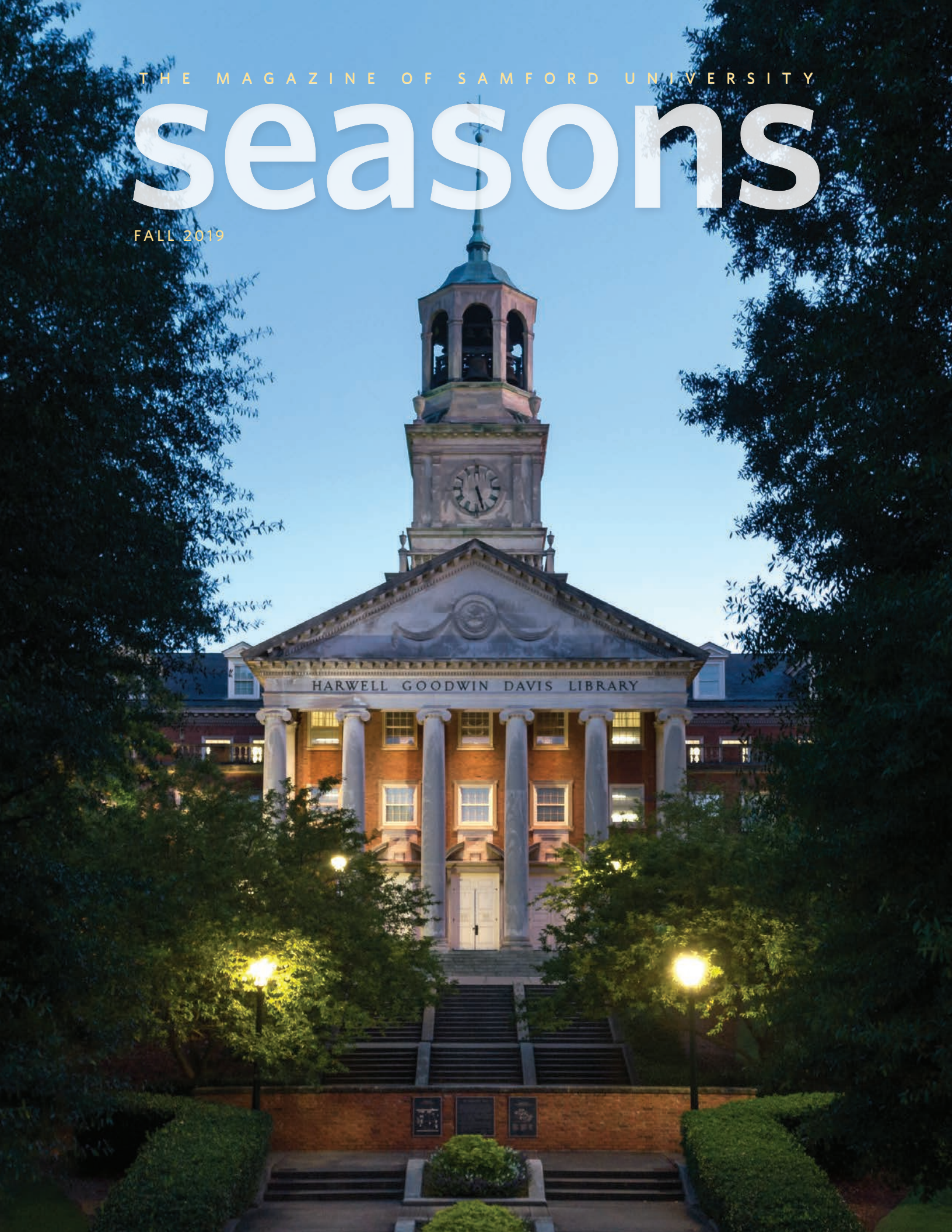


THE MAGAZINE OF SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

seasons

FALL 2019



Contents



Samford Among Best in the U.S.

Samford's growing national reputation continues to be affirmed by rankings from *The Wall Street Journal*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* and *Forbes*.



Honoring Outstanding Alumni

Samford will honor four outstanding alumni during Homecoming Nov. 8-9. Honorees are John Floyd, Alumnus of the Year; Randall Woodfin, Outstanding Young Alumnus of the Year; Jewel Littleton-Williams (above), Outstanding Young Alumna of the Year; and Meredith Toering, Humanitarian of the Year.



Campus Master Plan Update

Summer was a busy season for renovation and renewal. More than 40 projects were completed this summer including a \$20 million renewal of Beeson University Center and extensive improvements at Daniel House in London.

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We'd love to hear your feedback on *Seasons* magazine! Email us at seasons@samford.edu.

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Students kicked off Welcome Back Week events at the Your School, Your City concert with country artist Hunter Hayes.



From the President



Testimony Gripping and Personal

Within a host of variables in the world of higher education today, Samford's Christian mission is a constant, providing a foundation for the "forever" portion of our university motto. A decade ago, we invited our faculty and staff to join together for worship and prayer at the beginning of the fall semester. This service has become a meaningful tradition as a time to express and recommit ourselves to our vocation as members of a nurturing community of learning and faith.

This fall, Jeremy Towns, from the Samford Class of 2013, took time from his pressing schedule in the final year of medical school to return to campus as the speaker for this service. Jeremy came to Samford as a bright student on a football scholarship. With inspiration and guidance from great teachers, he became an even better student and graduated magna cum laude. He also found Pat Sullivan to be a great coach and mentor. After graduation, Jeremy deferred medical school to play for three National Football League teams—Washington, Buffalo and Philadelphia.

In addition to meeting outstanding teachers and coaches as a student at Samford, Jeremy had a life-changing encounter through the witness of his friend, Jamael Lett, to become a joyful and enthusiastic Christian. From his experience, Jeremy started a student-led campus ministry called R.A.N.S.O.M. that has now expanded to be active on eight other campuses.

That morning in Reid Chapel his testimony to us was gripping and deeply personal. Each of us realized the deep value and responsibility we have as teachers and administrators. Jeremy reminded us that "Christ is sending all of us on a mission trip—24 hours a day, seven days a week."

We closed the service by praying for each new student and each employee—by name, according to cards distributed as employees arrived in the chapel. It has become one of my most cherished traditions to keep my card near my desk for the subsequent year, where I remember several times each day the importance of our singular calling.

As always, please keep Samford in your prayers.

Andrew Westmoreland
President

National Publications Rank

Samford Among the Best Universities in the U.S.

by Sarah Cain

Samford's growing national reputation continues to be affirmed by rankings from *The Wall Street Journal*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* and *Forbes*.

Samford continues to climb in numerous national higher education rankings, highlighting Samford's continued commitment to academic rigor, student success and value.

The Wall Street Journal ranked Samford third nationally in student engagement, up nine places since last year's ranking. The student engagement ranking considers how well institutions challenge and inspire their students both inside and outside the classroom, as well as the breadth of courses available. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, student engagement is central to exceptional teaching quality and entails education of the entire student—body, mind and soul. Samford also advanced 33 places to earn 170th overall among 801 institutions in the national ranking, and first among all schools in Alabama, a position held every year since the rankings' inception in 2016.

U.S. News & World Report ranked Samford 40th nationally for best undergraduate teaching among all national universities in the United States. Samford is the only Alabama university included in that list. The rankings for undergraduate teaching focus on universities that place an emphasis on teaching undergraduate students in a high-quality manner. Samford also ranked first in Alabama and 100th in the nation in the publication's listing of best value schools. According to *U.S. News & World Report*, value is determined through a thorough assessment of academic quality and the net cost of attendance for a student receiving the average level of need-based financial aid. *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Colleges

list ranks Samford 147th overall among 399 national universities, which include the country's top private and public institutions that offer a full range of undergraduate majors as well as master's and doctoral degrees.

In an evaluation of nearly 1,200 four-year institutions, *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* ranked Samford 34th among all private universities and 115th nationally among all public, private and liberal arts colleges and universities in the country. *Kiplinger's* also ranked Samford first in Alabama, ahead of all other private and public institutions in the state.

In the 2019 higher education ranking published by *Forbes*, Samford moved up 32 spots to 169th among all private and public colleges and universities in the country.

Cumulatively, these rankings affirm Samford's growing national reputation as one of the leading Christian universities in the United States today. Considering there are approximately 4,300 degree-granting postsecondary institutions recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, these rankings place Samford within the top 4% of colleges and universities in the country.

"We are pleased that Samford continues to be recognized for the quality and value of our academic programs," said Samford President Andrew Westmoreland. "While national rankings are just one measure of our progress, they provide a source of pride for Samford students, employees and alumni who celebrate the growing national reputation of their university." ■



Homecoming Alumni Events

Nov. 8-9, 2019

Friday, Nov. 8

Dwight and Lucille Beeson Alumni Center Reception

5 p.m., Dwight and Lucille Beeson Alumni Center

Visit the renovated Dwight and Lucille Beeson Alumni Center, including The Rotunda Club. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and fellowship as you experience this space now available for alumni and guests.

Samford Family Homecoming Dinner

5 p.m., Bashinsky Field House

Join fellow alumni and their families for a Samford family Homecoming dinner. This casual, child-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, which will take place in Seibert Gymnasium beginning at 7:15 p.m. **For more information, go to samford.edu/alumni/homecoming.**

Samford Alumni Candlelight Dinner and Awards Program, The Beesons

Doors open at 6 p.m., Dinner begins at 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. We will also honor this year's *Alumnus of the Year*, *Outstanding Young Alumni of the Year* and *Humanitarian of the Year*. There will be many exciting elements of this event that you don't want to miss! **To register, go to candlelightdinnerandawards2019.eventbrite.com.**

See pages 5-8 for Alumni of the Year features.

Saturday, Nov. 9

Golden Bulldog Brunch

10 a.m., Seibert Gymnasium

Registration: goldenbulldog2019.eventbrite.com

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: sbaatailgate2019.eventbrite.com

Class of 2009 Reunion Tailgate

11 a.m., Quad

Registration: 2009reuniontailgate.eventbrite.com

Class of 1994 Reunion Tailgate

11 a.m., Quad

Registration: 1994reuniontailgate.eventbrite.com

Class of 1969 Reunion Reception

12 p.m., The Rotunda Club

Registration: 1969reunionreception.eventbrite.com

Samford vs. Chattanooga Football Game

2 p.m., Seibert Stadium

samfordsports.com

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

Alumni of the Year stories

by William Nunnolley

Alumnus of the Year

John Floyd

Alumnus of the Year John Floyd has forged a distinguished career as an attorney with Vulcan Materials Company, the nation's largest producer of construction aggregates such as crushed stone, sand and gravel. Floyd recently completed his 31st year with Vulcan, where he serves as a senior attorney.

He holds three degrees from Samford: a Bachelor of Science in public administration, a law degree from Cumberland School of Law and a Master of Science in Environmental Management.

Floyd began his Samford career as a music major, but after one semester, he changed fields. "I realized that music was not my vocation," he said recently. "Music still remains a passion, one that I have continued to this day at church." He and his wife, Marsha, remain connected to music and happily support Samford Arts.

Floyd has served Samford in a variety of ways, giving generously of his time and financial resources. He has been a member of the Board of Overseers and the Board of Trustees. He served the Board of Overseers as chairperson and the Board of Trustees as an executive committee member. He has also been a member of the Cumberland School of Law Advisory Board.

Floyd said his greatest highlight as a trustee was getting to work with and learn from Samford legends Harry Brock, Gerow Hodges and John Pittman—all trustees—and former president Tom Cortis. He said Brock paid him a great compliment one day at an executive committee meeting when he said, "You remind me of a young me."

Floyd said one of the most important things any trustee body can do is ensure consistent leadership. "I am proud I was on the board when we selected Andy Westmoreland as president of Samford University."

What program has particularly impressed him over the years?

"Hands down, the College of Health Sciences," said Floyd. "It is one of the many jewels of Samford University."

Floyd said he was honored to be selected Alumnus of the Year, "and knowing the long list of others who have received



John Floyd

this award, it is also overwhelming." He added, "I can never repay Samford for what it has done for me. It is truly a world-class institution that shines like the sun."

Floyd said he would be remiss if he did not shout-out to his favorite professor and adviser, retired history professor Don Wilson. "He molded me, informed me, challenged me and educated me in so many different ways."

Floyd and Marsha met at Samford on their first day in class as freshmen. They are parents of two grown sons, Harrison and Hampton—a Samford senior majoring in public administration. They are also co-chairs of the *Forever Samford* parents campaign. ▀

Outstanding Young Alumnus of the Year

Randall Woodfin

Randall Woodfin, a 2007 graduate of Samford University's Cumberland School of Law and a member of Samford's Board of Overseers, was elected the 30th mayor of his hometown, Birmingham, in 2017.

What part of his mayoral campaign did he enjoy the most?

"That's easy," Woodfin said this summer. "There was nothing more glorifying than knocking on doors and talking to senior citizens about their issues and how, as mayor, I could address those concerns."

