozart's *Requiem*.

'64 **Jane B. Forbes** of Franklin, Tenn., was named Cambridge Who's Who Professional of the Year in legal and pharmaceutical consulting services. The Samford pharmacy graduate holds a master's in pharmacy from Florida State University and a juris doctor degree from the University of Florida.

'65 **Roger A. Brown** of Birmingham has joined Haskell Slaughter Young & Rediker, LLC law firm and will lead its new white-collar defense and corporate investigations practice team.

Virginia Wilder Stevens retired from the Virgin Islands Department of Education after 29 years as a librarian. She and her husband, Stiles, live in Christiansted, Virgin Islands.

Andrew Pope Thrash retired in April as director of pharmacy at Family Medicine Oceanside Clinic in California. He and his wife, Luz, reside at Kent Ranch in Escondido, Calif.

'67 **Perry D. Neal** of Wetumpka, Ala., is a preacher and evangelist. He earned a doctor of divinity degree from Covington Theological Seminary, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.

'68 **Judy Lowe Wells, M.A.**, is the author of *C. Perry Snell, His Place in St. Petersburg,*

Florida History (Orange Blossom Press). A St. Petersburg native, she lives in Marietta, Ga. Her son, **Bretton L. Wells '94**, a professor of photography at Art Institute of Atlanta, was the book's photo editor.

'71 **John Andrew Armstrong** earned a master of science in rehabilitation counseling at Thomas University, Thomasville, Ga., and passed the national exam to be a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor.

Gene Johnson Davis is assistant professor of vocal/choral music at Huntingdon College, Montgomery, Ala.

Dale Sanford Gantt won the 2007 Headmaster's Teaching Award at Edgewood Academy, Wetumpka, Ala., where she teaches Spanish.

'73 **Shirley Gardner Harazin** of Lawrenceville, Ga., is the author of her debut novel for teens, *Blood Brothers*.

'77 **Vern Farnum** earned a doctor of ministry degree from McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Ill, in May. He is pastor for congregational care at Faith Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, Ind.

J. Richard Zeski is sales manager for the new Heidtman Steel Products flat-rolled carbon steel processing plant in Columbus, Miss. The company serves the automotive, construction and original equipment manufacturing industries.

'79 **George Adkins** of Martinez, Ga., earned an education specialist degree from Cambridge University. He teaches physical education at River Ridge Elementary.

Billy Joe "Buster" Timmons, Jr., earned a master of divinity degree from Candler School of Theology, Emory University, in May. A member of the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church, he is pastor of two churches in Bridgeport, Ala.

'81 **Thomas D. Heaton** received the Will Landon Miller medal for academic achievement during May commencement activity at Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond. The award honors the graduate student with the highest scholastic record. Heaton, who earned a master of divinity degree in church music, is director of music ministry at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in Richmond, Va.

Tim Parker is chief school financial officer for Selma, Ala., city schools.

Herron Gives Debate Scholarship in Honor of His Grandmother



Susie Herron

Former debater Keith Herron '86 has established a debate scholarship at Samford in honor of his grandmother, Susie Herron of Tuscaloosa, Ala. Mrs. Herron, 94, recently visited the Samford campus and met with members of the debate team.

Keith is executive vice president of Regions Bank, where he oversees operations for Middle Tennessee and serves as president of Regions Bank in Nashville. The Susie Herron Samford Debate Scholarship will be awarded annually.



Keith Herron '86

Herron was a member of Samford's nationally ranked debate team during 1982-86 and was recognized as one of the top 10 debaters in the United States. He credits his interest in high school and college debate to his grandmother's encouragement.

Herron and his wife, Kelly, have three children, Charles, 12, Sims, 9, and Caroline, 5. ■

'82 **Stephen E. Cole** is worship/executive pastor at Inverness Vineyard Church in Birmingham. He and his wife, Stacy, have a daughter, Halle Kate, born in June.

Paul G. Hill earned a doctor of musical arts degree in music education from Shenandoah Conservatory of Shenandoah University, Winchester, Va. He is associate pastor/minister of music and worship at First Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga.

'83 **David Wagner**, a sales associate with Nordstrom clothing company, was featured in an article in the June issue of *Men's Retail* magazine. He assisted the father of the bride with formal wear in Oprah Winfrey's fantasy wedding contest. He and his wife, Elizabeth, and their daughter, Ella, 4, live in Atlanta, Ga.

'84 **Jimmy C. Davis, Jr.**, of Sweetwater, Ala., is a U.S. Army Chaplain in Iraq with the 31st Combat Support Hospital from Fort Bliss, Texas.

Monica McDaniel McCrary earned a master's in secondary education from Mercer University and was named outstanding secondary school graduate student. She teaches language arts at Taylor Road Middle School. She and her husband, **Barry McCrary '82**, live in Alpharetta, Ga., with their children, Catherine, Parker and Sloan.

'86 **Bill Blanton, M.B.A.**, of Birmingham is an economics instructor at Jefferson State Community College. He owns Blanton Enterprises, LLC, which has rental properties in Baldwin County, Ala.

Leah Taylor Kirk teaches at Calera High School. She lives in Montevallo, Ala., with her husband, Don, and children, Adam and Loryn.

