



Samford University
Orlean Beeson School of Education



2025 Awards Ceremony



A Message from the Dean

Welcome!

Thank you for joining us to celebrate the hard work and talents of our students.

Orlean Beeson School of Education faculty and staff are passionate about preparing graduates who demonstrate keen knowledge and skills, commitment to their profession, strong moral character, leadership abilities and an unparalleled ability to enrich the communities in which they serve. Our graduates lead classrooms, direct schools, advocate for families, conduct research, serve organizations, and implement positive change across the country and around the world.

The students we honor tonight are those who meet and exceed our expectations. I invite you to join with me in congratulating them on their hard work and commitment to their professions.



Anna E. McEwan

Dean



2025 ORLEAN BEESON SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AWARDS CEREMONY

Welcome – Dr. Anna McEwan, Dean Orlean Beeson School of Education

Invocation – Dr. Monique Witherspoon, Associate Dean Orlean Beeson School of Education

Awards Ceremony Remarks – Dr. Anna McEwan, Dean

Presentation of Awards

Educational Leadership Department

Human Development and Family Science Department

Teacher Education Department

Closing Remarks – Dr. Amy Hoaglund, Assistant Dean Orlean Beeson School of Education

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP DEPARTMENT

Outstanding Dissertation

Tyler Berryman Jennifer Hogan Kay Veazy

Outstanding Ed.D. Student

Jennifer Bailey

Outstanding Ed.S. Student

Thomas Brown

Outstanding M.S.E./18 hr. Instructional Leadership Student

Amanda Potaczek

Maurice Persall Endowed Scholarship

Established in 2011 in celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Doctor of Education program within Orlean Beeson School of Education and named in honor of Dr. Maurice Persall, long-time faculty, chair of Educational Leadership and director of the Doctor of Education program. This scholarship is awarded to a doctoral candidate with demonstrated financial need, academic ability to succeed, and commitment to the completion of the doctoral program in Educational Leadership.

Ivy Patterson

(Dr. & Mrs. Maurice Persall)

Charlotte Opal Herring Ennis Scholarship in Graduate Education

This scholarship is established by Dr. Leslie Ennis and his father, Reverend Gene Ennis, in memory of Charlotte Opal Herring Ennis, mother and wife. The scholarship is awarded based upon need to students in graduate education in Orlean Beeson School of Education.

Erin Klotz

Jeanna King Westmoreland Scholarship

Established in honor of Jeanna King Westmoreland, by her husband, Dr. Andrew Westmoreland. They labored together in the cause of Christ-centered higher education at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas and at Samford University in Alabama. She served as the Dean of the Mike Huckabee School of Education at Ouachita and as the Chair of the Arkansas State Board of Education before moving to Alabama in 2006. Throughout her lifetime, she has been known as a world-class teacher, a skilled administrator, a caring friend, a devoted mother, and a loving wife. This scholarship is awarded to a student of financial need within Orlean Beeson School of Education.

Allison Albert (Drs. Jeanna and Andy Westmoreland)

Raymond Christian Scholarship

The Raymond Christian Scholarship was established by his family and friends as the memorial to his life and service throughout our community and state. It is awarded to a student preparing for service in public education either as a teacher, counselor, or administrator and is intended to perpetuate his motivation and character through succeeding generations of students.

Tenille Blackmon

Beth Thorne Stukes Scholarship for Educational Leaders

A native of Jasper, Alabama, Beth Stukes is a member of the Samford University Board of Trustees and is a former teacher in the Walker County School System. Her mother, Barbara Drummond Thorne, also served on the Samford University Board of Trustees from 2001 until her death in 2009. Her father, Buddy Larry Thorne, is a 1958 graduate of Howard College. Other members of her extended family, including her nephew Patrick Carroll and niece Sarah Thorne, are Samford University graduates as well. We are honored to present the following scholarship honoring Mrs. Beth Stukes and her remarkable contributions to enriching education for all.

Adriana Skutchan

(Mrs. Karyn Uptain)

Luke 8:16 Scholarship

Orlean Beeson School of Education faculty and staff came together to establish the Luke 8:16 Scholarship. Through the collective effort of all of those within Orlean Bullard Beeson Hall, the Luke 8:16 Scholarship serves as an encouragement for our students to shine brightly as they are prepared to fulfill their calling to emerge as leaders with servant hearts.

