

THE MAGAZINE OF SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

# seasons

SPRING 2019

The World is  
*Better for it*



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## Making the World a Better Place

Samford University has a high goal, to make the world a better place. The *Seasons* cover story provides some of the many ways Samford's faculty are working to achieve this goal.



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## Transformation Continues

The transformation of the Samford campus continues. Completed in the fall was the redesign of Ingalls Hall. Underway currently are extensive upgrades of Beeson University Center and the Daniel House.



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## Hodges Wins Payton Award

Samford quarterback Devlin Hodges was named winner of the Walter Payton Award that goes to the nation's best FCS offensive football player. Hodges led the nation in passing and established a new national career mark for passing yardage.

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**Cover:** Viewing the Earth at Samford's Christenberry Planetarium in a real-time simulation using satellite data. The planetarium hosts 10,000 guests annually at public and private events. Free public presentations are on Thursdays at 7 p.m. on a variety of topics. In the summer, the planetarium offers a mentoring program with one-on-one guided research on topics such as building rockets and robots, data visualization and virtual reality. For more information, go to [samford.edu/departments/planetarium](http://samford.edu/departments/planetarium).

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A recent School of the Arts musical theatre event, *A Grand Night for Singing*, part of the Michael J. and Mary Anne Freeman Theatre and Dance Series, celebrated student talent and paid tribute to Rodgers and Hammerstein. Performers included, from left, Bradyn Debysingh and Kaci Deakins.





# From the President



## An Enduring Impact

**A few months ago, our friend Timothy George, right, announced his plans to retire** at the end of the current academic year from his role as dean of Samford University's Beeson Divinity School. He has held this appointment since the founding of the school in 1988 and the impact of his leadership will endure for generations. We are grateful to Dr. George for his willingness to continue his relationship with us as a valued faculty member and colleague.



Across his career Dean George has earned a global reputation as a significant theologian, author and speaker. In addition to teaching church history and doctrine at Beeson, he serves as a senior editor of *Christianity Today*.

His wise counsel is sought by a wide variety of church leaders. Dean George is on the editorial advisory boards of the *Harvard Theological Review*, *Christian History* and *Books & Culture*. He also serves as a fellow for the Center for Baptist Renewal and is active in Evangelical-Roman Catholic Church dialogue. He has written more than 20 books and regularly contributes to scholarly journals. His book, *Theology of the Reformers*, has been translated into several languages and is used as a textbook in many schools and seminaries.

Timothy George is firm in his faith and warm in his spirit. From presidents to popes, to his influence on all of us, the world is better for Timothy George.

As always, please keep Samford in your prayers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Westmoreland'.

Andrew Westmoreland  
President









# Making the world A BETTER PLACE

by William Nunnolley

**T**he world is better for it. With these words, Samford President Andrew Westmoreland frequently concludes his weekly message to the university community, generally describing Samford people or activities that have produced exceptional results, thus making the world a better place.

Samford nurtures students in their development of intellect, creativity, faith and personhood. Through 10 schools, Samford fosters academic, career and ethical competency while encouraging social and civic responsibility and service to others.

Because of an interdisciplinary curriculum, superior teaching, experiential learning opportunities and a supportive, compassionate community, Samford students enter the world ready to make a difference.

As an alum, you may be interested in learning of recent curriculum advances Samford has made to ensure that students are trained and encouraged as they prepare to take on the next phase of their journey.

The following pages show some of the many ways Samford faculty are working to achieve Samford's mission—nurturing persons, for God, for learning, forever.

## Experiential Learning and Simulation Center Accreditation

The simulation center in the College of Health Sciences is on track to become only the second fully accredited simulation center in Alabama after receiving provisional accreditation from the Society of Simulation in Healthcare in December. This achievement



recognizes the exceptional work of Samford faculty in providing revolutionary simulation experiences for students preparing for careers in health care.

Spanning 22,000 square feet in the College of Health Sciences facilities, the center is designed to serve as the hub for simulation and interprofessional activities within the college and its four schools—School of Health Professions, Ida Moffett School of Nursing, McWhorter School of Pharmacy and School of Public Health. The interprofessional nature of the center reflects its mission to serve the entire College of Health Sciences.

“Our space is unique because everything is contained within a single floor,” said Jill Pence, executive director of the center. “The combination of having different levels of simulation—from clinical labs to our high-fidelity suite—within the same space gives our students the advantage of experiencing various clinical settings before stepping into practice.”

The Society of Simulation in Healthcare is the largest health care simulation accrediting body in the world with 104 fully accredited simulation programs in 11 countries. Since Samford’s center is new, it is required to maintain provisional accreditation for two years before being eligible to apply for full accreditation.

### Catalyst: Preparing a New Type of Entrepreneurial Artist

Samford’s School of the Arts recently launched a new curriculum, Catalyst, comprised of six classes that offer building blocks for students to be prepared as professional artists. Catalyst takes entrepreneurship, real-world experience, service and community learning, innovative teaching initiatives, and faith, and weaves

A portion of Samford’s Experiential Learning and Simulation Center



these opportunities into the student curriculum and path at Samford.

“We have seen a dramatic change in what is expected from students moving into 21st-century careers in arts, and we have responded by creating a versatile and formidable kind of curriculum to prepare a new type of entrepreneurial artist,” said Joe Hopkins, School of the Arts dean.

The six interdisciplinary classes move beyond traditional course structure to include team-based learning and experiential projects. The curriculum culminates with the senior project that synthesizes all Catalyst components and allows students to experience professional-level work.

“The new curriculum is the spark that will set students’ worlds on fire,” said Hopkins, “the education that will propel them into artistic careers of their choice with the experience they’ll need to succeed.”

“The combination of having different levels of simulation—from clinical labs to our high-fidelity suite—within the same space gives our students the advantage of experiencing various clinical settings before stepping into practice.” —Jill Pence





Beeson alum Blake Harris learned about cross-cultural missions at Sacred Road, a Native American ministry in Washington.

### Cross-cultural Ministry Program

Beeson Divinity School requires all Master of Divinity students to take a cross-cultural ministry practicum. "This practicum seeks to expose students to issues related to cross-cultural ministry through firsthand experience," said David Parks, director of the Samford's Global Center and head of the cross-cultural program. "The requirement itself arises from the recognition that cross-cultural ministry is no longer exceptional but normative for Christian ministers."

Communities across the U.S. are increasingly multicultural, and opportunities for mission involvement internationally are rapidly expanding, Parks added. "Competent ministry leaders in the 21st century must be prepared to cross cultural boundaries in the course of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ," he said.

Course objectives include helping students "develop a vision for long-term involvement in the task of reaching people of all tongues, tribes and nations," he said.

### Physical Therapy's Commitment to Serve

"Service is central to everything we do," says Matthew Ford, chair of Samford's Department of Physical Therapy. "We believe that we are all called to serve, to use our skills and knowledge to make the lives of people better."

One way this commitment to service is expressed is through a required course that students take in their second year, health care service/field experience. It offers full-time experience working in environments to serve persons in need.

Over the past few years, students have been to Ecuador, China, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Honduras and Malawi as part of this service course. During the past three summers, students served at Adam's Camp in Colorado, working with children with

disabilities, noted professor Scott Bickel. "They assist with just about every aspect of the camp."

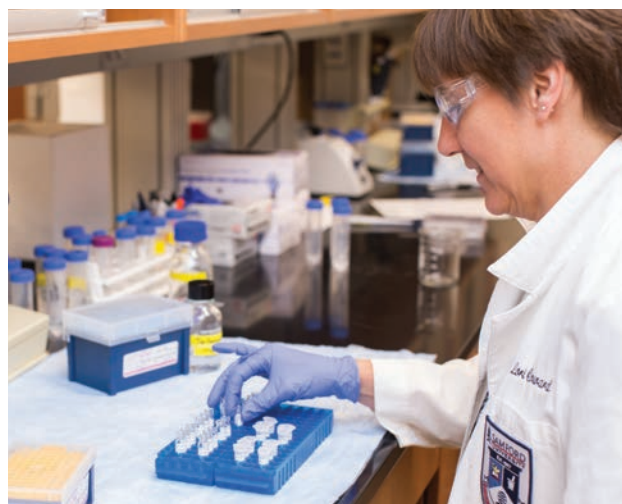
Students also work regularly at Lakeshore Foundation and other Birmingham agencies.

### Researching Society's Problems

Faculty in Samford's Department of Pharmaceutical, Social and Administrative Sciences are leading collaborative research involving students that results in dynamic opportunities in several areas. Professor John Arnold is studying newer and better ways to deliver healing drugs into the body. Professor Bernadette D'Souza is working to enhance immunization therapy. Professor Greg Gorman's work extends beyond the research bench with clinical trials taking place at Children's of Alabama. Together they are working to solve some of society's most complex problems.

This work is taking place in the College of Health Sciences' Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Lab, which provides more than 2,500 square feet of space for eight basic science faculty and their students to conduct projects related to fundamental and applied research. Pharmaceutical research is a multidisciplinary science requiring expertise in biology, biochemistry, chemistry, pharmacology and materials engineering. The space is also used by faculty in the nutrition and dietetics department.

"Three major themes for research within the department are pharmacogenomics, rare diseases and health outcomes research," said Howard Hendrickson, professor and chair of the pharmaceutical, social and



Research associate Lori Coward works in Samford's McWhorter School of Pharmacy

"It is well established that engaging in undergraduate scholarship is a high-impact activity." —**Thomas Woolley**

administrative sciences department. "Central to all this research is working in teams with other researchers in the Birmingham area and across the country.

"Students and the expansion of their education and experience are also central to all the work that happens within the pharmacy school," said Hendrickson. "Students gain a clearer picture of how improvements to health care translate from the bench to the bedside."

In another area of research, 13 Samford students attended the third annual Southern Conference Research Forum at Wofford College in South Carolina to present their research in a variety of disciplines. "It is well established that engaging in undergraduate scholarship is a high-impact activity," said Thomas Woolley, Samford's senior associate provost. The students presented in such areas as human development and family life education, nutrition and dietetics, psychology, biology and environmental sciences, communication studies, kinesiology, world languages and cultures, and public health.

### Working Toward Digital Fluency

Because digital fluency is increasingly important in the workforce of tomorrow, Samford's Howard College of Arts and Sciences is producing professionally adaptable graduates who are not merely able to operate emerging technology, but also able to harness it to STEM, humanities and social science fields.

Computer science pioneer and 2018 Davis Lecture presenter Rosalind Picard is one of many on the leading edge of technology who view the critical thought and values embodied in the humanities, in particular religion and philosophy, literature, classics, history and languages, as necessary to inform and shape new technology. The college, which provides the humanities foundation for all Samford undergraduates, is addressing the challenges of that new technology through the work

Affective computing pioneer Rosalind Picard shares her expertise with Samford math and computer science students.



of Samford's Center for Science and Religion, and through a new digital humanities initiative.

"Digital technology enables us to do a lot of things with the humanities that really weren't possible before," said Tim Hall, dean of the college. That includes not only digitally preserving millennia of human culture, he said, but also making that information accessible to everyone in order to encourage innovative interpretations and applications.

Religion professor Jennifer McClure, for example, recently combined the growing field of social network analysis with religious history and biblical studies to examine Jesus' social network. Student publications *Wide Angle* and *The Local* include significant digital components. The work of the Samford Traditions and Oral History Recording Initiative includes teaching students not only the traditional techniques of oral history—research, communication and analytical thinking—but also the technical skills of digital recording, editing and podcasting.

These kinds of interdisciplinary student and faculty digital projects will proliferate in the college in coming years. "I think what everyone hopes is that people will recover the relevance of the humanities to daily life, to the way that they think of the world around them," said Hall.





Terra Nova Academy teachers visiting Samford are, from left, Edith Kalago, Hafisah Nakayiwa, Rebecca Kirabo, David Luswata and Winnie Nabawanga

### Partnership with Terra Nova Academy

Samford formed a new global connection when alumna Alisha Damron-Seruyange '05 reached out to Orlan Beeson School of Education seeking professional education training for Terra Nova Academy. Sharing skills and resources turned into a much larger partnership that has resulted in teacher leader training sessions and internship opportunities for Samford education students.

Terra Nova Academy was founded in Kampala, Uganda, by Damron-Seruyange and her husband Abdul in 2013. Their goal was to establish a creative, safe place for children in Uganda to grow and learn in life and faith at an affordable rate. Amy Hoaglund, associate professor

"This project is truly an example of God's provision if we dream big, have faith and work together to share our gifts and resources as a community of believers."

—Amy Hoaglund

of early childhood and elementary education, traveled to Kampala last summer to provide professional training in comprehension, phonics, English language learning and instructional strategies for teachers at Terra Nova. Her experience inspired her to apply for the Hull Grant for Seminar Development. The grant funds enabled five teachers to continue online training and development through 2018. In January 2019, the Ugandan teachers and Damron-Seruyange traveled to Samford to participate in a 20-day extensive teacher leader training and spiritual formation with education faculty.

"This project is truly an example of God's provision if we dream big, have faith and work together to share our gifts and resources as a community of believers," Hoaglund said.

Uganda has one of the world's youngest and fastest growing populations. The rapid growth and lack of education infrastructure has led to overcrowded and drastically underperforming schools, according to Damron-Seruyange. Due to the 1:43 teacher-to-pupil ratio and lack of funds, having school-provided meals is very rare. Most alarming, she said, is the utilization of physical punishment in many of the affordable education options. Terra Nova was established to provide a place where children could ask questions freely and be imperfect without fear of physical abuse.

During the teacher leader training at Samford, the Ugandan teachers learned character development, principles of leadership strategy and effective strategies for student home visits.