Beth Borders Sanders is a human resources/training and development professional. She and her husband, Bert, have two children, Lily Jing, 3, and Iris Elizabeth, 1. The family moved from Greenville, S.C., to Winston-Salem, N.C., this fall.

'87 **Paul and Ginger Wells Culp '88** live near Phoenix, Ariz., where he teaches history, global studies and journalism at St. Paul's Preparatory Academy. She is office manager for a civil engineering firm. Paul is the author of *Nothing New Under the Sun: An Introduction to Islam* (Universal), based on his research at Oxford University and his teaching experience in Palestine and in a Muslim institution in the United States.

Katie Parrish Cushman lives in Santa Barbara, Calif., with her husband, Lee, and their daughters Melanie, 14, and Caroline, 9. She is the author of her first novel, *A Promise to Remember* (Bethany House).

Phipps Makes Environmental Class Unforgettable



Allan Phipps '96

Allan Phipps '96 is as likely to enter his high school science classroom in a Hazmat suit to teach his students about nuclear waste as he is to don a traditional Japanese outfit to teach the environmental impacts of sushi.

"What really matters is that I try to provide an unforgettable environmental learning experience for my students," said Phipps, who teaches at the new Environmental Science and Everglades Restoration Magnet Program at South Plantation High School in Plantation, Fla.

His innovative efforts and dedication earned him the National Science Teachers Association's [NSTA] Sea World-Busch Gardens/ Fujifilm 2007 Outstanding Environmental Educator award. He received \$5,000 and a trip to the NSTA national conference.

Before joining the South Plantation faculty in 2004, Phipps established a successful environmental science program at Pembroke Pines Charter High School.

"I have found my educational niche teaching AP Environmental Science and environmental project-based service learning," said Phipps. He has mentored such projects as a RARE Coral Project that involves development of two artificial reefs and development of a coral reef curriculum, and Solar Knight, a

solar-powered race car that his eight-member student team raced cross-country from Austin, Texas, to New York City this summer. They have been invited to bring the solar car to the NSTA regional conference in Birmingham in December 2008.

His school also will construct a unique water garden that he designed. "This garden will accompany our new science building, and educate all our students and the community about water quality, quantity, timing and distribution in south Florida," explained Phipps. "It also will provide more service-learning project opportunities for our students."

Phipps' field trips for his students have ranged from the local wastewater treatment plant and a Miami cemetery to study population demographics, to a 2006 environmental expedition to Hawaii and the environmentally themed 2005 World's Fair in Japan.

In Japan, his students volunteered at the Habitat for Humanity booth, ran a four-day environmental day camp and climbed Mt. Fuji.

The son of missionaries, Phipps attended high school at Nagoya International School in Japan. He earned a master's degree in biology at Florida International University, Miami, Fla., in 2000. While in grad school, he met his wife, Hien Nguyen.

In an e-mail message to the Samford biology faculty, he credited the department with providing him with a "phenomenal foundation" in the biological sciences and being positive teaching role models.

"I hope to inspire my students as much as you have inspired me," he said. ■

She was featured with four other new Christian novelists in a May 21 *Publishers Weekly* article.

Elizabeth Lynn Huey Hutchins is a library associate in the reference department of the Mobile, Ala., public library. She lives in Satsuma, Ala., with her husband, **Bryan K. Hutchins '86**, and children, Robert, Brett and Garrett.

'88 **Larry Doyle McQuiston** is principal of Valley High School in Chambers County, Ala.

Loretta Young Walker, M.B.A., is senior vice president and chief human resources officer at Turner Broadcasting System, Atlanta, Ga.

'90 **Glen Andrew Murphy J.D.**, established Murphy Law, PLLC, in South Charleston, W.Va. He and his wife, Gretchen, have three children, Colton, Charles and Madison.

Tracey Harwell Robertson is a prospect research analyst supporting university fund-raisers in the development office at Emory University, Atlanta, Ga.

'91 **Rob Skelton**, a major in the U.S. Air Force, is operations officer for the Thunderbirds air demonstration squadron. As the squadron's second in command, he oversees operations, evaluates demonstrations, administers flight evaluations, and flies safety chase and orientation flights. He flies the Thunderbirds' No. 7 jet. Skelton entered the Air Force as a graduate of Samford's Air Force ROTC Detachment.

'92 **David Jeffrey Roberts** is a private wealth adviser with Jeff Roberts & Associates, Ameriprise Financial, in Birmingham.

William E. Smith, Jr., J.D., was appointed commissioner for Lauderdale County, Ala., by Gov. Bob Riley. He is an attorney in Florence, Ala.

'93 **Jessica Harrison** is chief financial officer for her family business, Cornerstone Construction Mgmt, LLC, in Spring Hill, Tenn. She also homeschools her children. She and her husband, Robert Carlyon, have six.

Chris (CJ) and Julie Marable Johnson '95 live in Columbia, Miss., where he is minister of youth at First Baptist Church and she is advertising director for the *Columbian-Progress* newspaper. She was named one of 50 Leading Business Women in Mississippi for 2007. In February, he was guest speaker at the Bangladesh Baptist Fellowship Youth Festival in Rajendrapour, Bangladesh, and she led the music. They have two children, Zoe and Mia.