Aldric Bennett

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Distinguished Service Award

Rayne Ford

Outstanding Senior

Sara Fields

Undergraduate Assistant Scholarship

Students will assist HDFS faculty with academic research and course management with a commitment of approximately 4 hours each week per semester. Evidence of service and potential contribution to the department, campus, and community, along with a minimum GPA of 3.2 are required. Funded by the Ralph W. and Orlean Bullard Beeson Scholarship Fund. Ralph and Orlean Bullard Beeson, for whom this school was named, have established several scholarship awards as a way to reward academic excellence. They also recognize leadership, participation in campus activities, and professional promise.

Susanna Brooks (Dr. Celeste Hill)

Claire Gann (Dr. Kristie Chandler)

Sarah Davis (Dr. Clara Gerhardt)

Jordyn Parmley (Dr. Kayla Wenth)

Academic Scholarship

Minimum GPA of 3.5 with evidence of service and potential contribution to the department, campus, and community required. Funded by the Ralph W. and Orlean Bullard Beeson Scholarship Fund.

Mackenzie Arthur

Julia Foley

Lindsey Kopach

Presley Parrish

Camilla Barrett

Rayne Ford

Palmer Louthan

Halle Parsons

Susanna Brooks

Claire Gann

Madeline Manning

Madelyn Reed

Carmen Davis

Caroline Garcia

Ellie Marvin

Hannah Stage

Sarah Davis

Ella Jayne Hyde

Isabella Morstatt

Carolyn Standridge

Harper Duffy

Olivia Jenkins

Erin Norris

Amelia Grace Waltman

Madeline Dunn

Josselyn Kalber

Jordyn Parmley

Olivia Webber

Alumni Relations Assistant Scholarship

Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 is required. This student will work with the Alumni Relations Coordinator in the School of Education and will begin communication with alumni. This scholarship is funded by the Ralph W. and Orlean Bullard Beeson Scholarship Fund.

Erin Norris

Ms. Jewell Scholarship

This scholarship was created by Leon Zalenski in memory of his wife, Jewell Carmichael Zalenski. The purpose of the scholarship is to demonstrate to the recipient what the Lord will do for the recipients whose hearts and minds are dedicated to loving and serving the Lord all the days of their lives. It will serve as an illustration of what can and will happen in the lives of one, with a passion for demonstrating to the lives of the recipients, the fact that "JESUS IS LORD."

Carmen Davis

Dr. Joan Gardiner Chambers and Home Economics Retailing Scholarships

Dr. Joan Chambers served as chair of the home economics department within the school of education. The late Dr. Chambers, and her late husband, Mr. Carl Chambers, created these scholarships to provide financial assistance to support worthy students during their Samford experience.

Dr. Joan Gardiner Chambers Scholarship – Hannah Stage

Home Economics Retailing Scholarship – Brynna Smith

Home Economics Scholarship – Rayne Ford

Departmental Scholarship

To receive this scholarship, there must be evidence of service and potential contribution to the department, campus, and community. This scholarship is funded by the Ralph W. and Orlean Bullard Beeson Scholarship Fund.

Josselyn Kalber

Jean Daugherty Williams & James H. Williams Endowed Scholarship

James H. "Jim" Williams attended Morgan County High School in Hartselle, Alabama before volunteering for the U.S. Navy. As a member of the crew of the USS Dennis, he received a presidential citation for "extraordinary heroism in action in keeping with the highest tradition of the U.S. Naval Service." After the Navy, Jim entered Howard College (now Samford University) where he earned a B.S. in Economics in 1949 and met Jean Daugherty Williams, to whom he was married for 55 years. Jim had a 30-year career as a contract negotiator for the U.S. Air Force which honored him with the Mark E. Bradley Award "for excellence in individual performance. He was a considerate person who exhibited solid Christian values, sincere patriotism, and loyal friendship. Jean Williams' objective in establishing this scholarship is two-fold: to honor the memory of her husband of 55 years and to assist worthy students in their effort to acquire a Samford education. Jean explains, "I have been blessed personally, and it is my hope that this scholarship will be a blessing to future Samford students."

Ella Jayne Hyde

Mollee Powell

Palmer Louthan

(Mrs. Kathy Anderson, Ms. Lucy Anderson, Mrs. Mary Bradley Anderson, and Ms. Kathleen Anderson)

ACADEMIC HONORS

Honors (GPA 3.5-3.74)

McRae Acuff
Faith Albritton
Mackenzie Arthur
Camilla Barrett
Susanna Brooks
Sarah Carrell
Allison Colyar
Sophia Cort
Georgia Darnell

Anna Grace Davidson
Sarah Dodgen
Meredith Egger
Pierce Fenton
Julia Foley
Kylee Ford
Hannah Foust
Lilah Harold
Anika Holt

Lauren Hudson
Sadie HuYoung
Shelby Jenkins
Mattie King
Palmer Louthan
Raleigh Malone
Elizabeth Moore
Kylie Pettit
Sarah Grace Queen