"Our hope is that we are establishing what we call a 'Train the Trainer' model. It will enable these teachers to go back and share what they have learned with their fellow instructors, building a sound professional development curriculum for all Terra Nova teachers," Hoaglund said.

Since its founding, Terra Nova has expanded to two campuses with 150 students, and it is actively providing a holistic educational foundation by incorporating spiritual formation, academic excellence and artistic development into the curriculum.

Samford students, faculty, alumni and friends are committed to serving one another and the world. At Samford, we are dedicated to developing the mind, body and spirit of our students so that they can continue to make the world a better place. ▮

*Sarah Waller, Ashley Smith, Kristen Padilla, Howard Hendrickson, Sean Flynt and Sara Roman contributed to the cover story.*

# Putting People First— in Birmingham and Beyond

by Morgan Black

**Fifteen years ago, Randall Woodfin, J.D. '07, was ready for a new challenge, one that would help him evolve into a better leader, and a better person. In a personal statement included in his application to Cumberland School of Law, he wrote:**

"Cumberland School of Law asserts that a portion of its mission is to develop in its students a sensitivity to the needs and concerns of people, an understanding of a lawyer's duty to serve, and the will to be responsible leaders in the community. I view law as the prime vehicle for change in my community, and my desire is to adequately represent my community with the same conviction and justice I have asserted in my own personal experiences. I believe Cumberland School of Law will shape my vision and commitment to the city of Birmingham."

This statement, which he appropriately titled "Servant Leadership," now serves as the core of his mission and vision as the 30th mayor of Birmingham, Alabama.

Woodfin's experience during and after law school helped form the backbone of his administration and its strategy. Following the motto "Putting People First," Woodfin and his team work to ensure that the people of Birmingham are their number one priority. This tagline is the core strategy behind their plan, and passion, for moving Birmingham forward.

"From the day I stepped foot inside Cumberland's hallways, I viewed law as the prime vehicle for social change in our community," he said. "It still rings true today as part of my mission of 'Putting People First' in Birmingham."

Since he accepted the charge to lead Birmingham in November 2017, Woodfin and his team have used that passion to target blight in the community and level long-vacant buildings that have been a source of shame for many. He worked alongside members of the Birmingham City Council to come to a consensus on a deal that will support expansion of the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex, including a downtown stadium and renovation of Legacy Arena, which is now underway. He created a new office—the Office of Social Justice and Racial Equity—to protect citizens of all walks of life, in the spirit of the civil rights movement that was birthed here on Birmingham's very streets.

"It's all part of the foundation that was first laid at Cumberland," Woodfin added.

Additionally, the mayor is working to make Birmingham "a laboratory for progress," all while using his passion to back his plans. Efforts are being made to improve economic development, neighborhood revitalization, education and career opportunities for students, and crime issues in the city's

99 neighborhoods. He recently announced a crime-fighting plan to put more police officers on the streets, implemented a customer service program to improve relations with the public and boost employee morale, increased the city's messages through traditional media and social media platforms, and hired a team of people to focus on workforce development and small business growth and civic innovation. One part of his vision is, by 2020, to have Birmingham be seen as the destination for women and minorities to launch their business because they know their business will thrive.

Using his Cumberland School of Law education as a basis for his success, Randall Woodfin strives every day to put people first. That mantra will not only support his efforts as mayor, but will follow him every day of his life, in Birmingham and beyond. ▀

Randall Woodfin





# Humanizing Christianity— Through Crist's Comedy

John Crist, a 2006 journalism and mass communication graduate from Samford, is the next big thing in stand-up comedy. When it comes to his comedy, Crist writes what he knows. As one of eight children and the son of a pastor, Crist knows Christian culture. His viral videos, which have garnered more than 1 billion views, bridge the gap between faith and contemporary culture.

Crist's comedy resonates with audiences of all ages. His most recent tour—The Human Being Tour—sold out coast to coast and welcomed more than 100,000 people across 55 cities last fall. Due to popular demand, Crist will make stops in an additional 43 cities this spring.

We caught up with Crist to talk about his comedy and calling.

**When you decided to pursue comedy as a career, did you intend to use it to share your faith?**

Oh man, let's see. I think it was actually closer to the opposite. When I started

out in the comedy clubs, I shied away from Christian topics. I just wanted to do stand-up comedy for everyone, and I was scared that if I did something that was too niche Christian, that people wouldn't get the joke.

But I heard someone say that if you want to be a truly transcendent comedian, you need to write about what you know. So growing up in church, dad being a pastor, homeschooled, working at Chick-fil-A. . . that was my life, that was my mindset. So I started talking from that angle. Sure enough, everyone seemed to relate. I think if you grew up in

America, even if you aren't a Christian, you know who Jesus is. You know that churches meet on Sundays. You know who David and Goliath are. You know about Noah's Ark. I try not to get too niche Christian in my show. I try to stick to topics everyone knows about.

**How do you think your work influences perceptions of Christianity?**

We've thought about this a lot as we put together our tours. It's funny because my most successful videos are the ones that aren't specifically Christian, like Every Parent at Disney or Honest Football Coach. These are the types of people who are coming out to the live shows . . . often times people who have never been to church or at least not in a long time. I feel like the live show really humanizes Christians.

We're performing in more and more comedy clubs and theaters these days. Even when we do shows in churches, I feel like if someone who wasn't a church-goer came to that show, he or she would leave the show thinking, "Oh, Christian people are just like me." Christian or not, everyone needs to laugh.

**Do you see your comedy as a part of your calling as a Christian? Is it a ministry for you?**

One of my favorite quotes of all time is, "The Christian shoemaker does his duty not by putting little crosses on the shoes, but by making good shoes because God is interested in good craftsmanship."

John Crist



Photos courtesy of John Crist

That's it right there. I, for sure, believe that God put me on this planet to make people laugh, yes. But people misrepresent God all the time by making specialty Christian products that are not good. If you want to classify me as a Christian comedian or as just a comedian who is a Christian, that's up to you. I just want to make great comedy.

Ministry is a strange word to me, a word I see misused all the time. But we do get hundreds of emails and letters from people saying things like, "I'm struggling with depression, and your comedy has lifted my spirits." "I deal with chronic pain, and your comedy makes me feel better." We got an email one time from a lady who said she has cancer and is going through chemo. Whenever she gets done with radiation she goes straight home and watches John Crist videos because it always makes her laugh. So if you think about it in those terms, then it is for sure a ministry.

### **What's the most difficult part of what you do?**

Maybe the worst part about the job is the people who don't understand the jokes. We poke a lot of fun at Christian culture, and sometimes people just don't get the joke. I love the local church. I think the local church is our only hope for the future but that being said, culturally we do some weird quirky stuff. It's hard when people miss the point of the joke or question my faith or tear me down for whatever reason or say that a certain joke is across the line. But that's a very, very small minority of people. All across the country the venues are packed full of people who get the joke and are ready to laugh. That's what keeps me going.

### **What do you attribute your success to?**

Comedy is different than performing music or even a sporting event in the way that the comedian needs the crowd to succeed. Not only do I need the crowd, I rely on them. I can only say what you can relate to. So I attribute my success to the relatability of it all. I'm certainly not popular enough to make a video go viral. I rely on the people who watch it to like it, relate to it and share it. So if you don't relate to it, you don't share it. I think my point of view, childhood and life experiences are very similar to a lot of people and that's why people share the videos and come to the shows.

### **What is one thing someone would be surprised to learn about you?**

I'm actually very introverted. I gain energy from being alone. I like the crowds at the shows but I think it has all driven me more and more inward.

### **What do you hope your legacy will be?**

For a guy who eats off the dollar menu and buys the majority of his clothes at Target, legacy is a tough idea to undertake. Most people would never get asked a question like that.

My goal has always been very simple, and I think it's the same for every artist—to get what's in my heart, out. To get what's inside me, expressed. What the world decides to do with it is up to them. So whether it's a tweet, an Instagram story, a live show, a TV show or a Netflix special . . . I just want to get the ideas inside of me out to the world. That's what brings me the most happiness and joy. ▀





# Economic Development— Carrolls' Mission in Rwanda

by William Nunnelley

Chase and Rachel Carroll got a taste of international travel and study during their undergraduate days in Samford's Brock School of Business. After graduation in 2013 and 2014, and marriage in 2014, the couple found themselves drawn to the idea of working in economic development in a developing country.

"Both Chase and I spent time exploring, networking and planning for the chance to do this," said Rachel. They had both visited East Africa, but were open to anything. Through a series of connections, emails and other circumstances, Chase was offered a position with Karisimbi Business Partners (KBP) in Kigali, the capital of the east African nation of Rwanda.

"We decided Rwanda was it," said Rachel.

That was almost three years ago, in 2016. Rachel had traveled as an undergraduate social entrepreneurship student to South Africa, and Chase had studied abroad in London and worked in the African country of Burundi with HOPE International. Chase had been to Rwanda once for a few days at a conference.

"I had never set foot until we landed in Kigali as our new home," said Rachel, who like Chase grew up in Atlanta and lived in Birmingham after graduation. "It definitely set the tone for adventure."

Today, Chase is a management consultant and investment adviser at KBP, and Rachel is program manager for The Women's Bakery, a social enterprise committed to empowering women through business and education. Rachel and The Women's Bakery were featured in a recent *New York Times* travel story on Kigali. Later this year, Chase will transition to work as the operating partner at Amplio Ventures, a refugee-centric impact investment firm that he cofounded in 2018. He also serves on the leadership team of their church.

Do the Carrolls view their situation as a mission?

"Absolutely," said Rachel. "It has always been my passion to invest in and create opportunity for others. While I use the word 'calling' loosely, I definitely see my life here as just that—a chance to use my gifts and talents to highlight the gifts and talents in others."

"While we aren't working with a ministry or spreading the gospel directly, we do participate actively in providing for the physical needs of others—both immediately and long-term. Jesus used his ministry to provide often for the physical and emotional needs of others. That's our relational mission, and we get to do that here."



Chase and  
Rachel Carroll

Rachel believes that everyone can do the same "in whatever context they find themselves."

Life in Rwanda seems pretty normal to the Carrolls. "We have a home, a car, two dogs and regular jobs," said Chase. "We both go to offices, pay bills, cook dinner and meet with friends much like we would in our first culture context."

Rachel said living abroad "is an incredible opportunity, but also a very normal life to an extent." Even so, it "certainly required an initial risk (or leap of faith!)" She says there's no such thing as a "day in the life" at The Women's Bakery.

"Every day is filled with challenges, setbacks, successes and excitement. Some days I spend working on cash flows, invoicing and such. Some days I spend making muffin mix."

Rachel said living in Rwanda was an adjustment, "but what surprised us the most was our depth of community. We had an incredible community of people that felt like family almost immediately." ►

# Samford Welcomes Bobby Gatlin as *University Minister*

by Katie Stripling

**The Reverend Bobby Gatlin** has been named university minister at Samford University effective January 22, 2019.

In his role, Gatlin will lead religious life initiatives in the Samford community through global missions, program coordination, pastoral care and worship experiences. He will provide leadership and vision for the Office of Spiritual Life and will oversee the university's convocation program. Gatlin will also preach and teach on campus regularly.

"Rev. Gatlin is a gifted minister, and his experience in guiding individuals as they explore and develop their faith will be a tremendous asset to our students, faculty and staff," said Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management R. Philip Kimrey. "At Samford, the integration of spiritual and intellectual development is foundational to our mission. Rev. Gatlin will ensure that we continue to effectively integrate our Christian mission across all aspects of the university."

Gatlin brings to the position more than 20 years of experience serving churches in Alabama, Texas and Tennessee. For the past 16 years, he has served as the minister to students

at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Georgia. The church, which is one of the largest in metro Atlanta, has more than 8,000 members and a vibrant student ministry.

"After many years of local church student ministry, I am excited about joining the Samford family," said Gatlin. "I look forward to meeting everyone and working to build upon an incredible campus ministry."

Gatlin is a graduate of the University of Mobile, and he earned a Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife Kerri have two children who are Samford students. ▀



Gatlin



## Tom and Marla Corts

### Distinguished Author Series

featuring

## Anthony Ray Hinton

author of *The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row*

## April 16, 2019

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**Samford University**  
Orlean Beeson School of Education



# Alumni, Students, Friends Join Celebration

*by Sarah Cain*

Samford University welcomed thousands to campus Nov. 1-3 in celebration of Homecoming with a packed schedule of festivities including tailgates, alumni and faculty presentations, family-friendly events, awards and football.

The celebrations actually began Oct. 30 with the annual Bulldog Bash in Seibert Stadium, where attendees enjoyed performances by the dance and cheer teams.

The next day, campus visitors could see decorated boards displayed by student organizations on Ben Brown Plaza and celebrate honored alumni at the Showcase Luncheon. The luncheon featured seven alumni: James Briscione, Lewis Brooks, Keith Kirkland, Nancy Lipham, Mark Willard, Donna Yeatman and Blake Ellenberg Youngblood. That evening, students celebrated the crowning of the 2018 king and queen, seniors Anne-Chason Wachter and Trent Taylor, at the Homecoming Ball, where they were presented alongside the rest of the court.

In addition to campus-wide events, several schools and departments hosted lectures and other presentations by faculty and alumni on Friday and Saturday. Friday also marked several celebrations to thank those who have demonstrated longtime commitment to Samford including the Leadership Forum and the Alumni Candlelight Dinner.