M. Patrick Lowe is director of robotic and minimally invasive surgery for the gynecologic oncology program at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Dr. Lowe recently completed a visiting fellowship in Toulouse, France, and is one of few certified instructors in robotic surgery for gynecologic malignancies. He and his wife, Kim, and their son, Max, live in Clarendon Hills, Ill.

'94 **Rob Hoover and Jennifer Hannah Hoover '95** live in Atlanta, Ga., with their three daughters, Hannah Grace, Emmie and Sophie. He is assistant dean of admission for the Emory University School of Nursing.

Robert Moon of Hermitage, Tenn., works for CVS Drugs in Smyrna, Tenn. He and his wife, Claire, have a daughter, Bailey Jane, born in May.

'95 **Audra McCollum** married Alejandro (Alex) Bowers, a native of Buenos Aires, Argentina, in May. They live in Miami, Fla., where she is realtor.

'96 **Kimberly Scheibe Greene, M.B.A.**, is chief financial officer and executive vice president of financial services at the Tennessee Valley Authority [TVA]. She is based at TVA's corporate headquarters in Knoxville, Tenn.

Christopher Michael Watson, M.Div. '00, and **Stephanie Mays Watson '00** live in Columbia, S.C. He is minister to young

married adults at Shandon Baptist Church. She is a marriage and family counselor. They have a son, Ethan Michael, born in March.

'97 **Summer Holden Smith Bragg** is an adjunct faculty member in the physical therapy program at the University of Central Florida. She lives in Clermont, Fla., with her husband, Ryan, and two children, Holden and Hunter Ryann.

Mark Downey is a physician at Alabama Orthopaedic Center in Homewood. He completed a residency in physical medicine and rehabilitation at University of Alabama at Birmingham and is board certified. Dr. Downey also completed a fellowship in interventional spine management. He and his wife, **Kimberly Martin Downey '96** live in Vestavia Hills, Ala., with their sons, Grant, 3, and Leyton, 1.

Chad S. McDaniel is director of communication, boys' varsity track-and-field coach and assistant cross-country coach at Wesleyan School in Norcross, Ga. Students at his most recent coaching post in Macon, Ga., won 11 state championships and include Samford freshman runner and Presidential Scholarship recipient Scott Cope. Chad and his wife, Stephanie, live in Suwannee, Ga., with their three children.

Tiffany Caffee Nelson works in the Samford Bursar's office.

Thomas Allen Treadwell, J.D. '00, is corporate counsel for Alfa Insurance Companies. He and his wife, **Kelly Kilgore Treadwell, M.B.A. '99,** live in Montgomery, Ala., with their sons, Thomas, Jr., 5, Samuel, 2, and James Daniel, born in December.

'98 **Kari Osborne** earned a master's in educational leadership from University of Alabama at Birmingham in May. She is director of residence life at Huntingdon College, Montgomery, Ala.

Matthew Porter directed a documentary, *Hope+: Surviving the Sentence of HIV/AIDS*. The award-winning film, shot on location in Russia, South Africa, Jamaica and Chicago, Ill., concerns four Christians who are HIV positive. He and his wife, Stephanie, live in Winter Park, Fla.

Anne Marie Kinman Trammell is a medical social worker with Home Care of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y. She and her husband, Jim, have a son, Cooper Kinman, born in July.

'99 **Eric Stephen Fowler**, a company commander in the U.S. Army, earned a master's in diplomacy at Norwich University. After seven years in Germany, he is pursuing a Ph.D. in international studies at Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Va. He and his wife, Teresa Anne, have a daughter, Savannah Katherine, born in March.

Jonathan Paul Green, M.M. '02, is worship pastor at Vaughn Forest Church, Montgomery, Ala. He and his wife, Gina, have two children, Jon Paul, 4, and Lexie, born in October, 2006.

Jason, M.Div. '02, and **Bethany Butler Roberts, M.Acc. '01,** live in Pewee Valley, Ky. He is an auditor for Mountjoy & Bressler in Louisville, Ky. She is an accountant for Louisville Gas and Electric. They have three children, Aidan, 3, and twins Ainsley and Ellery, born in January.

'00 **Candace Williams Echols** is a first-grade teacher at Presbyterian Day School in Memphis, Tenn. She earned a master's in teaching in May. She and her husband, Jim, live in Memphis.

'01 **Daniel Glenn Ausbun** is enrolled in the doctor of ministry degree program at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. He is pastor of First Baptist Church, Moreland, Ga.

Laura Michelle Hitt earned a Ph.D. in mathematics at the University of Texas at Austin. She is a postdoctoral researcher at University College, Dublin, Ireland.

Sarah McIntyre is voice division head at Metropolis School of the Performing Arts, Chicago, Ill.

Jan Vining married Kert Johnson in October 2006. They live in Memphis, Tenn.

'02 **Whitney Elaine Burrough** and **William Charles Akin** married in December. He earned a doctor of dentistry degree at the University of Tennessee and is in a residency at Tufts University. They live in Boston, Mass.

Rebecca Cushman married Kevin Corley in June. They live in Clinton, Miss.

May Grad Covert Receives Top ODK National Award



Mary Kathryn Covert '07

Samford graduate Mary Kathryn Covert '07 of Meridian, Miss., was named 2007 National Student Leader of the Year by Omicron Delta Kappa [ODK] national leadership honor society. The award includes a \$2,000 scholarship for graduate work.

