

THE MAGAZINE OF SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

seasons

FALL 2018



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Honoring Outstanding Alumni

Samford will honor five outstanding alumni during Homecoming Nov. 2-3: Bradley Dennis and Kimeran Stevens (pictured above), Alumni of the Year; Jeremy Towns, Outstanding Young Alumnus; and Tyler and Allison Fuqua, Humanitarians of the Year.



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Halfway to \$300 Million

Samford University this summer surpassed the halfway point in its \$300 million *Forever Samford* campaign. Reaching this significant milestone (\$150.1 million) means the campaign is fulfilling its purpose of solidifying Samford's future.



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Southern Conference Decade

Samford this year celebrates 10 years of membership in the Southern Conference. The university's transition to the conference, one of the nation's oldest and most respected, was a process that took several years and multiple steps.

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Cover: A stained glass window in the tower of refurbished Reid Chapel, looking toward Burns Hall. See page 14. Photo by Stephanie Douglas

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Family Weekend Sept. 14-16 drew thousands of people to the Samford campus. Enjoying the festivities on the Quad are, from left, freshman Rachel Rowland, freshman Maddie Lee, Beckham Lee, Brandon Lee, Steve Rowland, Zoey Lee and Meghan Lee.



From the President



SHADE: We sit in the shade of trees we did not plant.

Samford people know I am fond of this quote, suggested by the biblical text in Deuteronomy 6. The passage reminds the People of God as they are about to enter the Promised Land to always remember the Lord who brought them to a good land with large, flourishing cities they did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things they did not provide, wells they did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves they did not plant.

Likewise, we humbly acknowledge, Samford was here when all of us arrived—a thriving and great institution—and we give thanks for each generation that has come before to prepare the way. Even as we sit in the shade of trees we did not plant, we rejoice that we are planting still—meeting current needs and embracing hope for a bright future. Elsewhere in this issue of *Seasons*, you will read of the progress we are making toward the \$300 million *Forever Samford* campaign goal and many of the advancements made possible in scholarships, academic programs and capital investment.

Much of the beauty of the Samford campus is attributed to the presence of mature trees. Almost all of the trees we enjoy today were indeed planted in the 1950s when the campus was new—when this our promised land was first occupied. Now, some of those original trees are of sufficient age that their life expectancy has grown short. Some have become diseased and removed in recent years because they posed a physical threat from falling branches. The historic drought in 2016 resulted in the removal of more than 200 dead or dying trees. It is essential for us to act now in order to preserve the natural environment we treasure on this campus.

James Hornsby, president of Samford's Student Government Association, is joining with me in this academic year in a special effort to raise at least \$50,000 to begin a tree-planting initiative we're calling SHADE. While this amount is not adequate to replace all of the lost trees, it will enable us to make significant immediate progress.

We invite you to join us. Contributions of any amount are welcome. Please make your gift supporting SHADE at samford.edu/give/shade. Or, if you want to plant a larger, more mature tree in honor or memory of someone special, you may contact Karen Templeton, director of annual giving, by telephone at 205-726-4580 or by email at ktemplet@samford.edu.

Your gift will make an immediate difference. As always, please keep Samford in your prayers.

Andrew Westmoreland
President



Evan Zeiger, left, and Harwell Davis plant
a tulip poplar near Ingalls Hall.

Samford Announces 10th Consecutive Record Enrollment

by Katie Stripling

Samford University continues a decade-long growth pattern that exceeds national norms, setting a fall enrollment record for the 10th consecutive year. University officials announced a record 5,619 students as of Sept. 7.

Included in the totals are 3,535 undergraduate and 2,084 graduate/professional students, representing 44 states, the District of Columbia, and 30 countries. The freshman class of 958 is the largest, most academically accomplished and most diverse in Samford's 177-year history.

"At a time when many private institutions are struggling with enrollment, we are in a position of consistency and strength," said Samford Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management R. Philip Kimrey. "Our institutional story is effectively told by motivated, trustworthy staff and faculty members throughout our admission process, and I am grateful to them for creating an environment that is so focused on students and their families. We find the cumulative effort of our people provides an experience in which students thrive."

The records come at a time of national recognition and expansion across all academic schools at the university. Samford's strategic plan outlines ambitious goals for enrollment and increasing academic program offerings.

"The continued incremental growth in enrollment shows student response to our campus-wide commitment to providing students with outstanding academic opportunities in a supportive and nurturing environment," added Kimrey. "We are grateful for each student and family who chooses to invest their future at Samford."

The reach of the university is also expanding through the addition of distinctive new bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree offerings. Samford has introduced new programs in audiology, Christian ministry, data analytics and physician assistant studies over the past year. A number of additional programs are currently in development.

Samford currently offers more than 200 majors, minors and concentrations across its 10 academic units: arts, arts and sciences, business, divinity, education, health professions, law, nursing, pharmacy and public health. ►



Move-in Day

Samford Continues to Earn High Marks in National Rankings

by William Nunnelley

Samford University is the top-ranked university in Alabama according to rankings published in September by *The Wall Street Journal*. This is Samford's second consecutive year to receive the top spot in the state. At the same time, Samford is ranked 4th in the South among regional universities by *U.S. News & World Report* in its 2019 rankings, continuing a three-decade tradition of being ranked in the top tier of its peer group.

Nationally, Samford is ranked #203 of the nearly 1,000 U.S. universities and colleges that appear in *The Wall Street Journal* ranking—a significant achievement considering there are more than 4,000 colleges and universities operating in the United States today. The ranking is drawn from 15 performance indicators that have been selected to answer the questions that matter the most when choosing a university.

Samford scores especially high on measures of student engagement, ranking 12th nationally. Student engagement examines factors such as engagement with campus, recommendation of students, interaction with teachers and students and the number of accredited programs.

"Rankings are just one measure of a university's effectiveness and reputation, but it is especially rewarding to be so highly ranked in our state and nationally by an organization as prestigious as *The Wall Street Journal*," said Samford President Andrew Westmoreland. "Because student engagement and outcomes are key to these rankings, it affirms the work of our faculty and staff in providing the

rigorous academic preparation our students need to be successful in the marketplace."

The latest *Wall Street Journal* ranking is testimony to Samford's growing national reputation. Samford is regularly recognized as one of the top Christian universities in the United States, earning high marks in rankings by *The Economist* and others in addition to *U.S. News & World Report*.

Samford also was ranked 7th among regional universities in the South as one of the Most Innovative Schools by *U.S. News & World Report*. The innovativeness of universities was measured through surveys of university presidents, provosts and admission administrators to assess "cutting-edge changes" with respect to curriculum, faculty, student services, campus life, technology and facilities. This is Samford's second year in the top 10.

Additionally, Samford was ranked 2nd among regional universities in the South for Best Colleges for Veterans. In 2015, the university received a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration to fund a program to help veterans pursue degrees in nursing. This year, the program was awarded an additional \$348,000 grant to grow the program.

Samford also was ranked 9th in the South for Commitment to Undergraduate Teaching. This ranking is based on a peer assessment to evaluate "unusually strong faculty commitment to teaching undergraduate students." Across all classifications, Samford is the

only Alabama school ranked in this category.

Westmoreland noted that these impressive rankings come at a time of "strategic growth" for Samford, which recently announced its 10th consecutive year of record enrollment. In line with its strategic plan, the university continues to introduce new academic programs to meet the needs of students and the workforce.

"National rankings are just one measure of our progress," Westmoreland added, "but they continue to affirm Samford's growing national reputation for providing rigorous academic programs rooted in our Christian mission." ▀

Why Student Engagement is Important

Samford's ranking of 12th nationally in student engagement by The Wall Street Journal is important because it monitors "how challenged and inspired students feel inside and outside the classroom, as well as the breadth of courses their schools offer," according to the publication.

Nine of the top 12 schools for engagement have a religious affiliation. Samford and other such institutions often include in their missions "the education of the entire student—body, mind and soul—and put a premium on group projects, mentoring and self reflection," the journal explained in its rankings story.



Homecoming Alumni Events

November 2-3, 2018

Friday, November 2

Rotunda Club Reception 5:30 p.m., Rotunda Club

Visit the newly renovated Dwight and Lucille Beeson Center, home to the private dining club, Rotunda Club. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres consisting of new items on the menu in the Rotunda Club as you tour the area that will be available for membership of alumni and friends of the university year-round. **No registration needed.**

Samford Family Homecoming Dinner 6 p.m., Bashinsky Field House

Join fellow alumni and their families for a Samford family Homecoming dinner. This casual, kid-friendly event is designed for alumni with young families to fellowship together, enjoy dinner and participate in family-friendly activities. Families are also encouraged to attend the Samford University Alumni Awards program, The Beesons.

For more information, go to samford.edu/alumni/homecoming.

Samford Alumni Candlelight Dinner and Awards Program, The Beesons 6:30 p.m., Seibert Gymnasium

Join fellow alumni and friends for this time-honored tradition as we celebrate the rich history of Samford University and Howard College. We will also honor this year's Alumni of the Year, Outstanding Young Alumnus of the Year and Humanitarians of the Year. There will be many exciting elements of this event that you don't want to miss!

Registration: alumni.samford.edu/alumnicandlelight2018

See pages 6-9 for Alumni of the Year features.

Saturday, November 3

Golden Bulldog Brunch 10 a.m., Seibert Gymnasium

Registration: alumni.samford.edu/goldenbulldog2018

Samford University Alumni Association Tailgate 11 a.m., Quad

For more information, go to samford.edu/alumni/homecoming.

Samford Black Alumni Association Tailgate 11 a.m., Quad

Registration: alumni.samford.edu/sbaatailgate2018

Class of 2008 Reunion Tailgate 11 a.m., Quad

Registration: alumni.samford.edu/2008reunion

Class of 1993 Reunion Tailgate 11 a.m., Quad

Registration: alumni.samford.edu/1993reunion

Class of 1968 Reunion Reception 12 p.m., Rotunda Club

Registration: alumni.samford.edu/1968reunion

Samford vs. Wofford Football Game 2 p.m., Seibert Stadium

For more information, go to samford.edu/alumni/homecoming.

Alumnus of the Year

Bradley Dennis

His Career 'Far from Conventional'

Bradley Dennis, M.D., began his medical career in a conventional fashion in the 1970s: undergraduate degree from Samford, medical degree from the University of Alabama School of Medicine, residency at Mayo Clinic and an invitation to practice in his hometown of Dothan, Alabama. But at that point, things changed.

"My career as a physician was far from conventional," Dennis said this summer. "In fact, it was rather unconventional."

It included stops in Seattle rather than Dothan for a firm that provided medical input on national corporate legal cases (Dennis was licensed in seven states); work with Mobil Oil Corp. in occupational medicine in seven western states; a stint with Northrop Corp. in southern California running the medical clinic for the developer of the B-2 stealth bomber; and serving as medical director for South Central Bell (now AT&T).

"After completing an intensive residency in occupational and environmental medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, I was honored to be chosen as a physician for the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles," he said. It was following this assignment that he was recruited by Northrop.

When Dennis was asked by South Central Bell to become medical director of its five-state corporation headquartered in Birmingham, he felt he had come full circle back to his roots. His next opportunity also came in Birmingham, when he was asked to become chief medical officer at Brookwood Medical Center.

"I looked forward to the opportunity to get back to a hospital environment," he said

Dennis served Brookwood for 20 years, retiring four years ago. He said his career, while unconventional, "was



Bradley Dennis

always challenging, worthwhile and gratifying."

After returning to Birmingham, he became active in the Vestavia Hills Rotary Club, presided over the Alabama Occupational and Environmental Medical Association and was selected to participate in Leadership Birmingham and Leadership Vestavia Hills.

"It was important to me to also continue my relationship with Samford University," said Dennis. "That opportunity arose when Dean David Chapman asked me to become a member of the Howard College of Arts and Sciences advisory board. To my great honor, I was then asked to chair the advisory board, and it has remained a privilege to continue in that role."

He helped create the Howard College of Arts and Sciences advisory board scholarship.

Dennis attended Samford at the same time as his brothers Rodney, David and Gary, calling it "the most fun four years of my life." He said that was another reason for wanting to stay close to the university.

Dennis was recognized this year as one of Samford's Alumni of the Year. He said it was "an honor beyond description." He and his wife, Krista, have two sons, Jake and Nate. ■

Alumni of the Year stories
by William Nunnelley

Alumna of the Year

Kimeran Stevens

Supporting the Samford Legacy

Kimeran Brown Stevens had never heard of Samford University when she was a high school student in Atlanta. She was not a Baptist and had never been to Alabama.

"A classmate in my high school lent me a catalogue from Samford," she recalled this summer. "I took it home, read it and shared it with my parents. They encouraged me to apply and sacrificed financially so that I could attend."

She said she believes God was at work in all those circumstances and counts her Samford experience "as one of His greatest gifts to me."

As an English major, Stevens enjoyed classroom lectures by professors Austin Dobbins, Joseph King and Ray Atchison. "One of my fondest memories was the time Dr. Dobbins asked me to read an essay I had written for one of his Shakespeare classes. Never before had I made the grade to be allowed to read to the class—it was a very small personal victory."

Stevens and her husband, Bill, whom she met during undergraduate days, have been financially involved with Samford for a long time. They are cochairs of the *Forever Samford* campaign, seeking to raise \$300 million over a seven-year period. "Our desire is to be a part of Samford's continuing its mission," she said. "We feel as if we are investing in the lives of students both now and in the future." Kimeran and Bill are also very involved in the Bulldog Club and rarely miss a Samford football or basketball game.

She has been amazed at the changes she has seen at Samford. "When I arrived there were only 18 buildings; today we have 47. The student population has increased from 2,818 to more than 5,600. How do you grow a university? It takes a great deal of money."

She didn't know who provided the money to build the buildings in which she learned, she said, "but I have come to value their sacrificial giving. It is a God-given joy to be in a position to give back to Samford."

Stevens said her Samford student days were "the fastest four years of my life." She thought she wanted to teach high

school English, but changed her mind after student teaching. The class she liked the least, Speech for the Classroom Teacher, turned out to be "the one I have used the most in my post-Samford days."

She said she has been teaching almost from the moment she left Samford—children's and adult Sunday School, women's Bible studies, and at missions and ministry events. She and Bill have been active members of Dawson Memorial Baptist Church for many years. Their family includes son, Scott, and his wife, Shelley, and son, Owen Drew, and his wife, Sarah. The Stevenses have two granddaughters, Betsy and Tandy, whose parents are Owen Drew and Sarah.