Five graduates were honored with alumni awards—Bradley Dennis '73, Kimeran Stevens '70, Jeremy Towns '13, and Allison and Tyler Fuqua '06. Dennis and Stevens were named Alumni of the Year, Towns the Outstanding Young



Tyler and Allison Fuqua, Bradley Dennis, Kimeran Stevens and Jeremy Towns



“It's family. It's home.” —Jeremy Towns '13

Alumnus, and the Fuquas Humanitarians of the Year. (See the *Fall 2018 issue of Seasons* for features on the alumni honorees).

“It's family. It's home. Samford is a place that takes young individuals and gives them a launching pad into their greatest future possible,” Towns said. “That's how I look at Samford. It has given me resources as a means to be able to impact the community. Samford has been a family that is irreplaceable in my life.”

Saturday tailgating created excitement for the final event everyone was anticipating—the football game against Wofford College. The Quad was bursting with activity from reunion and school tailgates.

For Jordan Hovater '17, returning to Samford always feels like reuniting with old friends.

“It doesn't matter who it is. I could meet someone and feel like I've known them for years and then all my old professors are there, and everyone remembers my name. It's not because I'm special. It's because that's how special the professors are here and how much emphasis they put on their students, and that's been really special for me,” he said.

The Samford football team closed the weekend with a fantastic 35-20 win. ▀



Trent Taylor and Anne-Chason Wachter





# Transformational Places and Spaces

*Campus Master Plan Two-year Revisit*

*by Kimberly Brown*



Office of Admission suite

The start of 2019 is a time of celebration for the many transformational ways we have enhanced our campus since the Samford Board of Trustees approved our Campus Master Plan in December 2016.

The 20-year plan is envisioned in four phases. In just two short years we have been able to complete most phase one projects as well as begin a significant phase two project, the renovation of Beeson University Center. The cornerstone of the plan is to foster student success through superior teaching and learning. As our facilities are reimagined and redesigned we are able to offer an enhanced experience that supports Samford's timeless mission, vision and values.

Since approval of the Campus Master Plan, 53 Samford facilities have received some upgrade; one new residence hall was constructed; deferred maintenance backlogs have been significantly reduced; and infrastructure upgrades are being made each summer. In the first two years of plan implementation, over 30 departments have been relocated, some having moved twice in order for their current space to be renovated. Sustainability savings from the infrastructure upgrade project with Johnson Controls Inc. are trending 4.1 percent higher than expected.

In addition to the newly constructed 70-bed residence hall for Tri Delta, eight buildings have received significant renovations: Reid Chapel, Burns Hall, Chapman Hall, Russell Hall, Ingalls Hall, Beeson University Center, Daniel House in London, and Dwight and Lucille Beeson Center (formerly





New pedestrian bridge

Healing Arts). The first of these transformations was the redesign of Burns, Chapman, Ingalls and Russell halls as the new home of Howard College of Arts and Sciences, Admission, Student Financial Services and Spiritual Life. Coupled with these major investments in enhanced teaching and learning spaces is enrichment of student services with the complete overhaul of Beeson University Center to be completed in 2019.

Supplementary to these significant projects, over 70 smaller projects and infrastructure upgrades have occurred. With a primary focus on student success and services, we have completed a new analytics lab in Brock School of Business, an expansion of the Academic Enhancement Center for student-athletes, a new suite for Career Development and Disability Resources, a new Veterans Center, and a new home for the Office of Diversity and Intercultural Initiatives. Additional projects included a remodel of over 90 residence hall bathrooms, upgrades to Leslie S. Wright Center to include the addition of ADA seating, improvements to Pete Hanna Center acoustics, structural repairs to the north parking deck and redesign of the Art Gallery and art classrooms.

Additional transportation and routing improvements were completed including new parking zones, three new fixed shuttle routes, the addition of over 600 parking spaces, new pedestrian walkways, a road connector linking Beeson Woods to the College of Health Sciences, and a new pedestrian connector linking West Campus and West Village.



The Rotunda Club

Sustainability initiatives are greatly enhancing our energy savings with over 1,100 new windows, over 22,500 LED lighting upgrades, thousands of low-flow sanitary fixtures, HVAC systems and building controls, building envelope enhancements, and upgrades to our chiller plant now complete. During the first three quarters of measurement (January to September 2018), Samford saved 11,904,101 kwh of energy consumption across the campus. ▮



# Samford's Study Abroad Programs *Help Students Go Further*



by Karen Templeton

Following her freshman year at Samford University, Angel Sims from Chattanooga, Tennessee, boarded a plane for London. She was excited about the potential opportunities awaiting her at Samford's Daniel House, but it still was not yet immediately clear to her that her life was about to change.

As many Samford alumni, faculty, staff and friends know, the Daniel House serves as both a home and a classroom. The five-story Victorian home in central London provides home base as Samford faculty strive to develop students in studies and cultural immersion. Sims' experience in London exposed her to new cultures and provided her a global perspective with

which to see the world. The bonus to all of this was developing deep friendships with fellow Samford students.

"I was able to observe and be a part of a completely different culture," Sims said. "From the food to the language, the dialect, I was surrounded by people who were different than me, which gave me a holistic view of the world."

That new worldview certainly had an impact. In her junior year, Sims went overseas again. This time, to Barcelona, Spain. It was there that she realized her passion for international relations and a curiosity for global cultures. Sims plans to return to Spain to continue her research by studying its social climate.

Sims' story demonstrates "life-changing experience" that every Samford student who comes home from a study abroad experience attempts to explain.

"The benefits of studying abroad reach far and wide," said Lauren Doss, director of Samford's Global Engagement.

"Students who study abroad have an enhanced academic experience that leads to deeper intercultural understanding and allows them to develop a global mindset."

Doss further explained that students who have experiences abroad, including international internships, are better equipped to succeed in the global workforce.

"National research shows that students who study abroad are more sought after in the workplace, have higher starting salaries and higher acceptance into graduate school programs," Doss said. "More and more employers are seeking out graduates who have had these experiences, because they've developed key '21st-century skills' such as adaptability, global understanding, tolerance, leadership and independence."

At Samford, the administration and faculty agree that studying abroad enhances more than academics. Simply getting outside of one's comfort zone and being immersed in a new situation can also help expand personal worldviews, and foster and strengthen spiritual beliefs.

Samford provides opportunities for students to participate in more than 50 international study programs in places such as Costa Rica, Rome, Paris, France, Hong Kong and Jerusalem, and would like as many students as possible to participate in these academic experiences.

Angel Sims, front center, takes a photo with Samford friends in the UK.





A Samford class in Italy

"We are working diligently to make studying abroad more accessible for every student—whether it's creating more opportunities within their degree plan or trying to lower costs for our current programs, or even creating more affordable opportunities," Doss said. "But truth of the matter is that the most common question our office receives is 'do you have scholarships for studying abroad?' And too often the answer is 'no.'"

The average cost of a study abroad program can run more than \$10,000 in addition to Samford tuition, and room and board. This high cost makes it difficult for many students to take advantage of the many study abroad programs.

"We absolutely want to make study abroad experiences more available to our students," said Randy Pittman, vice president for university advancement. "We are working with alumni, friends and foundations to meet the financial needs of students who want to broaden their educational experience by studying internationally."

Pittman explained that recently the Samford Board of Trustees voted to lower the tuition for short-term study abroad programs, making them more accessible to students. Additionally, Keith Herron '86 established the Herron Scholarship for International Study offered for students with expressed financial need—gifting a portion of a short-term international experience to two students each year.

In addition to the tuition, making study abroad a reality also includes funding for the other real costs of studying abroad including airfare, lodging and museum entrance fees.

"We are grateful for the help we have received for our students," Pittman said. "Samford is growing, and we have more students we need to help achieve their

academic goals. The reality is that many of those goals include international travel—something we encourage. We continue to invite our community to help us turn those dreams and plans into realities."

The benefits to study abroad programs create unparalleled student experiences. Samford alumni continue to share how their journeys remain pinnacles in their lives. Jonathan Robinson '07 said his semester in London was not only a chance to see the world, but also to take a look inside himself.

"It opened my eyes to the greater world and forced me to reconsider homegrown assumptions about truth, choices and privilege," he said. "Not only do you experience a melting pot of cultures and meet new people, but studying abroad breaks down your pride and self-importance. You begin to figure out what makes you unique and what you were created for." ▮

**To make a gift to Samford study abroad scholarships, contact Karen Templeton, director of annual giving, at [ktemplet@samford.edu](mailto:ktemplet@samford.edu) or 205-726-4580.**

[samford.edu/giving](http://samford.edu/giving)

For God, For Learning

**FOREVER SAMFORD**

Building a strong future for Samford University



# Samford Academy of the Arts

## Offers Gateway to Lifelong Learning

by Ashley Smith

**Samford's Academy of the Arts, part of the School of the Arts, has a long history of community engagement, serving both the Samford and Birmingham community with class offerings in music, art, photography, languages and more. Enrolling over 1,200 students annually in more than 75 classes, private lessons and camps, the academy is located just across Lakeshore from the main campus.**

The academy continues the traditions of Samford After Sundown and Preparatory Music. A successor of Samford's evening programs that date back to the 1930s, Samford After Sundown offered noncredit classes to the community. In 1974, Preparatory Music began offering music instruction and provided Samford students teaching opportunities. The academy continues to serve as a teaching lab for the pedagogy area today. Former academy and Samford music student Kevin Gunter said, "I was set up to succeed through these incredible resources." Many Samford students assist with the summer camps as well.

Highly qualified professional

instructors are hallmarks of the program. The popular antiques course, taught by Samford graduate Dan Brooks, takes students on a historical tour of the region. Brooks inherited the class from its creator, Margaret Sizemore Douglass, over 30 years ago.

Jimmy McGowan, who directs the visual arts programs, noted, "The academy is a community of teaching artists helping students of every age reap benefits such as motor skill development, problem-solving and stress relief."

Classes serve unique community needs from English as a second language to music therapy. Sunny Davenport, who runs the adaptive music program, said, "It is so important to provide students

with special needs an opportunity to learn and achieve through music."

"Providing these kinds of services to the community is the ultimate mission of the academy," said executive director Connie Macon. "We are a gateway for students of all ages and abilities to experience Samford."

Popular summer camps host area youth who enjoy Samford's beautiful campus. Samford faculty Emily Snider Andrews said, "As a child, I began attending music camp at the academy. My experience became a summer highlight and also enhanced my preparation to study music. Samford became my college choice as a direct result of my involvement in the academy."

Like Andrews, students and campers often continue their studies at Samford and receive scholarship awards through the academy. Forty former academy students have enrolled in Samford's School of the Arts.

Friends of Academy of the Arts chair Vicky McCarthy said that she discovered the academy while she was studying at Samford. She not only enrolled her grandchildren but she also takes piano there. According to McCarthy, "The academy embodies the positive educational environment you expect from Samford, but for all ages. It really empowers a love of learning."

Today, the academy continues to grow, strengthening Samford's bond with Birmingham, preparing students for success at the collegiate level and providing Samford students a dynamic on-campus teaching lab. ▀



Academy of the Arts scholarship winners

*For more information, go to [samford.edu/go/aota](http://samford.edu/go/aota).*

# The Prisoner's Friend:

## *New Play Explores Life, Legacy of Howard College Namesake*

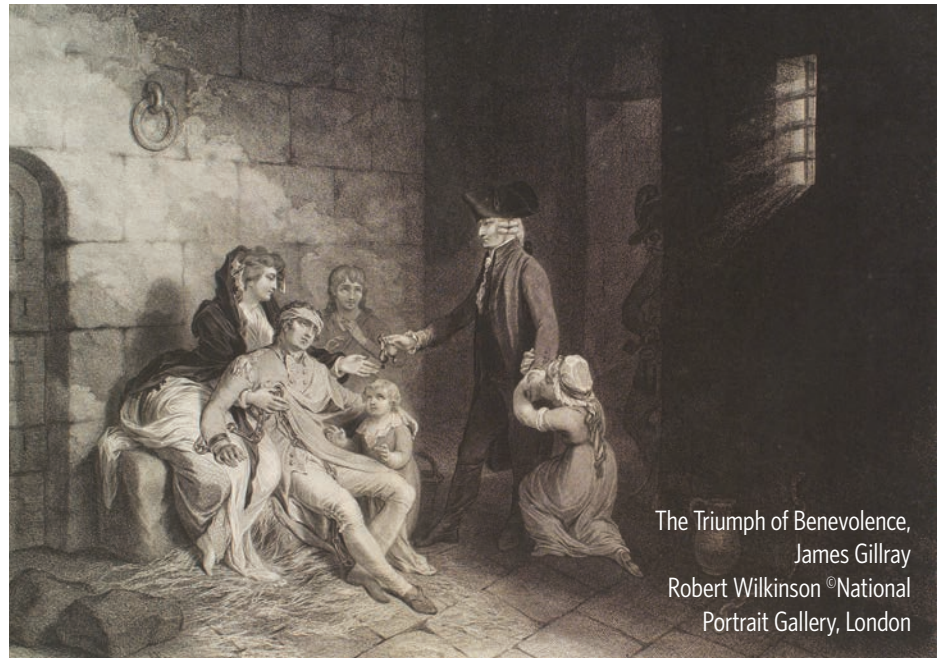
by Sean Flynt

Samford English professor David Chapman, former dean of the university's Howard College of Arts and Sciences, has produced a play inspired by the college's namesake, 18th-century English humanitarian John Howard, who dedicated his life to the cause of prison reform.

For many years Chapman has led efforts to bring John Howard's legacy to the forefront at Samford, most notably by establishing the John Howard Scholars and commissioning a reproduction of the Howard memorial in London's St. Paul's Cathedral. The statue and accompanying educational kiosk were unveiled on Samford's campus in 2015, as Chapman turned to a new project to help acquaint the community with Howard's work.