Georgia Scully
Mallory Shepperson
Caroline Skipper
Abbey Smith
Hannah Swearingen
Katelyn Tolson
Hunter Vinson

Highest Honors (GPA 3.75-4.0)

Rainey Bardolf
Ashlyn Barrett
Leighton Batcheller
Brooke Bonner
Allison Bovey
Ainsley Bowman
Ella Brinkman
Perry Brown
Elyssa Burleson
Haviland Coley
Linley Darnell
Carmen Davis
Sarah Davis
Hagan Dietrich
Harper Duffy
Madeline Dunn
Danielle Dykes
Allison Edelman

Brenna Everett
Claire Gann
Caroline Garcia
Bethany Garmon
Caroline Glass
Ellie Glenn
Emma Hester
Ellie Higgins
Morgan Hill
Kaytlin Hood
Ella Jayne Hyde
Skyler Iverson
Catherine Jarvie
Olivia Jenkins
Kayli Jones
Josselyn Kalber
Anna Kennedy
Landon Kight

Lindsey Kopach
Sariya Landrum
Rachel Langston
Claire Lawing
Madeline Manning
Emma Marino
Marlo McAlister
Paige McNabb
Ava Michaux
Emma Montana
Jordan Morris
Isabella Morstatt
Sarah Noe
Erin Norris
Jordyn Parmley
Presley Parrish
Anna Clay Parrish
Halle Parsons

Emily Reid
Julia Reis
Madeline Sentell
Kaylee Snider
Shelby Snow
Hannah Stage
Carolyn Standridge
Claire Stevens
Mallory Thomas
Louise Tillman
Ella Turner
Amelia Turner
Amelia G. Waltman
Olivia Webber
Dorothy Williams
Sarah Witte

TEACHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

John and Frances Carter Awards

John and Frances Carter Awards for Excellence in Education are given each year to undergraduate students who show excellence in the K-12 classroom, based on their clinical experiences. Dr. John T. Carter joined the Samford faculty in 1956 and served until his retirement in 1987. He was dean of the School of Education from 1980 until 1986. His wife, Dr. Frances Carter, also served as a senior faculty member for many years. Over the years, the Carters have supported education programs by funding scholarships and sponsoring the Young Authors Conference held annually here at Samford. The Carters also led the International Book Project, which provided thousands of books to foreign university libraries.

John and Frances Carter Award for Teacher Excellence in Early Childhood Education

Emmaline F. Johnston

(Mrs. Nell Branum & Mrs. Myrtis Johnson)

John and Frances Carter Award for Teacher Excellence in Elementary Education

Joy C. Bozeman

(Mrs. Nell Branum & Dr. Tarsha Shepard)

John and Frances Carter Award for Teacher Excellence in Special Education

Kirsten Jennings Norvell

(Mrs. Nell Branum & Dr. Mandy Hilsmier)

John and Frances Carter Award for Teacher Excellence in Secondary/P-12 Education

Madison E. Tarifa

(Mrs. Nell Branum & Dr. Erin Gilchrist)

Ira F. Simmons Award

Brennan C. Paulus

(Dr. Jeanelle Day)

Most Promise to Be a Teacher Leader in Education

The awards for Most Promise to be a Teacher Leader in Education are presented to students who demonstrate the potential to excel as professional leaders in their schools.

Most Promise to Be a Teacher Leader in Elementary/Early Childhood Education

Abigail E. Weaver

Most Promise to Be a Teacher Leader in Secondary/P-12 Education

Ava M. Berry

**The Martha B. Ralls Award for the Most Promise as an Exemplary Teacher in
Early Childhood/Elementary Education**

Maria C. Benitez

**The Martha B. Ralls Award for the Most Promise as an Exemplary Teacher in
Secondary/P-12 Education**

Mary Grace Leuenberger

Most Innovative Practice in the Classroom

Davis Hinton

Kappa Delta Pi Chapter Award for Excellence in the Field of Education

Ava M. Berry

(Dr. Kate Scarborough)

Carol D. Dean Outstanding Service Award

Courtney E. Krueger

(Drs. Carol and Joe Dean & Dr. Amy Hoaglund)

Highest Academic Achievement as a Junior in Elementary/Early Childhood Education

McKenna Connelly

Trinity Phillips

Highest Academic Achievement as a Senior in Elementary/Early Childhood Education

Amy Herndon

Highest Academic Achievement as a Junior in Elementary Education

Ava Maddux

Highest Academic Achievement as a Senior in Elementary Education

McKenzie Pilch

Highest Academic Achievement as a Junior in Secondary Education

Ali Grace Williams

Highest Academic Achievement as a Senior in Secondary Education

Madison Tarifa

**Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education Dean's Award for
Outstanding Teacher Education Graduating Senior**

Ava M. Berry

(Dr. Amy Hoaglund)

Alabama Power School of Education Endowed Scholarship

This scholarship was established to honor Rev. Terry W. DeFoor for many years of service to the Baptist Ministry and to promote the education of deserving students.