Stevens said her life was "forever changed by those years at Samford, and it continues to change as a result of our involvement." She said she was "deeply humbled and greatly honored" by her selection as Samford Alumna of the Year. ▀



Kimeran Stevens

Outstanding Young Alumnus

Jeremy Towns

Bringing Intensity to Daily Life

Jeremy Towns, Samford's Outstanding Young Alumnus for 2018, is in his third year of medical school at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine in Mobile. Towns was a student-athlete at Samford, playing in the defensive line for Coach Pat Sullivan's football Bulldogs. After earning his Bachelor of Science in sports medicine in 2013, he deferred entering medical school to play for three National Football League teams.

"Now, I try to bring the intensity of football into my daily life," he said this summer. "I try to wake up with the same

passion that I had before games in front of the Samford crowd in Seibert Stadium."

Towns said that he misses football at times, but added that one of his professors, Wilton Bunch, taught him that "life is all about transitions." Towns said now he tries to tackle different problems with that same intensity that he played football. "I want to help patients tackle their diabetes, hypertension and depression. I try to help patients reach their health goals."

A dedicated Christian, Towns helped establish a student ministry at Samford called RANSOM (Radical Athlete and Student Oasis Ministry) that is now active on five college campuses. "RANSOM is doing great," said Towns. "It brings me great joy to still be involved with the ministry." He said his former Samford teammate and current Samford assistant coach Jamael Lett showed him who Jesus was when he was a college freshman.

"There are students who have gotten involved with RANSOM who are now looking to go into full-time ministry," he noted.

He also established and leads Next Level Sports Camps that use sports to attract children and youth to Jesus.

Towns is a popular motivational speaker for schools, churches and other organizations. He recently was recognized as one of the inaugural recipients of Samford's new Audrey Gaston Howard Award.

Towns said it was "very humbling" to be named Outstanding Young Alumnus. "I am forever indebted to Samford's College of Health Sciences, but also to many other faculty in many other departments," he said.

Nominees for Outstanding Young Alumnus must have completed one Samford degree within the last 10 years and be distinguished in their professional careers, community and church involvement, and in their ongoing support of Samford, noted Casey Ramey, Samford's director of alumni programs. ▀



Jeremy Towns

Humanitarians of Year

Allison and Tyler Fuqua

Leading a Growing Program of Care

Tyler Fuqua first went to Peru in June 2002. "I had just graduated from high school and wanted to go on a mission trip and an adventure," he recalled this summer. "I selected the hardest trip I could find, which was to a small village in the Amazon basin of Peru."

The trip proved to be more difficult than he expected. "I never received my luggage, did not know anyone, did not understand the culture or speak the language." But he said his heart was broken for the children he encountered. They were orphaned or had been abandoned, abused or neglected by their families and community.

"I returned home with a desire to continue helping the children that had so greatly impacted me during my trip."

He entered Samford that fall and immediately started studying Spanish. "It took me about a year and a half to become decently fluent," he said. He also decided that the easiest way to see the same children again was to organize a mission trip himself. He convinced seven friends to join him on a return trip the following year. Then the trips became an annual activity with growing numbers of students taking part.

Allison Pittman first traveled to Peru in 2006 with a group Tyler led. She had worked previously in a children's home in Reynosa, Mexico, and interned at Big Oak Ranch in Springville, Alabama, during the summers of 2005 and 2006. They were married in 2008.

During the years since, the Fuquas have led a growing program of care for Peruvian children. They founded Not Forgotten Inc. in 2007. This enabled them to accomplish more than was possible during short-term trips. In 2011 they began construction of a family-centered children's home. Their goal is also to provide holistic care, in which educational, psychological and spiritual needs are met in addition to physical needs. Today, that effort provides ongoing care for 24 children in three bungalows. They are currently building a fourth.

"We absolutely see the program growing," said Allison. "It has been such a wild ride and has already surpassed our greatest



Allison and Tyler Fuqua

PHOTO CREDIT: LAUREN BARRY STARNES '13

hopes. The reason the program has succeeded so far and is healthy is by the Lord's planting of the vision of Not Forgotten in our hearts and in the hearts of our Peruvian leadership."

The Fuquas, both 2006 Samford graduates, continue to provide leadership and support for the Peruvian program from their residence in Birmingham. Tyler is also a graduate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine and is board certified in internal medicine and pediatrics; he is a primary care physician at the UAB Medicine Clinic in Gardendale. Allison is a social worker and currently works as an education development coordinator for Lifeline Children's Services.

The Fuquas say they are "very humbled and honored" by their selection as Samford Humanitarians of the Year. "We love and appreciate our Samford family for being an incredible launching pad and for continuing to be a solid support and home base for us as individuals and a ministry," said Allison.

They are parents of two sons, Duke and Hardy.

To learn more about Not Forgotten, go to notforgotten.org.

FOREVER SAMFORD

Surpasses Halfway Point

by William Nunnolley

Samford University has reached and surpassed the halfway point in its \$300 million *Forever Samford* campaign, by far the most ambitious fundraising effort in the university's history. "Our total of gifts, pledges, planned estate gifts and grants has reached \$150.1 million," Samford Vice President for University Advancement Randy Pittman announced Aug. 17.

He noted that fiscal year 2018, which ended June 30, included 7,326 donors—a record number for any year in Samford's history.

Gifts and pledges to *Forever Samford* have been made as follows during the course of the campaign: \$91.4 million for scholarships; \$23.8 million for academic programs; \$7 million for places and spaces (construction/renovation); and \$27.9 million for a solid foundation (day-to-day operations).

These gifts have come from 12,483 donors since the inception of the campaign in November 2014.

"I am most pleased to report that 81 percent of our faculty and staff have made a gift to the campaign, and 14 percent of our 51,000 living alumni and

"Reaching the halfway point is a really significant milestone," Pittman said. "It means the campaign is fulfilling the purpose of solidifying the future of Samford." He likened the effort to "planting trees, the shade of which we might not sit under for years.

"I am overwhelmed with gratitude to God for His blessings on Samford in the last year," Pittman said. "Gifts of all sizes are important to this campaign. We are grateful for the \$25 and \$50 gifts and pledges we have received from so many alumni and friends, as well as the significant estate gifts we have received. Every gift—regardless of the amount—is important to Samford."





31 percent of the parents of our undergraduate students have also made gifts or pledges," he said.

Pittman said that "engagement" is important to the success of any campaign. Samford alumni Bill and Kimeran Stevens of Birmingham are serving as campaign cochairs and leading a steering committee of volunteers. Pittman said that Howard Walthall, professor of law, is heading the employee portion of the campaign.

"When our alumni, friends, employees and parents are engaged as volunteers, we deepen relationships, extend the reach of the university, and attract new donors," he said. "I believe

our Samford family is more engaged than ever before."

He noted that Samford has Alumni Association chapters active in nine cities and Alumni Clubs (precursors to future chapters) in 12 additional cities; very active Samford Black Alumni Association and Samford Young Alumni groups; and a hard-working group of Samford Legacy League members.

"About 1,200 people from these and other organizations worked with our office as volunteers last year because they love our university and are committed to its mission," he said.

Pittman said the driving force behind all of Samford's fundraising

endeavors is "to encourage God's people to support students as they develop in their intellect, creativity, faith and personhood."

He said a recent note he received from a student underscored the importance of that effort.

"I have been truly blessed with scholarships that are supported by donors," the student wrote. "If not for scholarships, I would not have been able to attend Samford. Because of Samford's generous supporters, I will graduate in May 2019." ▀

Two Couples, ONE UNIVERSITY

A Story of What Relationship-building Can Do

by Philip Poole

Take two involved alumni. Add two newfound friends who support higher education. Add Samford University to the equation, and you have a perfect combination that has resulted in a recent major gift to Samford's School of the Arts and the College of Health Sciences.

Through the generosity of John and Rosemary Brown of Atlanta, a fund in the College of Health Sciences provides scholarships to deserving students in the School of Health Professions and the School of Public Health. A gift to the School of the Arts provided funding to support a major three-year curriculum redesign in arts that is now being implemented.

The process began when Samford alumni Rod and Paula Hovater of Atlanta hosted a gathering in their home for fellow church members. John and Rosemary Brown had recently connected with the Hovaters' congregation and attended the gathering.

As the two couples became better acquainted, the Hovaters learned that John Brown was the retired chief executive officer and chairman of the board for Stryker Corp., one of the world's leading medical technology companies. As chief executive officer, he led a major transformation of the company from private to public and significant growth each year. Rosemary Brown, a retired mathematics teacher, has been an active arts patron in Michigan, Chicago, Atlanta and other places where their professional journeys had taken them. Both are committed to supporting higher education, especially at their alma mater, Auburn University.

Interestingly, it was an Auburn connection that helped the two couples make an immediate connection. One of John's favorite professors and mentors at Auburn was the late Wilford Bailey, who served as Auburn's president at one time. It turns out that Bailey's wife, Kate, was Paula's cousin.

The Hovaters realized an opportunity to share their love of Samford with their new friends. In addition to being Samford donors, they have been actively engaged with the university since graduating. Rod Hovater, a retired executive with IBM, is a former president of the Samford Alumni Association and serves on the Brock School of Business advisory board. Paula Hovater, a public relations consultant in Atlanta, has worked with the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication and the Samford Alumni Association. They were honored as alumni of the year in 2008. And, subsequent generations of the Hovater family have attended Samford.

Although the Browns were familiar with the Samford name because of Samford Hall on the Auburn campus, they were not as familiar with Samford University. The Hovaters decided to remedy that by arranging for John Brown to speak in convocation and at the business school in 2013. They

Rod and Paula Hovater, left,
with Rosemary and John Brown



also arranged for the Browns to visit with then Samford head football coach Pat Sullivan, who had been honored with Auburn's lifetime achievement award the same year as the Browns.

Of that first campus visit, John said, "After seeing the campus, we decided it was a good place."

And, Rosemary echoed his sentiments. "It is a beautiful campus, and the view from the president's home was spectacular."

That visit and the ongoing friendship between the two couples ultimately resulted in the major gift from the Browns and their family foundation to support two of their passions—health sciences and the arts. Now, Samford students and faculty are benefitting from that friendship and the Browns' generosity.

"You become acquainted with a school or program through friends, and all giving usually has a

connection to a person," Rosemary said. "The credit for our gift to Samford goes to the Hovaters for introducing us to the university."

"We admire the Hovaters," John said. "They are good people."

W. Randy Pittman, Samford's vice president for advancement, stressed the importance of relationships for the university, especially in the midst of the multiyear \$300 million *Forever Samford* campaign.

"We are so thankful to Rosemary and John Brown for their extraordinary gift, and to Paula and Rod Hovater for introducing them to Samford," Pittman said. "This is a wonderful example of generous people giving generous friends the opportunity to help others in meaningful ways, and ultimately Samford students will be the beneficiaries." ▀

Upper student commons construction photo in the University Center looking toward Talbird Circle.

Campus Transformation *Continues*

by Kim Brown

Samford is making significant progress on its 20-year campus master plan that was approved in December 2016 by the board of trustees. Based on the university's strategic plan, the four-phase campus master plan addresses infrastructure needs for the entire campus, increases energy efficiency, practices campus-wide conservation, and refreshes and renews every facility—all steps in the process of creating a sustainable future for generations of Samford students.

Already completed is the transformation of A. Hamilton Reid Chapel, Percy Pratt Burns Hall, James Horton Chapman Hall and the upper two floors of Robert I. Ingalls Sr. Hall to create new homes for many of the departments of Howard College of Arts and Sciences and the Office of Spiritual Life.

Close to completion is the

renovation of the lower floors of Ingalls as the new home for Admission and Student Financial Services. The arts and sciences departments moved into their newly refurbished spaces in August, while the Office of Admission and Student Financial Services will move into their new spaces during the fall semester.

These vibrantly renovated spaces

include a prayer room, upgraded classrooms and labs, student-faculty gathering spaces, a spacious new student commons, event spaces, offices, admission presentation room and integrated student services spaces. Samford hosted a rededication of Reid Chapel and Burns, Chapman, and Ingalls halls at the start of the fall semester.

The Rotunda and Rotunda Club in Dwight and Lucille Beeson Center have been beautifully upgraded. The club will reopen this fall and will include a new menu and dining options.

The Daniel House, Samford's London study center, is also undergoing a major renovation, with its reopening expected in the spring semester of 2019. The rooms and bathrooms are being expanded, and kitchen, laundry area and

gathering spaces are being updated.

Plans for a new data analytics lab in Samford's Brock School of Business are taking shape and an expansion of the Athletic Success Services Center in Leo E. Bashinsky Field House is underway. A number of other renovation projects took place over the summer, including updates to residence halls.

Beeson University Center Renovation

The university community will benefit from major upgrades to the decades-old Beeson University Center. When completed, the building will feature new student gathering spaces, an expanded food court, a renovated bookstore and new offices for the Division of Student Affairs.

The newly enhanced first floor is expected to be a destination place for students to gather, collaborate, eat, study and attend events. The planning phase included partnering with Samford's interior architecture students, who developed beautiful designs for the space. The renovation will include an expanded food court with new venues—including a full-service Chick-fil-A and Moe's Southwest Grill. The bookstore will expand and include a convenience store with extended hours of operation.

Harry's Coffeehouse will be



The renovated Rotunda Club library

completely renovated with moveable walls to provide open space for students and dining or enclosed space for events. It will also include an outdoor extension, and a beautiful sky-lit stairwell will connect the first and second floors of the University Center. This project will extend through spring 2019.

Sustainability Initiatives: Giving Back

In 2017, the Board of Trustees of Samford University approved a 20-year plan to improve energy efficiency on campus. Samford partnered with Johnson Controls Inc. to complete this work. They installed more than 1,100 windows, new sanitary fixtures, over 22,500 LED lighting upgrades, HVAC systems and building controls, building envelope enhancements, and upgraded the university chiller plant.

During the first quarter of measurement (January–March 2018), the chiller plant used less than 40 percent of the energy needed to operate the previous plant, and saved 3,994,389 kwh of energy consumption across our campus. These savings are expected to grow as the final phases of implementation are completed.