Covert was selected on the basis of quality leadership and

scholarship from nominees representing ODK's more than 300 campus circles nationwide. She was cited for her extensive Samford ODK work, including service as community outreach chair and leadership with projects in rural Perry County.

She was a Samford Presidential LEAD scholar, Honors Program president and Student Government Association chief justice. In 2005, she was a summer intern at Christian Solidarity Worldwide human advocacy firm in Surrey, England.

A history major, Covert is serving as a public affairs intern with the Coca-Cola Company in Atlanta, Ga. ■

Kimberly Walker Dougherty, J.D., is an attorney with Husch & Eppenger, LLC, Memphis, Tenn. She and her husband, Buck, live in Collerville, Tenn., with their son, George McDowell, born in May.

Amber Roper Long received a master's in library and information studies at the University of Alabama in May and is a librarian at *The Birmingham News*. She and her husband, Kevin Scott, live in Leeds, Ala.

Lauren Sheehan of Memphis, Tenn., was a missionary in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, during the summer. She worked with HIV/AIDS orphans.

'03 **Celeste Nacole Williams Coffman** is director of evangelism at First United Methodist Church, Athens, Ala., and is guidance counselor at Monrovia Middle School in Huntsville, Ala.

Tina M. Coker, J.D., is an assistant attorney general in the office of Alabama Attorney General Troy King in Montgomery, Ala. She practices in the capital litigation division.

Matt Ennis and **Amanda Ward '04** married in February. She earned a master's degree in public health and public administration at University of Alabama at Birmingham, and works for MedMined in Vestavia Hills, Ala. He is director of development for Cahaba Valley Health Care.

Andrew B. Gray is a U.S. Army captain with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vicenza, Italy. He was recently deployed to Afghanistan on his second combat tour.

Heather Hackett Leger and her husband, Mike, live in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. She is

an independent consultant with Once Upon a Family. They have two sons, Joshua, 2, and Caleb, born in January.

Susan D. Polhemus graduated from Auburn University School of Veterinary Medicine in May. She is a veterinarian at Deerfoot Animal Clinic, Trussville, Ala.

Ehren Wasserman was called up to the Chicago White Sox in July from the Triple-A Charlotte, N.C., club. He was a varsity pitcher for the Samford Bulldogs.

'04 **Josephine Elizabeth Cox** of Leeds, Ala., earned a master's in music performance at the University of Memphis in May. She is an English teacher with Language Link, Moscow, Russia.

Marcus Hunt, J.D., is an attorney with Duell law firm, Birmingham. He and his wife, **Rachel Miller Hunt '99**, have two sons, Caedmon, 2, and Levi, 1. They live in Chelsea, Ala.

Bailey Dale McKay earned a master's in ecology and evolutionary biology at Auburn University in August. He is pursuing Ph.D. studies in phylogenetics in birds at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minn.

Mary Smothers married Capt. Dennis Norton, a former instructor in Samford's Air Force ROTC Detachment 012, in Reid Chapel in April. She is a loan officer at Superior Mortgage in Birmingham. She earned a postgraduate diploma in international studies at the University of Melbourne, Australia, in 2006 through the Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholar program.

Carmen Avery Walker earned a master of divinity degree from Candler School of

Theology, Emory University, in May. She is a member of the Atlanta North Georgia Conference of the AME Church.

Amber Rose Zuercher married Ryan Neal Myers in July. They live in Moscow, Idaho.

'05 **Ellen Blount** is a nurse in Atlanta, Ga.

Brian Hake is a project accountant in Atlanta, Ga.

Jamie Nicole Harrington works at Young Transportation, Asheville, N.C. She lives in Black Mountain, N.C.

Jon Mann is president/owner of Mann Research Group, LLC, Birmingham, which specializes in legal and business research solutions.

Emily Ols married Jeremy Long in March. They live in Huntsville, Ala.

Jenni Pratt and **Matthew Christopher Johnson** married in June. They live in Roswell, Ga.

'07 **Starla Gordon Pharm.D.**, is a licensed clinical pharmacist at Jackson Madison County Hospital, Jackson, Tenn.

Jamie Guy Ratliff, J.D., is an associate attorney with the law offices of Judy H. Barganier, P.C. She and her children, Brody and Addison, live in Montgomery, Ala.

Katrina Rodger and **Justin Paxson** married in June in Auburn, Ala., and had a blessing ceremony in Sydney, Australia in July. ■

births

'82 Stacy and **Stephen E. Cole** of Alabaster, Ala., a daughter, Halle Kate, born June 29, 2007.

'86 Bert and **Beth Borders Sanders** of Greenville, S.C., a daughter, Iris Elizabeth, born Aug. 21, 2006.

'89 **Doug** and **Janet Evans Turnure '91** of Cumming, Ga., a daughter, Martha Annette, born May 29, 2007.

'91 Jonathan and **Lisa Robertson Cooper** of Knoxville, Tenn., a daughter, Lucy Kate, born Dec. 7, 2006.

Jennifer Danzig and **M. Brent Wadsworth** of San Diego, Calif., a son, Aidan Danzig, born May 2, 2007.

'92 **Kimberly Moore** of Pensacola, Fla., a daughter, Camden Dean, born July 2, 2007.