Howard was the subject of a full 2012 biography, but Chapman thought a dramatic depiction of the man's final weeks of life might illustrate why his ideas still resonate in cultures around the world. Chapman completed the script for *The Prisoner's Friend* during a 2016 sabbatical with advice and encouragement from English professor Julie Steward, theatre professor Mark Castle and other Samford faculty. The play is being produced with support from Samford's William E. and Wylodine H. Hull Fund for Christian Scholarship.

"Bringing *The Prisoner's Friend* to the stage should be a signature Samford event, honoring the lifelong commitment of Dr. Hull to Christian scholarship and honoring the best in the Samford tradition," Chapman wrote in his proposal. "It will reinforce our historic ties with area churches and encourage a new



generation of Samford students to take seriously the idea of Christian vocation."

Chapman said he also hopes to facilitate discussions about modern prison and sentencing reform and associated topics that Samford students and faculty continue to explore. The John Howard Scholars engaged with those issues during a visit to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice (NMPJ) in late February. Faculty and students are working with other educational partners in support of a NMPJ project for the Birmingham area in the spring, contributing original research on the local history and legacy of racial injustice.

The play also probes the great paradox of Howard's life—that his all-consuming compassion for suffering people did not extend to his own son. "There is a lesson here that all Christian

heroes have feet of clay," Chapman noted. "I hope understanding Howard's personal struggles will only deepen our appreciation for his service to others."

*The Prisoner's Friend*, directed by Julie Steward and Jonathan Fuller, with Fuller in the lead role, will be presented free of charge in four performances.

**March 29, 7 p.m.,** Bolding Studio

**March 30, 7 p.m.,** Bolding Studio

**April 3, 6 p.m.,**  
Brookwood Baptist Church

**April 4, 7 p.m.,**  
Dawson Memorial Baptist Church

**To reserve free tickets, search for *The Prisoner's Friend* at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).**



# Team Competes in National Sales Competition

by Morgan Black

**Just in its fourth year of existence, Samford's professional sales concentration is already making a name for itself in the business world. Students in Brock School of Business and members of the Professional Sales National Competition team advanced to, and competed in, the final round of the inaugural AT&T B2B (business-to-business) National Sales Competition in Dallas in October 2018.**

Members of the team include senior marketing majors Brooke Adams, David Ballew and Lacy Caughel, senior finance major Robert Donovan, and senior finance and marketing major Brantley Taylor.

"One of the main purposes for AT&T to host this event is to recruit top sales talent from across the country," said Clif Eason, assistant professor of marketing and leader of the professional sales concentration. "This is great visibility for our young program. During the finals, we were alongside some of the top sales programs in the country."

To qualify for the final round at AT&T headquarters in Dallas, the team engaged in a 45-minute video conference call role play in which they proposed a solution using a suite of AT&T business products to an AT&T executive representing a fictitious client.

"In the first round, the client gave a variety of sales objections that the students had to overcome," Eason added. "Our students responded very well to the objections—they were very poised and professional throughout the whole pitch."

Teams from 30 universities competed in the preliminary round, but only 12 were chosen to continue to the final round Oct. 18-20.

"At the finals, the team had to 'close the deal' that they started to sell in the first round," Eason said. "But this time, the students presented to a team of AT&T executives in their own board room. They did a great job refining their presentation, improving their delivery, and responding to the resistance they faced in the final round. I was really proud of how they represented Samford."

The students received VIP

treatment from AT&T including limousine transportation, dinner, a tour of AT&T Stadium (home of the Dallas Cowboys), a tour of AT&T headquarters and a night at Top Golf. The event concluded with a "give back" opportunity where students packed meals for those in need.

Robert Donovan said, "This was a great competition. It was so rewarding to see all of our hard work come to fruition."

"Throughout this process we were able to take what we have learned in the classroom and apply it to a real-time competition," Brooke Adams added.

This was the first time for the group to participate in a competition of this nature. This spring, the team will compete in the National Collegiate Sales Competition, the largest and oldest sales competition in the country.

"We are trying to help our students signal to employers that they have more than book knowledge," Eason said. "The concentration and their experience will indicate that they are good communicators."

"We are proud of the success of our students in this national competition," said Howard Finch, dean of the business school. "The exposure that they receive provides critical professional development to prepare them for success in the workplace."

The professional sales concentration helps students develop the essential sales skills that employers are looking for, while at the same time, exposing them to the tools and technologies that are critical to being successful in today's business world. The concentration is continuously recognized by the Sales Education Foundation as a top university sales program. ▀



From left, alumnus Gary Cooney, students Robert Donovan, Brantley Taylor, Lacy Caughel, Brooke Adams, David Ballew, and assistant professor Clif Eason

# Divinity School Receives Million-dollar Grant to Create Thriving Pastors Program *by Kristen Padilla*

**Samford's Beeson Divinity School has received a grant of \$999,966 from Lilly Endowment Inc. to help establish the Enhancing the Mission: Beeson Divinity School and Thriving Pastors program. It is part of Lilly Endowment's Thriving in Ministry, an initiative that supports a variety of religious organizations across the nation as they create or strengthen programs that help pastors build relationships with experienced clergy who can serve as mentors and guide them through key leadership challenges in congregational ministry.**

Through the Thriving Pastors program, Beeson will help pastors thrive in congregational leadership by improving the quality of peer and mentoring relationships. The program will seek to fulfill its mission by supporting, resourcing and connecting Beeson alumni who currently serve in pastoral roles. As the program grows, pastors with no prior affiliation with Beeson or Samford will be welcomed into the project so that they, too, may continue thriving in ministry.

"The mission of Beeson Divinity School is to prepare God-called persons to serve as ministers in the church of Jesus Christ," said Grant Taylor, Beeson's associate dean and project director of the Thriving Pastors program. "Through the Thriving Pastors program, we aim to enhance our mission through a deeper commitment to our graduates who serve as pastors of God's people. We want to support and enrich them by giving them more of Beeson's personal, face-to-face approach to theological education and ministry. At Beeson, we are working hard to do more, not less, in personal, relational and theological formation for pastoral ministry."

Since pastors face transitions of various kinds over the course of their ministries, the program will aim to help pastors transition well through at least three phases: the transition from seminary to their first full-time ministry positions, the transition from associate pastoral positions to lead pastoral positions and the involuntary transitions that come when they face acute personal and/or family crises. Specific activities will include an annual conference for Beeson alumni and other pastors, the development of pastoral peer groups and the enrichment of mentoring relationships between pastors. The program also will enable Beeson faculty to enhance mentoring and peer relationships for divinity students preparing for pastoral ministry.

"This significant initiative of Lilly Endowment fits beautifully with the ongoing mission of Samford's Beeson




Alumni Nic Seabon, left, and Joel Brooks, both pastors

Divinity School, and I'm confident that the investment will provide meaningful, helpful support for ministers now and in the years ahead," said Andrew Westmoreland, Samford's president. "If we are interested in educating the whole person, as we say we are, that interest continues throughout all phases and transitions of life. I'm grateful for the generosity of our friends with Lilly Endowment and for the work of our Beeson Divinity School faculty and staff."

Samford is one of 78 organizations located in 29 states that is receiving grants in the Thriving in Ministry initiative. The organizations reflect diverse Christian traditions: mainline and evangelical Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox.

Thriving in Ministry is part of Lilly Endowment's grantmaking to strengthen pastoral leadership in Christian congregations in the United States. This has been a grantmaking priority at Lilly Endowment for nearly 25 years.

"Leading a congregation today is multifaceted and exceptionally demanding," said Christopher L. Coble, Lilly Endowment's vice president for religion. "When pastors have opportunities to build meaningful relationships with experienced colleagues, they are able to negotiate the challenges of ministry and their leadership thrives. These promising programs, including Enhancing the Mission: Beeson Divinity School and Thriving Pastors program, will help pastors develop these kinds of relationships, especially when they are in the midst of significant professional transitions." 



# Education School Takes New Approach in School Violence Prevention

by Sara Roman

**More than 219,000 students have experienced gun violence at school since the 1999 Columbine calamity, according to *The Washington Post*. In 2018 alone, there were 23 shootings on a school campus that led to 33 deaths and 60 injuries. While the incidents have sparked many heated debates on gun laws and school safety and security, Orlean Beeson School of Education believes that removing guns from the equation and tightening school security will not alleviate the problem. In nearly every incident that has occurred, the suspected shooter had ties to the educational campus.**

The education school seeks to not only empower its students to educate, lead and serve, but also to enrich the communities in which the school serves. The events that took place at Columbine, Sandy Hook and Marjory Stoneman Douglas are forever etched into memories. For faculty and administration, these events and others raised the question, "What can we do to protect and prepare our local districts?" In early 2018, discussions surrounding a curriculum devoted to school violence prevention began.

The education school is implementing a new approach in school violence prevention. This approach will be delivered to Alabama districts through a five-year, systems change initiative. The B.A.D.G.E. Conference: Preventing School Violence is an innovative strategy intended to equip Alabama educators and school leaders with the tools they need to better understand the causes of school violence and thus notice signs, act and eliminate school violence before it begins.

"Following nearly every tragic instance that has taken place, we see the perpetrator had previous reports of behavior, attitude and delinquency," said Bonnie Lee Rabe, interim dean. "Because of what we know, our focus is not to teach schools how to stop an active shooter or create an emergency readiness plan.

Those skills are important, but our goal through B.A.D.G.E. is to empower school districts to prevent these catastrophic events through early identification and intervention."

In January 2019, the school hosted the first of a five-year series that will examine five areas where advocates and educators can become agents of change in school violence prevention. The recent session focused on behavior: educator behavior, family behavior, institutional behavior and what changes must come in each of these areas to best support students. Upon completion of the behavior curriculum and discussion, participants began developing an action plan for implementation. The 2019 session was made possible, in part, by Orlean Beeson School of Education dean's executive council, and Drs. Katherine and Collin King.

The school has solicited the assistance of Jonathan Doll, consultant and author of *Ending School Shootings: School and District Tools for Prevention and Action*, for B.A.D.G.E. curriculum development.

## **B.A.D.G.E. conference topics include:**

**Year 1:** Behavior, Applying Behavioral Skills

**Year 2:** Attitudes, Reforming Attitudes

**Year 3:** Delinquency, Reaching All Groups

**Year 4:** Growth Mindset and Gradual Release

**Year 5:** Elevating Excellence, Sustainability



A former Connecticut resident, Rabe had students, friends and colleagues who lost their lives or a loved one in the Sandy Hook shooting. She was at work just a few miles away when the tragedy occurred. "I believe that early identification and prevention is the answer," said Rabe. "We want to take every measure possible to ensure that classrooms and schools are safe."

The B.A.D.G.E. Conference is coordinated under the leadership of professor David Finn and associate professor Tarsha Bluiett. ▀

# Cumberland School of Law

## *Offers Online Graduate Programs for Three Levels of Interest*

by Morgan Black

**No matter where you are in your career, Samford's Cumberland School of Law offers a graduate program to help you advance your career goals.**

Three online programs are now accepting applications: Master of Laws (LL.M.), Master of Studies in Law (M.S.L.) for nonlawyers and certificate programs for those interested in a shorter course of study.

The Master of Laws (LL.M.) program is open to individuals who have already earned a Juris Doctor (J.D.). A joint-degree option for current Cumberland students pursuing their J.D. is also available.

This 30-credit-hour advanced degree complements the traditional three-year J.D. curriculum and will prepare students for roles in compliance, regulatory affairs and more.

Dean Henry C. Strickland explained that the "LL.M. program provides lawyers specialized expertise in fast-growing areas of the law. In addition to enabling them to enter or expand their practices in these areas, receiving an LL.M. will permit lawyers to counsel clients about compliance systems or move into in-house compliance roles."

Students who have not earned a J.D. may choose to pursue the Master of Studies in Law (M.S.L.). This degree offers a 36-hour course of study designed for nonlawyers interested in pursuing graduate study that will position them for advancement in their current field.

"This program enriched and enhanced my employment opportunities. I received many offers from organizations who were specifically interested in the skills I obtained as a direct result of this

master's program," shared Kristen Iqal, a 2017 graduate of the health law and policy program. "I happily accepted a new role in which I am responsible for conducting audits of legal and nonlegal vendors for compliance with all internal, regulatory and agency-specific guidelines and standards, with an increase in salary, 40 percent larger than my beginning offer at my previous role. I am grateful for this program, and I am eager to see where my career leads me."

Cumberland's newest offerings are online graduate certificates. The certificates are offered for students who are not ready to commit to the amount of time required to complete the degree programs, but want to learn more about one of the four areas of study available to students in the degree programs. Students who later choose to pursue a M.S.L. may apply course work completed as part of the certificate program to their degree program.

Students in Cumberland's online graduate programs can focus on one of four concentrations including financial services regulatory compliance, health law and policy, higher education law and compliance, and legal project management. A customized M.S.L. option is also available. Both the LL.M. and the M.S.L. can be completed in just 24 months of part-time study. The certificates can be completed in about a year. All of Cumberland's online graduate programs admit students for the fall term. Two certificates are also available to



begin in the summer term.

Faculty members for the online graduate programs are industry experts, practicing attorneys, Cumberland School of Law faculty and Samford faculty from other disciplines. The curriculum focuses on foundational and specialized knowledge as well as real-world, practical skills that can be immediately applied in the workplace.