For more information, go to samford.edu/about/campus-master-plan. ▶



A rendering of the Upper Student Commons in the University Center



Samford's Annual Economic Impact

\$424.8 MILLION

by Katie Stripling

Samford University's estimated annual economic impact on the state of Alabama is more than \$424.8 million, according to a recent study released Sept. 5. The independent study was conducted by Samuel Addy and Ahmad Ijaz with the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Alabama.

For 2016-17, the most recent year for which complete data was available, Samford's economic and fiscal impact was \$424.8 million, 2,424 jobs and \$16.1 million in income and sales taxes, including more than \$10.1 million in state tax revenues and nearly \$6.0 million in local sales taxes.

According to Betsy Bugg Holloway, Samford's vice president for marketing and communication, the report affirms the many ways that the university contributes to economic development through teaching, research and service. The report notes that Samford is "an asset to the state of Alabama" and "essential to the economic and community development of the metro area, the state and the nation."

The majority of Samford's impact—\$384.1 million, 2,172 jobs and \$5.2 million in local sales tax revenue—is in the Birmingham-Hoover metropolitan area and its cities. This includes an annual economic impact of \$18.5 million due to visitors to the university's campus, which is located in the Birmingham suburb of Homewood. The university regularly hosts visitors from around the state, country and world to attend its athletics, arts and educational events.

"Samford University is an attractive investment for its graduates and clearly contributes to the state of Alabama and the Birmingham-Hoover metro area economies," the report states. "In addition, Samford provides many other

public and private benefits that, while difficult to quantify, clearly make it a great asset for the state and the metro area."

The report also found that the state gains indirectly because Samford graduates pay "relatively higher taxes" than they otherwise would have without their Samford degrees. "Over the working life of the 2016-17 graduating class, the Samford education will provide higher income that enables generation of \$258.7 million additional income and sales taxes—\$181.5 million in state sales and income tax collections and \$77.2 million local sales taxes," according to the report.

According to the study, "a Samford education is a very high-yielding investment for students." The real annual rate of return on some college attendance is 7.1 percent over a high school graduate. The bachelor's degree has a 9.2 percent real annual rate of return over some college attendance, and the master's degree yields a 15.7 percent return over a bachelor's degree. The doctorate provides a 12.2 percent marginal return over the master's degree, and has the highest lifetime earnings. Holloway added that approximately 39 percent of Samford students are enrolled in graduate and professional programs beyond the bachelor's degree.

The benefits provided by the university have lasting impacts on graduates as well as the general public through service and outreach programs with links to communities, business,

industry, government and individuals. Through job creation, generation of significant tax revenues, promotion of innovation, assisting in business creation and growth and facilitation of economic development, Samford is making the Birmingham-Hoover metropolitan area and the state "attractive for the startup, location and expansion of business and industry," the study says. "These benefits lead to improvement of workforce skills and the general quality of life in the area, the state and the nation. Higher incomes generate more tax revenues for the state and other tax jurisdictions."

In recent years, Samford has placed particular emphasis on developing new programs designed to meet the needs of today's workforce. According to Holloway, new programs in the College of Health Sciences and an emphasis on data analytics throughout Samford's Brock School of Business are uniquely equipping graduates to succeed in some of the fastest-growing and most in-demand career fields in the state and nation.

"Samford's commitment to developing new programs and evolving existing programs to meet the needs of our students and the communities we serve is undoubtedly a factor in Samford's increasing economic impact," said Holloway. An independent study conducted in 2014 found Samford's impact for 2012-13 to be more than \$335 million.

"Samford has contributed to the local and state economies for 176 years," noted Holloway. "We are proud of the impact we have had historically and in shaping the future of this region through our rigorous academic programs, well-prepared graduates, highly skilled and nationally recognized faculty, and strong community partnerships." ■

HAPPENINGS AT SAMFORD ARTS THIS FALL

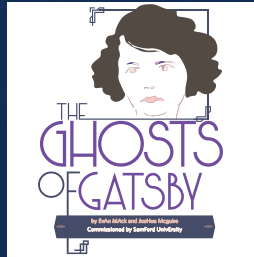


Upcoming Events



The Art of Samford's Faculty
Floyd Art and Design Series
Oct. 1-Nov. 3

Takács Quartet
Davis Architects Guest
Artist Series
Oct. 23



Hedda Gabler
Freeman Theatre and Dance Series
Oct. 25-28

Jovanni-Rey de Pedro, piano
Davis Architects Guest
Artist Series
Nov. 9



The Ghosts of Gatsby, World Premiere
Smith Opera Series
Nov. 15-18

Celebrate Christmas with Samford Arts
A grand event featuring performances by ensembles from across the School of the Arts
Nov. 30

For orchestra, jazz, a cappella, worship arts ensemble and other concerts, go to our website for times and locations.

samford.edu/arts/events | tickets.samford.edu

Want to learn something new?

Samford's Academy of the Arts additional fall sessions are now available. Classes start the week of Oct. 15. Private music instruction is available year round. samford.edu/go/aota.



Samford University
School of the Arts



Nursing Receives Nation's Largest Grant to Ease Shortage of Nurse Educators *by Katie Stripling*

Ida Moffett School of Nursing has received more than \$2.1 million to help make graduate nursing education more affordable for currently practicing or teaching nurses committed to careers in nursing education.

Samford's \$2,140,611 Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP) grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration is the largest in the country and one of only three nationally that exceeds \$1 million. This is Samford's 16th year to receive funding for the program.

According to Jane Martin, nursing school senior associate dean and project director of the grant, additional faculty are needed for nursing schools to increase student capacity. "The Nurse Faculty Loan Program is designed to help address the shortage of nurse educators. Students who receive loans for graduate degree programs can have up to 85 percent of the loan forgiven in exchange for service as full-time nursing faculty members at an accredited school of nursing," she added.

"The need for professional registered nurses is growing at a rapid pace, and faculty shortages in nursing schools are impeding our ability to address the increased demand," said Nena F. Sanders, vice provost of Samford's College of Health Sciences and nursing school dean. "It is projected that our country will need an additional 439,300 nurses by 2024."

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing found that nursing schools turned away 64,067 qualified applicants in 2016-17. Nearly two-thirds of the nursing schools responding to the survey pointed to a shortage of faculty and/or clinical preceptors as a reason for not accepting all qualified applicants into their programs. More than 92 percent of faculty vacancies were positions requiring or preferring a doctoral degree.

"Since 2008, the NFLP has provided grants to eligible Samford students pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.). These graduates are now serving in a variety of academic settings throughout the nation," said Gretchen McDaniel, associate dean for graduate nursing programs. According to McDaniel, students in a number of Samford's D.N.P. options may be eligible for funding, including Bachelor of Science in Nursing to D.N.P. nursing administration or nursing informatics and analytics, and post-master's administration or advanced practice.

The NFLP was approved by Congress in 2002, and Samford was one of the first 55 nursing schools from across the U.S. to receive funds. Samford's NFLP grants now total more than \$13.5 million. The 2018-19 grant is expected to help more than 150 students from 18 states in Samford's Doctor of Nursing Practice program. ►

To apply for admission to Samford graduate programs in nursing, go to samford.edu/nursing/graduate-nursing.

Carey Book Wins Prestigious Journalism Award

by Sean Flynt

Samford University journalism professor Clay Carey's 2017 book, *The News Untold*, has earned the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication's (AEJMC) Tankard Book Award.

AEJMC is the oldest and largest alliance of college journalism and mass communication educators and administrators. The annual Tankard Award was presented at the organization's annual conference in August. It recognizes the best research-based book about journalism published each year.

The News Untold focuses on how small-town reporters and editors in some of Appalachia's poorest communities decide what aspects of poverty are news, how their audiences interpret those decisions, and how those two related processes help shape broader understandings of economic need and local social responsibility.

"It was an amazing honor just to be included among the other great authors who were nominated for this award, and it was even more exciting to be the winner," Carey said. "I'm very grateful to AEJMC for the recognition, and to the many people who supported me and provided guidance and advice as I wrote the book, including my colleagues in the journalism and mass communication and communication studies department at Samford." ▀



The News Untold

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MICHAEL CLAY CAREY

Arts Launches *Christian Ministry Degree*

by Ashley Smith

Samford University has launched a new degree, Christian ministry, in the School of the Arts that has significant roots in programs already taking place at Samford. According to Samford's Provost Michael Hardin, "Art provides a relatable outlet for a new generation of worship and mission leaders, and Samford can help this generation communicate and heal through different media and mediums." Hardin sees this as an opportunity for Samford to continue to lead the way in providing structure for worship and for those who want to be a part of sharing a message of hope.

School of the Arts Dean Joe Hopkins says, "This is an opportunity for the School of the Arts to connect with all elements of Samford. We believe this will become an identifying program for Samford and a creative tool for students as they prepare to serve."

The new team, including executive director and assistant professor Scott Guffin and additional faculty members, J.D. Payne and Galen Jones, will offer a major that can pair with other areas of study to prepare for a variety of ministry possibilities.

Guffin shares his philosophy of the program. "We live in a unique time, one in which we're seeing changes in our cultural landscape that are challenging the church to its core. This program is intended to equip committed individuals for the work of ministry and missions."

Payne comes to the program from The Church of Brook Hills in Birmingham

bringing expertise in missiology. A scholar-pastor, Jones will relocate to Samford in early 2019 from Oklahoma Baptist University.

Through this degree, students will hone their mission skills and prepare for lifelong service regardless of their vocational aspirations. Guffin says, "Many students want to pursue other careers but have expressed an interest in being better prepared for serving in a mission capacity." Christian ministry embodies the spirit of Samford and plans to offer more intentional connections with mission work locally and globally. Guffin anticipates partnering with groups like the International Mission Board and sees opportunities for students to gain substantial practical experience while pursuing the degree.

The program will join forces with the Ministry Training Institute (MTI) directed by Kevin Blackwell. The MTI is a

nondegree program that equips ministers and lay leaders for service through online certificates, preseminary training for college students, and diploma courses administered across the Southeast, including underserved communities and prisons.

Hopkins adds, "The MTI could be one of Samford's richest opportunities. Joining Christian ministry, the School of the Arts undergraduate and graduate curricula, and the Academy of the Arts creates a powerful and versatile array of resources, teaching modalities and ways to share the best in education and Christian mission."

Interestingly, Guffin's grandfather, Dr. Gilbert Guffin, founded the Howard Extension program in 1947, now MTI.

The School of the Arts is also adding a degree in worship and the arts which allows students to explore art-related vocational opportunities to serve the church. This degree is a natural extension of art and worship opportunities initiated by current programs. According to Hopkins, "Church music was one of the founding curricular interests expressed in the charter of our university. Today, the worship curriculum and the Center for Worship and the Arts continues this vital work through thriving programs. This success creates a place of collaboration for Christian ministry. Partnerships will also extend beyond the school to the Department of Religion, Beeson Divinity School, student ministry, and the Center for Faith and Health."

Christian ministry will complement new initiatives while remaining true to fundamental values of the school. Hopkins says, "The School of the Arts has always been interested in Christian ministry. Our new Catalyst curriculum challenges every arts major to consider how faith, arts and scholarship work together in career and life." ■



From left: J.D. Payne, Galen Jones, Joe Hopkins, Scott Guffin and Kevin Blackwell

Digital Humanities Project

Preserves Immigrant Foodways by Sean Flynt

The Samford Traditions and Oral History Recording Initiative (STORI) has added to its Sam.wav podcasts the last of four student-produced podcasts that explore the diverse food traditions found in Alabama. The work is part of a growing digital humanities initiative in Howard College of Arts and Sciences and also reflects the college's commitment to creating digitally fluent graduates.

The recordings were selected from projects completed in former Samford history professor Erin Mauldin's Food and History course. As an environmental historian, Mauldin finds in food the story of how humans have shaped the world according to what we eat. "You have so many different types of people's history on your plate," she said, "and you have a representation of global connections stretching back into ancient times."

"I wanted to introduce the ways American identity and American food have often been linked, and how they've changed over time," Mauldin said of the course. She also wanted to explore the ways digital humanities could be integrated into the application of historical knowledge. "Instead of just writing a research paper, I wanted to do something that showed students how you can apply the themes of the class in a more practical way, particularly since we had a range of majors," she said. She invited STORI director Michelle Little and student podcast producer Claire Davis to collaborate on an oral history component, guiding the students through the techniques and technologies of interviewing and podcasting. "I was so lucky to have Michelle in class as a way of professionalizing what we were doing, but also so we could experiment with how oral history could be integral to course work," Mauldin said.

"This project, particularly, got me interested in how interviewing and food go so well together," Little said. She joined Samford nutrition and dietetics professor and food labs director Pat


Terry, and students Ann Potter and Keely Smith in Marion, Alabama, as the students interviewed James Beard award-winning chef Scott Peacock. She learned that Peacock, one of *Southern Living* magazine's 60 Southerners of the Year for 2017, also interviews people about food and also finds that talking about food "is the perfect segue into any topic," putting people at ease and opening the door to powerful memories of home, family and culture. "That's why oral history was so right for this class," Little said.

The Food and History projects focused primarily on immigrant foodways, including Malaysian, Filipino, Nigerian, Chinese, German and Italian traditions, but also including Peacock and women who prepare dinners at Shades Mountain Baptist Church. In addition to the hours of interviewing and transcription, the students had to write scripts, produce podcasts, cook, read at least 100 pages per week, complete a paper each week and write 10-page final research papers. The final exam included a communal meal of the documented recipes, prepared by the students.

The work should pay dividends as students continue through their undergraduate work and careers. "With oral history, they're learning how to interact with people, which is valuable in every single field

you're going into," Little said, adding that students also learned to work with specialized technology. "Those are hard skills that are transferable anywhere," she said. "In every field, you're going to need more and more digital tools."

Samford's Food and History course highlights STORI's ability to also create transformative assignments by immersing students in history, introducing them to people they otherwise would not encounter and fostering communication skills that will distinguish them in any career. "You can read it in a book, you can hear it in a lecture, but it doesn't have the same impact as when they're out there talking to the people," Little said. "It cements the education experience."

Hear Sam.wav podcasts at soundcloud.com/suoralthistory and learn more at samford.edu/departments/oral-history/. 



Samford alumni Ann Potter '17 and Keely Smith '18 interview celebrated chef Scott Peacock at his home in Perry County, Alabama.

Samford Economist Studies Connection Between Walmart and Food Insecurity

by Morgan Black

New research by Art Carden, associate professor in Samford University's Brock School of Business, and a team of economists suggests that proximity to a Walmart Supercenter reduces food insecurity.