Service has been a way of life for Woodfin. Indicative of this was his work in helping form Samford's Black Alumni Association and his service as a member of the Birmingham Board of Education. His interest in pro bono work was one reason he chose Cumberland as his law school.

"Cumberland was one of the two top schools on my list," he said. "But what pushed Cumberland to No. 1 was seeing their program and their focus on community. They have a heavy focus on giving back. In my law school application, I talked about the school's mission and how it connects to my personal mission of being a servant leader."

"I'm actually a mission-focused person. So, whatever organization I'm part of, I look at the mission. It's not just about being a lawyer in the courtroom. It's not just about prestige and recognition. It is about making your community better."

While he was a student at Cumberland, Woodfin volunteered through a nonprofit program that partnered with Jefferson County Family Court.

"We visited high schools to talk about the law. During my time with high school students, I knew that becoming a lawyer was not just about making money or name recognition. Being a lawyer was about giving back on the skills you gained so that you could help someone not necessarily able to afford your legal services."



Randall Woodfin

Providing service to citizens has characterized Woodfin's term as mayor. When he arrived, Birmingham had neighborhoods that needed help. Two years into his term, his administration has tackled blight, put money toward paving streets, worked to increase healthy food options for residents and focused on improving workforce development for the younger generation.

"We are not done," he adds. "We have a lot more work to do."

"Maybe it's not for everybody to be mayor," Woodfin said. "Maybe it's not for everybody to work at a prestigious law firm. But everybody can serve. When you leave Cumberland, you walk away with a servant's heart and a desire to keep giving back to the community."

"I live that every day," he says. "It's a good feeling." ■

Outstanding Young Alumna of the Year

Jewel Littleton-Williams

Jewel Littleton-Williams knows the value of a Samford scholarship. The only way she could live on campus as an undergraduate was with the aid of a minority scholarship from Orlean Beeson School of Education that assisted her with tuition, room and board. That's one reason she has worked over the years to support such benefits.

"I began the Reverend John T. Porter Minority Scholarship while an undergraduate at Samford because I wanted other minorities to consider attending Samford," she said. She worked with then-president Thomas Corts to establish what became the Porter Scholarship.

Littleton-Williams "nickel and dimed" her way to raise the first \$15,000 to endow the scholarship through selling candy and doughnut coupons and with donation support from her family, friends and church members. Samford faculty members helped her raise funds by donating through their paychecks regularly. Samford education school advancement officer Sheri Ransome worked with her in this effort.

Littleton-Williams has continued to support the scholarship over the years, and was elated to learn this year that it had surpassed the \$100,000 mark.

During summer 2018, the Jewel Littleton-Williams Annual and Endowed Scholarship became available for minority students interested in pursuing education. It was founded by the education school in Littleton-Williams' honor.

Littleton-Williams earned her bachelor's degree in early childhood, elementary, and special education from Samford in 2005 and her Master of Science in Education in 2010. A National Board Certified Teacher, she has taught multiple grades on the elementary level including special education, has been an assistant principal and principal, and served as a turnaround specialist at a middle school.

She also serves as president of Samford's Black Alumni Association and as a member of the school's Board of Overseers. She is chief education officer of Learning Little People, LLC, which she founded in 2013 to provide professional learning opportunities for educators.

Littleton-Williams was named director of educational



Jewel Littleton-Williams

advancement in the mayor's office of the city of Birmingham earlier this year. She acts as liaison between the city and Birmingham City Schools. She described her role as "bringing the voice of educators to the table when determining the educational policies and initiatives the city will employ on behalf of families in Birmingham."

Littleton-Williams said she was "humbled" to be named Samford Young Alumna of the Year. She said her Samford education and the Christian foundation her family instilled in her shaped her into the woman of God that she is today.

"I live my life in service to Christ by serving marginalized communities with all that I have," she said. ▀

Humanitarian of the Year

Meredith Toering

When Meredith Toering's parents adopted a young child from China with a complex coronary heart disease, their action inspired Toering to make a decision of her own.

"I decided that I wanted to make sure that children with heart defects all over the world had access to high-quality heart surgeries and medical care, just like my sister, Brooke," she said.

Her decision ultimately took her to Iraq, where she worked with the Preemptive Love Coalition, and then to Beijing City, China, for work with the Morning Star Foundation, which she serves as international director.

The Morning Star Family Home takes in orphaned and abandoned children who suffer from severe congenital and

acquired heart disease. Toering works directly with these children in need of love and care.

She graduated from Samford with a business degree magna cum laude in 2013. She says her degree gave her "a very special global perspective" of the world.

"Taking NGO/social entrepreneurship specific courses with Dr. [Jeremy] Thornton was instrumental to my understanding of how my business degree could be uniquely used in the nonprofit industry," she said.

Following graduation, Toering worked at the International Justice Mission in Washington, D.C., as a donor relations intern and a development coordinator.

She has been with Morning Star for five years. She says the healing home is at a stable capacity and is now working with "an ever-expanding network of hospitals and orphanages across China, providing more training, more resources and more surgeries for families and children born with coronary heart disease."

Toering said she was "honored and excited" to be named Humanitarian of the Year. She added she was grateful not just for the four years she spent at Samford but also for "the continued vested interest the faculty and staff have had in my life over the last several years." She added that she was also grateful "for the classes I took that pushed me and grew me, and for the relationships formed that have made me who I am today." ▀



Meredith Toering

Photo: Erica Trier Baker



Experience the Arts at Samford

Chanticleer

Davis Architects Guest Artist Series

Co-presented with the Birmingham Chamber Music Society

Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall

Sylvia

Michael J. and Mary Anne Freeman Theatre and Dance Series

Oct. 24-27, Bolding Studio

Christopher Houlihan, Guest, Organ

Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m., Reid Chapel

Tonight at the Wright Movie Night:

Hocus Pocus

Oct. 29, 6:30 p.m., Wright Center

1776, the musical

Michael J. and Mary Anne Freeman Theatre and Dance Series

Nov. 21-24, Harrison Theatre

Christmas with Samford Arts

Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m., Wright Center

Tonight at the Wright Movie Night:

Karate Kid

Jan. 16, 6:30 p.m., Wright Center

Pete Schulte

Jan. 21-March 6, Art Gallery

Gabriela Montero, Pianist

Davis Architects Guest Artist Series

Co-presented with the Birmingham Chamber Music Society

Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall

Melissa Manchester

Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall

Annual Dance Concert

Michael J. and Mary Anne Freeman Theatre and Dance Series

Feb. 21-23, Harrison Theatre

Samford String Quartet

Endowed by the Wilton H. Bunch Family

Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall

Shakespeare's As You Like It

Michael J. and Mary Anne Freeman Theatre and Dance Series

March 19-22, Harrison Theatre

Invoke

Davis Architects Guest Artist Series

Co-presented with the Birmingham Chamber Music Society

March 24, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall

Destination Motown Sensational Soul Cruisers

March 26, 7 p.m., Wright Center

Tonight at the Wright Movie Night:

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them

April 2, 6:30 p.m.

Into the Woods

Dr. Chandler and Jane Paris Smith Opera Series

April 23-26

Check our event calendar
for a full listing of events.

samford.edu/arts/events



Alumnus Matt Scales Helps Historic Plane Return for **D-DAY** Anniversary

by William Nunnelley

Matt Scales '07 credits Samford faculty in his work to return a historic plane for D-Day anniversary. When Allied nations celebrated the 75th anniversary of D-Day June 6, a C-47 aircraft that led the actual invasion flew high over Normandy beaches once again. The plane nicknamed *That's All, Brother* had been the lead aircraft carrying U.S. paratroopers to start the World War II Normandy invasion in 1944.

Thousands of C-47s were built in the 1940s, but very few are flying today. *That's All, Brother* continues in the air largely due to the efforts of Scales, a member of the U.S. Air Force Reserve who conducted a years-long search to

track down the historic plane. The craft had been sold to a succession of private owners after the war.

"I never set out to look for an airplane," Scales said. Instead, as an Air Force historian, he was researching the

life of the pilot who flew the plane in the D-Day invasion, John Donalson. "It was while researching his life that I found the airplane's Army Air Force tail number which, after some research, led me to the aircraft in Arizona. It was almost ten years later that it was rescued and restored by the Commemorative Air Force of San Marcos, Texas.

"That tail number was the key to locating the aircraft," Scales said. He and a fellow Air Force historian, Ken Tilley, found the number in a June 1944 history of the unit that flew the plane. "We later found film footage of General Dwight Eisenhower visiting the crew and paratroopers in front of the plane and it taxiing out and taking off."

Scales said knowing how to document his research and sources from his Samford days played a key role in establishing the plane's identity and role in D-Day. "People challenged my research but I was able to stand my ground because I had documented my research thoroughly," he said. "I give all the credit to my history professors at Samford for that."

One of his former professors, Ginger Frost, called Scales' project "a feat of historical detection that would make any history professor proud of her student."

Scales was able to go to the D-Day 75th anniversary celebration because his Air Force Reserve unit was one of three selected to attend the event. As a result, he saw *That's All, Brother* flying over Normandy beaches several times.



D-Day plane revisits French countryside and Pointe du Hoc.



Matt Scales, right, and his crew pose in front of the historic C-47 aircraft.

At one point, it flew near Pointe du Hoc, the famous cliff scaled by U.S. Rangers as part of the D-Day invasion. Scales said that was a “particularly poignant moment” for him.

“The plane was flying off the left wing of our C-130. I would never have imagined it would be restored back to its World War II condition and colors, that it would fly back to Europe or that I would be there to see it. To see the plane that I had spent over ten years researching and being part of the effort to save pull up on our left wing over such a hallowed place

as Pointe du Hoc was the ultimate exclamation point for the whole crazy journey.”

Scales said the ten days in Normandy were one of the highlights of his career. “The citizens of the Normandy region have not forgotten the sacrifice the Americans and our allies made for France.” He said about 170 U.S. veterans of the war were able to attend and “they were like celebrities walking around the small villages.”

Scales said the C-47 story has opened a number of possibilities, the

best part of which has been locating the family members of the crew who flew the plane and the paratroopers who jumped from it. He flew with some of them in *That’s All, Brother* at last year’s famous Oshkosh (Wisconsin) Airshow.

“A second high point has been working with British film maker Nik Coleman, who has been working on a documentary film of the aircraft,” said Scales. “History Channel UK has picked up the documentary and there are hopes that History Channel US will do the same.” ▀

To Make a Difference

Andrew and Rachel Fox Smothermon are young Samford alumni who are doing their part to change the world. The Smothermons reside in Washington, D.C., where Rachel is a federal contractor for the State Department and Andrew works for Deloitte Consulting. Rachel graduated from Samford in 2016 and Andrew in 2017.

"I find the mission of the office incredibly compelling and am grateful for my chance to be a small part of the larger goal—the eradication of modern slavery," said Rachel.

Prior to her work at the State Department, Rachel worked for American Enterprise Institute, a Washington think tank, in its academic programs department and then in its domestic policy department. “It helped me get my foot in the door in D.C.,” she said, “and I appreciate the lessons I learned about how to work hard, how to work with others and how to find joy both inside and outside your work.”

During her time at Samford, Rachel was a University Fellow and Brock Scholar, the undergraduate honors program in Samford's Brock

She said it also gave her “the means and space to dream big [by] ultimately pursuing multiple study-abroad courses, participating in an internship in Rwanda, completing a rigorous quantitative thesis and engaging in small-group tutorials.”

Rachel is from Huntsville, Alabama, and Andrew from Carmel, Indiana.

“Working in D.C. has been a great first experience after graduation,” said Andrew. Rachel added that while work was the main reason they moved to Washington, “it hasn’t always been the reason why we’ve stayed.” She said that in a work-driven culture like D.C., it is easy to believe that your occupation should be the main driver of satisfaction in your life.



Andrew and Rachel Fox Smothermon



"We've quickly learned that work can't completely fulfill us, even if we're doing something we love," she said. "We still feel called to stay in this city for this season, but we are choosing to stay not only for our formal occupations, but also a variety of other reasons—for our church, our community and the opportunity to be part of a movement of changemakers in the city.

"As an undergraduate student, at times the process of finding a job in D.C. or even outside the

Southeast felt daunting and unattainable," said Rachel, "[but] I'm thankful for the professors and mentors who encouraged me and helped connect me with people who could make this dream a reality. I hope to help demystify the process for others who have similar goals.

"Washington is a great place to live—both personally and professionally," she added. "We need more Samford in D.C." ▮

A Summer of Renovation *and Renewal*

by Kimberly Brown



Summer 2019 was a busy season for renovation and renewal on Samford's campus, and implementation of the campus master plan can be seen in various stages all over campus. Approved by the Samford Board of Trustees in December 2016, this 20-year comprehensive plan outlines campus growth, renovations, sustainability, wayfinding, new build, parking and transportation, infrastructure, and deferred maintenance.