'93 **Stephen** and **Marley Myers Gardner '95** of McLean, Va., a daughter, Gracie Myers, born May 7, 2007.

Robert Carlyon and **Jessica Harrison** of Spring Hill, Tenn., a daughter, Sapphire Ellison Grace, born May 23, 2006.

Denise Yardley-Sowell and **J. Timothy Sowell** of Nashville, Tenn., a daughter, Ariana McKinley, born April 16, 2007.

'94 Kevin and **Carolyn Brick Fleeman** of Marietta, Ga., a daughter, Maggie Kate, born Feb. 2, 2007.

Rodney and **Kim Culpepper Johnson** of Las Vegas, Nev., a daughter, Ava Lauren, born July 24, 2007.

Claire and **Robert Moon** of Hermitage, Tenn., a daughter, Bailey Jane, born May 29, 2007.

Andrew and **Julie Ralph, J.D. '02**, of Fairhope, Ala., a son, Stuart Andrew, born April 24, 2007.

'95 Bart and **Heather Poor Copeland** of Nashville, Tenn., a daughter, Georgia Gail, born April 25, 2007.

David and **Jennifer Werner Hammons '97** of Atlanta, Ga., a daughter, Katharine Grace, born Feb. 11, 2007.

'96 David and **Melissa Thompson Bradford** of Troy, Ala., a son, Dawson Key, born May 15, 2007.

Brian and **Meg Nowell Harris** of Memphis, Tenn., a daughter, Ella Ruth, born March 28, 2007.

Paul and **Mary Abigail Sessions Reinhardt, J.D. '02**, of Honolulu, Hawaii, a daughter, Jane Ritchie, born July 11, 2007.

Christopher Michael Watson, M.Div. '00, and **Stephanie Mays Watson '00** of Columbia, S.C., a son, Ethan Michael, born March 2, 2007.

'97 **Gelaina Davis Allen and Robert Allen '98** of Brandon, Miss., a daughter, Chloe Faith, born April 25, 2007.

Ryan and **Summer Holden Smith Bragg** of Clermont, Fla., a daughter, Hunter Ryann, born Jan. 15, 2007.

Chris and **Nikki Pasquerella Robertson** of Hoover, Ala., a daughter, Rebecca Nicole, born Jan. 4, 2007.

Lesley and **Alan Gregory Sheek** of Hoover, Ala., a son, Thomas Gray, born June 25, 2007.

Thomas Allen Treadwell, J.D. '00, and **Kelly Kilgore Treadwell, M.B.A. '99**, of Montgomery, Ala., a son, James Daniel, born Dec. 22, 2006.

Phil and **Debbie Helton Wright** of Roswell, Ga., a daughter, Reece Anna-Marie, born June 8, 2007.

'98 Kyle and **Kristy Kitchell Chowning** of Nashville, Tenn., a daughter, Savannah Grace, born July 17, 2007.

Anna and **Andy Pohl** of Alabaster, Ala., a daughter, Eva Lucille, born May 29, 2007.

Jim and **Anne Marie Kinman Trammell** of Rochester, N.Y., a son, Cooper Kinman, born July 26, 2007.

'99 **John A. and Lauren Cole Fortney** of Charleston, S.C., a daughter, Susanna Kristen, born July 8, 2007.

Teresa Anne and **Eric Stephen Fowler** of Norfolk, Va., a daughter, Savannah Katherine, born March 17, 2007.

Daniel and **Melody Davis Noles** of Chattanooga, Tenn., a daughter, Emmaleigh Grace, born April 25, 2006.

Jason, M.Div. '02, and **Bethany Butler Roberts, M.Acc. '01**, of Pewee Valley, Ky., twin daughters, Ainsley Page and Ellery Tate, born Jan. 12, 2007.

'00 Doug and **Jennifer Ferguson McFarland** of Tallahassee, Fla., a daughter, Emma Ellen, born April 4, 2007.

Rich and **Maggie Walker McKinney** of Knoxville, Tenn., a daughter, Kelsey Claire, born July 3, 2007.

'01 Jason and **Lucy Jordan, J.D.**, of Birmingham, a son, Parker Thomas, born Nov. 1, 2006.

Dana and **Jeff Miller, J.D.**, of Mobile, Ala., a daughter, Maggie Audrey, born May 8, 2006.

Jason and **Nicole Autumn Thompson Stefano** of Indian Trail, N.C., a daughter, Ava Jean, born July 12, 2007.

'02 M. E. Buck III and **Kimberly Walker Dougherty, J.D.**, of Collierville, Tenn., a son, George McDowell, born May 29, 2007.

Leland and Courtney Brown Murphree of Memphis, Tenn., a daughter, Mary Charlotte, born June 22, 2007.

Bryan and **Laurel Albright Taylor** of Woodstock, Ga., a son, Josiah Knox, born July 12, 2007.

'03 Mike and **Heather Hackett Leger** of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., a son, Caleb Michael, born Jan. 31, 2007.

'04 Neal and **Shannon Gavin Harris** of Sylacauga, Ala., a daughter, Hardy O'Gwynn, born Nov. 6, 2006.

Lindsey Browning and **Benjamin James Lawrence** of Pendleton, Ind., a daughter, Zoe Elizabeth, born June 5, 2007.