"American businesses today deal with statutory and regulatory demands that are complex and subject to rapid change," said Michael E. DeBow, the Steven Everett Wells professor of municipal law. "Cumberland's online graduate programs provide students with an understanding of the current compliance framework, so that they become more valuable to their organizations. It also seeks to enable students to self-educate with regard to changes that come after they have graduated from the program."

**To learn more about the online graduate programs offered at Cumberland School of Law, go to [samford.edu/cumberlandlaw/online-graduate-programs](http://samford.edu/cumberlandlaw/online-graduate-programs).**



# BBH Grads Celebrate Reunion

by Catie Bell .....

**On a rainy day in November, during Homecoming week, a group of over 125 from the Birmingham Baptist Hospital (BBH) School of Nursing gathered in the Iris State Room at The Club to celebrate their distinguished history, reconnect with friends and share memories of their time at the school.**

Clutching yearbooks, photograph albums and more, the society embraced each other with hugs and exclamations of joy and surprise at seeing each other and reminiscing on their time together. Class members from 1922-1974 attended this annual luncheon, with special recognition for Helen Lucas, class of 1951, the graduate from the earliest class who was able to attend.

The Cap and Cape Society was formed shortly after the BBH School of Nursing joined Samford University in 1975. Since then, Samford's Ida Moffett School of Nursing has celebrated the distinguished history of BBH by inviting graduates to an annual luncheon. Other activities for the society include class reunions, Homecoming and the Courage to Care gala.

This year, Mary Love Murphy from the class of 1973 was kind enough to bring an artifact she kept from her time at the school—a small, delicate and beautiful pearl tiara, handed to recipients of the title Miss Ida V. Moffett in years past. This title and honor were celebrated during the May festival through 1973.

"I received the tiara when I was 'crowned' Miss Ida V. Moffett in 1973. There were also two runners-up, Cynthia Thacker (Dinkins) and Jan Parrott," shares Murphy. "The pageant was held in the auditorium of Ida Moffett School of Nursing, located at Baptist Medical Center, Montclair."

"The winners were chosen by popular vote of the entire student body, and the qualifications were persons who best exemplified the ideals of Ida Moffett School of Nursing. Photos of the May festival and past winners of Miss Ida V. Moffett can be found in past editions of the BBH yearbook, *Blackband*.

"It was very surprising to me to win this honor, knowing that anyone could have been chosen. I had never won any award



Helen Lucas



BBH tiara

like this before. I fully expected there to be future May festivals and that I would have the privilege of crowning the next one in 1974. But since the festival

did not continue, I kept the tiara in a box in my various attics for these almost 45 years until 2018," Murphy continues. "In 2017, at the alumni luncheon, I heard the plea for 'memorabilia' from our nursing school days to be donated to the archives of the nursing school, and I immediately thought of giving back the tiara. It is a piece of the school's history, the school which prepared me and many others for a lifetime of nursing service to hurting people."

Throughout Ida Moffett School of Nursing's history, those ideals and core values have held fast. Despite the constant changes in the nursing profession, the school remains committed to training nurses through academic excellence, selfless service, ever-present caring and compassion.

Ida Moffett School of Nursing is privileged to have amazing stories and artifacts to celebrate its history and are grateful to those that make it richer every day.

If you have special memories to share, we invite you to post those stories on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/IdaVMoffettSchoolofNursing](https://facebook.com/IdaVMoffettSchoolofNursing) or contact Gena Sullivan at [gpsulliv@samford.edu](mailto:gpsulliv@samford.edu) or 205-726-2278.

The next Cap and Cape Society luncheon is scheduled for Nov. 7, 2019. For more information, go to [samford.edu/nursing/events/Cap-and-Cape-Society-Luncheon](https://samford.edu/nursing/events/Cap-and-Cape-Society-Luncheon) for the latest news on the event. ▀

# Putting Clinical Skills to the Test

by Sarah Waller

**“As pharmacy students, we can select the right medication to give a patient, but what made this competition difficult is it required us to compose a comprehensive care plan for the patient,” said Will Hammonds, a fourth-year student in Samford’s McWhorter School of Pharmacy. “But then, I think that’s what made our team stand out. We went in with the mindset, how can we make this person—as a whole—better.”**

Hammonds and Brandon Powell, a fellow fourth-year pharmacy student, put their clinical skills to the test when they competed in the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists’ (ASHP) national Clinical Skills Competition in Anaheim, California.

After winning their local competition in Birmingham, the duo competed against 138 other teams from pharmacy schools across the country at the annual ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting. When the competition results were announced, the contingent of Samford faculty, alumni and students in attendance leapt to their feet when they heard Hammonds and Powell placed second.


“We’re all trained to know how to look up guidelines and answer difficult clinical cases, but with this competition, you add the element of being pressed for time,” Hammonds said.

During the competition, Hammonds and Powell had two hours to research information and compose a pharmacist care plan, which involved determining the patient’s primary problem, acute problems and issues that could arise during discharge and follow up.

The clinical case in the national competition revolved around a patient with HIV. While Hammonds and Powell have gained real-world experience in clinical pharmacy through their advanced pharmacy practice experiences, “neither Brandon nor I have had a rotation that gave us management experience specifically with HIV,” Hammonds said. “But we were able to rely on other knowledge and clinical experiences as well as the resources provided to do well in the competition.”

Hammonds also credits McWhorter School of Pharmacy’s commitment to interprofessional education for giving them a

leg up in the competition. “We experience interprofessional teams on our clinical rotations, but the fact that we had this experience early in the curriculum really helped,” he said.

Powell echoed Hammonds’ sentiment. “I’ll confess, I didn’t realize what some professionals, like social workers, did until we started incorporating interprofessional learning into the curriculum,” he said. “Being aware of the general role that they play in the care of a patient has been invaluable.” 



Will Hammonds, left, and Brandon Powell



# Occupational Therapy Program Taking Shape

by Catie Bell

**As the School of Health Professions continues its tradition of offering quality health care programs such as physical therapy, communication sciences and disorders, and kinesiology, a new entry-level doctorate in occupational therapy (O.T.D.) is beginning to take shape.**

Just as unique and special as Samford, the developing Department of Occupational Therapy is aligned with the mission, vision and core values of the university in striving to set itself apart from other programs throughout the U.S. With a clear focus on the Christian faith, students are urged to answer their calling to serve by viewing a person holistically while addressing spiritual, physical, cognitive and psychosocial needs.

## **Core values of the program include:**

- *Leadership and service*
- *Ethics, faith and respect*
- *Advocacy and compassion*
- *Development of intentional relationships*
- *Commitment to one's calling and one's profession*

These core values will guide students as they learn to engage clients through occupation-centered practice. Students

will focus on the foundations of occupational therapy while developing the ability to evaluate evidence and engage in research and scholarship. They will also learn how to evaluate clients while planning and implementing appropriate interventions.

All this will be coupled with hands-on experience through simulation, working with standardized patients as well as community- and congregational-based clinics and internships focused in their practice area.

"Interprofessional education will also be a big part of their time here. Because the School of Health Professions and the College of Health Sciences offer a full array of health professions, these students will develop a strong professional identity while learning how to be part of a health care team," shares Elaine Fehringer, director of the occupational therapy program.

Concerning the types of clients that an occupational therapist will interact with, Fehringer notes that graduates will be educated to engage with infants to the elderly. "This program has a track that will consider productive aging because by the year 2030 all the 'baby boomers' will be age 65 or older, and there will be more older adults than young children. Assisting the aging population is going to become a trend in the industry due to the increased need for assistance to help those that want to 'age in place' and allow people to stay in their own home or community."

"To be an occupational therapist, you have to learn to love the poetry of the ordinary. All of those simple things that we do—brushing our hair or brushing our teeth, everything we do is very ordinary for us but for someone who has not been able to do it and then they can—it is like poetry; it is a beautiful thing," said Fehringer.

Applications for the new program will open in May 2019 with plans to interview candidates in the fall. The first class is anticipated to start May 2020. For more information about the program, go to [samford.edu/healthprofessions/occupational-therapy](http://samford.edu/healthprofessions/occupational-therapy). ▀



Occupational therapy helps clients accomplish everyday activities.

# Uniquely Positioned

*Samford's Master of Social Work offers two concentrations that equip graduates to answer their calling to serve.*

by Sarah Waller

**In its mission to prepare graduates for lives of service as advanced social work practitioners, Samford University's Master of Social Work program in the School of Public Health offers students the choice of two concentrations: advanced clinical social work or community practice and social engagement.**

**Rebecca Graber** is pursuing her degree with a concentration in advanced clinical social work. "I began looking into social work programs because I was interested in connecting my faith with practical, real-world experiences," Graber said. "I chose the clinical concentration because it allows me to do therapy if that is a path I want to pursue."

As a social worker, Graber will be uniquely positioned to work in a variety of areas, and she appreciates how her clinical concentration exposes her to today's interprofessional approach to care. "We may have our own niche in health care, but we're trained to realize that our niche impacts and is impacted by others," she said.

As she continues to complete her 900 hours of field placement, she says it has been invaluable to practice in the field while at the same time attending class. "Completing my field placement alongside my course work is helpful because I'm not learning new theories detached from something," she said. "I'm learning them in order to integrate the knowledge into my field placement and ultimately into my profession."



Graber

**LaSonya Clay** is earning her Master of Social Work with a concentration in community practice and social engagement. This summer, Clay traveled to Tanzania with the School of Public Health and experienced firsthand many of the theories discussed in her classes.

"We had the opportunity to make home visits. At one home, a woman showed us her garden and explained all of the ways she uses plants in her daily life. We talk a lot in social work about using what is in the community to build the community, and this woman was doing it," Clay said.

While the concentration focuses on both domestic and international community work, it equips students with the knowledge and skills to be able to respond to some of the most pressing issues of our time that impact the most vulnerable populations.

In Tanzania, Clay experienced this vulnerability in the poverty she witnessed. "The poverty we saw was very real. It changed my perspective in a way I didn't anticipate." ■



Clay

**Samford's Master of Social Work is offered both in person and online with part-time, full-time and advanced-standing options available. Learn more at [samford.edu/go/MSW](http://samford.edu/go/MSW).**



# New Samford Course Prepares *Journalists as Entrepreneurs* by Jackie Long

**Samford's journalism and mass communication program** has launched a new course focused on the skills and knowledge graduates will need to launch a digital media start-up including how to identify market niches; how to analyze business foundations including cost, revenue and audience metrics; how to develop a business plan; how to build, test and discuss website prototypes; and how to pitch ideas to potential investors.

"Digital disruption has created a lot of challenges for established journalism outlets and other media companies," said Clay Carey, professor of the new mass media entrepreneurship course. "But that disruption has also created opportunities for entrepreneurs to

develop new, innovative products that serve audiences and clients. We're going to walk through each step of that process this semester, starting with the development of an idea and ending with how to pitch a product to investors."

As the final result of the course, each student will develop a proposal for a digital media enterprise. Students will also have the opportunity to enter their proposals in the Regions New Venture Challenge, where they can compete for prizes of up to \$7,500 in start-up capital. Carey hopes that students in the class will submit their plans to the competition. "The Regions Challenge presents a great opportunity for some of these ideas to become realities," he said.

"I'm taking this class because I want to be as prepared as I can be to succeed in the ever-evolving world of journalism," said senior Caleb Canada. "This course adds a mindset to overcome obstacles and set your own future as opposed to letting others dictate it to you."

Bernie Ankney, chair of the journalism and mass communication and communication studies department, sees great potential for the new course offering. "Our department has always geared itself toward hands-on, practical education, and this class is an extension of that focus. For students with an eye on media entrepreneurship, this course will give them the tools and knowledge to start their business with confidence." ■

## Percy Cook Ratliff Lecture Series

featuring **Eric  
Metaxas**

presented by  
Orlean Beeson School of Education

**March 19, 2019**



**tickets.samford.edu**  
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# Students Join NFL Athletes for Play 60 Character Camp *by Morgan Black*

While thousands of football fans traveled to Atlanta during Super Bowl week, five students from Brock School of Business were just steps away from the Mercedes-Benz Stadium working with NFL greats for a different cause—the Play 60 youth health and character camp.

Launched in October 2007, the NFL Play 60 campaign focuses on increasing the wellness of young fans by encouraging them to be active for at least 60 minutes per day.

Juniors Ashlee Fincher and Molly Olsofka, sophomore Warren Fitzpatrick and freshmen Keenan Streitmatter and Tanner Fields participated in the opportunity of a lifetime.

While there, the group assisted in camp setup and management, and mentorship of young children in the Atlanta area alongside former NFL greats and Hall of Fame inductees, including

former Atlanta Falcons Chris Draft, Buddy Curry and Bobby Butler.

“The purpose of the camp was phenomenal. I learned a lot about what goes into big events in terms of marketing and promotions, strategic planning and event setup, and the business and analytical data that was needed to put on the camp,” Tanner Fields said.

The camps are operated through the Muñoz Agency and were started by NFL great and Hall of Fame member Anthony Muñoz. Last summer, business student Sam Hewitt interned with the Muñoz Agency in Cincinnati, Ohio. Because of Hewitt’s impressive work, the group contacted the business school to engage with more Samford student workers. Camp leaders and coaches ranged from local college students to former NFL players. They worked with 300 kids from Atlanta public schools on not only football



Business students, from left, Tanner Fields, Keenan Streitmatter, Warren Fitzpatrick, Michael Muñoz, Anthony Muñoz, Ashlee Fincher and Molly Olsofka

techniques, but character and respect.

“The camp cares more about teaching the kids character and about being a good kid than they do about any athletic ability or football technique,” said Keenan Streitmatter. “They put an emphasis on making sure the kids feel loved and cared about. Most of the kids at this camp could have cared less about playing football. They just care about that feeling of getting told they did something good, and that they are valued and cared about.”