Student Commons



The Hub in the University Center

Facilities Management and Capital Planning completed nearly 40 projects across the campus this summer, some large and some small, but all significant in helping maintain quality spaces for teaching, learning and living.

Some of these projects include:

- The completion of Ralph Beeson University Center. This \$20 million renovation includes a new food court, expanded Samford Shop, student commons, post office, Harry's, Dale-Washington Courtyard, and student life and Student Affairs spaces. The renovation of Talbird Circle is expected in summer 2020.
- A newly renovated Daniel House in London. An extensive upgrade was completed over the last 18 months and all plumbing, electrical, mechanical, life safety, security, and new furnishings and fixtures were completed.
- Plumbing, electrical, carpentry, general maintenance, HVAC repairs, painting, floor wax, and deep cleaning of over 2,000 residential spaces.
- New key card access in West Campus.
- 110 new HVAC units in West Campus.
- The complete remodel of 43 bathrooms in West Campus and Beeson Woods.
- Added parking in Beeson Woods.
- The remodeling of three community baths in Vail Hall and new flooring on the second floor in Vail Hall.
- New cabinets in Malcolm Hall.
- The completion of the construction phase of the campus infrastructure improvement project with a guaranteed performance contract investing \$31 million in infrastructure upgrades that is expected to save \$51 million in energy costs over the next 20 years.
- Repair to hoods in Propst Hall, upgrades to the cadaver lab and a new roof.
- Stairs to connect Rotunda Drive to Dawson Drive.

Students enjoy the newly renovated University Center.



- ADA enhancements such as sidewalks at Sherman Circle and behind Brooks Hall.
- Complete renovation of two classrooms in Cumberland School of Law.
- Infrastructure upgrades to drainage and pipes and roads.
- New Samford football scoreboard.
- Repairs to Pete Hanna Center roof and a new fence for Samford baseball.
- New exterior campus signage, including wayfinding signage, with installation continuing into the fall semester.
- An outdoor stage in Boren Courtyard which was completed in September.
- New student recycling options will be rolled out for fall 2019. ▮

To support the *Forever Samford* places and spaces campaign, go to samford.edu/giving.



A new scoreboard was ready for the first home football game in September.

Annual McWhorter Scholarship *Has Helped More than 200*

by Kim Cripps

In the early 2000s, almost 7,000 miles away from Samford, a young girl dreamed of making a difference.

That girl was Sally Falahat. Growing up in the country of Jordan, Falahat understood the importance of a health care system that offered adequate sources of healing for its patients. "I knew from a very young age I wanted to be in the health care field when I was older. But I was not sure what that would look like for me," she recalls.

Her dream gained clarity when she came to America with her family in 2007. Here, she learned about chemistry, the human body and the importance of proper medication management. Falahat envisioned a life of advocating for patients' needs and building relationships with each one.

Simply put, she began to see her future in pharmacy.

"As a future pharmacist, I want my patients' family members and friends to see me as a person they can trust their loved ones' lives with . . . I also want to be a source of hope, joy and light for people. I want them to see they are not just a number to me, but rather a precious and worthy human being made in the image of our Almighty God," shared Falahat.

Today, Falahat finds herself as a third-year Doctor of Pharmacy student in Samford's McWhorter School of Pharmacy. Her education is positively impacted by the McWhorter School of

Pharmacy annual scholarship. Since the scholarship's inception nearly a decade ago, alumni and friends have come together to help make pharmacy school possible for more than 200 students.

Falahat is only one of many students across all ten of the university's schools who have benefited from the generosity of scholarship donors.

"Students come to Samford from all over the world, from an almost endless variety of backgrounds and cultures," noted Randy Pittman, Samford's vice president for university advancement. "Regardless of the diversity of their respective pasts, their futures are united by the possibility of exhibiting professional excellence in service to God and others. That possibility is often fueled by scholarships provided by gifts from generous members of the Samford family."

Yes, through contributions our donors are providing an education. But, they are also making it possible for Samford students to make a difference in the lives of others. Falahat's scholarship has helped her pursue a desire to be a pharmacist "who is caring, trustworthy, humble and passionate." And the world is better for it. ▀

Sally Falahat



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The Samford Parent Community's Dedication

by Karen Templeton

"He wanted me to graduate from Samford," said Chelsea Baker '19 of her father.

Every day Chelsea attended Samford University, Todd Baker looked forward to when she would walk across the stage, shake Dr. Westmoreland's hand and receive her degree in food and nutrition. But after Chelsea's junior year, Todd passed away unexpectedly leaving his family grief stricken and worried about their futures.

While Chelsea's financial situation after her father's passing became uncertain, Samford parents did not want her Samford future to be.

"Because of the strength and generosity of our parent community, Chelsea was able to graduate last spring. There has been \$350,752

donated from 789 families, and these efforts have helped five students finish their Samford degrees," said Rhonda White, *Forever Samford* campaign manager. "Every amount given to this scholarship is significant and immediately helps students who are faced with difficult circumstances."

There are many more stories just like Chelsea's and that is why Samford parents are invited to participate in this year's effort. Raising funds for this important scholarship is not possible without a strong group of parent volunteers who are willing to reach out to other parents and build enthusiasm for the effort. To learn more about



Chelsea Baker on graduation day.

volunteering, contact Rhonda White.

Growing the scholarship fund each year ensures that it is available to help students who face an unexpected financial hardship. The goal is to raise \$100,000 by December 31. Learn more and make your gift at samford.edu/give/parents19. ▶

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For more information, contact Karen Templeton at ktemplet@samford.edu or 205-726-4580.

School of the Arts Catalyst Program *Sparks Interest Nationally and Internationally*

by Ashley Smith

Over the past three years, Samford's faculty and staff have been sharing the Catalyst concept nationally and internationally. Catalyst is the new core curriculum at the heart of the School of the Arts education, preparing students with more professional skills, entrepreneurial insights and awareness of arts in society. Catalyst evolved as a response to the shifting landscape in the professional world of the arts. Faculty identified areas where long-standing curricula was not meeting the needs of its students and developed six core classes that foster competencies for the 21st-century marketplace.

School of the Arts leadership presented at numerous conferences including The International Council of Fine Arts Deans (ICFAD), National Association of Singers (NATS), Foundations in Art: Theory and Education (FATE), SECAC, National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) and twice at the International Conference on Arts in Society. Dean Joe Hopkins and professor Joe Cory, director of Catalyst, presented at the Arts in Society Conference in Lisbon, Portugal. Cory noted, "Several presentations cited Catalyst and the Samford approach following our session. Colleagues were very interested in the

execution of this idea."

According to Hopkins, "Since 2014, we have seen Catalyst evolve, and we expect it to deepen and grow as we experience it for the first time. One of the most exciting things is the creative energy and input we have received from students, faculty and our entire support community." Donors have stepped up to underwrite student experiences. Businesses are collaborating to create opportunities, and both faculty and students are contributing beyond initial expectations.

The Catalyst approach is highlighted in an upcoming book by ICFAD.

Leonardo's Children: Stories on Creativity by Fine Arts Leaders that will Blow your Mind includes a chapter, "Launching a new way to teach the arts: utilizing the 'Pixar Approach' to create curricular change at Samford University." Authored by Hopkins, Cory and Ashley Smith, the chapter focuses on Catalyst's inception and collaborative nature.

Now in its third year, Catalyst is preparing for its first senior cohort to undertake the Catalyst capstone, an immersive opportunity that combines a pregraduate thesis, an integrated externship and a vocational launch pad. Recent pilot capstone projects have shown the benefits to students of this signature piece. Interior architecture students have designed buildings in Ecuador, Dominican Republic and India. Theatre students have traveled to Indonesia and Romania as teaching artists, and music students have partnered with a local community to highlight its musical heritage. Cory explains, "No classroom experience, text or lecture could have prepared our students as did these culturally and creatively expansive projects."

Additionally, Samford's general art education requirement was revamped to mirror the Catalyst approach. Arts in Society is a team-taught course that demonstrates societal art influences, both in the present and the past with experiential learning components.

Catalyst has also prompted a new iPad learning community with the faculty, staff and students. Arts leadership has worked closely with Apple. "Being on one platform makes the classroom more mobile, reduces the investment in text books and ramps up the collaboration and creativity for all of us," says Cory. ■



School of the Arts leadership at Apple headquarters during training session for iPads as a learning tool.

Howard Helps Orphanage Volunteers

Do Long-term Good for Children

by Sean Flynt

Samford psychology professor Mandy Howard is known internationally for her expertise in supporting the best psychological outcomes for children in orphanages and foster care. Ideally, that begins with consistent and thoughtfully nurtured attachment relationships between children and caregivers. “Your model for relationships at 12 months predicts the quality of your friendships, the quality of your romantic partners and the quality of your relationships with your own kids,” Howard explained. Unfortunately, chronic shortages of long-term caregivers and a population of volunteers eager for direct, short-term contact with children sometimes combine to disrupt the attachment process.

“What we find is that children who are outside of parental care begin to establish that attachment relationship within days or weeks of being with somebody, and when that person leaves it severs it,” Howard said. Typically, a succession of other volunteers arrive, build relationships and leave. “That can affect the ability of that child to attach to someone long-term,” Howard said. “So, when they do go to a permanent home, because of all these severed attachment relationships it’s going to be harder for them to develop a specific caregiving relationship with the person who’s supposed to be their person forever.” The disruption, then, becomes part of a larger cycle of problems. “Without intervention, that trajectory is pretty solid,” she said.

To illustrate the concern, Howard cited the example of an orphanage volunteer who was asked to get a new baby on the same schedule as the other babies in the facility. The volunteer did that perfectly, and when she left after three weeks the baby in her care, who had grown to associate her with meeting all its needs, was disrupted for another three months and disrupted all the other babies as a result. It was a turning point for that organization, Howard said, and led its leaders to reconsider the way they use volunteers.

Howard said that although there is room for improvement in this country, the problem is more easily seen in international settings, where orphanages might not have legal barriers to short-term, direct contact between children and volunteers. It’s understandable that volunteers want that contact, she said, but the better approach is for volunteers to take on all the work that would otherwise take primary, long-term caregivers away from the vitally important work of supporting healthy attachment relationships. Volunteers can find as much fulfillment, and do more good for children, by doing laundry, cooking and cleaning, she said.


Howard observed that supporting local caregivers in this way also helps create healthy communities beyond the orphanage. Not all children in orphanages are orphans, she said. Some are sent to orphanages by parents who see resources there that aren’t available to children who remain with their families. “For a long-term solution, from an economic perspective, we should be throwing our resources into keeping those families together in the first place,” Howard said.

As clear and important as the scientific research on attachment is, Howard acknowledged that its implied



Mandy Howard

and explicit warnings can alienate volunteer-minded people and create a dangerous gap between scholarship and practice. To close that gap, she and colleagues at California Baptist University and the Christian Alliance for Orphans are combining scholarship and firsthand experience to create a free online curriculum to help caregiving organizations, churches and individual volunteers do the best possible work to support children.

“Very few people go into helping professions without a lot of compassion and without a heart and soul for working with these individuals who are vulnerable and who have this history of trauma,” Howard said. The curriculum, expected to launch in May 2020, builds on that foundation of faith and desire to help by providing the knowledge and tools required to do it well. 

Summer Course Explores Global Contexts for Business in London

by Emily Knight

The city of London became the classroom for ten students this summer as they forged connections with British firms and businesses during a five-week course taught by Barbara Cartledge, senior assistant dean of academic programs for Brock School of Business.

Cartledge developed the course, Strategic Decision-making in U.K. Organizations, to be a unique opportunity for students to explore topics like effective leadership, marketing and communication, project and operations management, and mergers and acquisitions in an international context. She

hoped that through exposure to a variety of business types in London, students would recognize distinctions between practices in the U.S. and the U.K.

As she prepared for the course, Cartledge paid close attention to the spiritual development students might experience on the trip. She chose Colossians 3:12-14 as a guiding verse and prayed that students would grow in humility and compassion through the class. "The Lord truly honored this verse within the construct and interaction of the class, and I would love to give God the glory," she said.

Students spoke with professionals from leading institutions in the city like Miller Insurance, Lloyd's of London and Natixis Bank. Also on the agenda were meetings at Lord's Cricket Ground to learn about British sports marketing, with the architect who oversaw Daniel House renovations to understand construction challenges in London and at an entrepreneurial endeavor for student apartment rentals.

Students also met with executives from Luminary Bakery, a social enterprise in East London that offers skills training, paid employment and a supportive community for women experiencing homelessness, poverty, violence and criminal activity. Samford has a long-standing connection with the enterprise, with many students placed there for internships during the Samford in London semester abroad program, and Brock School of Business alumna Liz Simmons '06 who served as director of Luminary until 2017.

Cartledge noted that these types of sustained partnerships for the university in an international setting are assets that will continue to benefit students for a long time.

"Our students were able to sit around a table with executives and engage personally with professionals in a wide variety of areas," said Cartledge. "They made connections that can springboard them individually into international business in the future. That kind of opportunity will only continue to grow through future trips."