'05 Michael and **Jennifer Sarah Snyder Hall** of Bartow, Fla., a son, Noah Riley, born July 5, 2007.

Brian and **Olivia Grace Jacks Nunnally, Pharm.D.**, of Kimberly, Ala., a son, James Ephraim, born Feb. 21, 2006. ■

SHOW YOUR SCHOOL SPIRIT WITH THE SAMFORD CAR TAG!

Now, you can sport the handsome Samford license plate on your car and help the student aid fund at the same time.

The Alabama Vehicle License Department will send the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund \$48.75 of the \$50 charge you pay for the special Samford auto tag, available where you normally purchase license plates.

When your tag comes due, ask the county auto license clerk to exchange it for a Samford Tag. You'll be helping today's Samford students as you show your Samford spirit wherever your travels take you!

Make sure you request the Samford Tag (right). Take this ad when you purchase your tag.



Available in two styles; numeric and personalized (up to 5 letters). The official Samford University auto license is available in every county in Alabama. Be sure and ask for yours when your license plate comes up for renewal.

inmemoriam

'25 **Mabel Clare Harris Causey**, age 102, of Birmingham and Fairhope, Ala., died July 21, 2007. She taught school for 45 years.

'38 **Mildred Franks Beavers**, age 91, of Wilsonville, Ala., died July 2, 2007. She served 35 years as a teacher and principal in Shelby County and also taught at Coosa Valley Academy. As a resident of Mount Royal Towers in Vestavia Hills, Ala., she was librarian and president of the residents' board of directors.

'40 **Loraine Varnon Stuart**, age 100, of Birmingham died June 30, 2007. She was a teacher and principal for 44 years in Jefferson County schools. Active in various civic and professional organizations, she received the western section's best citizen award in 1978.

'42 **Marjorie Holcomb Pittman**, age 85, of Birmingham died June 6, 2007. She was vice president of the Howard College student body, Miss Howard for three years and president of Phi Mu sorority. She was active in Woman's Missionary Union, Valley Study Club and the Assistance League. She was the wife of longtime Samford trustee **John Pittman '44**. Memorials may be sent to the Marjorie H. Pittman Scholarship Fund, Development Office, Samford University, 800 Lakeshore Drive, Birmingham, AL 35229.

'43 **Margaret Israel Millsap**, age 83, of Birmingham died Nov. 3, 2006. She taught at Samford's Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing and the University of Alabama School of Nursing, was director of nursing services at University of Alabama at Birmingham's Center for Development and Learning Disorders, and founded the division of nursing at Birmingham-Southern College. The first woman and nurse elected to the state committee of public health, she was president of the Alabama Board of Nursing, the Alabama State Nurses Association and the Alabama League for Nursing. She held a master's degree and a doctor of education degree from the University of Alabama.

'44 **Hugh H. Haden, Jr.**, age 82, of Birmingham died June 3, 2007. A pharmacy graduate, he earned a medical degree and was a physician in Birmingham for more than 50 years. He retired in April. Early in his career, he helped pioneer studies of the effect of black lung disease on Alabama coal miners. Dr. Haden's interests ranged from Shakespeare to current science fiction.

Hildred Ellis Naylor, age 83, of Kingsport, Tenn., died May 16, 2007. She taught

school for more than 30 years in Alabama, North Carolina and Tennessee.

'49 **Travis Styles**, age 84, of Durham, N.C., died July 31, 2007. He served in Germany and France during World War II. He was a pastor of churches in Alabama, Georgia and North Carolina, and worked with senior citizens at First Baptist Church, Cullman, Ala. He held positions with the North Carolina Baptist State Convention and was a member of Civitan International.

'52 **B. Max Byrd, Sr.**, age 78, of Cook Springs, Ala., died May 22, 2007. A longtime Alabama Baptist minister, he served Dora Baptist Church from 1968–81. Memorials may be sent to the B. Max Byrd, Sr. Scholarship Fund, Development Office, Samford University, 800 Lakeshore Drive, Birmingham, AL 35229.

'54 **Leon W. Davis, Jr., J.D.**, of Signal Mountain, Tenn., died June 13, 2007. He practiced law for 30 years and served Hamilton County, Tenn., in several capacities, including delinquent tax attorney. A veteran of World War II and the Korean War, he served in the U.S. Army and the U.S. Navy. He was a life member of the Sertoma Club.

Harold E. Martin, age 83, of Fort Worth, Texas, died July 4, 2007. A Pulitzer Prize-winning former editor and publisher of the *Montgomery Advertiser* and *Alabama Journal* in Montgomery, Ala., he began his long career in the newspaper business after serving as a U.S. Marine in World War II. He held a master's degree in journalism from Syracuse University. He won the 1970 Pulitzer for local investigative specialized reporting, given for a yearlong series of stories that exposed a scheme using Alabama state prisoners as test subjects in drug experiments.

'58 **Lyndell Harmon**, age 71, of Gainesville, Ga., died July 22, 2007. She was an instructor at Gainesville Junior College, instructional coordinator for the Hall County, Georgia, board of education, and principal of Flowery Branch Elementary School. She was a volunteer at Northeast Georgia Medical Center, where she was 2005 Auxiliary Member of the Year.