McKenna S. Connelly

Alto L. Garner Memorial Scholarship

Dr. Alto L. Garner was a member of the Samford faculty for 34 years and served as the first Dean of the School of Education. This scholarship is established in his memory by his family and friends and is awarded to graduate education students dedicated to the field of education and embodying characteristics of Dr. Garner such as Christian character, moral and ethical standards, caring, respectful, cooperative, validating and a champion for students.

Eudora M. Smith

Anne Glaze Stone and William C. Stone Scholarship

This scholarship was established in memory of Charles R. Glaze and to honor Ila G. Glaze. This scholarship is for undergraduate students preparing for a career in education, with preference given to students from Madison and Limestone Counties in Alabama.

Caroline B. Kopecky

(Mrs. Anne Stone and guest Mrs. Amy Harbarger)

Beth Thorne Stukes Scholarships for Educators

A native of Jasper, Alabama, Beth Stukes is a member of the Samford University Board of Trustees and is a former teacher in the Walker County School System. Her mother, Barbara Drummond Thorne, also served on the Samford University Board of Trustees from 2001 until her death in 2009. Her father, Buddy Larry Thorne, is a 1958 graduate of Howard College. Other members of her extended family, including her nephew Patrick Carroll and niece Sarah Thorne, are Samford University graduates as well. We are honored to present the following scholarship honoring Mrs. Beth Stukes and her remarkable contributions to enriching education for all

Elementary Educators

Anslee Reese Wrather

Margaret E. Yenser

(Mrs. Karyn Uptain)

Secondary Educators

Kathryn E Peterson

(Mrs. Karyn Uptain)

Bill & Pam Smith Family Foundation Scholarship

Established through the generosity of Bill and Pam Smith, this scholarship is awarded to students pursuing a career in elementary education, with preference given to those who are passionate about teaching mathematics and science.

Haley A. Skinner

Brookwood Baptist/Nila Graham Campbell Scholarship

The Campbell Family and Brookwood Baptist Church established this scholarship in 2000 in memory of Nila Graham Campbell. The scholarship is awarded to a deserving undergraduate student with preference given to those students pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Education.

Trinity E. Phillips

(Mr. Bobby Campbell)

Carter Family Legacy Scholarship

The Carter Family Legacy Scholarship has been established to honor the many contributions made by the Carters to Orlean Beeson School of Education. The scholarship is awarded based on both merit and financial need to a student who is studying Elementary Education with a Christian education and missions concentration, with preference given to rising juniors and seniors.

Serina M. McCormick

(Mrs. Nell Branum)

Jo Cooper & Henry W. Dark Endowed Scholarship

This scholarship was created through a series of gifts from Edwin W. and Billie B. Bleier, in memory of their aunt and uncle, Jo Cooper and Henry W. Dark. The Darks both served as teachers throughout their professional careers.

Adeline G. Sylvester

David Finn Legacy Scholarship

Dr. Alyssa Barnes established the David Finn Legacy Scholarship at Samford to honor her beloved professor and mentor and pay forward the opportunities she received as a Samford student. Dr. Finn taught in the Department of Teacher Education in Orlean Beeson School of Education for 24 years and retired in April 2022. During his time at Samford, he was instrumental in the development of a special education degree program and inspired and touched the lives of countless students. The David Finn Legacy Scholarship is awarded to undergraduate students studying within the Department of Teacher Education with demonstrated financial need. Preference will be given to those who have a passion for teaching special education and wish to travel abroad as part of their Samford experience through a Samford-sponsored program.

Alayne Brooke Jiles

(Dr. David Finn)

John & Frances Carter Scholarship for Teacher Education

Dr. Frances Carter created a legacy of generosity in supporting our Samford students. In addition to her other contributions, she established the John and Frances Carter Endowed Scholarship to be awarded to rising juniors and/or rising seniors who are enrolled in a certification program for Teacher Education.

Sophia C. Wright

(Mrs. Nell Branum)

Kathryn Abercrombie Scholarship

Ms. Abercrombie and her family and friends have established an endowment to financially assist outstanding students in the school of education. This scholarship is based on academic performance, character, and worthiness of the individual.