According to Carden, food insecurity, not having enough food because of lack of money or other resources, is higher today than before the Great Recession. In 2016, the U.S. Department of Agriculture found that more than 3 million households contained children who were "food insecure."

Carden and his coresearchers, Charles Courtemanche from Georgia State University, Xilin Zhou from the Centers for Disease Control and Murugi Ndirangu, director of Columbia's Nairobi Global Center, have found that Walmart is actually helping low income families who struggle with this issue.



Art Carden

Using data from the December Current Population Study Food Security Supplement between 2001 and 2012, they calculated the distance from each household's census tract to the nearest Walmart Supercenter and found that "closer proximity to the nearest Walmart Supercenter leads to sizeable and statistically significant improvements in all food security measures except the indicator for very low food security."

In the Birmingham region, Carden says, "For a city with the poverty problems Birmingham has, trying to influence development by preventing Walmart, Target or anyone from doing business has negative unintended consequences."

He goes on to say, "We see an important social goal, food access, being met as an unintended consequence. It is, I think, an illustration of Adam Smith's 'invisible hand' principle. In *The Wealth of Nations*, Smith writes, 'by pursuing his own interest, he frequently promotes that of the society more effectually than when he really intends to promote it. I have never known much good done by those who affected to trade for the public good.'"

"While our economics faculty come from a variety of perspectives, what they have in common is a dedication to examining difficult public policy issues that have a real impact on people's lives," said Steve Jones, chair of the business school's Department of Economics, Finance and Quantitative Analysis. "Professor Carden's research is an excellent example of this. I am delighted that our students have the opportunity to interact with so many outstanding teachers and mentors," Jones added.

The group's findings will be published in the prestigious academic journal, *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*. The key results from were released by the United States' National Bureau of Economic Research and Germany's Institute of Labor Economics in late June and were publicized on national media outlets including CBS News, MSN and Bloomberg as well as Canadian radio network 770 CQHR. ■

Divinity Faculty Q-and-A: Thielman Publishes *Romans* Commentary, *Reflects on Beeson Career*

by Kristen Padilla

Frank Thielman, Presbyterian Chair of Divinity at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School, is one of the divinity school's longest-tenured faculty members, having joined the faculty in May 1989, a year after the school was established. On Sept. 25, 2018, Thielman published an 800-page commentary, *Romans*, in the *Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament*. The following is a Q-and-A with Thielman about the commentary and his ministry at Beeson Divinity School.

Why did you choose Beeson Divinity School?

Dean Timothy George's vision for an interdenominational, evangelical divinity school on a major university campus caught my attention immediately, and after a couple of meetings with Dean George and visiting the campus, Abby [his wife] and I felt the Lord was leading us to Beeson.

What do you admire about Beeson Divinity School?

What I admire most about Beeson is that it has remained absolutely faithful to Christian orthodoxy, but has done so in a winsome way that fosters unity with Christians from many different traditions. Beeson has always taken very seriously its responsibility to ground what it teaches and models for its students in the Scriptures and to "guard the good deposit" of the historic Christian faith entrusted to it.

Why did you want to write a commentary on *Romans*?

It is simply a wonderful text, filled with the message of God's love for his people in Christ and replete with wisdom about how to live in the way that God created human beings to live. One of the most prominent principles in *Romans* about Christian living is that it must be, in [Dietrich] Bonhoeffer's words *gemeinsame Leben*—"life together." Humanity is bound together by its creation in God's image, its rebellion against God and God's free offer of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. This means that the walls sinful human beings put up between their various social groups have no place in God's new community, the church.



If you could sum up your ministry, what would you say?

I hope to have faithfully and honestly taught the Scriptures over the past 33 years (nearly 30 of them at Beeson), which is what I believe the Lord called me to do many years ago when I was a college student. I hope that I have not viewed this as an end in itself, but only as a means to helping others see and experience the great love of God in Christ and to learn what it means to flourish as human beings in light of that truth. I want to work as hard as I can at this task, but I do not ever want to put my confidence for it in my own abilities. Only the Lord can change the lives of those who hear his Word. I only want to be a footman who opens the door of God's kingdom to people through teaching his Word. It does not matter at all to me if anyone ever remembers who I am or what I have accomplished. I just want people to come to know Jesus, or if they already know him, to know him better. If God could somehow use anything I have taught or written to help that happen, that would make me very happy. ■

Interview has been edited for length.

Alumna Exemplifies Forever Samford *for Future Students*

by Sara Roman

When Jewel Littleton-Williams was deciding what university was the right fit at which to pursue her undergraduate degree, she quickly learned that Samford University's Orlean Beeson School of Education was the one. "My heart was here," said Littleton-Williams. "There was something special about Samford."

Littleton-Williams believed she was meant to pursue her calling to teach at Samford. However, she needed financial assistance in order to make her dream a reality. "I remember asking my parents why they didn't save for me to go to college," said Littleton-Williams. "They shared honestly that they didn't have the extra funds or dispensable income to do that."

Littleton-Williams set up a meeting with the dean of the education school and shared her need and desire to earn her degree from Samford. With the dean's help, Littleton-Williams was able to solidify a scholarship only available through Orlean Beeson School of Education.

During her years as an undergraduate student, Littleton-Williams contributed to the founding of and raised funds for the Reverend John T. Porter Minority Scholarship. "I consider Samford to be world-class," said Littleton-Williams. "The education here is above all else, and I wanted other minorities

who couldn't afford to come to Samford to be have the opportunity to attend." Her initial efforts helped raise \$15,000 toward endowing the scholarship. Today, the fund has grown to more than \$100,000.

Littleton-Williams graduated from Samford's early childhood, special education, elementary, elementary collaborative program in 2005 and in 2010, she returned to Samford to earn a master's degree in instructional leadership. She has continued to serve the Samford community as a member of Orlean Beeson School of Education's dean's executive council and centennial plus committee. She is also the current president of the Samford Black Alumni Association.

Her desire to create more opportunities for minorities to attend Samford University has remained. In summer 2018, the Jewel Littleton-Williams Annual and Endowed Scholarship became available for minority students interested in pursuing education.

"Scholarships increase access to an outstanding education to a broader range of future candidates," said Bonnie Lee Rabe, Orlean Beeson School of Education interim dean. "Educators have the unique opportunity to help mold the minds of their students and influence directly and indirectly future professionals in all other fields. Therefore, our responsibility is to prepare our candidates to the highest level. Scholarships like these allow us to prepare leaders whose talents and triumphs will have a wide influence on their community."

Throughout her career, Littleton-Williams has earned local and statewide recognition for her dynamic contributions to the field of education. She has taught first grade, third grade, fourth grade and special education. She currently serves as the turnaround specialist at Rutledge Middle School and also serves as the chief education officer of Learning Little People LLC, a company she founded in 2013. She has also served as an assistant principal and principal.

"I sing Samford's praises every day," said Littleton-Williams. "The Lord used Samford faculty, staff and donors to allow me to pursue my calling. I am immensely grateful for the continued opportunity to help future educators, who stand where I once stood, begin their Samford story." ■

From left: Front, Randy Pittman, Jewel Littleton-Williams, Arthur K. Williams. Back, Bonnie Lee Rabe, Kathy Acton, Sheri Ransome.



Cumberland Prepares Graduates for *Master of Laws in Top Tax Programs*

by Morgan Black

In addition to being known for its excellent advocacy training, Samford University's Cumberland School of Law is making a name for itself through its preparation of students to pursue a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in tax at some of the nation's top programs, including New York University (NYU), first in the latest *U.S. News & World Report* rankings of LL.M. programs.

The Master of Laws is a postgraduate degree pursued by those holding a Juris Doctor who wish to gain specialized knowledge through research in a particular area of law.

"Our graduates are successful in pursuing and completing these specialized programs because of the courses they take and faculty support they receive while at Cumberland," said assistant dean of external relations and career development Allen Howell. "The LL.M. at the top three tax law programs in the nation, NYU, Georgetown University and the University of Florida, are especially in high demand because of their value in the legal job market. Cumberland graduates completing tax degrees from these schools have quickly found top legal jobs across the U.S. after graduation."

"I came to Cumberland for its great reputation. The tax courses really prepared me for the tax LL.M.," said Christian Borek '17. "I feel like I was more prepared than most in my classes at NYU. Cumberland's track is really a hidden gem."

Borek received his tax LL.M. from NYU in May 2018 and is now an associate in Burr & Forman's Corporate and Tax division in Birmingham. Borek works on a variety of issues such as business and succession planning, trust and estates, mergers and acquisitions, nonprofit tax, and international law and tax.

Similar to Borek, Patrick Perry '17 said he knew he wanted to practice tax

law during his first year at Cumberland when he was influenced by associate dean for academic affairs Brannon Denning.

"I took one class after another until I completed every tax course that Cumberland offered," said Perry. "The full-time and adjunct professors do a really great job of applying real-world situations that prepare students for programs like Christian and I participated in at NYU."

Regular courses taught at Cumberland include Business Organization, Federal Income Tax I and II, State and Local Tax, Corporate Tax, Partnership Tax, Taxation of Nonprofits, and Estate and Gift Tax.

"Someone taking these courses, plus International Tax that is offered occasionally, should be well prepared for an LL.M. in tax," said Denning.

After finishing his LL.M. at NYU, Perry is now an attorney in Gilpin Givhan's Tax and Corporate Securities practice in Montgomery. He regularly advises clients on a wide range of transactional, regulatory and tax matters. His practice is primarily focused in the areas of tax and business planning and estate planning.


"Our law students who have gone on to NYU's tax LL.M. program have access to markets all over world," said assistant professor Tracey Roberts, who also holds a tax LL.M. from NYU. "In my classes I require my students to read and interpret the tax code and regulations and do tax problems each week, as I did at NYU. By



doing this on a regular basis, our graduates develop a lot of confidence in their ability in an LL.M. program and in their careers."

Borek and Perry both noted that there is a wealth of opportunity in Birmingham and Alabama for individuals with this specialized education and that firms and companies are almost demanding it.

And, they aren't the only ones in recent years who have successfully completed prestigious tax LL.M. programs after graduating from Cumberland. Allen Blow '14 and Haley Stencil '17 have both completed the rigorous NYU tax program. Numerous others have gone on to finish programs at other top schools such as Georgetown and Florida.

Dean Henry C. Strickland said, "The LL.M. tax program at NYU is recognized around the world, and I'm proud that Cumberland can send highly prepared students to such prestigious programs." 

Advanced Nursing Programs Respond to MARKET DEMAND AT SAMFORD'S IDA MOFFETT SCHOOL OF NURSING

by Catie Bell

Graduate nursing students are meeting the growing needs of the health care market by selecting specific concentrations and fields of study. Samford University's Ida Moffett School of Nursing offers multiple online advanced practice options for nurse practitioners looking to expand their education into a Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.).

As the demand for dedicated, expertly trained nurses continues to grow, not only in the field but also in education, the completion of a graduate degree becomes ever more crucial. With a focus on preparing students to fill current and future needs in health care, the graduate nursing faculty and staff are responding to the ever-changing nursing environment and enabling more graduate students to earn their D.N.P. in concentrations specific to market demand.

"We are committed to helping nurses prepare for the jobs they are pursuing, in the rapidly evolving field of nursing and health care," says Gretchen McDaniel, associate dean of the graduate nursing program. "No matter their entry point into our program, we are here to help them answer the call to serve others through nursing."

Industry growth in nursing and other health care fields continues to rise at a record pace. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics anticipates an 18 percent rate in job growth by 2026. Market demand will match that growth with more than 2.4 million new jobs waiting to be filled. Additionally, nurse practitioner roles, specifically, continue to rank among the top five best occupations in the country, according to a 2018 *U.S. News & World*

Report Best Jobs list.

Whether students have the desire to become a chief nursing officer, emergency nurse practitioner, family nurse practitioner or nurse anesthetist (among other advanced roles), Samford's programs of study offer the academic and experiential qualifications that employers are eager to see in potential candidates. Additionally, integrated course work, through Samford's College of Health Sciences, further prepares students for the interprofessional work environment.

"When we talk with working nurses, we see a continued interest in propelling career paths toward the future of health care," said Allyson Maddox, director of graduate nursing recruitment. "Our programs offer the ability for applicants to prepare for industry growth and demand."

Additionally, there are several entry points to our graduate nursing program, and the majority of our concentrations are conducive to the student whether they hold a bachelor's degree or a master's degree. The graduate nursing programs have pathways to accommodate any starting point and propel advanced nurses forward in response to the needs of the health care environment. ■

Ida Moffett School of Nursing first began offering graduate degree programs in 1995, and today, they are ranked among the best in the country.

The school's current graduate degree offerings include:

Doctor of Nursing Practice

Family Nurse Practitioner

*Family Nurse Practitioner with
Emergency NP Specialty*

Nursing Administration

Nurse Anesthesia

Nursing Informatics and Analytics

Post-master's Doctor of Nursing Practice

Advanced Practice

*Advanced Practice /Emergency NP
Specialty*

*Advanced Practice/Family Nurse
Practitioner*

Nursing Administration

Post Graduate Certifications

*Post-graduate APRN
Certificate FNP*

*Post-FNP Emergency
Nurse Practitioner*

A HEALTH CARE DESTINATION

Alumnus introduces the first telemedicine kiosk within an Alabama pharmacy

by Sarah Waller

"As an owner of an independent pharmacy, my goal is to be a health care destination. We're located in a rural community, but I want my patients to have all of the amenities and services that bigger cities have to offer. This is what drives me to offer new things," said Cole Sandlin, a 2008 alumnus of Samford University's McWhorter School of Pharmacy.

Sandlin is a third-generation owner of Fred's Pharmacy in Hamilton, Alabama. He is also a third-generation McWhorter School of Pharmacy alumnus. "Coming back and owning the family business was my goal of becoming a pharmacist. I knew I wanted to work with the public and give back to the community that helped raise me," he said.

In 2016, American Well, a national telemedicine technology company, approached American Pharmacy Cooperative Inc., of which Fred's Pharmacy is a member, about installing a telemedicine kiosk in one of its members' pharmacies. Bruce Harris, a 2012 alumnus, worked for the cooperative at the time and reached out to Sandlin about this opportunity. He jumped at the chance.