As junior economics and finance major Cassidy Goble looks forward to her future, Cartledge's course has made her confident she could excel in an international business context.

"It's my goal to live and work in London. This trip showed me that it might be initially uncomfortable to adjust to a different culture of doing business, but ultimately I can feel at home and respect the differences between us." ▀



Students in the Strategic Decision-making in U.K. Organizations course met with leading organizations across London.

Timothy George's Legacy Continues through Fully Endowed Scholarship in His Name

by Kristen Padilla

On June 30, 2019, Beeson Divinity School's founding dean Timothy George locked the door to the office he had designed for the last time as he wrapped up 31 years of service as dean. In contrast to yearlong festivities paying tribute to George, on that hot summer day he left his Samford University office quietly and unobserved.

George will return as a research professor next academic year after a well-earned yearlong sabbatical. But the school has one final tribute that will ensure George's legacy at Beeson Divinity School long after he is gone.

Thanks to the generous gifts of alumni, colleagues and friends, the Timothy George Scholarship for Excellence is now fully endowed at just over half a million dollars. According to the scholarship agreement, the divinity school "will have an enhanced ability to attract top tier students who will guide, challenge and shape future generations of ministers and scholars for Christ's church throughout the world."

Jamie and Mary French of Birmingham gave to the scholarship because, "Dr. George has been a blessing to so many Christians through his scholarship, preaching and leadership that we want to enable outstanding divinity students to further carry the Christian message to the world."

Beeson's new dean, Douglas Sweeney, said, "Timothy George's legacy in the theological education of pastors and laity is nothing short of immense. But so is the legacy of the board members and other friends of Beeson whose tireless service as laborers in the kingdom of God yielded the funds we



Timothy George


needed to reach our funding goal for this scholarship."

George, who felt a call to preach as a teenager, would not have been able to pursue graduate studies at Harvard Divinity School had it not been for a generous scholarship he received from the then-called Dora Maclellan Brown Charitable Trust (now The Generosity Trust). As the scholarship's first recipient, George credits the trajectory of his life to the faithfulness and generosity of Dora Maclellan Brown, a longtime Sunday School teacher at Second Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

"It seems fitting that we would seek to establish a fund in honor of Dr. George that would help other students now and in the future who have great minds and great spirits to accomplish great things for the kingdom of God," Samford

President Andrew Westmoreland said.

Now that the scholarship has reached its endowment goal, it is in the process of gestating according to university policy, with the hope that it will be awarded to its first recipient(s) within the next two years. Alumni and friends can continue contributing to the scholarship ensuring its sustainability in the years to come by giving at beesondivinity.com/giving or contacting Carolyn Lankford, Beeson Divinity's advancement officer.

"Despite his instinct to avoid all accolades, Dr. George understood just how life changing a scholarship can be, given his own experience as a student," Lankford said. "Samford University could not have honored Dr. George in a more appropriate way." 

Education Community Partnerships Bridge **Learning Gaps for Elementary Educators**

by Sarah Cain

Orlean Beeson School of Education was awarded a second year of funding for its Elementary Mathematics Leadership Academy for Teachers (EMLAT) by a local charitable foundation. Built as a train-the-trainer model, the program equips teachers to maximize student learning and serve as teacher-leaders in their respective school districts.

The school first launched EMLAT in 2017 after identifying the need for assistance with teacher training, specifically in mathematics. Local school districts coordinated with Samford University's Orlean Beeson School of Education to hand-select EMLAT fellows. EMLAT has since expanded to include teachers representing school districts throughout central Alabama.

"Because of the relationships we have already established in the community, we were honored our partners trusted that we could serve as a resource and a partner in finding a

solution to the areas of high need in elementary mathematics," Tarsha Bluiett, associate professor and director of M.S.E. elementary education program said.

EMLAT fellows enroll in five graduate-level courses focused on increasing mathematics content knowledge and pedagogy as well as leadership development. The fellows' course work strengthens conceptual frameworks in mathematics and instructional, evidenced-based strategies to improve student performance. In addition, professional development opportunities allow EMLAT fellows to

hone their leadership skills.

Christina Glenn, EMLAT program coordinator and math instructor states, "I am most proud of the level of confidence our teachers gain as a result of completing the EMLAT program. "Some of our fellows apprehensively enter EMLAT because of their limited mathematics background. After they complete the courses, they leave with a completely different perspective on mathematics instruction. Our teachers leave EMLAT with the knowledge and leadership skills to be an impactful mathematics resource for other teachers in their school and district."

While EMLAT represents Orlean Beeson School of Education's mission to enrich communities, the school also benefits from its connection to local teachers in the field.

"We learn from them too because they share what's really happening in classrooms today. We can go back and use that knowledge to identify more ways we can provide impactful solutions for the community and a place teachers know they can come to collaborate no matter what school district they serve."

In its second year, Bluiett and Glen plan to expand professional development opportunities for the fellows to include attendance and participation in the Regional National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Conference along with a coaching component that will support a smooth transition of new learning to the classroom.

"We want our community school districts and teachers to know that we see the needs they have, and we stand with them," Bluiett said. "Ongoing teacher training is incredibly valuable, and no matter where you are in your professional teaching career, it's never too late." ▮



The inaugural cohort of the Elementary Mathematics Leadership Academy for Teachers.

School of Health Professions Launches

Physician Assistant Studies Program

by Sara Roman

In 2013, Samford University approved the establishment of a physician assistant studies program within the School of Health Professions. Six years later, the program's inaugural class of 36 has arrived on campus.

Samford's physician assistant (PA) studies program is the only private program in the state of Alabama and the first PA program in Alabama to launch in nearly 20 years.

"The launch of the physician assistant program is a significant achievement," said Alan Jung, School of Health Professions dean. "We are proud to offer this new degree program that supports the College of Health Sciences mission to promote and improve the health and well-being of individuals and communities."

With an aging population and looming shortage of doctors, there is a growing demand for physician assistants to provide routine health care.

"We are continuing to see an increased need for health care professionals," said Jung. "In Alabama, 53 of our 67 counties are medically underserved. Graduates of our program will provide relief in many areas as they examine, diagnose and treat patients."

As a private, Christian institution, Samford's physician assistant studies program is able to offer distinctively small class sizes. At full capacity, the student-to-faculty ratio will be half of what is found at other institutions in the state.

"The low ratios allow faculty to be truly invested in each student's education and affords students with a tailored experience," said Paul Harrelson,

Physician assistant studies students Victor Englert and Katie Rose practice assessing a sick patient.



assistant professor and program director. "We believe small class sizes are key to producing highly prepared, quality graduates."

Cumulatively, the program's faculty have nearly 30 years experience in physician assistant education. They have utilized their experiences to build what they believe is an outstanding curriculum to best prepare future physician assistants.


According to Harrelson, the faculty have solidified more than 600 exceptional clinical slots and established a trajectory for strong cohorts that maintain low student-to-faculty ratios.

This fall, students will dive into curriculum with a heavy focus on anatomy and physiology. Throughout the program, students will gain experience with surgery, physical diagnosis, clinical medicine and pharmacology. Their generalist training will prepare them for a variety of medical fields and subspecialties. However, the program is

designed to not only develop students academically but also spiritually.

"Our program is anchored in a Christian understanding and seeks to develop graduates who are prepared to fulfill their calling by providing empathetic patient care and service to the community," said Harrelson.

The program's theme verse is Jeremiah 30:17. "For I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal, declares the LORD."

The inaugural class of 36 were selected from a highly competitive group of more than 300 applicants. The cohort comes to Birmingham from 11 states, with 23 students from Alabama. They have a diverse background of undergraduate studies including kinesiology, biological sciences, nutrition and international studies. At the culmination of the seven-semester program, graduates will earn a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies. 

Law Professor Embraces Advocacy Role After Research Earns National Attention

by Sarah Cain

When Alyssa DiRusso, Whelan W. and Rosalie T. Palmer Professor at Cumberland School of Law, published her research, *Charity at Work: Proposing a Charitable Flexible Spending Account*, she hoped her efforts would impact the national conversation on tax law.

"Whenever I write something, I hope that the law will move in the direction I'm suggesting, but I'm pleasantly surprised when it actually does," she said.

The article posed pre-tax flexible charitable giving accounts as a solution to support donations beyond those who most often benefit from the traditional tax incentives. Late last year, her research gained new relevancy after the impact of the new tax law was measured and a decline in charitable giving was reported.

"It isn't just wealthy people that care about giving. As a law professor and a certified financial planner, I believe charitable tax laws should be changed to make it easier for Americans to budget the money they give to charity. In my opinion, giving more donors a tax break would lead to an increase in giving by encouraging all Americans to make donations part of a routine instead of an occasional splurge," she wrote in a recent article.

DiRusso published an op-ed highlighting her work and earning national attention in major news outlets across the country including CNN, *Chicago Tribune* and the *Houston Chronicle*. The research is just one example of DiRusso's extensive work and study in trusts and estates and charitable giving, a passion she discovered when working in the private sector.

"While working in private practice, I found that I most enjoyed charitable planning. Being involved with philanthropy was what I found the most rewarding," she said.

DiRusso has since dedicated a portion of her career to advocating for the Everyday Philanthropist Act, a bipartisan bill that would allow workers to open accounts modeled after



Alyssa DiRusso

flexible spending accounts many taxpayers use to offset some of their dependent care and medical expenses.

DiRusso's shift from researcher to advocate has not only helped taxpayers better understand the importance of the bill, but also expanded her perspective professionally.

"Writing op-eds is very different from writing academically. It has changed my perspective to realize the gap between thinking and doing, between having an idea and suggesting change and what can be done to instigate or support change," DiRusso said. ■

Simulation in Nursing Education: **10 Years** *of Enhancing Patient Care*

by Sara Roman

In 2009, Ida Moffett School of Nursing first utilized high-fidelity simulation to provide students with realistic patient care scenarios within a safe environment. Over the past ten years, the authenticity of these scenarios has changed drastically.

As a nursing student, Jill Pence recalls using an orange to practice giving an injection and a red solo cup to practice inserting a Foley catheter. Today, she serves as the executive director of Samford's Experiential Learning and Simulation Center, enhancing the depth of learning for students across the College of Health Sciences by overseeing an average of 4-6 experiential learning events daily.

"Simulation is a key component to nursing education as it ensures that students are prepared for a variety of health care scenarios before entering their clinical sites or caring for patients," said Pence. Within Samford's 22,000-square-foot Experiential Learning and Simulation Center, nursing students have access to nearly 100 task trainers, 20 low-, medium- and high-fidelity mannequins and 15 simulation spaces. "They gain confidence and familiarity as they perfect their skills and put them into context," Pence said.

Following simulations, instructors review video footage and provide feedback to students; frequently, feedback is immediate. Faculty can even momentarily pause a simulation to make corrections or discuss how patient care could be enhanced. "We are improving the quality and safety of patient care by giving students the opportunity to practice in a controlled environment and providing detailed feedback," said Pence.

Before simulation, students moved directly from classroom to clinical to


practice. Now, students advance from the classroom and are set in a simulated, realistic setting where they are making decisions before they ever walk into a clinical setting where decisions could harm a patient.

"Simulation is the intersection of knowledge, skills and critical thinking," said Lora Shelton, associate professor and undergraduate nursing chair. "Simulation allows our students to function in an environment that mirrors an actual clinical situation. It presents them with an opportunity to think on their feet, making quick, strategic decisions."

When Samford nursing students enter their first clinical experience, it is not the first time they have assessed a patient, worked with a patient's family or collaborated with a health care team. In

the Experiential Learning and Simulation Center, nursing students interact with hired citizens who play the role of a standardized patient. They also collaborate with programs across all four schools within the College of Health Sciences.

Pence refers to nurses as the anchor of patient care. "Our student nurses have a unique advantage because they are learning about, with and from 12 other health care disciplines," Pence said. "They are being exposed to the resources other providers bring to the clinical arena early on and that ultimately enhances the quality of patient care."

Pence says that the center will continue to seek opportunities to increase student learning and challenge students to think critically because although health care continues to change, the goal of effectively and compassionately managing patient care never will. 

Senior nursing student Allison Horne works with an interprofessional team during a high-fidelity simulation.



A Mix of Hard Work and Luck

Lee Harrison '75 reflects on his dynamic career in pharmacy

by Sarah Waller

For nearly 22 years, McWhorter School of Pharmacy alumnus Lee Harrison '75 has served as president of NaphCare, an organization that partners with correctional facilities across the country to provide health care services for their inmate populations. While many would consider Harrison's career a great success, he would be the first to tell you of the years of hard work—and occasional pitfalls—that led him to where he is today.

During this year's student orientation, Harrison had the opportunity to speak to incoming first-year Doctor of Pharmacy students. His advice was simple: "Plan your career," he said. "But always realize it may not turn out exactly as you thought it would be."