Raymond Joseph Saliba, age 86, of Huntsville, Ala., died May 27, 2007. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II, the Korean Conflict and the Berlin Crisis.

'59 **Butler Clyde Alvin**, age 76, of Oneonta, Ala., died June 18, 2007. He was a pharmacist for 47 years. He was a veteran of

the Korean War and a part-time professional photographer whose work was included in a book on the history of Alabama pharmacy.

James F. Walters, age 68, of Mobile, Ala., died May 22, 2007. He retired in December after 23 years a pastor of First Baptist Church, Mobile. Dr. Walters filled many leadership roles in the Baptist denomination and Mobile community, and was a member of the Samford Board of Ministerial Mentors. He was on the coordinating council of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

'60 **Peggy Jean Ledbetter** of Lacey's Spring, Ala., died Aug. 4, 2007, of cancer. She served 18 years as dean of nursing at Northwestern State University in Louisiana, where for a time she was the youngest nursing dean in the United States, and 10 years as dean of nursing at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn. She held master's and doctor of education degrees from the University of Alabama. She was inducted into the Louisiana State Nurses Association Hall of Fame. In retirement, she was a parish nurse and was active in a stem-cell support group. At her request, her body was donated for medical research.

'61 **Joseph James Milazzo**, age 69, of Birmingham died May 29, 2007. At Samford, he was a Little All-American quarterback under coach Bobby Bowden.

'66 **Helen Sternglanz**, age 92, of Birmingham died May 8, 2007. A native of Germany who became a U.S. citizen in 1947, she was a researcher in the biochemistry department at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She exercised regularly at the YMCA until after age 90.

Walter Belt White, age 62, of Munford, Ala., died May 6, 2007, of cancer. He was a retired teacher and dedicated tutor of students preparing for exit exams. During 15 years, he hosted 34 international students who lived in his home. A member of the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission, he was the author of a history of Talladega First Baptist Church and other works, including a pictorial history of Talladega. He donated his body to University of Alabama at Birmingham Medical Center.

'67 **John Samuel Gonas, Jr., J.D.**, age 67, of Daphne, Ala., died July 2, 2007. He practiced criminal law in Mobile for 35 years. He was president of the Daphne Rotary Club and was the original chairman of the Daphne Jubilee Easter Egg Hunt.

'69 **Daniel Lee Burgess, J.D.**, of Birmingham died May 29, 2007. He was in private law practice for 30 years and was municipal judge for the City of Sumiton for 22 years.

He was president of the Municipal Judges Association. A U.S. Marine during the Korean War, he participated in the seizure of Inchon, capture of Seoul and the Wonsan-Chosin campaign.

- '70 **Lynn Thompson Keen**, age 63, of Marianna, Fla., died June 28, 2007. She taught in Jackson County, Florida, and at Bay Correctional Facility. She was a member of Phi Mu sorority.
- '77 **Grady Joseph Wheeler, Jr., J.D.**, age 56, of Burlington, N.C., died June 20, 2007. He was longtime city attorney for Graham, N.C. At Cumberland, he was president of his graduating class and a member of Delta Theta Sigma legal fraternity.
- '78 **James Douglas Browne**, age 53, of Fenton, Mo., died July 18, 2007. He was a carpenter and an avid motorcyclist.
- '84 **William Morris Beck III, J.D.**, age 48, of Mentone, Ala., died July 10, 2007. He was an Eagle Scout and a board member of the Fort Payne Depot Museum.
- '87 **Kirsten Phillips Flaucher M.S.** '89, age 41, of Hoover, Ala., died May 17, 2007. She worked at Spain Park Middle School. She received several education honors at Samford and received a Challenger Center Teacher of the Year award from the McWane Science Center. She was a member of Kappa Delta Epsilon and Kappa Delta Pi education honor societies.
- '89 **Cynthia Mariette Coleman**, age 43, of Selma, Ala., died July 9, 2007. A nurse at hospitals in Birmingham, she was also a traveling nurse.
- '06 **Carol Bain Dicken M.B.A.**, age 48, of Charlotte, N.C., died June 10, 2007. ■

Betty Sue Shepherd, A Teacher for 50 Years, Dies After Long Illness

Betty Sue Shepherd was a 21-year-old newlywed living near the East Lake campus of Howard College when she joined the school's music faculty. Department head George Koski asked her to fill in for a teacher on leave, beginning a 50-year association with Samford that ended with her retirement last spring.

For five decades, Shepherd trained pianists who made their mark on concert stages and in churches and schools around the world. Among her students was Randall Atcheson, who went on to study at Juilliard School of Music and to perform regularly in Carnegie Hall.

Over the years, Shepherd performed with the Alabama Pops and other orchestras, and presented numerous piano recitals at schools, churches and other venues including Glorieta and Ridgecrest Baptist assemblies.

She also served as organist for 38 years at Vestavia Hills Baptist Church near Samford, and for 15 years before that at Ruhama Baptist Church near the school's former location in East Lake.

Shepherd, who died Aug. 2 after a long illness, began playing the organ while



Betty Sue Shepherd

studying as a piano major at Judson College in Marion, Ala. She earned a master's in music at the University of Alabama, and did additional study in piano at Juilliard and at Peabody Conservatory with such greats as Leon Fleischer and Fernando Laires.