## Upcoming Events



John and Marsha Floyd Art and Design Series  
**The Beautiful: An Exhibition by Christians in the Visual Arts**  
March 4-28

Davis Architects Guest Artist Series  
**Rachel Barton Pine, Violin**  
copresented with the Birmingham Chamber Music Society  
March 21



Emma Taylor Theatre for Youth Series  
**Peter and the Starcatcher**  
March 21-24

**Samford Piano Showcase**  
April 2

**The Midtown Men**  
underwritten by Merrill Lynch Wealth Management  
April 4



Dr. Chandler and Jane Paris Smith  
Opera Series  
**Opera Workshop**  
April 5-6

John and Marsha Floyd Art and Design Series  
**Art and Design Student Juried Competition**  
underwritten by Michael J. and Mary Anne Freeman  
April 8-18

Michael J. and Mary Anne Freeman  
Theatre and Dance Series  
**Disney's Freaky Friday**  
April 25-28



[tickets.samford.edu](https://tickets.samford.edu)



# Samford Athletics Announces 2019 Hall of Fame Class

by Joey Mullins

## Samford Athletics announced the members of the 2019 class of the school's Athletics Hall of Fame.

The 2019 Hall of Fame class will be the third class to be inducted since the Hall of Fame opened in 2017. Included in the 2019 class will be the 1971 football team, track and field standout Cameron Bean, men's basketball coach John Brady, football star Gary Fleming, men's basketball student-athlete Jimmy Harrison and women's basketball standout Emily London.

"We would like to congratulate each of the members of the 2019 Hall of Fame class," said Martin Newton, Samford's athletics director. "It is always exciting to welcome former student-athletes and coaches back to campus, but especially for such a special occasion. Just like our first two classes, this class is full of deserving inductees and we look forward to officially inducting them into the Samford Athletics Hall of Fame."

The Samford Athletics Hall of Fame was officially opened in spring 2017 with the inaugural class of Walter Barnes, Lauren Blankenship, Bobby Bowden, Wally Burnham, Cortland Finnegan and Charlie Owens. The class of 2018 included the 1998-99 men's basketball team, Billy Bancroft, Craig Beard, Jimbo Fisher, Michael Marseco and Alyssa Whitehead. The Hall of Fame, which was installed by Expo Displays, is located on the third floor of the Pete Hanna Center.

The 2019 class was recognized at this year's Homecoming football game Nov. 3 at Seibert Stadium. The class will be officially inducted on Saturday, April 13, in Pete Hanna Center. Information on how to obtain tickets to the induction ceremonies is forthcoming.

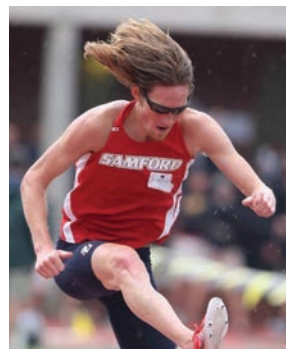


## 1971 FOOTBALL TEAM

*Class of 2019*

The 1971 Samford University football team posted a 9-1 record under Coach Wayne Grubb, left, tying for the second-most wins in school history. The team finished the regular season ranked

seventh in the national UPI poll. However, the most impressive achievement of the team was to win the NCAA College Division II West Region Championship with a 20-10 victory over Ohio Wesleyan, Nov. 25 at Phenix Municipal Stadium in Phenix City, Alabama. The 1971 Bulldogs, playing in the program's first season as an NCAA member, scored an average of 22.3 points per game, and the defense allowed just 9.7 points a contest, posting four shutouts in the season. In the championship game, quarterback Jimmy Nipper led the Bulldogs, completing 21-of-42 passes for 259 yards and two touchdowns. As a team, Samford had 294 yards of total offense; Ohio Wesleyan had only 102 total yards.



## CAMERON BEAN

*Class of 2019*

Cameron Bean was a standout on the Samford cross country and track and field teams from fall 2005 to spring 2011. He won a Southern Conference championship in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, and the

3,000 and 5,000-meter runs. He was named the 2010 Southern Conference Most Outstanding Indoor Track Performer. He was named the 2006 Ohio Valley Conference Men's Track and Field Freshman of the Year, and the 2005 OVC Men's Cross Country Freshman of the Year. He left school as the program record holder in the 3K, 5K and steeplechase. After leaving Samford, he competed as a professional runner. He had the ninth-fastest steeplechase time in the country, and he ran 8:37, barely missing a spot in the 2012 Olympic Trials field. Bean passed away Sept. 21, 2015, from injuries he received when he was hit by a car while out for a run. Since 2016, The Cam Run: Cameron Bean Memorial 5K & Magnum Mile, which aims to both remember and capture the energy and essence of Bean, has been held in his hometown of Chattanooga, Tennessee.



## JOHN BRADY

*Class of 2019*

John Brady was the head men's basketball coach at Samford from the 1991-92 season through the 1996-97 season. While coaching at Samford, he led the program to back-to-back Trans-America Athletic Conference West

Division titles in 1996 and 1997. His record at Samford was 89-77. He left Samford to become the head coach at LSU in 1997. He stayed with the Tigers until 2008, leading the program to SEC regular-season titles in 2000 and 2006, earning SEC Coach of the Year honors both years. He coached LSU to four NCAA Tournament appearances, reaching the Sweet 16 in 2000 and the Final Four in 2006. Following his years at LSU, Brady was the head coach at Arkansas State from 2008-16, winning a pair of Sun Belt West Division titles. He retired from coaching with a career record of 402-344.



## GARY FLEMING

*Class of 2019*

Gary Fleming was a four-year letter-winner on the Samford football team. He was named a Little All-American and the Most Valuable Defensive Player in 1968. That same year, he was named Mr. Samford by the

school's student body. In 1969 he graduated from Samford and was drafted by the Baltimore Colts in the seventh round of the NFL draft. After his playing career was over, Fleming went into coaching, winning five state basketball championships and one state football title, coaching at Abbeville High School, Montevallo High School and Briarwood Christian. Outside of athletics, Fleming was the owner and operator of a successful paint contract business for seven years. He also founded Eagle's Rest Ministries in 1998, which is a nonprofit organization that helps at-risk children and youth experience salvation through a relationship with Jesus Christ and teaches men to be spiritual leaders through life coaching.

## JIMMY HARRISON

*Class of 2019*

Jimmy Harrison played basketball at Howard College during the mid-1950s. He holds the school record for most points scored in a single game with 48 against Chattanooga Jan. 6, 1956. He averaged 21.1 points a game as a senior. Harrison grew Harco Drugs into a chain of more than 150 stores before the company merged with Rite Aid in 1997. Chain Drug Review named Harco the nation's top community drug store chain in 1995. Harrison has been honored for his distinguished service to Samford University, the Auburn University School of Pharmacy and the University of Alabama. He served as chairman of the board of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores in 1985. He received the Merck Sharp & Dohme Pharmacist Achievement Award in 1990 and the National Association of Chain Drug Stores' Sheldon W. Fantle Lifetime Achievement Award in 1998. Harrison was inducted into the Alabama Business Hall of Fame in 1997 and the Alabama Health Hall of Fame in 1999.



## EMILY LONDON

*Class of 2019*

Emily London played basketball at Samford from 2007 through 2011. She holds school career records for scoring (1,760 points), free throws made (382), three-pointers made (276), highest three-point field goal percentage (.474) and highest free throw percentage (.897). She also holds single-season records for scoring (535 in 2010-11), three-pointers made (84 in 2010-11), highest three-point field goal percentage (.488 in 2007-08), free throws made (117 in 2010-11) and highest free throw percentage (.936 in 2010-11). London helped lead the program to its first Southern Conference Tournament title in 2011 and its first two national postseason tournament appearances, going to the WNIT in 2010 and the NCAA Tournament in 2011. She was named the Ohio Valley Conference Freshman of the Year in 2008, and the Southern Conference Player of the Year as a senior in 2011. She was also a three-time member of the All-SoCon team, and she was a two-time member of the SoCon's Academic Honor Roll. ▶



**For more news about Samford athletics,  
go to [samfordsports.com](http://samfordsports.com).**



# Samford's Hodges Wins Walter Payton Award

by Joey Mullins

Samford quarterback Devlin Hodges was named the winner of the 2018 Walter Payton Award at the annual FCS Awards Banquet Jan. 4.

The Walter Payton Award is given annually to the top offensive player in all of FCS football. Hodges becomes the first Samford player to win the award. He edged out North Dakota State quarterback Easton Stick and Kennesaw State signal-caller Chandler Burks to win the prestigious honor.

Hodges set a school record for single-season passing yards, throwing for 4,283 yards this season, breaking the old

record of 4,088, set by Hodges in 2016. He led the nation in passing yards per game (389.4), total passing yards (4,283) and total offense per game (417.8).

For his career, Hodges became the all-time leader in career passing yards in FCS history. His 14,584 career passing yards broke the old FCS national record of 14,496, set by Steve McNair of Alcorn State from 1991-94. McNair earned the 1994 Walter Payton Award.

In addition to the FCS record for career passing yards, Hodges also set FCS records for career completions and attempts. Hodges has rewritten the Samford record book; he will leave school owning 23 different school records.

Hodges has also been named to numerous All-America teams since the season ended. This is the second-straight season he has finished in the top five for the award; he came in fourth in the voting last season. Last year's fourth-place finish was the highest a Samford player had ever finished in the voting until this year.

The Walter Payton Award has been awarded each year since 1987. Hodges is the seventh Southern Conference player to win the award, but the first since Armanti Edwards of Appalachian State won his second-straight Payton Award in 2009.

With 17 NCAA Division I teams, Samford Athletics continues to receive many awards and achievements. Samford teams have won 35 championships since joining the SoCon in 2008. Additionally, the teams are ranked first in Alabama and seventeenth nationally for Graduation Success Rate (GSR) by the NCAA with an average score of 97%. The teams also posted an average score of 983.6 out of 1,000 in the NCAA's Division I Multi-year Academic Progress Rate (APR) report. Samford Athletics continues to be a source of pride for Samford University. ■



Walter Payton Award winner Devlin Hodges, left, with Jarrett Payton.



# Samford University

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# CLASS NOTES

*Class Notes, New Arrivals and In Memoriam compiled by the Office of Alumni Programs and Annual Giving.*

## 1960s

**'69 Tom Cozart** (with daughter Megan Cozart Harrell) was selected in 2017 as the Small Business Person of the Year by the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce and has started a new business, Craft Closet. **1**

## 1980s

**'82 Thomas J. MacQueen** is a student information and placement verification specialist at Collegiate Admissions and Retention Solutions in Birmingham, Alabama. He has also been involved in acting, having recently appeared in *Let There Be Light*, a Christian movie directed by actor Kevin Sorbo.

**'82 John Prater** and his wife, Brenda, have been active with the Voices of Zambia on a 20-week tour and have been recently named as Gospelink's field representative for Zambia and the southern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo. For the past eight years they have been working with church-planting pastors in Tanzania and Ethiopia, coordinating the Voices of Zambia tours with other representatives, have been to Zambia and Ambassador International University (AIU) three times and will be leading mission teams to Zambia and Congo. This summer, they will be coordinating a medical mission team to Tanzania and will be leading a team to Zambia and Congo.

**'87 Hon. Dennis Ross** will join Southeastern University as a distinguished professor of political science to launch the American Center for Political Leadership. The new bipartisan center will be home to key research activities, academic programs, courses, workshops and resources that will provide training to the next generation of political leaders and citizens

whose focus is to promote traditional values and freedoms of individuals with civility, authenticity, respect and decorum in government and society. Ross will teach courses in political science, host seminars on the topic of civic engagement, convene town halls and direct the center's research focus. **2**

## 1990s

**'92 Deanna Plummer Wood** and husband **Ron Wood '92** currently have twin daughters attending Samford. In 2015, Deanna's novel *Unintended Target*, was published in paperback and as an ebook under the pen name D.L. Wood. **3**

**'93 Alison Weinstein** is the past president of "The Mother Club" Birmingham Civitan Club, the founding chapter. She has recently been promoted to senior sales manager at APS and just completed a nine-month build of a beautiful home in the Mt. Laurel area of Birmingham.

## 2000s

**'01 Jennifer McConnell** recently joined the JULY business services team. JULY was recently named one of the top retirement plan recordkeepers in the country by *PLANSponsor* magazine. McConnell is excited about the opportunity to help 401(k) advisers and business owners improve plans and allow employees to save more for retirement. **4**

**'01 Herbie Newell** celebrated his 15th anniversary in May at Lifeline Children's Services Inc. as president. The ministry serves orphans and vulnerable children through adoption, orphan care and foster care in 26 countries and 12 states.

**'02 Dr. Tyler Mayfield** recently published a book titled *A Guide to Bible Basics* with Westminster John Knox Press. The book introduces Bible content for both the Old and New Testaments.

**'02 Ronald "Marty" Watts** joined Vestavia Hills Baptist Church in Birmingham as the minister of music in June 2018.

**'04 Jennifer "Odysa" Pharr Davis** (left) set the record on the Appalachian Trail by hiking the 2,190 mile path in 46 days in 2011. She is pictured with **Ali "Chicory" Edwards '13**, who just received the distinction of becoming a triple crowner—Edwards completed the Appalachian Trail, Pacific Crest Trail (2,663 miles) and the Continental Divide Trail (3,100 miles). **5**

**'06 Dr. Lindsey Harris** is the current president of the Birmingham Black Nurses Association. She became the first African-American president-elect of the Alabama State Nurses Association (ASNA) at the organization's 2018 Annual Convention. Harris will assume the presidency of ASNA in 2020 and will become the first African-American president in the 107-year history of the state association. This organization serves over 100,000 nurses in the state of Alabama.