When Harrison first started pharmacy school, he had intentions to pursue community pharmacy, but a job at Princeton Baptist Hospital opened his eyes to a career in clinical pharmacy. After graduation, the hospital hired him, and he worked there for nearly 13 years. "I worked in cardiology and nephrology units, as well as the emergency room, which I loved. That is really where I learned medicine," he said.

But in 1983, as changes to Medicare forced hospitals to tighten their budgets, Harrison became frustrated by the limited opportunities for growth. He was told his only lateral move was to become a pharmacy manager. "I thought, there you go, make me a manager, but my supervisor just frowned at me," Harrison said. "He told me I didn't have what it took to be a leader."

The next day, Harrison turned in his two weeks' notice. "At first, it was pride. But then, I knew good and well there is something better out there for me," he said. "Lord, I thought, just throw me a pitch, and I'll see if I can hit it."

In the years that followed, Harrison

hit at every opportunity that was pitched to him, working in sales for Baxter Laboratories and serving in leadership roles with Southern Health Systems. Then one fateful day, he received a phone call from his friend Jim McLane.

McLane was working for his father's pharmacy in Birmingham when a local jail approached him about fulfilling prescriptions for its inmates. Almost immediately, he called Harrison for help. "Jim said to me, Lee, you need to figure out if there is a plan here; if there is an opportunity for us to make money," he said.

After several months of development, McLane and Harrison began calling on jails to sell their prescription services. But success did not come quickly. After 18 months of struggling to make a profit, the company was presented with a new opportunity. The warden at St. Clair Correctional Facility asked if they could take over their dialysis unit and provide on-site kidney dialysis to the inmates with kidney failure.

Quickly, McLane and Harrison had a new unit up and running, and within three months, they turned a profit. "In that moment, we realized this was our niche—providing all of the health care services, including the physicians, pharmacists and nurses," he said.

In 1998, McLane as CEO and Harrison as president established



Lee Harrison

NaphCare. And over the past 20+ years, the company has grown tremendously, working with city, county, state and federal correctional facilities in 27 states across the country, ranging from smaller, 150-bed jails, to mega jails with 9,000 inmates in their health record. NaphCare now has 2,300 employees.

While their work comes with challenges unimaginable to many, Harrison explains that the core of their work is to provide exceptional patient-centered care. "For us, a patient is a patient, and these inmates know that when we come in. No matter their background, we're here to help them," he said. ▀

Witnessing the Transformational Gift of Life

by Sarah Waller

In 2018, more than 36,000 organ transplants were performed in the United States, yet as of January 2019, over 113,000 individuals still remain on the national transplant waiting list. According to the Health Resources and Services Administration, another person is added to this wait list every ten minutes.

With the need for organ transplants far exceeding the number of donations each year, the United States is in an organ shortage. And while this public health issue can be a sensitive topic for many, Taylor Tucker, a junior public health major, witnessed its transformational impact through a summer internship with Dialysis Clinic Incorporated and the New Mexico Donor Services.

"While I was in New Mexico, I was able to see a living donor transplant," Tucker said. "I witnessed as the kidney was taken from the husband and walked to the operating room where his wife was there to receive it. To see her organ literally change from gray to pink as the surgeon successfully placed it . . . it was amazing."

For six weeks, Tucker had a comprehensive experience with New Mexico Donor Services, the state's only organ procurement organization. "Hospitals within the state are required to call them when a patient is declared brain dead or a family decides to withdraw a patient from life support. Through my internship, I was able to listen in on these calls and even go to the hospitals and be a part of the cases."


In doing so, Tucker worked alongside clinicians as well as public health professionals. She said her greatest takeaway was the power of education throughout the entire process, especially in working with unique population sets.

"It was a new experience for me to work with a Native American population.

Many of their religious beliefs go against organ donation, yet by law, the organ procurement organization is required to talk to these families," said Tucker. "While I would walk into the room knowing they would most likely say no, my public health mindset saw each interaction as an opportunity for education. I respected their beliefs, especially as families were going through the process of grief, but I also wanted to explain how organ donation can allow someone else to live."

Thinking back on her summer, Tucker admits that the experience was overwhelming at times. "I worked with

amazing people, but when I look back, I realize how intricate their work was. We were talking to hospitals, families—at times, we were even talking to funeral homes. There were so many moving parts. The Lord's hand was definitely guiding me, as he always is, but it was very evident in those six weeks," she said.

After she earns her bachelor's degree in public health, Tucker hopes to continue her education in pursuit of a career as a physician assistant. "I want to be able to take what I'm learning from public health or community health and apply that foundational mindset to individual medicine," she said. 



Taylor Tucker

SAMFORD BASKETBALL

PREVIEW

by Joey Mullins

The Samford men's basketball team returns four of its top five scorers from a team that posted the program's second winning season in the last three years.

Point guard Josh Sharkey, who averaged 16.3 points and 7.2 assists per game, leads the group of returnees. Sharkey, entering his senior season, already holds the school career records for assists with 541 and steals with 203. Following last season, Sharkey earned second team All-SoCon honors.

Brandon Austin (12.8 pointer per game, 4.5 rebounds per game), Myron Gordon (12.2 ppg.) and Robert Allen (9.9 ppg., 8.3 rpg.), a SoCon All-Freshman team honoree, round out Samford's top returning scorers.

Deandre Thomas (3.3 ppg.) and Logan Dye (2.7 ppg.) also return with experience from last year's squad. Forward Jalen Dupree will be eligible to play after transferring from Murray State and sitting out last season. Stanley Henderson, who redshirted last season, will also return to this year's squad.

Several newcomers also join the team this season. Guards K.J. Davis, Preston Parks, J.P. Robinson and Donte Tatum, and forward Logan Padgett are new to the program this season. Davis is a transfer from East Carolina, and Parks comes to Samford from UT-Martin.

The Samford women's basketball team enters the 2019-20 season with a new head coach for the first time since 2002. Carley Kuhns, who served the last three seasons as the head coach at Valdosta State, has replaced 17-year head coach Mike Morris, who retired from Samford in the spring.

The women's team loses just one player from last season, guard Cassidy Williams. The team returns leading scorer and rebounder Natalie Armstrong, who averaged 10.3 points and 6.0 rebounds per game.

In addition to Armstrong, the Bulldogs return Ta'Naisha Hill (8.7 ppg.), Shauntai Battle (6.8 ppg.) and Paige Serup (6.2 ppg.), as well as point guard Charity Brown (4.4 assists per game). Experienced players Samantha Fitzgerald (5.3 ppg.), Katie Allen (5.2 ppg.), Makaila Woolard (3.4 ppg.), Olivia Crozier (3.2 ppg.), Raven Omar (2.2 ppg.) and Leslie Golden also return this season.

A pair of transfers have been added for this season. Guard Sarah Myers from Maryland, and Christen Carter from South Alabama join the program. Also new this season will be freshman signee Kathleen Wheeler. ▶

Josh Sharkey



Natalie Armstrong



Samford's Director of Athletics Elected to Represent Southern Conference on Division I Council

by Joey Mullins

Samford University Director of Athletics Martin Newton began a four-year appointment to the NCAA Division I Council and the Men's Basketball Oversight Committee on July 1, 2019.

Nominated for the posts by the Southern Conference (SoCon) league office, Newton was confirmed by the NCAA and will represent the entire SoCon in both roles.

The Division I Council is the division's primary policy-making body and a high-level group responsible for the day-to-day decision-making for Division I. Athletics directors, athletics administrators, senior women administrators, faculty athletics representatives and student-athletes serve on the council; every conference is represented within the group.

"Initially, my goals will be to listen and learn. The NCAA has a lot of important issues to address related to student-athlete mental health and well-being, and I'm looking forward to being a part of the solution rather than just discussing the problems," said Newton.

The Men's Basketball Oversight Committee ensures that appropriate oversight of men's basketball is maintained and makes recommendations related to regular-season and postseason men's basketball. The committee prioritizes enhancement of the student-athlete educational experience (academically and athletically), and, in doing so, promotes student-athletes' personal growth and leadership development, as well as supervises qualifications and selection procedures for the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championships.

"I'm extremely excited about serving on the Men's Basketball Oversight Committee and giving back to a game that has been so good to my family," Newton added. "I have found in my career that people receive so much more when they serve as opposed to observe. I'm grateful to the SoCon and the NCAA for allowing me this opportunity to serve our student-athletes, coaches and administrators," he said.

Newton was named Samford's director of athletics in April 2011. Under his leadership, Samford teams have won 35 Southern Conference overall, tournament or divisional titles,



Martin Newton

produced 334 All-SoCon selections, as well as the school's first NCAA Division I national champion (Karisa Nelson) and Walter Payton Award winner (Devlin Hodges).

The teams' successes have not been confined to the fields and courts, as Samford teams have maintained a 97% graduation success rate, placing Samford first in Alabama and 17th in the nation among all colleges and universities in the NCAA Division I level. Additionally, 1,142 Samford student-athletes have been named to the SoCon honor roll in the same period. ■



David Garrard and his daughter, Claire.

Garrard Recalls Doing Magic *in Vail Hall Lobby*

by William Nunnelley

Samford alumnus David Garrard has been entertaining with magic for more than 50 years.

"I love the way magic makes people smile and laugh," he says. "I also love using magic to inspire and encourage."

Garrard performed recently in Samford's Wright Center. He recalled that it was just being built when he was a student.

The 1975 graduate said he had "lots of great memories" about Samford.

"Probably the best would be meeting my wife, Stephanie." He also mentioned meals in the cafeteria with classmates and friends, working at WVSU radio, special teachers such as Carolyn Satterfield, Sigurd Bryan, Leah Atkins and Mabry Lunceford, and "doing magic in my dorm as well as in the lobby of Vail Hall."

Garrard's father got him interested in magic when David was 12 years old.

"He was not a professional magician but he knew some magic and taught me the tricks he knew. Then he helped me pursue my interest by taking me to meetings of the Georgia Magic Club."

Garrard is a native of Atlanta but has resided in the Louisville, Kentucky, area since 1975. He is a member of the Society of American Magicians and the International Brotherhood of Magicians Order of Merlin.

He has performed on the *Penn & Teller: Fool Us* magic show, and is author of the book *Out of My Hat, The Magic of David Garrard*.

He performed at Samford Sept. 12 with his daughter, Claire, a 2004 graduate of Samford. ▀

Samford Alumnus Tony Hale Prepares for the *Next Big Thing* After Long-term HBO Role Ends

by Sarah Cain

Two-time Emmy-winning actor and Howard College alumnus Tony Hale continues to provide a Samford connection to iconic Hollywood projects. In the last year, Hale's roles have added several milestone achievements to his acclaimed career including a movie box office record, an Emmy nomination and the unveiling of a new Netflix series, *Archibald's Next Big Thing*.

Hale, a 1992 graduate, earned his sixth Emmy nomination for playing Gary Walsh opposite Julia Louis-Dreyfus on HBO's political comedy *Veep*, a character that already won him Emmys in 2013 and 2015. The nomination comes at the close of the series' seven-season run.

Just weeks later, Hale's role as Forky helped Disney Pixar's legendary *Toy Story* franchise become the first studio to have five films gross over \$1 billion globally in a single year. Hale voiced the handmade spork-turned-toy, joining the beloved cast of characters like Woody, Buzz Lightyear, Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head and Bo Peep.

Forky, a toy fashioned out of a spork, became an instant audience favorite with kids and parents immediately creating their own homemade versions. Hale's interest in the character came from Forky's backstory of embracing worthiness as trash-turned-toy.

Hale will immediately turn his focus on his latest venture that continues the theme of sharing positive messages with younger audiences on the heels of these two career highlights. He is producer and titular character of the Netflix animated comedy series *Archibald's Next Big Thing*. The series is based on a children's book Hale published in 2014 and spoke about at a past campus visit to Samford. He

shared the importance of the book's message of embracing and enjoying the present.

"When [Archibald] is on an adventure, he's always looking for the next big thing," Hale said of the story's main character. "You have extreme value where you are. It's not about what you might get."

For Hale personally, his faith has supported his efforts to live in the moment.

"I think prayerful meditation, being still in a space, being still with God, I don't do that enough," he said in an interview with NPR. "It's so centering, and it broadens the picture of life, really. I mean, you just kind of go, 'We're spinning on a planet, here. And I'm giving a lot of anxiety and a lot of weight to stuff that just doesn't matter,' and it's so focusing."

Archibald's Next Big Thing premiered on Netflix in September. ▀

Tony Hale and friends.



Photo: DreamWorks Animation/Netflix

Nursing School Receives \$3.5 Million Nurse Practitioner Residency Grant

by Sara Roman

Samford University's Ida Moffett School of Nursing will receive \$3.5 million over a four-year period to place nurse practitioner graduates in rural, underserved areas for primary care residency. The grant is the largest in Samford University's history.

The Advanced Nursing Education—Nurse Practitioner Residency Program Grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration is designed to prepare new nurse practitioners to deliver high-quality primary care in community-based settings. During the yearlong program, nurse practitioner residents will complete academic course work and clinical hours in underserved population locations.