Ali Grace Williams

Mary Elizabeth Wyatt Scholarship

The late Mary Wyatt was a retired educator, an alumna of Orlean Beeson School of Education, and immediate past chair and member of its Dean's Advisory Board for many years. While hospitalized for what would be a fatal stroke, Mrs. Wyatt formalized one of her last wishes: to establish the Mary Elizabeth Wyatt Scholarship as an investment in the next generation of Samford students. The Mary Elizabeth Wyatt Scholarship is awarded to a student who is starting their junior year at Samford University and is a registered declared student in Orlean Beeson School of Education. Scholarship recipients should exhibit Christ-centered character, have shown evidence of propensity in leadership, exemplify Samford's motto of For God, For Learning, Forever, have earned at least a 3.0 academic average in their coursework at Samford University and have demonstrated financial need.

Naomi J. Crowe

Ralph W. & Orlean B. Beeson Scholarship

Ralph and Orlean Bullard Beeson, for whom this school was named, have established several scholarship awards as a way to reward academic excellence. They also recognize leadership, participation in campus activities, and professional promise.

Katelyn M. Hadder

Savannah G. Rodgers

Olivia G. Trimmier

School of Education International Internships Scholarship

This scholarship was created by Drs. Joe and Carol Dean to support School of Education students enrolled in the Teacher Education Curriculum to enable and support their participation in international internships in developing countries allowing them to work as teacher assistants/interns in schools that serve local (primarily underserved) children.

To be awarded during the ceremony (Drs. Carol and Joe Dean & Dr. Amy Hoaglund)

Twanna Caddell Powell Annual and Endowed Scholarship in Education

Established in honor of Twanna Caddell Powell. Since a large majority of students in the School of Education are female, the donor has expressed a strong desire to give preference to students that are male, of good character, in good standing with the school, and who have expressed intent to teach in the public school system after graduation.

Jackson M. Boone

Isaac T. Russell

Velma Wright Irons Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is presented annually as a memorial to a beloved teacher and the wife of Samford professor, Dr. George V. Irons. The award is given to an education major who has strong goals towards pursuing a career in education.

Sofia M. Annett

ACADEMIC HONORS

Honors (GPA 3.5-3.74)

Maria Benitez

Rachel Blackmon

Megan Brown

Ella Bush

Gabrielle Cheramie

Anna Clark

Madeleine Dally

Lily Dart

Macey Fitzmartin

Molly Glenn

Anna-Kate Holton

Anna Howard

Peyton Hull

Emilie Irwin

Alayna Jiles

Caroline Kopecky

Mary Leuenberger

Rouqiah Maflahi

Helen Marlin

Serina McCormick

Adeline Moore

Lily Navarre

Oharah Neese

Molly New

Keely Owens

Brennan Paulus

Mckenzie Pirkle

Sadie Saxton

Chelsea Smith

Kennedy Smith

Anna Strong

Jordan Sweeny

Olivia Trimmier

Hallie Williams

Hannelore Wind

Highest Honors (GPA 3.75-4.0)

Sofia Annett
Brianna Baughman
Madeline Bayles
Ava Berry
Elaina Blankenship
Joy Bozeman
Sarah Carden
Jaden Chatman
Lucy Childs
Madison Comans
Mckenna Connelly
Georgia Cooley
Avery Crawford
Jacob Crooks
Naomi Crowe
Megan Cruise
Emma Dodd
Georgia Durieux

Anna Gannon
Sarah Golden
Rachel Grier
Adelyn Gurley
Kinley Hall
Amy Herndon
Madeline Hill
Virginia Hopkins
Elizabeth Jackson
Hannah Jacoby
Kirsten Jennings
Gabriella Johnson
Emmaline Johnston
Latta Johnston
Chloe Kelle
Elizabeth Kerr
Courtney Krueger
Erin Lambert

Mikayla Lee
Emily Logan
Julie Long
Piper Lowery
Ava Maddux
Madeline Malcom
Olivia Mikul
Taylor Miller
Claire Mutert
Lily Nicholson
Lauren Parker
Kathryn Peterson
Trinity Phillips
McKenzie Pilch
Savannah Rodgers
Isaac Russell
Carrington Severson
Hannah Sharpton

Erin Shaylor
Caroline Sisk
Haley Skinner
Ann Stephens
Adeline Sylvester
Madison Tarifa
Madeline Turner
Thomas Vaccaro
Abigail Weaver
Sarah Weldon
Katelyn Weyhe
Julia Wiers
Ashlynn Wilbanks
Alexander Williams
Meredith Willingham
Anslee Wrather
Sophia Wright
Margaret Yenser