Telemedicine provides a live interaction with a physician located remotely for evaluation, diagnosis and treatment. Sandlin said with a small fee, patients in his community can come to his pharmacy and interact with a physician through a live video stream. The kiosk even includes a blood pressure cuff, thermometer, oximeter, dermoscope and otoscope so vitals can be measured and common areas, like the ears, nose and throat, can be examined.

"There is a lot of opportunity to grow telemedicine in a community like Hamilton, Alabama. In our little community, we can have a hard time

keeping doctors. We saw this pilot program with American Well as an amazing opportunity, and it made way for a relationship with Jay Sanders, who was among the first people to champion this technology in the 1970s," Sandlin said. "This world-renowned man came to our pharmacy in Hamilton, Alabama. It was a big deal."

Though talks began in 2016, the telemedicine kiosk was not installed in Fred's Pharmacy until December 2017. Sandlin said that following the installation of the technology, the average time for a patient to see a physician and have their prescription filled was 30 minutes.

"I feel called to continue the legacy

that my grandfather started in 1951 when he opened Fred's Pharmacy, and I see this every day in the relationships with our patients. But I am also driven to make today better than yesterday," he said.

The pilot program with American Well ended this summer, and Sandlin and American Pharmacy Cooperative Inc. are still considering if this technology is something they will continue to offer. "Of course there are limitations with telemedicine, and there is a need for more education about its services, but overall, it provides a meaningful service to members of our community and a viable alternative to an urgent care clinic or emergency room," Sandlin said.

In June 2018, the American Pharmacy Association honored Sandlin with its 2018 Excellence in Innovation Award, citing his work to introduce the first telemedicine kiosk in an Alabama-based pharmacy. ▮



Sandlin demonstrates his pharmacy's telemedicine kiosk to Rep. Robert Aderholt.

Technology *and Service*

Samford's Doctor of Audiology program is preparing students with both.

by Catie Bell

"When I joined Samford's faculty at the establishment of the School of Health Professions in 2013, we planned to launch three degrees that would comprise the department," said Margaret Johnson, professor and chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. "We launched the B.S. in communication sciences and disorders in 2014, followed by the M.S. in speech language pathology in 2015. And this fall, we are thrilled to welcome the inaugural cohort of the third: our Doctor of Audiology program."

Hearing loss is becoming a silent and growing epidemic. With 30 percent of baby boomers reporting hearing loss, audiology is a health care industry that is anticipated to experience record growth in the coming years. The need for audiologists is not exclusive to a specific demographic, like age. The World Health Organization is estimating that 1.1 billion teenagers and young adults are at risk as well.

Because of this alarming trend, Samford's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is training students to prepare thoroughly for their roles in audiology.

Students focus not only on the testing and diagnoses of hearing loss, but also on collaborative treatment of common as well as rare hearing issues.

From working with advanced technology to the extension of clinical experience, the six new Doctor of Audiology candidates starting class this fall will learn how to understand, diagnose and treat the issues of the auditory vestibular nerve through the new program developed by Johnson and Hollea Ryan, program director and assistant professor in the department.

Students will learn how to help patients throughout their journey of care

alongside students in other graduate health professions degree programs, such as physical therapy and physician assistant studies. This approach continues to further Samford's College of Health Sciences' commitment to interprofessional education, demonstrating collaborative care for the whole person.

"We are excited to start this program at a time when there is such a need for more audiologists; especially when this program can affect such a wide array of communities," said Ryan. "We are equipped and ready to prepare students to handle whatever type of issue or condition is put in front of them."

To provide optimal learning experiences, the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders will offer students the opportunity to practice on the latest audiological training technology, such as Baby Isoa, an infant simulation manikin designed to test hearing. Other pieces of technology include various ear trainers, which allow students to practice everything from otoscopy to cerumen removal to creating ear mold impressions for hearing aid fittings.

This type of simulated learning allows students to develop best practices and further prepare for roles in pediatric testing, aural rehabilitation and more.

"We are excited to offer this degree and the collaborative environment where students are able to learn," said Alan Jung, dean of the School of Health Professions. "It's a further opportunity in our school for our students to be trained to answer their calling to serve where the need is greatest." ▀



A Pathway to Medicine

by Sarah Waller

Samford University's School of Public Health equips graduates with the knowledge and skills to directly enter the workforce or continue their studies at the graduate level. Many undergraduate majors even build 24 elective hours into their curriculum, allowing students to complete the prerequisite courses for pathways like prehealth or premedicine.

Bret-Ashleigh Coleman, a junior from Pinson, Alabama, declared her major in healthcare administration because it offers her early exposure to the health care industry, creating a competitive advantage as she prepares to take the MCAT and apply for medical school next year.

"I've known that I wanted to go to medical school ever since I was a little girl," Coleman said. "After shadowing my cousin who is a cardiac anesthesiologist, I fell in love with it even more. I knew I wanted to have a career that let me work in a hospital."

Coleman came to Samford thinking she would pursue a major in biology or chemistry, but a fateful conversation with a girl who lived on her freshman hall sparked a new interest.

"She told me that she had declared her major as healthcare administration, and I'll confess, I didn't know what that was. When I asked more about it, she encouraged me to enroll in the major's introductory class with her. I thought, why not, and the now the rest is history," she said.

Coleman's passion for health care administration grew quickly as she declared her major and began to take more classes. She loved how her course work exposed her to the many facets of the health care industry and provided her with a broader perspective of issues that are commonly discussed.


"Everyone involved in health care ultimately wants the best outcome for the patient, but roles like health care administrators and physicians can have different perspectives about the best way this can be accomplished," she said. "My studies are allowing me to see the bigger picture. While I'm developing my own opinions, I can see and understand the opposite point of view."

These are skills that naturally translate into leadership positions, something Coleman recognizes as a required skill for her future career. "I see myself working in the hospital setting, but who knows, I may come to a point where I want to open my own practice. The information that I'm learning today will be vital if that ever comes to pass," she said.

Ashley Robertson, an assistant professor in the School of Public Health's Department of Healthcare Administration, beams when she hears Coleman say this. "That is exactly what we strive to teach our students. With our program, we work to develop dynamic leaders who are ready to address the profound issues facing health care today," Robertson said.



Bret-Ashleigh Coleman

"The School of Public Health offers many wonderful options for students considering professional or graduate schools, like medical, dental—even law school. But as a healthcare administration major, students like Bret-Ashleigh will progress with a foundational understanding that will allow them to hit the ground running. Not only will they go in understanding important business functions in health care, but they will also understand the importance of building relationships with each member of the overall health care team." 



A Decade in the SoCon

by Joey Mullins

On July 1, 2008, a little over 10 years ago, Samford University officially joined the Southern Conference (SoCon).

In its 10 years in the league, the school has won 35 SoCon regular-season, tournament or divisional titles. Since joining the conference, the programs have steadily improved, with 29 of the 33 championships coming in the last seven years.

"Being in a league that is as competitive and deep as the Southern Conference has helped elevate our teams throughout the years," said Martin Newton, Samford athletics director. "The programs in this league push each other to be better and that helps make the entire conference stronger. This is absolutely the best league for Samford, and I believe, we bring a lot of value to the league as well."

The SoCon, which is in its 98th season of intercollegiate competition, is a national leader in emphasizing the

development of the student-athlete and in helping to build lifelong leaders and role models.

While the move to the SoCon was officially made in 2008, it was years in the making and took several steps to become a reality.

Bob Roller, Samford's athletics director from 1999 to 2010, said it was made clear to him early in his tenure that the university's administration wanted Samford in a league similar to the SoCon.

"The problem we faced at that time was we were not ready yet in terms of facilities and budgets," Roller said. "We had to quickly upgrade and improve in those areas to get Samford on the radar. We were way behind a school like Furman at that time, and also many of the larger state institutions in the SoCon."

At the time, Samford was a member of the Atlantic Sun Conference (A-Sun). The A-Sun, however, did not sponsor

football as a conference sport, so the Bulldogs' football team had to play as an NCAA Division I-FCS (then I-AA) independent. In 2003, Samford moved to the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC), placing all 17 of the school's teams in the same league.

"Ironically, we had to make a move to the OVC first to allow our entire athletics department to get to the point where we were a viable candidate for the SoCon," Roller said. "By that time, Dr. [Andrew] Westmoreland had become our president and was extremely supportive and an active part of our process with the SoCon CEO and Commissioner [John] Iamarino."

Samford spent five years in the OVC, experiencing a measure of success in the league. Samford won 15 OVC regular-season and tournament titles in the school's stay in the conference. Roller said he believes Samford's time in the OVC was a tremendous help in making



Seibert Stadium
on a football
weekend.

Samford ready for the SoCon. "The best analogy I can give is, being in the OVC made Samford tougher," he said.

Once Samford was an established program in the OVC, the SoCon began showing interest. Dr. Leo Lambert, president of former SoCon member Elon, and Iamarino traveled to Birmingham and met with Westmoreland and Roller to talk about the possibility of joining the league. After a larger contingent of SoCon officials visited campus, an offer to join the league was extended.

Moving to the SoCon was a big step up for Samford. At the time of the announcement, then-SoCon member Appalachian State was about to win its third-straight NCAA Division I-FCS national title, and then-member Davidson was about to make its historic run to the Elite Eight of the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament with future NBA MVP Stephen Curry.

The move was officially announced

on March 15, 2007. Iamarino said there were several reasons the SoCon pursued Samford as a new member.

"Expansion was one of the first priorities we identified when I became commissioner," Iamarino said. "It became increasingly apparent to me that Samford would be an excellent fit. They had strong academics, an improving athletic program, some new facilities and an institutional profile that looked a lot like several of our members at the time. I also thought a presence in the Birmingham market would be beneficial to us."

Westmoreland credits Iamarino, the other SoCon schools and Samford's coaches with making the transition easier on everyone involved.

"Moving from one athletic conference to another is a complex, emotional process, but in retrospect, Samford's transition to the SoCon was probably far more tranquil than is often the case in such matters," Westmoreland said. "Commissioner Iamarino, played a significant role in easing the transition. Also, there appeared to be no disruption within the existing SoCon membership regarding Samford's entrance, so we were welcomed from the very beginning."

Roller said in both conference moves, from the A-Sun to the OVC, and then from the OVC to the SoCon, Samford's head coaches were in favor of the move. He said they were "all team players." Westmoreland said "we had a widely-shared understanding that the SoCon was likely the best 'fit' for Samford, alongside institutions with a shared commitment to student success."

Samford head soccer coach Todd Yelton, whose program was one of the top teams in the OVC, said he was in favor of the move when it was first presented.

"We had had such great success in the OVC, and we wound up getting an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament out of that, but I really wanted to move into the Southern Conference," Yelton said. "I think it fits us naturally from a

recruiting standpoint, and I think we've seen the growth of the program in our time in the league. I knew coming in that it was going to be very challenging for us. I had great respect for the coaches in the league. From our standpoint, it has been a fantastic experience, and when we finally decided to do it, I was excited for our program."

In 10 years in the league, Yelton's program has won five SoCon regular-season titles, including the last four in a row. The first overall SoCon championship in any sport for Samford came in its second season in the league, when the women's cross-country team earned the 2009 title.

Entering its first year in the new league, expectations were not high for most of Samford's teams. The football team was picked dead last in the league's preseason polls, receiving every last-place vote in the poll.

The football team surprised everyone, going 6-5 overall and 4-4 in league play. The soccer team went 8-1-2 in SoCon play, while the volleyball team won the SoCon's North Division title, posting records of 28-5 overall and 16-2 in league play.

Men's basketball finished third in the North Division that season, and reached the semifinals of the SoCon Tournament, falling to eventual champion Chattanooga on its home floor. The women's basketball team finished second in the SoCon standings with a 16-4 league record, and reached the tournament semifinals, being eliminated by eventual champion Western Carolina.

"Perhaps the greatest surprise has been the extent to which Samford moved quickly after joining the SoCon to a position of strength within the league," Westmoreland said. "The credit for that success lies with a great athletics and coaching staff, the work ethic of our student athletes, and the loyalty of our fans. The move was right for Samford and, coincidentally, in the best interest of the SoCon. Ten years later, I have no regrets about the decision."

Continued on page 32

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"Looking back 10 years later, Samford has more than justified our confidence in them," Iamarino said. "Their student-athletes compete hard, but have the right priorities. Their coaches and administration have been staunch supporters of the Southern Conference. From our perspective, it's been a rewarding partnership."

In addition to the 33 titles, Samford has won the SoCon's Germann Cup, which goes to the top overall women's program in the league, in both 2009-10 and 2014-15. Samford has finished in the top three in the standings in nine of the school's 10 years in the league.

In the Commissioner's Cup standings, given to the top overall men's program in the league, Samford has finished in the top three in three of the last four years. In the 2017-18 season, Samford finished second in both the Germann Cup and Commissioner's Cup standings.

"The success our athletics department has experienced during our time in the SoCon has been made possible by the tremendous student-athletes and coaches we have at Samford, as well as the university administration that has provided us with the necessary support to be successful," Newton said. "At Samford we make sure our student-athletes are students first and receive a well-rounded college experience. As a Samford graduate, former student-athlete, and now as the school's athletics director, I am extremely proud of our accomplishments, and look forward to our future success."

Entering the 2018-19 school year, Samford was picked to win this year's league football title. The program has come a long way from receiving every last-place vote in the 2008 preseason poll. The future is bright for Samford athletics as a member of the prestigious Southern Conference. ▀

CLASS NOTES

Compiled by the Office of Alumni Programs and Annual Giving.

1950s

'53 **Betsy Barber Bancroft** is now at Town Village Retirement Apartments, Vestavia, Alabama. She is still giving poetry readings with extemporaneous stories programs to residents and anyone else who asks for them.

1960s

'69 **Gene C. Armistead** has a second book, *An Arch Rebel Like Myself: Dan Showalter and the Civil War in California and Texas*, co-authored with Robert D. Arconti. This biography traces the life of a northern-born California legislative leader of its 1861 pro-South faction through his victory in a political duel, capture and imprisonment by Union authorities, his command of a Confederate regiment on the Rio Grande, and this death in exile in 1866.

'69 **Michael W. McKenzie** recently retired from the University of Florida College of Pharmacy after 44 years of service as a faculty member and administrator in the office for student affairs. He was a clinical practitioner and teacher in pediatric pharmacy for many years. In 2016 he was recognized as the Pharmacy Alumnus of the Year, Teacher of the Year in the UF Honors Program, Pharmacy Faculty Advisor of the Year, and a recipient of the University of Florida Medallion for Outstanding Service.