"For nearly 100 years, Ida Moffett School of Nursing has prepared well-equipped, compassionate nurses to serve the underserved," said Nena Sanders, vice provost of Samford's College of Health Sciences and nursing school dean. "This grant affords us the opportunity to enhance the knowledge and skill sets of our graduates and intentionally place caring, competent nurse practitioners where the needs are greatest."

The grant will facilitate the launch of the first residency program housed within the nursing school.

The program will focus on developing new family nurse practitioners with the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary

to improve the quality and safety of rural health care systems. According to professor and grant manager Stephanie Wynn, the program will place a special priority on addressing value-based care, telehealth, obesity and mental health issues.

"This residency program will distinctively position new nurse practitioners to face the complexities that occur when providing care to rural and underserved populations," said Wynn. "Ninety-eight percent of Alabama's counties are designated, either all or in part, as a Medically Underserved Area or a Health Professional Shortage Area. This program will transform communities by increasing the quality and quantity of primary care providers who are trained to provide innovative, compassionate care."

Fifty-five of Alabama's 67 counties are considered rural, and only two of those 55 are considered to have the minimum number of providers available. According to Wynn, the state's population per physician ratio well exceeds 3,000 to 1 in many rural areas. "Nearly 44% of Alabama's population is living in rural areas, yet 70% of primary care physicians practice within Alabama's five largest counties," said Wynn. "Health care must shift to better meet the needs of today's population."

During their rotations, residents will receive training in vital telehealth technology reducing accessibility issues for patients that would otherwise need to travel long distances to seek care.

Wynn is leading the residency and curriculum development with the support of an interprofessional team of educators. The first cohort of 10 nurse practitioners will begin their rotations July 1, 2020.

"More than 20 years ago, we launched a nurse practitioner program to fill a need within the health care system and that vision hasn't changed," said Jane Martin, senior associate dean for Ida Moffett School of Nursing. "We are producing well-trained, compassionate nurse practitioners who are breaking health care accessibility barriers."

Ida Moffett School of Nursing offers nurse practitioner course work that is aligned with the needs of today's health care environment. Students choose from specialty areas such as family, emergency or psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, and entry points are available for associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree holders. Advanced practice registered nurse certificates are also available. ■

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for an award totaling \$3,500,000 with 0% financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit [HRSA.gov](https://www.hrsa.gov).

Professors Stephanie Wynn and Jill Cunningham will utilize a \$3.5 million grant to facilitate the launch of the first residency program housed within Ida Moffett School of Nursing.



Micah Fellows Make Global Connections Through Service

by Emily Knight

Students of Samford's Micah Fellows program made global connections through service during a recent trip to Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The 12 students went as part of the program's curriculum after completing three years in the program and two years of service in the Birmingham area. Before the trip, the students spent a semester learning about the history of their destination.

Micah Fellows is a cocurricular honors program in which students engage in long-term service in the Birmingham community and in discussions about the Christian ideals of justice, mercy and humility.

"By putting in that work beforehand, we emphasize it's important to do service with context and connection," said Caroline Janeway, associate director of the University and Micah Fellows programs. "We have to learn about the city as well. We can't just go to Belfast and automatically serve and leave and be done."

Ireland and Northern Ireland were chosen for the trip because of their civil rights history similar to Birmingham's own. In Northern Ireland, political disagreement over the region's allegiance to the United Kingdom erupted into religiously charged violence in the 1970s and '80s. In cities like Belfast, structures called "peace walls" were erected to address violence between the groups. Today, this infrastructure divides the city along religious lines, and religious segregation continues to cause major social issues.

"During our time there, the concepts of justice were constantly battling in my mind," said Micah Fellow Sierra Outerbridge.

During their travels, students heard perspectives from both sides of the conflict. They also worked with a nonprofit seeking to integrate the sectarian youth centers that serve disadvantaged youth across Belfast.

"The students had a lot of conversations about home, about Birmingham and their experiences here, and about how they could be a part of a change, whether here in Birmingham or there in Belfast," said Janeway. "It was difficult to see something like this and know you're not going to fix it in one week. But it can change you enough to think about the ways you can affect your own community."

For the Micah Fellows, the continuing effects of religious sectarianism in Belfast shed new light on the racial conflict of

Micah Fellow students at Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland.



the American civil rights movement. For Outerbridge, the trip served as an important reminder for how a place's history must help determine her approach to addressing complex social issues wherever she serves.

"The trip underscored the reality that true justice is difficult to attain and in the meantime, conflict can arise that runs deeper into history than one might imagine," she said. "It helped me understand that social justice is incredibly complex—that whenever you are dealing with individuals with diverse thoughts, beliefs and expectations, understanding the concept of justice might be harder to discover than one might assume."

In May 2019, Outerbridge became the first graduate of the Micah Fellows program. She moved back home to Orlando to found Ardiendo Learning, a company that matches students with academic coaches in specific subject areas and tutors students in basic skills like time management and critical thinking.

The Micah Fellows curriculum and the trip to Ireland are integral to the way she thinks about her new venture. "One lesson I know will influence the company and the way I serve is the idea that we must be proximate in order to understand, empathize and serve people best," she said. ▀

To support the Micah Fellows, go to
samford.edu/give/micah.

Samford Israel Excavation Encourages Future in Archaeology

by Emily Knight



Students traveled from the excavation site in Galilee to the historic city of Jerusalem.

For 20 days, senior Jewel Trail rose at 4 a.m. every morning to prepare for a long day of excavation to learn more about early life in Israel. Trail was one of four students who traveled this summer to the northern region of Israel on the Samford abroad biblical archaeology trip led by professor James Strange.

The students arrived at the dig site each morning as dawn approached. "The sky is just starting to lighten when we arrive, open the tool container, and raise our shade cloths to prepare for the workday," Strange said.

Since 2012, Samford professors and students have been on site at the project which is a collaboration between Samford and the Kinneret Institute for Galilean Archaeology overseen by Strange and Mordechai Aviam of Kinneret College. The project is a multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional, international, cultural heritage project whose goal is the recovery and preservation of the site of Shikhin in Lower Galilee of Israel. Attendees of the archaeological field school get training in standard excavation and recording skills regardless of their prior experience.

"We have learned that those who begin with us and end up on other digs become simply invaluable to those

projects," Strange said. "By the end of the dig, students are able to make inferences about human activities and values based on material culture. They are also able to form very good hypotheses about an unexcavated site and establish protocols for how to test them archaeologically."

Senior chemistry and classics major Jewel Trail aspires to a career in archaeology specializing in the Ancient Near East. Her experience on the trip brought the connection between her research interests and archaeology to life at the Roman Galilean site.

"I want to do more than just the chemical side of archaeology," she said. "Going on the dig was a way to help me explore where my two majors connect and the different things I can do with archaeology. It also ended up being a great networking opportunity as well."

Trail worked with chemistry and biochemistry professor Brian Gregory last summer analyzing samples of

pottery found during Shikhin excavations. She brought a new perspective to that continued work this summer as a participant in the dig.

"It's made me appreciate how much you really can tell from one piece of pottery just from looking at it," she said. "And I discovered what more I could tell from it when we dissolve it in the lab and are able to look at it in a different way."

Trail said she also appreciated how participating in the dig brought a new perspective on her studies in Greco-Roman ancient history.

"There's not as much documentation in Israel yet as there is in classical archaeology," she said. "They're still piecing together a lot of things, and it's so cool to learn information that is still being developed and getting to be a part of that discovery process."

Alongside fellow senior classics major Abi Rodgers, another member of the excavation project, Trail will continue analysis of their finds in the lab with Gregory this summer. By determining the chemical makeup of various samples, they hope to discover the scope of Shikhin lamp production and distribution in its geographical region.

Notable Finds

As in past summers, the team discovered new aspects of the life and industry of the ancient village of Shikhin. Previously, they found broken fragments of oil lamp molds but weren't sure if the site had manufactured the lamps themselves, just lamp molds, or both. The team had never found a complete lamp mold among the damaged fragments they often found.

"In 2019, for the first time we found a nearly complete mold for making the top part of a type of lamp that was made at Shikhin and distributed throughout Galilee," Strange said. "That was a lovely surprise." Strange said the lamp found this year featured decorations of grapevines and clusters of grapes, and an amphora. They were able to connect these designs with ones used in synagogues and on coins minted during the First Jewish Revolt of 66-70 AD.

A complex of plastered pools, also evidence of lamp production, was another find this year. Strange hypothesizes the pools were used for a purification process for clay used to manufacture lamps.

"If we are right about that, it will add to the knowledge of the industry in Galilee," he said.

Another surprise for the team was an excavated wall that belonged to the Roman-period synagogue at Shikhin. The wall consisted of seven courses, when they expected it to only feature one. The wall itself rested on a fine plaster floor rather than the usual bedrock, which evidenced an earlier building underneath the structure. Strange said this find expands their understanding of the site's infrastructure and promises more to be discovered in the future.

"We will have to continue to dig in this area in subsequent seasons to work out the puzzle of construction sequence we have begun to uncover here," he said.

Trail said she was astounded by all they were able to find. These discoveries made her realize that preservation must follow their work of excavation. "Now that things are dug out and revealed, and we've recorded things the best we can, you can't put anything back," she said. The trip made her even more eager to dedicate her future career to this process of discovery and preservation. ▀



Senior classics major Abi Rodgers with one of her discoveries.



A lamp mold uncovered by the team.



The whole dig on a day trip to Caesarea Maritima.

Samford's Enrollment Reaches an **All-time High** *for 11th Consecutive Year*

by Katie Stripling

Samford University announced its 11th consecutive record enrollment. University officials confirmed a record of 5,692 students in its undergraduate and graduate programs as of Sept. 6.

Included in the totals are 3,591 undergraduate and 2,101 graduate/professional students, representing 46 states, the District of Columbia, and 28 countries. The freshman class of 900 students is one of the most academically accomplished in Samford's 177-year history. Samford's freshman to sophomore retention rate was 89.2%.

"At a time when many private institutions are struggling with enrollment, Samford continues to

experience sustainable, quality growth," said R. Philip Kimrey, Samford vice president of student affairs and enrollment management. "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 record comes at a time of national recognition and expansion across all academic schools at the university. Samford's strategic plan outlines ambitious goals for enrollment, retention and student engagement.

"The continued incremental growth in enrollment shows student response to our campuswide 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." ►

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.



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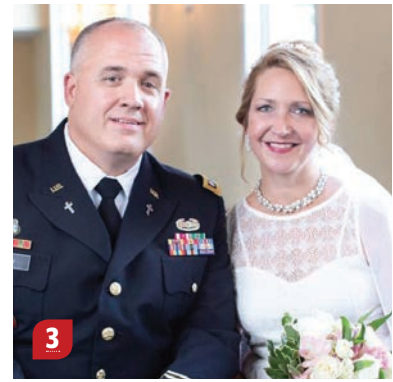
Compiled by the Office of Alumni Programs
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1950s

'51 Dr. David Griffin will celebrate his 66th wedding anniversary with his wife, Annette, in December. Their three children have given them six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. It has been 72 years since he was a freshman on the East Lake campus, but he has only fond memories of his time there. He credits his Ph.D. and his long teaching career to his favorite professor, Miss Mary Emily McGriff.



1



3

1970s

'70 Anita Dutton started and directs a single adult ministry called Relate Well Singles Ministry that meets weekly in Hoover, Alabama. She is also heavily involved in Cadence Call Ministries that ministers to trauma issues and life issues in veterans, first responders, medical personnel, prison inmates and people transitioning from prison or homelessness. She is an agent/broker with ARC Realty.

'74 Timothy Paul Banks is the 2019 recipient of the Thomas R. Smith Award for Choral Excellence from the Alabama Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. Recipients "distinguish themselves in the field of choral music in Alabama and demonstrate high musical standards . . . [have provided] leadership in the choral arts and earned the respect of colleagues and/or students." Banks retired from Samford in 2010 after 34 years on the School of the Arts faculty. He was also the conductor of the Samford A Cappella Choir for many years.

'75 Chuck Ables is serving his second term as mayor of Geraldine in northeast Alabama after a 34-year career with Hibbett Sports. He retired from Hibbett in 2009 and was elected mayor in 2012. Ables and his wife, **Katherine '76**, have two daughters and seven grandchildren. Katherine retired from teaching at Fort Payne High School in 2013. Ables served as manager of the Samford football

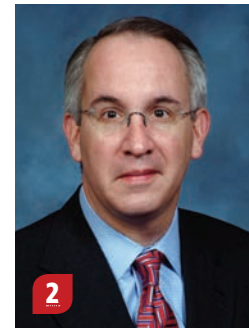
team in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and was a member of the 1971 team that was inducted into the Samford Athletics Hall of Fame this year.