Shepherd held an honorary doctor of humane letters from Judson, where she also was named Alumna of the Year in 1994. She received Samford's 2004 George Macon Award, which goes to a

professor who demonstrates the ability to inspire students to greatness. She also was named Teacher of the Year by the Alabama Music Teachers Association in 1998.

Shepherd traced her love for music to an early age. "My mother said I would pick out tunes on the piano by ear at age three," she said.

Shepherd is survived by her two daughters, Susanne Shepherd '77 and Jacqueline Shepherd Johnson, and two granddaughters, Audra and Courtney Johnson. Her beloved husband, Neil '48, J.D. '66, died in 2005. ■

Horsley Establishes Scholarships for Samford Business Students



Samford University trustee Richard D. Horsley of Birmingham has provided a scholarship fund to assist students in the Samford School of Business.

Richard D. Horsley

Richard D. Horsley is a Samford trustee who has established a scholarship fund to assist students in the Samford School of Business.



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Twice an All-American

Lauren Blankenship has been a track All-American twice at Samford, and she's working hard to do it again. "I want to prove that I can continue to get better," said the senior distance runner from Alpharetta, Ga.

Blankenship became Samford's first Division I All-American with her finish in the 5,000-meter run at the 2005 NCAA championships. She duplicated that feat in June 2007, breaking her school record with a time of 16:03.22 in the NCAA championships in Sacramento, Calif.

Those performances earned her All-American status in track. Now, she is working to earn that distinction in cross-country this fall, and will shoot for her third track All-America honor next spring.

"I want to go out the best I can."

She also wants to win the Ohio Valley Conference cross-country championship, "especially since we are hosting it" Oct. 27.

Blankenship is "one of the kindest, sweetest, most sincere individuals you will ever meet—until you put her on the starting line for a race," said Samford track coach Glenn McWaters.

What happens then?

"She transforms into one of the most tenacious competitors you will ever find," said the coach. "She is as mentally tough and competitive as anyone I've ever coached [including several Olympic Gold Medal winners]."

"She does not like to lose."

Losing is something she has experienced very few times at Samford. She owns at least 11 school records for outdoor and indoor distance running, and has earned a variety of OVC honors including Female Track Athlete of the Year.

Her training schedule is grueling and "never-ending." She generally runs eight miles a day when training, and schedules brief rest times for two weeks after cross-country season in the fall, and a week and a half after track season in the spring. "It is definitely a year-round commitment," she said.

Blankenship started running competitively in high school, when she lettered four years in soccer and three in cross-country at The Wesleyan School near Alpharetta.

She plans to go to graduate school and work on a master's degree in counseling and clinical psychology after graduation next spring. She might run competitively at the professional level, or she might just run races for fun. But one thing is certain, she said.

"I will always run." ■



Lauren Blankenship

Gift Annuity Pays Stivenders Income, Benefits Scholarship Fund

Trustee James C. Stivender '49 and his wife, Stella, have supported Samford in many ways over the years. They recently added to their support by establishing a gift annuity that eventually will benefit one of the university's scholarship funds.

To do so, the Stivenders donated an amount of money to be held in reserve by Samford. As part of the agreement, monthly fixed income will go to the Stivenders for the remainder of their lives.

After their deaths, the money remaining in the reserve will go to the J. C. Stivender Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund, established in the 1970s and named for Stivender's late father.

That scholarship fund has been supported over the years by interest from another fund established more than 30 years ago by Stivender's late aunt, Clara Rawlings, and her husband, Thomas, of Arlington, Va.

The Rawlingses set up that fund with the Baptist Foundation of Alabama in honor of Stivender's father, who served as pastor of both Ruhama Baptist Church near Samford's East Lake campus and First Baptist Church of Gadsden, Ala. They directed that interest from that Baptist Foundation fund go to the same Stivender scholarship that James and Stella Stivender are supporting.



James and Stella Stivender, foreground, finalize the agreement for their Samford gift annuity with Samford President Andrew Westmoreland while visiting the Seibert Stadium press box for the Bulldog football opener Aug. 30.

Over the years, the Stivenders also gave directly to that scholarship fund, as well as to other Samford causes. Now, they have ensured that the J. C. Stivender Scholarship Fund will be the ultimate beneficiary of their gift annuity as well.

Stivender, a retired attorney, is a life member of the Samford board of trustees. He and his wife live in Gadsden.

If you wish to make a significant gift

to Samford but are concerned about preserving and increasing your income, consider the high yield and security of a charitable gift annuity. To learn more about this creative gift plan that benefits both you and Samford, please call Stan Davis, director of gift planning, at 205-726-2807, or view these and other options at www.samford.edu/legacy. ■

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80	8.0%
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(Two-life rates are lower.)

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*Rate is percent of original gift value and assumes payments begin at age 65. (Two-life rates are lower.)

Samford issues charitable gift annuities only in states in which it meets all requirements. This is for information only and is not an offer or solicitation for a charitable gift annuity.

with appreciation

Samford University expresses gratitude for these additional tribute gifts received May 16, 2007–August 16, 2007. For further information, contact the Samford University Gift Office at (205) 726-2807.

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Lindy Martin and Mr. John King Wright
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Samford students head to class at the start of another fall semester.