1970s

'71 **Robert "Bob" Lewis** has completed training as an intentional interim minister since retiring in 2010; and has served three Virginia churches as interim pastor.

'76 **Brownie Mathews Giles** has recently retired from 26 years in public education and has moved to Florida to spend more time with family.

'76 **Marcia Hamby** has retired after over 20 years of providing mental health therapy to college students. She most recently served at the University of Montevallo and was honored

by that school and its board of trustees with the designation of counselor emerita.

1980s

'84 **Jeffrey Bramer** was in Park City, Utah, over July 4th. He was able to share being a Bulldog, proudly wearing a Samford T-shirt.

'84 **Richard Crane** was promoted from associate professor to professor of theology at Messiah College, Grantham, Pennsylvania.

'84 **C. Phillip Herring** graduated from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest with his Doctor of Education (Ed.D.). His dissertation title is *Millennial Financial Stewardship Habits: Motivating and Inhibiting Factors—A Mixed Methods Approach*.

'87 **Joe Joseph**, a partner at Burr & Forman LLP, will be moderating a panel focused on restaurant bankruptcies and restructurings in the fast food and fast casual sectors at the American Bankruptcy Institute's 23rd Annual Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop. The panel will discuss the pressure from rising food and labor costs, the changing dining habits of millennials, and the decreased foot traffic at retail shopping centers.

1990s

'94 **Amy Cheek Fineburg** will serve as president in 2020 of the Society for the Teaching of Psychology (APA Division 2), an organization that provides resources and professional learning for over 5,000 psychology educators and professors from around the world. She will also serve as chair in 2020 of the College Board's Southern Regional Council, a governing body that provides guidance and advocacy for educational institutions across the South and Southeast. She completed the Council of Leaders in Alabama Schools (CLAS) Certified Instructional Leader program.

'95, '03 **K. Blaine Johnston** is now the executive vice president of global strategy for MovieCoin. He works closely with the office of the CEO and is responsible for implementing global strategic initiatives. He served as

executive vice president and managing director at Vendian Entertainment and vice president of business development at Worldview Entertainment. Johnston has over 15 years of experience in the entertainment industry as a transactional attorney and investment manager.

'97, '03 Robbie Gibbons was selected as a participant on ABC's reality TV show *Castaways*. The show premiered Aug. 7, 2018; and some of Robbie's backstory was shot at a Samford football game.

2000s

'00 Joy Snow is a special educator in Pell City, Alabama.

'02 Thomas W. Scott III is now the owner of TS3 Technologies, an IT consulting firm located in Hoover, Alabama.

'03 Jonathan Rodgers and **Alicia Rodgers**

'04 have relocated to Birmingham with their son, Gabe. Jonathan is the worship pastor at Hunter Street Baptist Church.

'03 Edward James "EJ" Waldron III obtained his master's degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2012, and his Ph.D. from The University of Alabama in higher education administration in 2018. He and his wife, Louanne, from Clarke County, now reside with their daughter in Birmingham, Alabama.

'07 Laura Dozier Boltz began her job as the field director/assistant professor of social work at Judson College in August 2018. She is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Alabama in the School of Social Work.

'09 William Deal was called to serve as the senior pastor of Royston Baptist Church in Georgia and began serving there on July 1, 2018.

2010s

'10 Jason Hill graduated from medical school in 2017. He received the Jackson Award upon the completion of his intern year as an OB/GYN resident. It is given to the best intern across all residency programs at Greenville Health Systems.

'10 B. Lorraine "Lori" Lioce, clinical associate professor of nursing and executive director of the College of Nursing Learning and Technology Resource Center, has been selected through competitive application for the National League for Nursing's year-long LEAD program, one of three tracks in the NLN Leadership Institute. Now in its eighth year, LEAD is designed for nurses in both education and practice who have experienced rapid transition into leadership positions or aspire to advance their status in management or administration. Lioce was also elected to serve as a member of the international Board of Directors for SimGHOSTS, the international organization for the Gathering of Healthcare Simulation Operations and Technology Specialists. She also was appointed as the editor-in-chief of *The Society for Simulation in Healthcare Simulation Dictionary*, published in partnership with Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality.

'10 T. Alan Taylor made his debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as the tenor soloist in Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* on July 14, 2018.

'12 Daniel Blair and his wife, Kim, opened Blair Pharmacy in Alabaster, Alabama. He enjoys bringing his unique skill set to patients through enhanced services built into their care plan. The pharmacy has been well received by the community, with patients appreciating the care and compassion that comes along with using a local neighborhood pharmacist.

'14 McKenzie Harrison Brewbaker and family are happy to announce the upcoming arrival of their second child, due in November 2018, joining big brother David Jr. Her husband, David Sr., joined the U.S. Army last March.

'14 Ashley Patterson served with Serge in Bundibugyo, Uganda, as a teacher to children of missionaries for two and half years. There Patterson was able to learn and work in ministry with children through teaching and discipleship. In June 2018, Patterson moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to begin working in the Serge's home office with the mobilization team as the apprentice program recruiter.

'16 Brooks Hanrahan received The Benjamin Stanton Award in Old Testament from the Department of Biblical Studies at Princeton Theological Seminary, where he is currently studying.

'16 Nathan Yoguez recently received his Master of Public Health with a concentration in health policy and systems management from LSU Health Sciences Center School of Public Health at New Orleans. He will be moving to Montgomery, Alabama, to serve the community.

'18 Robert Hatcher has been awarded a CyberCorps Scholarship for Service Fellowship in the cybersecurity graduate program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. The fellowship is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation, which has partnered with the Department of Homeland Security to address the shortage of qualified cybersecurity experts available to safeguard the nation's electronic data and associated IT infrastructure. The fellowship will pay his tuition for a master's degree in computer forensics and security management, a stipend for living expenses, and stipends for books and professional development.

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Herron Family Scholarship Offers Life-changing Opportunities

by Sean Flynt

The family of Samford University alumnus Keith Herron '86 has created a new scholarship to help make international study possible for Samford students who might not otherwise be able to participate.

Herron, senior executive vice president and head of corporate responsibility and community engagement at Regions Financial Corporation, has served as chair of Samford's board of overseers, is a member of the Brock School of Business advisory board and presented the commencement address for that school in May. He, wife Kelly, daughter Caroline and sons Charles and Sims also have provided financial support throughout the university. Their latest gift—the Herron Family Scholarship for International Study—is a way to share an experience that has meant much to them.

"I never had the opportunity, when I

was at Samford, to take advantage of some of our international study programs," Herron said. "I always felt like that was something I would have enjoyed and benefitted from."

Now, Herron and his family have traveled internationally and discovered how it can inform new perspectives. "It really has opened my eyes to the importance of our students at Samford being exposed to different cultures and different traditions," he said. "It's a way to build confidence in who you are, and a great way to increase awareness of the importance of diversity."

Herron noted that such awareness can help students in any career they

choose, and senior Samford biology major Shannon Gilstrap, the first recipient of the new scholarship, agrees. This summer the scholarship took her to Costa Rica and Panama, where she discovered options for graduate school and careers as she explored important nature preserves and regional culture. "There are grad programs and research facilities in other countries that are looking for people like me—college students who want to do research, who want to change the world through biology and everything that comes along with it," Gilstrap said.

Gilstrap, who had never been out of the country and seldom left Alabama, also encountered economically challenged communities that changed her ideas of travel and tourism. "To talk to the people from these areas and to interact with them, play soccer with the kids, and explore their buildings and cathedrals was the best part of the trip," she said. "It opened my eyes to so many things about myself."

Lauren Doss, director of Samford's Global Engagement Office, said the university believes every student should have that kind of experience. "We're constantly looking for ways to eliminate the obstacles that keep our students from studying abroad," Doss said, "whether it's creating more opportunities connected with a student's degree program or providing more financial resources for support."

That, Keith Herron said, is the aim of his family's gift. "It's just another way to help others. It's one more place within the university where we can touch the life of somebody else." ▀



Visiting a Costa Rica coffee plantation during a Jan term travel course are, from left, Evan Craig, associate professor Drew Hataway, Shannon Gilstrap, Lillie Baggett, Leslie Golden and Coleman Reeves.

Nursing Student Reed Selected by *The New York Times* for The Edit

by Catie Bell

In a crowded field of more than 20,000 applicants, Samford nursing student Hallie Reed distinguished herself as a voice for college students.

The sophomore nursing major was recently selected as one of 13 contributors to The Edit, a newsletter published by *The New York Times* focused on the college students' perspective on news and culture. She'll be sharing her stories and thoughts for readers around the country to hear her unique perspective.

"When they told me I was selected, I was in shock!" said Reed. "I still can't believe that I made it through, and I get to share what I write."

According to Reed, two of the significant factors in delivering her to this point of editorial esteem are two of the things that brought her to Samford—Ilda Moffett School of Nursing and the University Fellows program. She was introduced to the university through her cousin and decided early on that nursing was in her future. Since Samford's nursing school is not only ranked as a top school in the country but also designated a National League for Nursing Center of Excellence, it was a natural choice. Additionally, she also knew she wanted to participate in an accelerated program with exceptional academic achievement, such as the University Fellows.

In addition to being chosen by *The New York Times*, Reed has decided on pediatric nursing as her academic focus. "I'm very drawn to a crisis, and I love working with kids," said Reed, who spends her summers working at the Royal Family Kids Camp through her local church. "It's amazing to see what camp counselors can do in a week, and

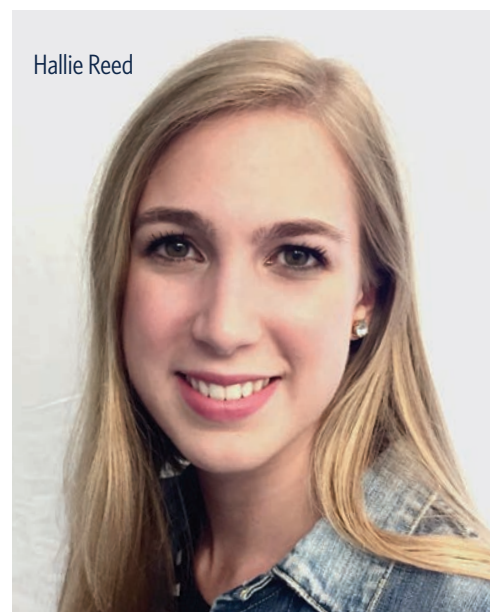
it's something that I'd love to learn how to do—to impact a child's life for the better in a real way."

Between her studies and being a part of the honors program, Reed also enjoys Greek life and rowing crew. But writing has always drawn her back. She began writing competitively in high school and always knew that writing would be in her future; she's thrilled at the opportunity presenting itself now. "I enjoy writing essays that make a person think," Reed said. "I want to be that unique voice that echoes compassion and understanding."

When asked if nursing and her writing may intersect during her time at The Edit, she said, "I hope so! I write about things I'm passionate about, and nursing is definitely something I'm passionate about."

Looking to the future, Reed hopes to work as a nurse practitioner in pediatric mental health and move a bit closer to home. "It's been extraordinary to see what nurses can do in these camps for a single week. They make such an impact and leave the kids with so much joy; I'd love to be able to do the same," added Reed.

Reed attributes her successful selection to the mentorship of professor Bryan Johnson, director of the University Fellows program. Johnson not only helped her with the application process, but introduced her to the opportunity at the start. Reed also leaned on a fellow Samford student and friend, Kathryn Jordan, a junior journalism and mass



Hallie Reed

communication major, who took her calls and answered her questions to formulate the ideal article for submission. "I called her so many times throughout the entire process. I'm a nursing major. I love reading and writing, but I'm not sure how to do this," Reed said. "Specific people at Samford were a huge part of me being chosen."

"Each time I made it to the next round, I was in complete shock. When they finally called and told me I had gotten it, I thought I had woken up in an alternate universe; this can't be real life. What a crazy world that I get to do this," said Reed. "I love Samford, and I'm super grateful to get to a point where I can do this."

Reed has launched a YouTube channel to vlog her journey. Follow Ilda Moffett School of Nursing on facebook. com/IldaVMoffettSchoolofNursing and twitter.com/samford_nursing to keep up with her journey with The Edit. ▶

NEW ARRIVALS



William “Kade” Messersmith-Bunting, a son, born May 30, 2018. Parents are Archie Messersmith-Bunting '99 and Bill Bunting of Palmyra, Virginia. **1**

Jonah Tew, a son, born June 1, 2018. Parents are Jill Woods Tew '00 and Dwayne Tew of Pelham, Alabama. He joins older brother Daniel. **2**

Emma Catherine Graves, a daughter, born Nov. 10, 2017. Parents are Stephanie Edwards Graves '01 and Charles Graves of Rome, Georgia. She joins brothers Charles Jr. and Jackson. **3**

Gabe Samuel Rodgers, a son, born Aug. 25, 2017. Parents are Jonathan Rodgers '03 and Alicia Maxfield Rodgers '04 of Birmingham, Alabama. **4**

Frances Elizabeth “Izzie” Waldron, a daughter, born July 2016. Parents are Edward James “E.J.” Waldron III '03 and Louanne Waldron of Birmingham, Alabama.

Chase David Thompson, a son, born Sept. 1, 2017. Parents are Ryan David Thompson '05, '09 and Kate St. Clair Thompson '05 of Homewood, Alabama. He joins older brothers Phipps, Oliver and Webb. **5**

Bennett Wayne Bunger, a son, born March 19, 2018. Parents are Kristen Williams Bunger '06 and Keith Bunger of Peoria, Arizona.