1980s

'81 William Clay Smith recently celebrated 25 years as pastor of Alice Drive Baptist Church in Sumter, South Carolina. During his tenure, the church has grown in average attendance from 280 to 1,500. He is also the author of two books, *Pipes: God's Spiritual Gifts Flowing through You* and *Next Step Life*. **1**

'82 J. Fred Kingren has been selected as Lawyer of the Year in corporate law for 2019 by Best Lawyers®. Kingren is an attorney and partner at Hand Arendall Harrison Sale, LLC, where he concentrates his legal practice in general business, finance, securities law, mergers and acquisitions and taxation areas. **2**

'87 David Hall has joined national law firm, Wilson Elser, as the regional managing partner for Birmingham, Alabama. Hall represents private and for-hire motor carriers as national and regional counsel and represents insurance companies and utility contractors on matters involving pipeline, trucking and construction accidents. He has also joined Wilson Elser's national 24-hour Emergency Response Team and serves as the primary contact for Birmingham. **3**



2



4

1990s

'91 & '95 CH (LTC) Scott Bush was recently appointed command chaplain for Army Reserve Element Pacific Command—U.S. Forces Korea. His wife, the former **Rebecca Cobb '90**, works for The Title Group, Inc. in Birmingham, Alabama. **3**

'91 & '93 Kathyjo Spivey Gordon was awarded the Executive Director of the Year Award at Georgia Health Care Association's Summer Convention held in Amelia Island. This was awarded by the Georgia Chapter of the American College of Health Care Administrators. Gordon was also elected by her peers to serve as the chair of the Board for Georgia Center for Assisted Living. She is the executive director at Stone Brooke Suites Senior Living in Gray, Georgia. She and her husband, Michael, reside in Gray with their three sons Kameron, Kevin and Kyle. Gordon also leads worship at Greenwood Baptist Church in Gray. **4**

'91 Beth Roper Stewart's first children's book, *One Thing Missing*, was recently published by Covenant Books. It is a story about adoption.

'92 Jeff Roberts was recognized in the March 2019 issue of *Barron's Magazine* among the Top 1,200 Financial Advisors in the United States. He was also recognized in 2019 among the *Financial Times* Top 400 Financial Advisors and

Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Advisors. Roberts is the founder and president of MavenCross Wealth Advisors® in Birmingham, Alabama.

'93 Lee Frazier was named the 2019 president of the Alabama Association of Municipal Clerks and Administrators (AAMCA). AAMCA serves as the professional organization for municipal clerks in the state of Alabama. Frazier also served as president of the Jefferson County Association of Municipal Clerks. Lee has served in municipal government for over 21 years and during that time he has managed to receive a Juris Doctor as well as master municipal clerk and elections records administrator certifications. He was a public administration major and played strong safety for the 1991 National Championship semifinalist Samford Bulldog football team.

2000s

'00 & '03 Adrienne Bonner Wiggins was recently initiated into Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in education.

'01 Joy Enzfelder Pine opened the doors to her store, Iddy & Oscars, in Lebanon, Tennessee. The name is in honor of two children she met in Kenya during her many mission trips. Ten percent of her proceeds goes toward orphan care that sends many Kenyans to secondary school.

'04 Dr. Mark Catlin graduated with a Ph.D. in Old Testament from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He recently began a position as assistant professor in biblical studies at Union University in Memphis, Tennessee. His wife, **Kimberly Landreth Catlin '04**, and their four kids relocated to Memphis from Princeton, New Jersey, where they had been doing ministry for the past seven years. **5**

'04 Dr. Kendell Jno-Finn opened M3 Endeavors, LLC, a physical therapy practice in Trussville, Alabama.

'06 Andrew Burrow recently completed his doctoral program in biblical studies from St Mary's University Twickenham. Prior to his Ph.D., he attended Yale University and

completed studies in Israel at Tel Aviv University. Currently, he teaches one class in Samford's Department of Biblical and Religious Studies and also teaches full time in the Mountain Brook school system. He publishes regularly in the field, works as an editor, and serves on various committees both at Mountain Brook and at other universities. **6**

'07 Dr. Henry Coker and his wife, **Jagoda Wartak Coker '07**, currently live in Mobile, Alabama, where he is a physician in the internal medicine/pediatric residency program at the University of South Alabama hospitals.

'09 Heather Willis Dameron was awarded the Meeting Planner of the Year Award for Meeting Professionals International—Tennessee chapter for 2018-19. She received the award at the organization's Circle of Excellence Gala in Nashville. This was her second time receiving this award. **7**

2010s

'10 Dr. Chelsea Rushing Porter graduated from residency at the University of Kansas School of Medicine —Wichita family medicine residency program at Ascension Via Christi hospitals.

'11 Melissa Carlisle graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in May 2019 with a Ph.D. in counselor education and

supervision. She was licensed as a professional counselor in 2015 and is looking forward to pursuing her calling of counseling and teaching in higher education in the coming days.

'11 Dr. Ralph Ruskin is a member of the inaugural Gulf Shores School Board.

'13 Trae Norrell has been appointed branch manager of the new Cullman office for Byars|Wright, a metro Birmingham independent insurance agency where he currently serves as a producer. Norrell also serves as a pastor at Grace Chapel and is heavily involved with The Link of Cullman, where he serves as chairman of the board.

'18 Tayler McPherson has completed her first year of work with PlaySafe Alabama at Hewitt-Trussville High School and was awarded Athletic Trainer of the Quarter. **8**



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NEW ARRIVALS



Beau Pierce Bourgeois, a son, born May 25, 2018. Parents are Hannah Woods Bourgeois '06 and Greg Bourgeois of Birmingham, Alabama. **1**

Owen Kid Carter, a son, born May 25, 2018. Parents are Holly Carter and D.J. Carter '07 of Studio City, California. **2**

Elizabeth Ann (Eliza) Strickland, a daughter, born June 5, 2018. Parents are Dan Strickland '08 and Kelly Pittman Strickland '09 of Auburn, Alabama. **3**

Hardy Pittman Fuqua, a son, born July 29, 2018. Parents are Tyler Fuqua '06 and Allison Pittman Fuqua '06 of Vestavia Hills, Alabama. **4**

Anna Grace Rozario, a daughter, born September 6, 2018. Parents are Adrienne Giordano Rozario '13 and Nigel Rozario of Pineville, North Carolina. **5**

Brooks Henry Norman, a son, born September 11, 2018. Parents are Kelly Norman and Rod Norman '07 of Centerville, Massachusetts.

Mary Davis Briggs, a daughter, born October 9, 2018. Parents are Lane Christopher Briggs '08 and Stephen Briggs '06 of Greenville, South Carolina. She joins older brother Robert and sister Nora. **6**

Cora Jane Rakoczy, a daughter, born October 10, 2018. Parents are Kristin Coffield Rakoczy '11 and Sam Rakoczy of Knoxville, Tennessee. **7**

Mary Helen Heard, a daughter, born November 28, 2018. Parents are Anna Vermeer Heard '12 and Matthew Heard of Hoover, Alabama. **8**

Griffin Kelham Slayton, a son, born December 28, 2018. Parents are Laura Echerd Slayton '08 and Brooks Slayton of Huntsville, Alabama. **9**

Thomas Peyton Elmore, a son, born December 29, 2018. Parents are Sarah Elmore '14 and Evan Elmore '13 of Nashville, Tennessee. **10**

Elisabeth Joy Hanbury, a daughter, born January 18, 2019. Parents are Hannah Joiner Hanbury '10 and Aaron Hanbury of Louisville, Kentucky. She joins older sister Ellen. **11**

Olivia Grace Minopoli, a daughter, born February 17, 2019. Parents are Bonnie Branum Minopoli '01 and Nicholas Minopoli of Birmingham, Alabama. **12**

Hannah Helen Miller, a daughter, born March 3, 2019. Parents are Meredith Spencer Miller '12 and Preston Miller '11 of Auburn, Alabama. **13**

Harris McClain Ivy, a son, born March 7, 2019. Parents are Lauren Steele Ivy '08 and Will Ivy of Franklin, Tennessee. **14**

Jack Dale White, a son, born March 21, 2019. Parents are Sarah Zadick White '14 and Matt White of Spring Hill, Tennessee. **15**

Weston Charles Clarke, a son, born April 2, 2019. Parents are Stephanie Clarke and Jonathan Wesley Clarke '04 of Watkinsville, Georgia. **16**

Brooks Mitchell Moore, a son, born April 3, 2019. Parents are Melissa Moore '06 and Mitchell Moore of Hoover, Alabama. **17**

Hudson James Yaw and **Breeze Wilder Yaw**, twins, born April 3, 2019. Parents are Madison Williams Yaw '15 and Cameron Yaw '13 of Trussville, Alabama. **18**

Mary Michael Turner, a daughter, born April 5, 2019. Parents are Carly Turner and Dr. Michael Turner '14 of Northport, Alabama. **19**

Margaret Marie Underwood, a daughter, born April 5, 2019. Parents are Jamie Underwood '14 and Dr. Charles Joel (CJ) Underwood III '13 of Hoover, Alabama. **20**

Simeon Louis Pawley, a son, born April 14, 2019. Parents are Anna Wilgus Pawley '11 and Jesse Pawley '13 of Greenville, Texas. **21**

Gilbert "Gil" York Dansby, a son, born April 30, 2019. Parents are Jenny Davell Dansby '09 and Elliott Dansby '09 of Bessemer, Alabama. **22**

Reid Timothy Hiller, a son, born May 3, 2019. Parents are Lauren Heinz Hiller '09 and Timothy Hiller of Raleigh, North Carolina. **23**

Kyle William Pack, a son, born May 24, 2019. Parents are Dr. Paula Baltz Pack '12 and Justin Pack of McCalla, Alabama. **24**





George Wesley Goode, a son, born May 29, 2019. Parents are Ashley Hester Goode '12 and Jonathan Goode '15 of Atlanta, Georgia. **25**

Caroline Grace Smith, a daughter, born June 12, 2019. Parents are Pam Yau Smith '03, '08 and Bill Smith of Birmingham, Alabama.

Briggs Andrew England, a son, born July 6, 2019. Parents are Molly McGuire England '10 and Ryan England '10 of Danville, Indiana. **26**

Michael Anderson Steel Jr., a son, born July 8, 2019. Parents are Mary Kathryn Covert Steel '07 and Michael Steel of Washington, D.C. **27**

Eleanor Lane Toney-Noland, a daughter, born July 12, 2019. Parents are Caroline Toney-Noland '12 and Andrew Toney-Noland '12 of Rossville, Tennessee. **28**

Caleb Jasper Woosley, a son, born July 19, 2019. Parents are Julie Yonts Woosley '07 and Kevin Woosley of Northport, Alabama. **29**

IN MEMORIAM

'42 Ann Constantine Weaver Armstrong, age 98, of Montgomery, Alabama, died July 31, 2019. For ten years Armstrong served as the director of the Learning Resource Center of Davis Library at Samford University. She was a gracious Southern lady who treated everyone with kindness. She lived the teaching of her faith in loving the Lord and her neighbor. Her grandchildren delighted in spending time with her as they were growing up. Her children will remember her as a great encourager and a model of selfless living.

'44 Doris E. Williamson, age 95, of Madeira Beach, Florida, died July 11, 2019. She will be missed by her loving family.

'45 Nell Brown Propst, age 93, of Merino, Colorado, died July 18, 2019. A noted historian of northeastern Colorado, she lived a rich and full life as a ranch wife, mother, teacher, author, playwright and theatre director. Despite her

many professional accomplishments, family and associates can attest that Propst's greatest attribute was her steadfast devotion as a friend, mentor, loving wife and mother.

'50 Benjamin C. Allen Jr., age 88, of Chesterfield, Missouri, died June 25, 2019. He enjoyed a long and successful career with John Hancock, General American, Southwest Bank and Genelco. He retired as executive vice president for Genelco. He was passionate about his involvement with the Shriner's, volunteering over 20 years at Shriner's Hospital, greeting visitors and giving tours.

'51 Betty Shaffield Brown, age 88, of Ozark, Alabama, died Aug. 3, 2019. Brown was a reference librarian at Fort Rucker for HUMRRO, Aviation School, and the main post library before purchasing her shop in downtown Ozark known as Betty's Book and Gift Shop. Brown was an active member of the Ozark Baptist

Church since 1955, having been the church librarian, an adult Sunday School teacher and choir member all of these years. She loved her Lord, her family and was a friend to everyone who knew her.

'52 Jerrie Walker Reeder, age 87, of Montgomery, Alabama, died July 25, 2019. She was raised in the Baptist church and was always a woman of incredible faith and love of the Lord. Upon completing seminary in 1954, she and her husband married and set out in a life of service to the Lord—serving in Jackson, Mississippi, Selma, Alabama, and Miami Springs, Florida, before mission work in Asia.