**'06 Maree Jones**, freelance social media strategist, has been hired to manage and direct social media initiatives for Forbes Business Councils and the Young Entrepreneur Council, global brands consisting of thousands of members. She manages her practice from her office in Birmingham, Alabama.

**'07 Rev. Katrina Rodger Paxson** is one of the contributors published in *We Pray With Her*. It is a devotion book written by more than 70 United Methodist young clergy women, published in September 2018.

**'07 Richard "Rick" Sauerman** was included in NAPA 2018 Young Guns: Top 75 Retirement Plan Advisors Under 40.

**'08 Frances Ritchey Finney** was selected to attend Lifetouch Memory Mission in January 2019. She helped rebuild a school damaged from Hurricane Maria in Juncos, Puerto Rico.

**'08 Henry "Hank" Grant** cofounded and now has started two businesses in the restaurant industry.



## 2010s

**'10 Andrew Crosson** arrived in Bogota, Colombia, in August to begin his fifth tour as a U.S. diplomat. He is a consular manager.

**'10 Dr. Jessica Gurley** recently completed her residency in psychiatry at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth and began working as a staff psychiatrist at Naval Health Clinic Hawaii in Pearl Harbor.

**'11 Sydney Davis Talley** was named the program coordinator of stewardship within the development and alumni relations office at Vanderbilt University in October 2018. She lives in Nashville with her husband, Chris, and son, Joseph.

**'13 Ashley McCleery English** has established a private practice as a licensed marriage and family therapist. She and her husband, Bob, live in Pasadena, California.

**'13 Heather Hurt** was presented with a Milken Educator Award. She was named a 2018-19 recipient of the national recognition, which comes with an unrestricted \$25,000 cash prize. She is the only Milken Educator Award winner from Alabama this year. ■

## A Life of Service

by Sarah Howard

**When considering Samford's** commitment to serving and caring for the world, one has only to look at a man who has known the university for all of his life, James "Jim" Stivender, a prominent attorney from Gadsden, Alabama.

When Stivender was born just feet from the university's dormitories in 1924, he would not yet know the way in which his growth and development would mirror that of the fledgling Samford University, then Howard College. He would grow up under the care of the neighboring university and its welcoming students, eventually graduating from Woodlawn High School to enroll in Howard College.

But as Stivender entered into his freshman year, he heeded the call to fight alongside his fellow Americans in World War II, temporarily placing his education on hold to serve. After the war, Stivender returned home to complete his bachelor's degree at Samford in 1948. Yet even after he graduated, Stivender continued to serve the university through years of service on the university's Board of Trustees, executive committee and numerous ad hoc committees.

Today in 2019, Samford University has the privilege of thanking Jim for his 60 years of service on the Samford University Board of Trustees and for modeling to the university those true characteristics of a servant leader. ■



Jim Stivender

Let us hear from you ■ 205-726-2803 ■ [sualumni@samford.edu](mailto:sualumni@samford.edu)



# NEW ARRIVALS



**John Ryan Standridge**, a son, born Aug. 17, 2018. Parents are Michael "Boss" Standridge '00 and Karen Kurinka Standridge of Dacula, Georgia. **1**

**Nolan John Ullrich**, a son, born June 19, 2018. Parents are Laura Smitherman Ullrich '02 and Brandon Ullrich of Southaven, Mississippi. **2**

**Alden Cantrell Estes**, a son, born Aug. 18, 2018. Parents are Houston Estes '04 and Hayes Estes of Nashville, Tennessee. **3**

**Matheson Robert Ziegler**, a son, born Aug. 16, 2018. Parents are McClain Kitchens Ziegler '04 and Trey Ziegler of Nashville, Tennessee. **4**

**Annie Catherine Flaniken**, a daughter, born Aug. 5, 2018. Parents are Tara Flaniken '06 and Ian Flaniken of Birmingham, Alabama. **5**

**Meyer Alden Jenkins**, a son, born June 19, 2018. Parents are Ashley Jenkins '06 and Ryan Jenkins of Atlanta, Georgia. He joins his older siblings. **6**

**Quinn Mabel Jacobs** and **Reese Eleanor Jacobs**, twin daughters, born July 19, 2018. Parents are Josh Jacobs '07 and Cassie Applegate Jacobs '09 of Birmingham, Alabama. **7**

**Penelope Rose Martorana**, a daughter, born May 3, 2018. Parents are Eli Martorana '07, '10 and Madison Martorana of Spring Hill, Tennessee. **8**

**Judson Wolfe "Jud" Grant**, a son, born March 7, 2018. Parents are Henry "Hank" Grant '08 and Corbin Grant of Niwot, Colorado.

**Daniel Robert Dameron**, a son, born Sept. 18, 2018. Parents are Heather Willis Dameron '09 and Dale Dameron of Nashville, Tennessee. **9**

**Ann Douglas Knight**, a daughter, born Aug. 21, 2018. Parents are Melissa Plash Knight '09 and Chris Knight of Fairhope, Alabama. **10**

**Wade Catherine Register**, a daughter, born Aug. 27, 2018. Parents are Gracie Williams Register '09 and Brian Register of Jacksonville, Florida. **11**

**Davis Reid England**, a son, born July 31, 2018. Parents are Molly McGuire England '10 and Ryan England '10 of Danville, Indiana. **12**

**Ford Anthony Friday**, a son, born Sept. 18, 2018. Parents are Bryan Friday '10 and Hillary Fountain Friday '11 of Colleyville, Texas. **13**

**Emma Claire Rhea**, a daughter, born April 3, 2018. Parents are Rebecca Donaldson Rhea '10 and Stephen Rhea '10 of Hoover, Alabama. **14**

**Torsten Rosenberger**, a son, born Sept. 5, 2018. Parents are Viveka Rosenberger '10 and William Parker Rosenberger of Vestavia, Alabama. He joins older brother, Magnus. **15**

**Emery Jayne Burress**, a daughter, born Aug. 4, 2018. Parents are Olivia Wagoner Burress '11 and Brian Burress of Charlottesville, Virginia. **16**

**Robert Anderson Miller**, a son, born Dec. 1, 2017. Parents are Leanna Cannafax Miller '11 and Taylor Miller of Duncan, Mississippi. **17**

**Mark Thomas Oliver**, a son, born July 18, 2018. Parent are Thomas Oliver '12 and Mariah Cook Oliver '13, '14 of Hoover, Alabama. **18**

**Charlie Ann Ingram**, a daughter, born Sept. 17, 2018. Parents are Hannah Dawson Ingram '13 and Eric Ingram of Cordova, Tennessee. **19**

**Asher William Burke**, a son, born Oct. 17, 2018. Parents are Robin Driggers Burke '14 and Terry Burke of Wichita Falls, Texas. **20**

**Grady James Cleveland**, a son, born May 18, 2018. Parents are Lindy Williamson Cleveland '14 and Mitch Cleveland of Birmingham, Alabama. **21**

**Everett Alan Cripps**, a son, born Aug. 14, 2018. Parents are Alan Cripps '14 and Kimberly Cripps of Pelham, Alabama. He joins older sisters, Emily and Olivia. **22**

**Colson James Graham**, a son, born Sept. 22, 2018. Parents are Brooke Smith Graham '14 and James Graham '14 of Birmingham, Alabama. **23**

**Lynleigh Ryan Handlan**, a daughter, born Aug. 9, 2018. Parents are Sean Handlan '14 and Caitlin Bice Handlan '16 of Wilsonville, Alabama. **24**

**Finley Funderburg**, born July 31, 2017. Parents are Taylor Gillilan Funderburg '16 and Tyler Funderburg of Pell City, Alabama.





# IN MEMORIAM

**'40 Robbie Owings Sevier**, age 100, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Nov. 17, 2018. She graduated with a triple major in music, drama and English. She was Miss Howard College 1940 and a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority. She belonged to Independent Presbyterian Church.

**'44 Marie Raiford Ethridge**, age 92, of Dallas, Texas, died Aug. 7, 2018. She met her husband while they both attended Howard College, and she was very active in her community. She will be missed greatly by her family.

**'44 Frances Dorn Nelson**, age 96, of Birmingham, Alabama, died October 2018. A teacher and youth leader, she will be missed by all who knew her.

**'47 James "J.B." Davis**, age 93, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Nov. 22, 2018. During World War II, the Navy accepted him into the Naval Aviation Cadet Training program, sending him to Howard College. Davis was elected student body president. Involved in many civic and community organizations, he was a member of South Roebuck Baptist Church. He was known for his compassion and generosity.

**'48 Virginia Cobb Golightly**, age 91, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Nov. 17, 2018. She owned Cobb Travel and was a member of several community organizations, including founding the Charity League, San Pluer Theater, Coronets and Opera Guild.

**'49 William J. Ward**, age 90, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Oct. 20, 2018. While at Howard College, he was elected to membership in Omicron Delta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi, and served as president of both the student government and Pi Kappa Alpha. After graduation, he earned his J.D. from Harvard Law School. A member of Southside Baptist Church, he was involved in a number of civic and community organizations, including serving on the Board of Overseers of Samford University.

**'50 Charles F. Bice**, age 91, of Mountain Brook, Alabama, died Nov. 19, 2018. He enlisted during World War II and was a crew chief for the C47. He played football at Howard College and, after graduating, worked and retired in sales.

**'51 Rev. A. Rudolph Fagan**, age 88, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, died Oct. 3, 2018. After graduating from Howard College, he attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He retired as a Baptist minister and was a member of First Baptist Church in Murfreesboro.

**'51 Mamie Lee Starr**, age 93, of Huntsville, Alabama, died Oct. 11, 2018. She retired from the City Board of Education. She was beloved by her family.

**'52 Dr. Paul G. Blacketer**, age 91, of Gulfport, Mississippi, died Nov. 25, 2018. After graduating from Howard College, he was a minister and college professor. He served three terms in the New Hampshire House of Representatives and was a World War II veteran.

**'53 S. Wesley Teague**, age 90, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Sept. 29, 2018. He was a World War II naval veteran. After graduating from Howard College he joined Hayes Aircraft, retiring as the president of the targets division.

**'54 Rev. Joseph C. Underwood**, age 97, of Birmingham, Alabama, died in November 2018. He served in the Army during World War II, and, after graduating from Howard College and Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, was ordained as a priest. Underwood was in active ministry in Alabama and Florida, retiring from the Diocese of Birmingham.

**'54 Ann Miller Whitman** of Birmingham, Alabama, died in September 2018. After graduating from Howard College, she eventually retired from her family business, Miller Furniture, where she led the design team.

**'55 Jack H. Kelley**, age 86, of Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, died Sept. 25, 2018. He participated in student preaching activities while at Howard College, and, after graduating, went to Southern Seminary. He started churches in Pennsylvania and New Jersey and served churches in Kentucky and Indiana. He was also a planner on the Home Mission Board.

**'55 Dr. Katie Bates Scogin**, age 85, of Knoxville, Tennessee, died Nov. 13, 2018. She taught in Jefferson County, Alabama, then began teaching at a community college in Texas and North Carolina two years ago.

**'56 Judith Williams Askins**, age 83, of Cullman, Alabama, died Sept. 26, 2018. She was beloved by family and friends.

**'56 Rev. William P. McNeese Sr.** of Autaugaville, Alabama, died Oct. 30, 2018. After graduating from Howard College, he earned a degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He retired as a Baptist minister and educator with Autauga County Board of Education.

**'57 Herman E. Crotwell**, age 84, of Walker, Louisiana, died Oct. 13, 2018. He began his career as a pharmacist at James Drug Store, which he eventually purchased. He was a lifelong member of Walker Baptist Church.

**'57 Dr. Billy T. Marsh**, age 85, of Trussville, Alabama, died Oct. 20, 2018. He played football and baseball at Howard College. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean conflict. Marsh was a teacher and coach and served in administration for Jefferson County and Birmingham city schools. He was a deacon at Huffman Baptist Church.

**'59 Dr. Charles G. Gammill**, age 81, of Athens, Georgia, died Sept. 24, 2018. He worked in pharmacy before joining the faculty at UGA College of Pharmacy, retiring as director, Pharmaceutical and Industrial CE programs.

**'60 Rev. Ralph "Buddy" Harris**, age 80, of Fort Payne, Alabama, died Oct. 26, 2018. A graduate of Howard College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, he pastored in churches in Ohio, Tennessee and Florida.

**'60 John A. Logan III**, age 80, of Loganville, Georgia, died Sept. 5, 2018. He was a proud Samford alumnus.

**'60 Bobby Glenn Mallory**, age 85, of Fort Worth, Texas, died Oct. 11, 2018. A veteran of the Korean War, he was involved in residential construction and land development in Birmingham. He was involved in Grace Evangelistic Association, Southern Baptist Pioneer Missions Foundation and the Baptist World Alliance.

**'61 Dr. Thomas W. Cox**, age 84, of Van Buren, Arkansas, died Sept. 6, 2018. After serving in the U.S. Army, he graduated from Howard College, then the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He pastored churches in

Alabama, Missouri, Florida and Louisiana, and started Tom Cox World Ministries. He was honored in June 2018, by the national Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists for serving as a full-time evangelist for 50 years.

**'61, '67 Eugene "Gene" Martin Jr.**, age 81, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, died Sept. 10, 2018. While at Howard College, he was a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. Additionally, he was active in Alpha Phi Omega, Alpha Kappa Psi and Omicron Delta Kappa. Throughout his career, Martin worked for several retail pharmacies and practiced pharmacy at Brainerd Drug Store.