Ivy Noelle Burrow, a daughter, born Oct. 8, 2017. Parents are Andrew Burrow '06 and Holly Morgan Burrow '07 of Birmingham, Alabama. **6**

Barrett Greer Frazier, a son, born Jan. 8, 2018. Parents are Lindsay Greer Frazier '07, '09 and Jonathan Frazier '08 of Knoxville, Tennessee. He joins older sister Lucy Ann. **7**

Walker Lee Johnston, a son, born May 10, 2017. Parents are Emily Blythe Johnston '07 and Donald Johnston of Paducah, Kentucky. He joins two older brothers. **8**

Finn Thomas Marshall, a son, born Feb. 7, 2018. Parents are Casey Marshall '07 and Ashley Adams Marshall '08 of Nashville, Tennessee. He joins older sisters Olivia and Norah. **9**

Miller Douglas Mathews, a son, born April 7, 2018. Parents are Taylor Smith Mathews '07 and Jason Mathews of Brownsburg, Indiana. **10**

Triplets James, Emma and Madelyn Mills born May 11, 2018. Parents are Daniel Mills '07 and Katie Aldridge Mills '08 of Lorton, Virginia. They join older brother Nate. **11**

Campbell Elise McNew, a daughter, born April 12, 2018. Parents are D.R. McNew '07 and Danelle Harris McNew '07 of Columbus, Georgia. **12**

Dawsyn Paige Elam, a daughter, born March 24, 2018. Parents are Brett Elam '08 and Daron Dominguez Elam '11 of Smyrna, Georgia. She joins older sister McKinley Rhodes. **13**

John Ober, a son, born April 28, 2018. Parents are Meryl "Sunny" Thomson Ober '08 and Tom Ober of Hudson, New Hampshire.

Adalyn Mae Peters, a daughter, born May 23, 2018. Parents are Jennifer Burgess Peters '08 and Brandon Peters of Trussville, Alabama. **14**

Lydia Elizabeth Tanner, a daughter, born June 5, 2018. Parents are Molly Michaud Tanner '08 and Greg Tanner of Sandy Springs, Georgia. **15**

Elizabeth "Liza" Caroline Catalani, a daughter, born Jan. 23, 2018. Emily Cargile Catalani '09 and Travis Catalani of San Antonio, Texas. **16**

John "Johnny" Thomas Davis, a son, born April 6, 2018. Parents are J. Drew Davis '09 and Hannah Davis of Raleigh, North Carolina. He joins older sibling Reece.

Watson Gregory Morris, a son, born July 26, 2018. Parents are Lauren McCaslin Morris '09 and Colby Morris of Spartanburg, South Carolina. He joins two older sisters. **17**

Emerson Ruth Schlup, a daughter, born March 20, 2018. Parents are Mickelle Schroeder Schlup '09 and Luke Schlup of Woodstock, Georgia. **18**

Seth Thomas Bohannon, a son, born April 22, 2018. Parents are Farah Shackelford Bohannon '10 and David Bohannon of Buford, Georgia. He joins his older sibling. **19**

Eloise Mae Carmouche, a daughter, born Jan. 18, 2018. Parents are Mallory Lamons Carmouche '10 and Chris Carmouche of Cummings, Georgia. **20**

Caleb James Glasgow, a son, born Feb. 12, 2018. Parents are Traci "Tai" Butler Glasgow '10 and James Glasgow of Haleyville, Alabama. He joins older sister Lily Grace. **21**

Brooks William Hill, a son, born May 11, 2018. Parents are Jason Hill '10 and Ashley Shelsby Hill '10 of Simpsonville, South Carolina. He joins his older sibling. **22**

Penelope Rose Jacobson, a daughter, born March 3, 2018. Parents are Claire Richie Jacobson '10 and David Jacobson of Northport, Alabama. **23**

Rowen Grant Smelley, a son, born July 16, 2018. Parents are Shannon Smelley '10 and Kristy Sheffield Smelley '10 of Moody, Alabama. **24**

William "Caleb" Kirkpatrick, a son, born Jan. 26, 2018. Parents are Emily Hart Kirkpatrick '11 and Nathan Kirkpatrick of The Woodlands, Texas. **25**





Benjamin Tyler Salmon, a son, born March 21, 2018. Parents are Jared Salmon '11 and Meredith Edney Salmon '12 of Hoover, Alabama. **26**



Holland Cooper Hood, a son, born March 1, 2018. Parents are Megan Beavers Hood '13 and Jonathan Hood of Moody, Alabama. **27**



Charles Patten "Charlie" Bennett, a son, born March 6, 2018. Parents are Alexis Rollins Bennett '13 and Andrew Bennett '13 of Chattanooga, Tennessee. **28**



Charles Matthew Wade, a son, born March 19, 2018. Parents are Anna Jankowski Wade '13 and Matthew Wade of Kimberly, Alabama. He joins older sister Norah Jane. **29**



Henry Keith Underwood, a son, born March 6, 2018. Parents are Zach Underwood '14 and Ally Reece Underwood '15 of Lakeland, Florida. **30**



Caleb James Kenney, a son, born April 19, 2018. Parents are Rachel Cason Kenney '15 and Jacob Kenney of Opelika, Alabama. **31**



Claire Ann Hill, a daughter, born March 25, 2018. Parents are Leigh Ann Hill '16 and Brian Hill of Creal Springs, Illinois. **32**

New Samford license plates now at the DMV in Alabama

If you have a vehicle licensed in Alabama, please consider purchasing a Samford license plate at your local DMV office. A Samford license plate purchase of \$50 equals \$48.50 in support of student scholarships. It's an easy and effective way to help current and future students.



Let us know if you support Samford in this way so we can thank you personally. Once your tag is purchased, contact Karen Templeton, director of annual giving, at ktemplet@samford.edu or 205-726-4580.

IN MEMORIAM

'41 Virginia Burleson Grantham, age 97, of Nashville, Tennessee, died May 17, 2018. She was a member of Phi Mu while at Howard College. She was very active in her community, and served as a social worker. She had been named Social Worker of the Year by the Tennessee Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. A member of the First Unitarian-Universalist Church, she led the caring committee and taught Sunday School. The church named a service award in her honor.

'42 Sarah Ceravolo Haggard, age 97, of Crossett, Arkansas, died July 4, 2018. After graduating Howard College, she received her M.A. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. She served by her husband's side as he pastored in Mississippi, Arkansas and Alabama. She taught elementary school for over 25 years. She was an author and an active member of First Baptist Church.

'44 Martha Patterson Edfeldt, age 94, of Huntsville, Alabama, died in July 2018. She was dedicated to her family and church. She worked and served at First Baptist Church in Orlando, Florida. She was active and volunteered at First Baptist Church, Huntsville. Her love and encouragement to others will be missed.

'44 Daniel B. Lowrey, age 94, of Cumming, Georgia, died June 25, 2018. After graduating from Howard College, he received his medical degree from Washington University. He started his practice in ophthalmology in Clearwater, Florida, in the 1950s.

'46 Elizabeth "Betty" McCool Gamble, age 95, of Pleasant Grove, Alabama, died March 22, 2018. She joined the U.S. Navy as a pharmacist during World War II. She was a member of Saluda Baptist Church, VFW, American Legion, WAVES and other organizations. Her late husband attended Howard College, and her son is a Samford University graduate.

'46 Eleanor Lovell Lawson, age 92, of Birmingham, Alabama, died June 13, 2018. She was a member of Alpha Delta Pi and remained an active alumna. Her home church, where she was an active member, was East Lake United Methodist Church.

'46 Sara Virginia Upshaw, age 93, of Birmingham, Alabama, died April 24, 2018. She taught with the Sylacauga City School System and was a member of McEwain Baptist Church.

'48 Sara Elizabeth Hollingshead Maxwell, age 91, of Horse Shoe, South Carolina, died April 19, 2018. She taught science at Dent Middle School and was a member of the South Carolina Association Naturalists and a docent at the South Carolina State Museum. She was a member of Forest Lake Presbyterian Church.

'49 Howard H. Golden, age 93, of Montgomery, Alabama, died March 5, 2018. He served in the U.S. Navy before obtaining degrees from Howard College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served for over 40 years different churches in Alabama, and on committees for the Alabama Baptist State Convention. He taught in the Samford Extension Program, now the Ministry Training Institute, for almost 60 years and was honored for his tenure with the program.

'50 Hoffman Harless, age 90, of Nashville, Tennessee, died April 20, 2018. His career in insurance spanned over 31 years, and he was an active supporter of Samford University.

'50 Sam D. Kennedy, age 91, of Columbia, Tennessee, died May 1, 2018. He entered the private practice of law, subsequently becoming the area's youngest general sessions judge and attorney general. He later entered the newspaper world, eventually becoming a nationally recognized champion of open government and a free press. He served as chairman of the Tennessee Press Association's Government Affairs Committee for more than 30 years and built strong relationships with governors and state legislators.

'50 James E. Moody, age 90, of Hartselle, Alabama, died June 27, 2018. After his service with the U.S. Navy in World War II, he graduated from Howard College, then graduated from the University of Alabama School of Medicine. He was a physician in Hartselle for a number of years, then moved to Addison and practiced there until his retirement.

'50 James B. Pratt, age 92, of Birmingham, Alabama, died May 12, 2018. A member of Sigma Nu and several athletic clubs, he was a veteran of World War II. He worked in sales and was a member of the SEC Football Officials Association.

'51 William H. "Bill" Bancroft, age 88, of Birmingham, Alabama, died July 20, 2018. A veteran of the Korean War, he spent most of his career in medical research.

'51 Bernard N. Holley, age 91, of Leeds, Alabama, died July 30, 2018. After serving in World War II, he attended and played basketball for Howard College. He was an avid sports fan and worked in sales. He was a member of Liberty Park Baptist Church.

'51 Barbara Douglas "Bobbie" Vandiver, age 89, of Monrovia, Alabama, died May 3, 2018. She taught over 40 years in Madison, Alabama, and was a member of Mount Zion Baptist Church.

'52 James W. "Doc" Hellams Sr., age 87, of Pendleton, South Carolina, died June 29, 2018. He practiced medicine for over 50 years, and was on his fifth generation of patients. Pendleton declared Sept. 7, 2010 as "Doc Hellams Day" in recognition of his service to the town as physician, community service and civic leadership. He was a member of Pendleton United Methodist Church.

'53 Celia Murphree Anderson, age 87, of Village Springs, Alabama, died July 4, 2018. While at Howard College, she was a cheerleader and on the women's tennis team. She taught in the Birmingham city schools and was a member of St. John's United Methodist Church.

'54 J.B. Brand Jr., age 90, of Tarrant, Alabama, died May 25, 2018. He was a civic leader at city and state levels, a member of Central Baptist Church, and served on many boards, including being the EVP for the Business Council of Alabama, of which he cofounded.

'56 Carl Warmath Chambers Jr., age 88, of Birmingham, Alabama, died June 21, 2018. A graduate of Southeastern Bible College and Samford University, Carl served as a bivocational minister of music for numerous churches in the Birmingham area for 35 years. He also taught Bible classes for over 30 years. He was a current member of Lakeside Baptist Church and a former member of Green Valley Baptist Church.

'56 Emogene "Jean" Hatton, age 87, of Fayetteville, Georgia, died June 11, 2018. She was a nurse for over 25 years. She leaves behind her loving family.

'56 Charles Theo Kerby, age 88, of Newton, Alabama, died April 11, 2018. After graduating from Howard College, he attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and served churches in Florida, Louisiana and Alabama. He also was an instructor in ethics and world religion with the Alabama Aviation

and Technical College in Ozark.

'58 Frank Jones, age 85, of Mobile, Alabama, died May 22, 2018. He served in the U.S. Air Force, and worked in insurance for over 35 years. He was a deacon, a Sunday School teacher and a greeter in his church.

'58 James L. "Jimmie" Ott, age 82, of Morton, Mississippi, died in April 2018. He was the proprietor at Ott's Drug Store for over 45 years and was very involved in the community. He dedicated endless hours to seeing Morton grow and advance. He was a member of First Baptist Church, Morton.

'59 Martha Lee Dickson, age 82, of Pace, Florida, died May 25, 2018. She was a member of First Baptist Church Pensacola, where she taught and was the librarian. She also was the Gordon, Alabama, historian and author.

'59 James W. "Jimmy" Keenum, age 85, of Birmingham, Alabama, died May 26, 2018. At Howard, he was on the track team, lettered and was initiated into the old "H" Athletic Club. He was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha social fraternity and Alpha Kappa Psi professional fraternity. He served a tour in the U.S. Navy Air. He started his own accounting practice.

'59 Harold L. Street, age 84, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, died June 23, 2018. After his service in the U.S. Navy, he graduated from Howard College and began a career in insurance. He taught Sunday School and was generous with time, talent and financial support of missions and his home church, Crabapple First Baptist.

'60 Theodore R. "Ted" Booher, age 84, of Johnson City, Tennessee, died May 17, 2018. He served during the Korean War and was a chemistry professor at the former Daytona Beach Community College.

'60 Keith Bryant Jr., age 88, of Birmingham, Alabama, died July 30, 2018. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Alabama and was chair of the Department of Accounting at UAB, retiring as the associate dean of the School of Business and Graduate School of Management.

'61 Robert E. "Bob" Gill Jr., age 81, of Cropwell, Alabama, died in May 2018. He went from being a chemist to sales, traveling and living with his family across the country. He attended Cropwell Baptist Church.

'61 Susan Como Riddle, of Huntsville, Alabama, died in June 2018. She taught school and then retired from United Space Alliance as a material engineer. She had many artistic talents

and was a member of the Church of the Nativity for over 40 years, where she taught Sunday School and served on the vestry.

'62, '70 Robert Thomas Brooks Sr., age 79, of Birmingham, Alabama, died June 24, 2018. He was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha while at Howard College, and Phi Delta Phi while at Cumberland School of Law. He practiced law for over 40 years. He was a member of Pinson United Methodist Church and several orders and clubs. He enjoyed the monthly lunches with his Pike brothers.

'62 Joseph Earle Darnell, age 80, of Guntersville, Alabama, died April 25, 2018. He and his brother owned Darnell Pharmacy for over 30 years. He was a member of the National Guard, Alabama Pharmaceutical Association, and the Baptist church.

'62 Sylvia Smith Hart, age 77, of Canoe, Alabama, died May 23, 2018. She was with the *Mobile Press-Register* over 35 years as a reporter, copy editor and page designer. She received numerous certificates and plaques of appreciation for her news coverage.

'63 Sandra Malone Caine, age 76, of Gadsden, Alabama, died April 28, 2018. She taught high school English in Georgia at several schools; and was a nominee for Outstanding Educators of America. She was a member of First Baptist Church and the Altrusa Club.

'64 Thomas P. Robinson, age 84, of Birmingham, Alabama, died May 4, 2018. He was a pharmacist and served in the U.S. Army as a medic. He was a member of Cathedral Church of the Advent.

'66 Jay W. Anderson, age 80, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, died May 11, 2018. He was the owner of Medical Arts Pharmacy for over 43 years. He belonged to the Masons and the Shriners, and was a member of First Baptist Church of Tuscaloosa.