'55 Jay C. Beckley, age 91, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, died July 18, 2019. Beckley enlisted in the United States Army in 1951 and proudly served on active duty status in the Counterintelligence Corps until 1953. In 1953, he transferred to the United States Army

Reserves and continued to serve during the Korean War Conflict until 1956. Beckley was vice president at Harris Bank in Chicago, corporate lawyer and senior vice president at USLIFE Credit Corporation, and president and chairman of the board at Oswego Bank. He was also a member of Peace Lutheran Church in Edmond, Oklahoma.

'56 Frances Cantrell, age 83, of Gadsden, Alabama, died June 28, 2019. Cantrell taught in many schools and held various offices in the state Spanish Teachers' Organization and served on numerous state and national committees. She was chosen as Spanish Teacher of the Year of the Foreign Language Teachers' Association of Georgia in 1974. While in Atlanta, she was a member of Second Ponce DeLeon Baptist Church, where she was active in international work.

'57 Joseph Charles Brown, age 89, of Springfield, Missouri, died Nov. 11, 2018. In 1954, Brown worked with his father in the family business, Brown School, Church and Art Supply while his wife, Nancy, taught piano in their home and for Samford University. Brown and Nancy joined others as founding members of Vestavia Hills Baptist Church in Birmingham. Later they would move to Missouri to both join the faculty of Southwest Baptist University where they would retire. What made Brown's retirement his golden years was being able to chauffeur around, cheer on at sporting events, and laugh around the table with his six grandchildren.

'57 James "Jim" Houston Simerly, age 87, of Maryville, Tennessee, died Feb. 26, 2019. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and a graduate of Samford with a degree in pharmacy. He and his family moved to Spring City in 1965 and opened Spring City Pharmacy. After retirement, he and his wife, Lena, moved back to the Maryville area where he continued to work part time for several years. While in Spring City, Simerly and Lena were very active members of the First Baptist Church where he held several positions including serving as a deacon and trustee and singing in the choir. Simerly was also always active with Gideons International.

'59 Shirley M. Garland, age 83, of Milton, Florida, died June 28, 2019. Her clinical experience included two and a half years on staff of Children's Hospital, Menninger Foundation, and she practiced as a family and child therapist in Dallas, Texas, for over 18

years, providing emotional support to her patients and their families. During that period, she was author of *Of Castles and Dreams and Tender Things*, a book describing the experiences of the move from childhood to adolescence to adulthood.

'59 Dr. Robert Lee Richardson, age 81, of Macon, Georgia, died Aug. 6, 2018. He was a pastor, counselor, college administrator and graduate teacher. Richardson retired from Mercer University in 2002. He will be remembered for his leadership skills, patience and personal interest he took in those he met along the way.

'62 Huelan W. Hill, age 78, of Lakeland, Florida, died July 2, 2019. An All-State Georgia quarterback, he played for coach Bobby Bowden at South Georgia College and Howard College. He was a teacher, coach and administrator before becoming an educational salesman in Florida.

'62 Glenda Maxine Keylon, age 78, of Spring City, Tennessee, died July 2, 2019. Keylon was a pharmacist for 40 years until retiring from Stan's Pharmacy in Dayton, Ohio. She continued to work part time at the Spring City Pharmacy until recent years. She was a member of the Spring City United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Women and Pairs and Spares Sunday School Class. Keylon was also on the Mexico Methodist Women's Team. This was her passion, and she made trips to Mexico for many years.

'62 Lee Morgan King, age 80, of Russellville, Alabama, died March 8, 2019. He was a graduate of Samford's pharmacy school and will be missed by friends and family.

'62 John Sylvester Nordan, age 82, of Ridgeland, Mississippi, died April 1, 2019. He was president of Nordan Smith Welding and Safety Supplies Inc. Nordan Smith became a large multi-store company. Nordan, known by his family as Pops, was a supreme "people person," a born salesman and consummate encourager of young and old. Having never met a stranger his outgoing personality served him well as a leader and businessman throughout his life. One of his favorite honors was being named Boss of the Year by the American Business Woman's Association.

'62 Sarah Alice Wolfskill, age 79, of Rogersville, Alabama, died May 18, 2019. She was loved and cherished by many.

'63 Stephen Lipscomb, age 84, of Tallahassee, Florida, died May 8, 2019. He received a degree in pharmacy from Howard College and served as a corpsman in the U.S. Navy. He was the pharmacy manager for Albertson's for 25 years and with the state of Florida Medicaid for 10 years.

'66 Col. Jack Martin Jr., age 84, of Trussville, Alabama, died June 21, 2019. He was a territory manager for Parker Hannifin of Cleveland, Ohio. He retired as a colonel after 36 years in the U.S. Army and Army Reserve. Martin served on active duty with the 101st Airborne Division, 5th Infantry Division and 9th Infantry Division. His U.S. Army Reserve assignments were in the 87th Maneuver Area Command where he served as flight detachment commander, aviation officer, chief of combat exercise division 2 and inspector general. Martin retired as commander of the 33rd Aviation Group (Combat), Ft. Rucker, Alabama, where he commanded 2nd U.S. Army Reserve aviation units located in five Southeastern states.

'68 Jim T. Sizemore, age 73, of Montgomery, Alabama, died June 20, 2019. Sizemore graduated from Samford and spent most of his career in sales, including owning his own real estate company. Music was a big part of Sizemore's life, playing his guitar and spending time with his grandchildren. He was also a great storyteller and loved to entertain others with his humor.

'69 Arnold Roy Sims Jr., age 72, of Pelham, Alabama, died July 19, 2019. He retired from Southern Company Services and was a volunteer and board member emeritus of APCO Employees Credit Union with 43 years of service. He was a beloved husband, father and grandfather.

'73 Gary Lynn Kennard, age 76, of Homewood, Alabama, died July 15, 2019. A 15-year survivor of Parkinson's disease, he was active in starting and supporting several local Parkinson's meetings. Taking a break from college, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, was stationed in Germany, and honorably discharged in 1967 as sergeant. He then returned to Samford and completed his degree. Inherently a salesman, Kennard worked for several large corporations until deciding to change careers. He became a substance abuse counselor in 2000. Among his contributions to the community are crisis center volunteer, reserve Hoover police officer, member of

Cahaba Valley Elks Lodge, grief therapist for children at Amelia Center and bus driver in his retirement.

'74 Christopher "Chris" Powell Brewer, age 70, of Raleigh, North Carolina, died Aug. 3, 2019 after a hard-fought battle with cancer. Brewer began his employment in the North Carolina Department of Justice assigned to the Division of Special Prosecutions. In 1986 the attorney general promoted Brewer to special attorney general to lead and direct the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. During that time Brewer was not only actively engaged in the North Carolina unit but was very much engaged at the national level as well. Brewer was selected to serve as the president of the National Association of Medicaid Fraud Control Units from 2003-04.

'78 Elizabeth T. Cvetetic, age 64, of Hoover, Alabama, died July 7, 2019. Cvetetic grew up in Montgomery and was an attorney in Alabama for almost 40 years. She will be missed.

'79 Robert Henry "Bobby" Creel, age 69, of Bluff Park, Alabama, died July 29, 2019. Creel had a vivacious spirit, one that touched the lives of many friends and family around him. He had many joys in life that he shared with all who encountered him. He imparted that joy of life to his family as he watched his grandchildren grow during the waning years of his vibrant life.

'79 Martha T. Glover, age 93, of Little Rock, Arkansas, died May 5, 2019. She loved and served her family well along with many who lovingly called her Nana.

'82 Stephen C. Bullock, age 63, of McAlpin, Florida, died July 17, 2019. He was a lawyer with Brannon, Brown, Haley and Bullock Law Firm, Lake City, Florida, from 1995-2019. Bullock was a member of the 3rd Circuit Bar Association, Florida Bar Association, American Bar Association and Branford Rotary. He also served as past president of the Suwannee River Riding Club, Branford Booster Club and was a member of the Orchard Community Church.

'83 Tony M. Jones, age 61, of Rock Hill, South Carolina, died July 18, 2019. After graduation from law school in 1983, Jones was admitted to practice and worked with Luther C. Elrod III, becoming a partner in 1987. He went on to have his own practice, where he practiced exclusively in the family court. As a judge, he was devoted to youth at risk and a memorial garden has been established in his name at the

York County Courthouse. Jones was past president of the York County Bar Association and chairman of the board of the Children's Attention Home.

'84 Melinda B. Etheredge Taylor Carter, age 61, of Birmingham, Alabama, died June 30, 2019. Carter was a loving, giving person and will be missed.

'92 Lisa Elaine Carter (Mason), age 49, of Hoover, Alabama, died July 9, 2019. Carter graduated from Huntsville High and went on to Samford, graduating with a major in theatre and communications. Over four years, she appeared in 14 plays at Samford and in community theatre, and wrote and directed productions. A 28-year career in Birmingham radio began with WYDE. Her career progressed through the years across the radio dial in a variety of genres including the classic "Mason and Dixon Show" and "Backtalk" with partner Richard Dixon, and she spent 17 years at WBPT 106.9 with her award-winning "Lisa Mason in the Morning." She will be missed by all who knew her.

'97 Deborah R. Camel, age 70, of Bessemer, Alabama, died July 14, 2019. She retired as an administrative assistant with Samford University and was a Mary Kay consultant. She was also president of the Women of Prayer Ministry at Galilee Baptist Church. She was the joy of her family and will be missed.

'00 Dr. Kerry Randall Bunn Sr., age 63, of Tallassee, Alabama, died July 31, 2019. By the time he was ordained at 18 years old, Bunn had preached in over 40 different churches and held many positions on the denominational, executive and community level. He loved teaching and served as a substitute teacher for college professors and was a grader and mentor, passing on his experience and knowledge. Personally, his family and friends remember that he had a great sense of humor and loved practical jokes.

'04 Bethany Avery Rutledge, age 37, of Winter Haven, Florida, died Aug. 3, 2019. Throughout her entire life, she excelled at anything she set her sights on. As a young girl, she was introduced to running by her father, Ron Avery. Their shared enjoyment of running would eventually blossom into a passion she had for endurance sports and a platform she used to impact countless lives. She will be remembered as selfless, encouraging, inspiring, loving and a wonderful wife and mother to her sons.

FRIENDS

Billie Fikes Davis, age 92, of Trussville, Alabama, died July 10, 2019. She was a member of Jonesboro Methodist in Bessemer for over 36 years and later became a member of First Methodist Church of Trussville. Davis retired from Bessemer City Parks and Recreation after many years of service. She was a talented seamstress and had a love for gardening. She was a member of the East End Council Garden Club and won many first place ribbons for Best in Show.

Ernest L. McCarty Jr., age 84, of Vestavia, Alabama, died June 23, 2019. He became principal owner of Ernest McCarty Ford, Inc. in 1983, and worked six days a week for over 35 years, until illness forced his retirement in 2018. He was a beloved husband, son, father, brother, grandfather, friend and business owner and a generous and often anonymous benefactor to many. He was a member of Shades Mountain Baptist Church, a Mason, a Shriner, and a former member of the Naval Reserve.

STAFF

Dr. Jerry E. L. Moyer, age 76, of Vestavia, Alabama, died March 22, 2019. In 1993-94, Moyer served as a visiting professor at Samford University. Moyer passed away in Hong Kong, where he had served God for four decades. Moyer was respected for his command of the Chinese language and customs and for his humility as a servant-leader who dedicated his life to nurturing a locally led church in Hong Kong. He is remembered for his eloquence and his love of beauty and the arts, including his piano playing and wonderful sense of humor.

FOREVER SAMFORD

Have you already made plans to include Samford in your estate? Let us know and become the newest member of the DeVotie Legacy Society.

Alumnus Joe Quin first attended Howard College the same year that the school moved to Homewood, Alabama. In conversations with Mr. Quin, he loved to exclaim about the mud on the new campus. He was fond of joking that surely some of his classmates disappeared into “the muddy tracks where beautiful sidewalks now exist.” He graduated with a pharmacy degree from Howard College in 1960 and enjoyed a long career in pharmacy.

Joe Quin was a lifelong supporter of his alma mater, making many gifts to all areas of campus. His gifts were often given in a creative manner, resulting in planned gifts that benefited everyone. His gifts were smart and resulted in a real win-win effect.

This summer Mr. Quin exchanged his earthly home in Dothan for an eternal home in heaven. In so doing he also gave his greatest gift to Samford through his will. His will provided for scholarships at Beeson Divinity School in memory of his family members, Lelia Bryant Beard and Mary Nell Beard Medley.

Joe Quin epitomized the Samford spirit of gracious generosity and dedication to others. His gifts live on beyond his earthly years, and will impact Samford forever.



To become a DeVotie Legacy Society member, contact Gene Howard at wehoward@samford.edu or 205-726-2366.

Samford Greeks celebrated Bid Day this fall. The mission of Samford's Greek Life is to enhance the student experience through fraternal and faith-based connections. Samford has 14 fraternities and sororities and nearly half of Samford undergraduates are members of a Greek organization. Fall Panhellenic recruitment participation reached a new high this year with 450 women.