**'61 Margie A. Miller**, age 81, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Nov. 4, 2018. She was a medical technologist and was a member of Covenant Community Church UCC. She will be missed by family and friends.

**'62 Richard A. Mann**, age 82, of Mountain Brook, Alabama, died Aug. 6, 2018. He was in real estate his entire career and was devoted to his family.

**'63 Hon. John Lowery Capell III**, age 80, of Montgomery, Alabama, died Aug. 8, 2018. After receiving his law degree from Cumberland School of Law, where he was president of the senior class, he served in the USAF JAG office. Capell became a judge for the 15th Circuit and resided over juvenile and domestic cases.

**'63 Cordell Harrison**, age 78, of Mary Esther, Florida, died Aug. 29, 2018. After graduating from Howard College, he attended New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. While there, he served as the minister of music at the First Baptist Church of Slidell, Louisiana. After graduation, Harrison served as minister of music and youth director at Myrtle Grove Baptist Church in Pensacola, Florida, and Cinco Baptist Church in Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

**'64 Judith Harris Cullifer**, age 76, of Dalton, Georgia, died Aug. 28, 2018. She taught at Whitfield County Schools and DeKalb County Schools. She was beloved by her family.

**'64 Rev. William "Bill" Jennings**, age 88, of Mentone, Alabama, died Oct. 11, 2018. A graduate of Howard College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, he pastored for over 50 years in churches in Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and North Carolina.

**'64 T. Reid Methvin Jr.**, age 76, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, died Sept. 16, 2018. He was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha and a proud Samford

graduate. He belonged to Florida Blvd. Baptist Church.

**'64 Douglas B. Nunnelley**, age 76, of Vestavia Hills, Alabama, died Aug. 5, 2018. His career in accounting included serving in senior leadership roles with businesses in the Birmingham area. Nunnelley was a member of Mountain Chapel United Methodist Church and also served on many civic and community boards as an officer. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

**'64, '67 Dr. Darryl Lee Webb**, age 76, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, died Nov. 11, 2018. He attended Howard College and served as pledge class president of Sigma Nu fraternity. Following graduation from Cumberland School of Law, he formed a law partnership with classmates and established the firm, Corley, Church, and Webb. Webb then took a position at the University of Alabama's College of Commerce and Business Administration, as an assistant legal studies professor, where he stayed until retirement.

**'65 Dr. Tony W. Dollar**, age 75, of Dothan, Alabama, died Nov. 20, 2018. While at Samford, he was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity and ODK Honorary. After graduating, he attended dental school at UAB and served in the Navy. He opened his dental practice in Dothan and was a practicing dentist for 44 years.

**'66 Hon. Billy C. Burney**, age 82, of Moulton, Alabama, died Nov. 3, 2018. He was active duty Army and in the Army Reserves. Earning his J.D. from Cumberland School of Law, he was appointed the first district attorney of the 36th Judicial Circuit, then as circuit judge. Throughout his law career, Burney served on the Alabama Criminal Rules Committee, the Alabama Criminal Pattern Jury Instruction Committee, the State Democratic Executive Committee and the Alabama Law Institute. He was also appointed to serve as a special Alabama Supreme Court justice.

**'67 James H. McNeil Sr.**, age 81, of Fort Myers, Florida, died Sept. 25, 2018. He was a litigation attorney for more than 30 years and was known for his work ethic. He was involved in numerous charitable organizations and was a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

**'67 Charles R. Smith Jr.**, age 78, of Huntsville, Alabama, died Oct. 12, 2018. After graduating from Cumberland School of Law, he practiced law for over forty years and was a member of the Alabama State Bar Association, Madison County Bar Association and the Church of Nativity.

**'67, '68 James E. Stuart Jr.**, age 73, of Fairhope, Alabama, died Nov. 2, 2018. He taught at Abraham Baldwin Junior College and at Georgia Southern University after graduating with his M.A. in English from Samford University.

**'68 Larry F. Brown**, age 77, of Guntersville, Alabama, died Sept. 8, 2018. Active in the community, he owned Brown's Discount Drugs. He also served as the president of the Marshall County Pharmaceutical Association.

**'69 Keith D. Petty**, age 71, of Hoover, Alabama, died Sept. 22, 2018. He retired as president of Southtrust Bank of Ozark. He also served in the Army National Guard of Alabama.

**'69 Weymon P. Snuggs Jr.**, age 90, of Lakeland, Florida, died Aug. 10, 2018. After receiving his M.B.A. from Samford University, he served in the USAF, worked for Southern Company and taught economics at Jefferson State Community College. He belonged to Canterbury United Methodist Church.

**'70 Neal P. Ellis**, age 92, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Aug. 19, 2018. He served in the Army during World War II and was a noted sports writer. Ellis also founded the National Academy of Christian Music.

**'70 Norman W. Spear**, age 71, of Albertville, Alabama, died Oct. 28, 2018. He owned and operated Albertville Discount Pharmacy and was very involved in the Albertville community.

**'71 Fred S. Moore Jr.**, age 93, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Sept. 24, 2018. He worked as a corporate attorney. He will be remembered and missed.

**'72 Janis Tingle Karrh**, age 69, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, died Sept. 23, 2018. She loved her family dearly and was a member of the First Baptist Church in Tuscaloosa.

**'75, '78 John R. Benn**, age 65, of Sheffield, Alabama, died Sept. 5, 2018. He was a graduate of Samford and Cumberland School of Law. Benn will be missed by family and friends.

**'75 Daranee Tansantisuk Chaiprakob**, age 75, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Sept. 11, 2018. She received her master's degree from Samford. She and her husband owned Chai's Store and Asian Supermarket in Birmingham for over 30 years.

**'76 Rev. Thomas R. Williams**, age 67, of Glen Allen, Virginia, died Oct. 24, 2018. A graduate of Samford and Southwestern Baptist



Theological Seminary, he served in Southeast Asia, the West Pacific and West Europe with the International Mission Board (IMB), becoming vice president of the office of global personnel. After retirement from IMB, Williams pastored at Lacrosse Baptist Church.

**'78 Faye Janet Coleman**, age 95, of Plain Dealing, Louisiana, died Aug. 25, 2018. She retired from teaching at Homewood city schools after 30 years. She was a member of Plain Dealing Baptist Church.

**'78 Phillip S. Witeka**, age 69, of Gainesville, Florida, died Sept. 16, 2018. He served as an assistant district attorney with the 23rd Judicial Court in Birmingham, Alabama. He moved back to Gainesville, working with a local law firm until establishing his own private practice.

**'78 P. Victor Zannis** of Birmingham, Alabama, died Sept. 17, 2018. He served in the USAF, Fairfield Police Department and Birmingham Police Department before fulfilling his dream of becoming involved in vintage car engines and racing. Zannis also was a published author on restoring car engines. He belonged to Shades Mountain Community Church.

**'79 Travis L. Dewberry**, age 66, of Leeds, Alabama, died Nov. 6, 2018. Before graduating from Samford and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, he served in the USAF. Dewberry had a passion for education and pastored churches in Florida, Virginia, Oklahoma and Alabama.

**'81 Robert Perry Seale Jr.**, age 70, of Bandon, Mississippi, died Oct. 21, 2018. After graduating from Samford, he graduated from Reformed Theological Seminary. He will be missed by family and friends.

**'82 Robin Floyd**, age 58, of Tallahassee, Florida, died Aug. 10, 2018. She attended Cumberland School of Law and was loved by her family.

**'82 Richard N. Umphrey**, age 56, of Marietta, Georgia, died Aug. 3, 2018. An active member of the Lutheran Church, he served on several boards and missions to support his community and help others.

**'83, '86 Vernie Edward "Ed" Freeman II**, age 56, of Bessemer, Alabama, died Aug. 15, 2018. He will be missed by his family, friends and legal clients he represented. After his graduation from Cumberland School of Law, Freeman practiced for over 30 years.

**'84 Delite Bridges Cruit**, age 76, of Gadsden, Alabama, died Sept. 10, 2018. She retired from Gadsden Regional Medical Center after a career in health care. She was instrumental in starting the critical care unit and mentored hundreds of nurses during her tenure.

**'85 Dennis Ray Whidby**, age 66, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Sept. 11, 2018. He had a lifelong career in law enforcement and corporate security. He was beloved by his family.

**'86 Charles A. Bryant**, age 57, of Atlanta, Georgia, died Sept. 10, 2018. He changed careers from tax attorney to educator, teaching economics, history and government at Woodward Academy for nearly two decades.

**'88 Nancy Barnes Green**, age 82, of Pelham, Alabama, died Nov. 14, 2018. At Samford, she was awarded Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year. She taught in Georgia, Alabama and Louisiana. Green was a curriculum writer for Jefferson County schools and was a member of Hunter Street Baptist Church.

**'94 Travis Joines**, age 48, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, died Sept. 15, 2018. After graduating from Samford and then Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, he and his wife served as missionaries.

**'94 Eric G. Medeiros**, age 49, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, died Oct. 9, 2018. He was a pharmacist at Western State Hospital and a member of Southside Church of Christ.

**'95 Jennifer Hendrix**, age 47, of Mobile, Alabama, and Parker, Colorado, died Oct. 10, 2018. She was a gifted teacher and will be missed by family, friends and students.

**'96 Tonya Green Bryant**, age 45, of Helena, Alabama, died Nov. 23, 2018. Her career was in pharmaceutical sales and the Hoover Board of Education. She was loved by family and friends and will be missed.

**'97 Konya McCall Baxter**, age 50, of Quitman, Texas, died Sept. 17, 2018. She worked in the Arlington Hospital District and later managed a home health care facility in the Dallas area.

**'00 Michael "Mike" Miller**, age 46, of Douglasville, Georgia, died Nov. 19, 2018. He was a member of the city council, an attorney with a private practice, an aide to three Georgia House of Representatives committees and an aide to state senator Perry McGuire. He was a member of Douglasville First United Methodist Church.

**'09 Margaret "Meg" Demeranville**, age 39, of Mobile, Alabama, died Oct. 12, 2018. She was an officer of the Volunteer Lawyer's Program of Mobile, receiving accolades for her work. She enjoyed assisting younger attorneys and people in need.

**'13 Candice Kyzer**, age 33, of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, died Aug. 21, 2018. She grew up in San Francisco, London, Singapore and Houston. Kyzer worked in retail and realty. She will be greatly missed by family and friends.

**Marian "Teeny" Brannon**, age 93, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Nov. 15, 2018. While at Howard College she studied art. She was the head of visuals at Loveman's Department Store, then became a well-known interior decorator.

**Terrell Warren Hutchinson**, age 94, of Vero Beach, Florida, died Oct. 25, 2018. During his attendance at Howard College, he left to join the Navy during World War II. He retired from a career in foreign affairs and accounting.

**Mary Virginia Reynolds**, age 97, of Gulfport, Mississippi, died November 17, 2018. While attending Howard College she was a member of Phi Mu sorority. She was a member of Trinity Presbyterian Church and belonged to several community organizations.

**D.C. Scivley Jr.**, age 97, died Sept. 15, 2018. He received a football scholarship to Howard College. During his sophomore year in 1942, he left to join the Marine Corp. Scivley retired from a career in sales and business.

**Jane L. Wasson**, age 89, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Oct. 24, 2018. She attended Howard College and was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority. She was raised in East Lake Methodist Church and became a charter member of St. John's Methodist Church.

**William H. Wingate Jr.**, age 71 of Birmingham, Alabama, died Nov. 24, 2018. He will be greatly missed by family and friends.

## FACULTY

**'74 Dr. Steven F. Donaldson**, age 66, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Sept. 2, 2018. He was professor and computer science program director at Samford, where he also codirected the computational biology program and taught in the University Fellows honors program.

**Bill "Chief" Myers**, age 88, of Jasper, Alabama, died Oct. 3, 2018. He was a member of the Birmingham Police Department, retiring as chief of police. He taught criminal justice at UAB, Jefferson State Community College and Samford.

**Joyce Miller West**, age 85, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Aug. 8, 2018. She was a member of Hillview Baptist Church. Her career was in nursing, and she retired as a faculty member from Samford's Ida Moffett School of Nursing.

## STAFF

**'83 Loretta S. Littlejohn** of Birmingham, Alabama, died Aug. 27, 2018. She retired from Samford as a career counselor for students. She was active with Brookwood Baptist Church.

**Ronald V. Harris**, age 83, of Peoria Heights, Illinois, died Aug. 24, 2018. He served as the head basketball coach at Samford and coached pro ball in Sweden.

## FRIENDS

**Judith Estrach Abroms**, age 88, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Oct. 18, 2018. She was a great supporter of Samford. She was involved in community and civic organizations and will be missed.

**Dr. John W. Poynor**, age 77, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Oct. 8, 2018. An active member in the community, he also served his country as a medical doctor in the Air Force. He was a member of the Cathedral Church of the Advent.

**Judge Stanley Allen Wade**, age 96, of Jasper, Alabama, died Aug. 16, 2018. He served as a Walker County probate judge and was very active in civic organizations and his church, Westside Baptist. He also served on the Samford University Board of Trustees for 11 years. ▀

# 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](mailto:ktemplet@samford.edu) or 205-726-4580.*



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*in honor of Dr. Jennifer Speights-Binet*  
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Dr. & Mrs. Mike Shaw, Pelham, AL

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Chalmers and Jo Wayne Chism

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*To become a DeVotie Legacy Society member, contact Gene Howard at [wehoward@samford.edu](mailto:wehoward@samford.edu) or 205-726-2366.*





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