'66 Edward Nelson "Ed" Cox, of Hoover, Alabama, died June 5, 2018. A kind man with a love for fishing, he was a member of Bluff Park United Methodist Church.

'66 Dennis Fredrick Schmitt, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, died June 24, 2018. He served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army following his graduation from McWhorter School of Pharmacy. He owned and operated two pharmacies in Sparta, Tennessee, for 21 years; then owned a McDonald's for 13 years, and went back to pharmacy for 11 years.

'67 Eugene W. "Gene" Bluemly Jr., age 77, of Birmingham, Alabama, died May 1, 2018. While attending Howard College, he played football under Bobby Bowden. He made a career of insurance and remained active in the Samford community by serving on the planned giving board.

'68 Hon. Theodore B. "Ted" Scott, age 77, of Springfield, Missouri, died June 24, 2018. While at Cumberland School of Law, he was a member of Phi Delta Phi. He was admitted to practice before the Missouri Supreme Court, United States District Court and the United States Supreme Court. He was appointed Dallas County judge. He served as probate, magistrate and associate circuit judge. He was a presiding and circuit judge for the 30th Judicial Circuit, and then senior judge for 26th and 30th Judicial Circuit. He was an active member of several legal associations as well as holding offices.

'68 Hon. William A. Wilkes, age 78, of Gainesville, Florida, died July 20, 2018. After graduating from Cumberland School of Law, he served as the Clay County attorney. He served as Clay County judge and was then appointed to the 4th Judicial Circuit and served as circuit judge until 2010 when he retired. Wilkes served as administrative judge in Clay County from 1988 until his retirement in 2010 and served Duval County in the juvenile, civil and criminal division. He continued to serve on the bench as senior judge after his retirement until 2015. He was credited for being an integral part in making the new Clay County courthouse become a reality. He was a member of Trinity Baptist Church in Keystone Heights, founding member and past president of the Clay County Bar Association, and belonged to several bar associations.

'69 Sharon Hamner Allen, age 70, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, died June 29, 2018. She worked as an RN and nurse practitioner. She mentored, guided and supported many young nursing students, as well as giving her patients her very best.

'70 Shila Donovan Bowron, age 90, of Birmingham, Alabama, died May 25, 2018. She was extremely active in civic duties and served as an officer or on boards of many entities. She was a member and taught Sunday School at St. Mary's on the Highlands. She also taught second grade at The Cathedral Church of the Advent. She was beloved by family and friends.

'70 Tommy J. "Tojo" Smith, age 74, of Louisville, Kentucky, died May 17, 2018. After

serving in the U.S. Army as a member of the Old Guard, he graduated from Samford University, earned a master's degree at Washington University, and made his career in hospital administration for over 30 years with Baptist Health, retiring as the president and CEO of Baptist Health, Kentucky. During his tenure, he received many awards and accolades for his work and service. He was a member of Broadway Baptist Church.

'71 Merrye Jane Brown Brunson, of Statesboro, Georgia, died May 8, 2018. She was a special needs educator for over 30 years and belonged to First Baptist Church.

'71 Jay Guinn Christenberry, age 73, of Seymour, Tennessee, died April 25, 2018. He was a member of Church Street United Methodist Church. He earned his law degree from Cumberland School of Law and was recognized for his role in the Davis v. Davis case, which was decided by the Supreme Court of Tennessee and informed IVF laws across the country. Christenberry often provided pro-bono counsel to those with limited means.

'72 Jennie L. Higdon, age 78, of McCalla, Alabama, died March 7, 2018. She retired from Brookwood Hospital with over 35 years of service, and was a member of The Baptist Church at McAdory.

'73 Lee R. Bullock Jr., age 83, of Birmingham, Alabama, died April 16, 2018. He received his M.B.A. from Samford University. He was a very active member of Briarwood Presbyterian Church. As the administrator of a statewide contractors self-insured workers compensation fund, he initiated the first employee drug testing program in the state of Alabama, bringing greater safety to employees and the public.

'75 Margaret Rose Eberhardt, age 78, of Alabaster, Alabama, died June 13, 2018. She was beloved by family and friends and will be missed.

'76 John R. Hefferan Jr., age 74, of Orlando, Florida, died April 28, 2018. Serving in the U.S. Army before attending Cumberland School of Law, he practiced law for over 40 years. He was passionate about helping others.

'76 James Edmund Odum Jr., of Birmingham, Alabama, died April, 2018. A well-known lawyer in Birmingham, he practiced law for over 40 years and will be remembered for his quick wit and sense of humor.

'78 Donna Furman Saunders, age 62, of Birmingham, Alabama, died July 2, 2018. A member of Chi Omega while at Samford

University, she was also a member of Briarwood Presbyterian Church. She was beloved by family and friends and will be missed.

'78 Hon. Sandra Hendrickson Storm, age 72, of Birmingham, Alabama, died June 4, 2018. Chosen as a Distinguished Alumna from Cumberland School of Law, Storm was appointed a Jefferson County Family Court district judge, then as the presiding circuit judge of family court until her retirement. She continued to hear cases on a part-time basis. She was an advocate of children and families.

'80 Victoria "Vicki" Tharp Casso, age 61, of San Antonio, Texas, died July 30, 2018. She taught elementary school, then worked in sales. She was dedicated to her family, beloved by many.

'80 Mary Purdy Thorpe, age 77, of Pensacola, Florida, died April 24, 2018. A devout member of St. Paul Catholic Church, she volunteered in various ministries.

'82 Timothy Alan Tcherneshoff, age 59, of Huntsville, Alabama, died April 21, 2018. After graduating, he taught physical education at Colonial Hills and Highlands Elementary schools. He worshiped at Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

'86 Jinnie Lou Lawson Truthan, age 71, of Spokane, Washington, died May 15, 2018. She was a medical case manager, rehabilitation counselor and a vocational disability expert. She volunteered in many civic capacities, such as Girl Scouts.

'87 Hon. Helen Shores Lee, age 77, of Birmingham, Alabama, died July 2, 2018. She began law practice in her father's law firm in 1988, but later joined the Shores Lee Law Firm. In 2003 she was appointed to the Tenth Judicial Circuit Court of Alabama, becoming the first African-American woman to serve in the civil division of the Circuit Court of Jefferson County. She was a member of First Congregational Church.

'88 Mark A. Goettel, age 56, of New Port Richey, Florida, died July 19, 2018. After graduating from Cumberland School of Law, he began his career with the Florida state attorney's office, then opened his own practice. He was a caring and competent trial attorney and practiced up until his passing.

'90 Roger W. Cole, age 87, of Birmingham, Alabama, died May 28, 2018. After receiving his Master of Divinity, he also received a master's degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological

Seminary. He and his wife served as Southern Baptist international missionaries in Brazil and Mexico for over 20 years. They served the Dawson Memorial Baptist Church Hispanic ministry. He also taught and interpreted English and Spanish.

'91 Howard E. Scott Jr., age 75, of Gardendale, Alabama, died in May 2018. After his retirement from business, he worked at Gardendale Elementary School. He was a member of Gardendale First Baptist Church.

'93 Vona Keeling-Davis, age 51, of Memphis, Tennessee, died April 23, 2018. She obtained her RN from Ida Moffett School of Nursing and was fully committed to career in medicine. She will be remembered as a true patient advocate.

'96 Kendra Sawyer Haddock, age 45, of Birmingham, Alabama, died June 20, 2018. A Teacher of the Year in 2017 for Mountain Brook School System, she also established an Excellence in Learning Center for the Mountain Brook Board of Education. While at Samford, she was able to study abroad at the London Center. She was a member of Lakeside Baptist Church.

'98 James M. "Mick" Keel, age 49, of Birmingham, Alabama, died June 28, 2018. He graduated magna cum laude from Cumberland School of Law, practicing in the Birmingham area.

'98 Benjamin H. Maynard, age 42, of Orlando, Florida, died July 2, 2018. A member of Sigma Chi, he was an avid sports fan and dedicated family man. He was beloved by family and friends and will be missed.

'11 Justin Kyle Lett, age 28, of Birmingham, Alabama, died May 13, 2018. He loved his work in sales, his family, friends and church. He was beloved by his family and friends, and will be missed.

'16 Elois Lemon Ewart, age 92, of Lake Norman, North Carolina, died June 6, 2018. At Howard College she excelled in math and planned on a teaching career when, due to World War II, she had to suspend her college education in 1946. She became a bookkeeper for Piper's Ice Cream Company. In May 2016, she completed her ultimate dream, thanks to her daughter; she completed her final credit hours to earn her college degree from Samford University. She was awarded an honorary scholarship and was generously recognized as the oldest graduate of Samford University at age 90.

FORMER FACULTY

'60 Max Dillon Gartman, age 80, of Florence, Alabama, died July 17, 2018. After graduating from Howard College, he received his Ph.D. in romance languages from the University of Alabama. He served as a foreign language professor for Samford University and other institutions of higher learning. He was also a championship tennis coach for the men's varsity team at Samford University. As head of international educational travel, he took thousands of students to Europe over the course of his distinguished teaching career. He served as the minister of music for the following churches in Alabama: Hopewell Baptist Church, Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, Boyles Baptist Church, Raleigh Avenue Baptist Church, Woodmont Baptist Church, First Baptist Church of Jasper, and Greenhill First Baptist Church.

Bruce W. Atkinson, age 64, of Hoover, Alabama, died Jan. 24, 2018. He attended schools in California, completing a Ph.D. in mathematics at the University of California San Diego. He completed 40 years dedicated to researching and teaching mathematics at four different universities culminating in 20 years of dedicated service to his beloved math department at Samford University.

Norman "Norm" Barga, age 77, of Kennard, Indiana, died Jan. 2, 2018. He taught ROTC at Samford University and retired from the United States Postal Service.

Fred N. Hendon Jr., age 82, of Birmingham, Alabama, died in July 2018. Receiving his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Alabama, he joined the U.S. Army and was stationed in Germany. He returned to Birmingham and started teaching at Samford University for the next 40 years. At his retirement, the governor of Alabama gave him commendation for his distinguished service to the teaching profession. He and his wife travelled extensively after retirement and enjoyed spending time with family.

James Earl Massey, age 88, of Detroit, Michigan, died June 24, 2018. He was one of the most-loved and well-respected ministers across all regions and cultures in the Church of God. He proclaimed Christ from the pulpit, from behind the radio microphone and in the classroom. He served as senior pastor of Metropolitan Church of God in Detroit, Michigan, CBH speaker and dean of the Anderson School of Theology. The author of eighteen books also gave editorial leadership

to the widely circulated, cross-denominational magazine, *Christianity Today*. Known for his excellent sermons, this "prince of preachers" preached or lectured at countless camp meetings and conventions, more than a hundred institutions of higher education, and on four continents. Approachable and authentic, Massey was available to students, emerging leaders and budding preachers. His counsel and character set an example for everyone to follow.

Robert McLean, age 72, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Jan. 14, 2018. He taught at Cumberland School of Law, then went on to become an assistant U.S. attorney and served as the chief of the criminal division.

Alfred J. Sciarrino, age 71, of Geneseo, New York, died Jan. 19, 2018. He authored several books and taught at Cumberland School of Law. He was both a practicing attorney and professor of law.

Clement Clay "Bo" Torbert Jr., age 88, of Opelika, Alabama, died June 2, 2018. He practiced law in Opelika. He was elected to represent Lee County in the state legislature. He was elected to the U.S. Senate, and after two terms was elected chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, serving another two terms. During his tenure as chief justice, he was active in national and international judicial organizations, serving as president of the Conference of Chief Justices, chairman of the National Center for State Courts, and chairman of the State Justice Institute. In 1979, he was elected to the Alabama Academy of Honor. After leaving the court, he taught at both the University of Alabama School of Law and Cumberland School of Law.

FORMER STAFF

Lloyd Dewitt Bockstruck, age 73, of Dallas, Texas, died May 27, 2018. His educational and literary contributions to the genealogical community include 11 books and 39 years on the faculty of the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford University.

Donna J. Hedger, age 85, of Birmingham, Alabama, died July 15, 2018. She was a member of Independent Presbyterian Church and was loved by all who knew her.

Dan Lunsford Hendley, age 80, of Birmingham, Alabama, died May 11, 2018. He was president of AmSouth Bank, then served as Samford University's vice president of business affairs. He was a trustee for many

years. He was very active in civic duties and was a member of Mountain Brook Baptist Church.

Evelyn Jeanette Rader, age 82, of Helena, Alabama, died May 14, 2018. She retired from Cumberland School of Law as the director of career services.

Katherine Boyd Randol, age 85, of Birmingham, Alabama, died July 17, 2018. She began work at Samford at Cumberland School of Law, also serving as executive administrative assistant to President Leslie S. Wright and retired as the executive administrative assistant to President Thomas E. Corts. She was a member of Vine Street Presbyterian Church and Southminster Presbyterian.

FRIENDS

John Park Mims, of Tuscumbia, Alabama, died April 4, 2018. He was in the Naval Air Corp as a pilot during World War II. He treated patients for almost 40 years and was the Deshler High School team doctor in his retirement. A longtime deacon with First Baptist Church of Tuscumbia, he also served on Samford University's board of trustees.

Alfred Palmer Sr., age 90, of Hartselle, Alabama, died April 20, 2018. He served churches in Georgia and Alabama for over 74 years, and was a faithful member of New Center Baptist Church. In 2001, he was selected as Samford University's Preacher of the Year. He also taught in the Howard Extension of Samford.

Joyce Embry Teel, of Mountain Brook, Alabama, died in Feb. 2018. She was a member of Mountain Brook Baptist Church, charter member of the Canterbury Club and belonged to the Samford University Auxiliary.

Sue Smith Vance, age 76, of Eutaw, Alabama, died March 22, 2018. She was responsible for starting the Katherine Victoria "Kavi" Vance Pharmacy Scholarship in honor of her daughter at McWhorter School of Pharmacy.

TRIBUTES

Samford University expresses gratitude for these gifts in honor or memory of friends, classmates and others that were received April 1–July 31, 2018. For more information, call the Samford University Gift Office at 205-726-2807.

HONORARIUMS

Abe Berkowitz Endowed Scholarship (Law)

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in honor of Mr. Will Tumlin

Mr. Mickey Tumlin, Birmingham

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Samford students Rick Charles, left, and
Trent Taylor, right, help freshmen on Move-in Day.