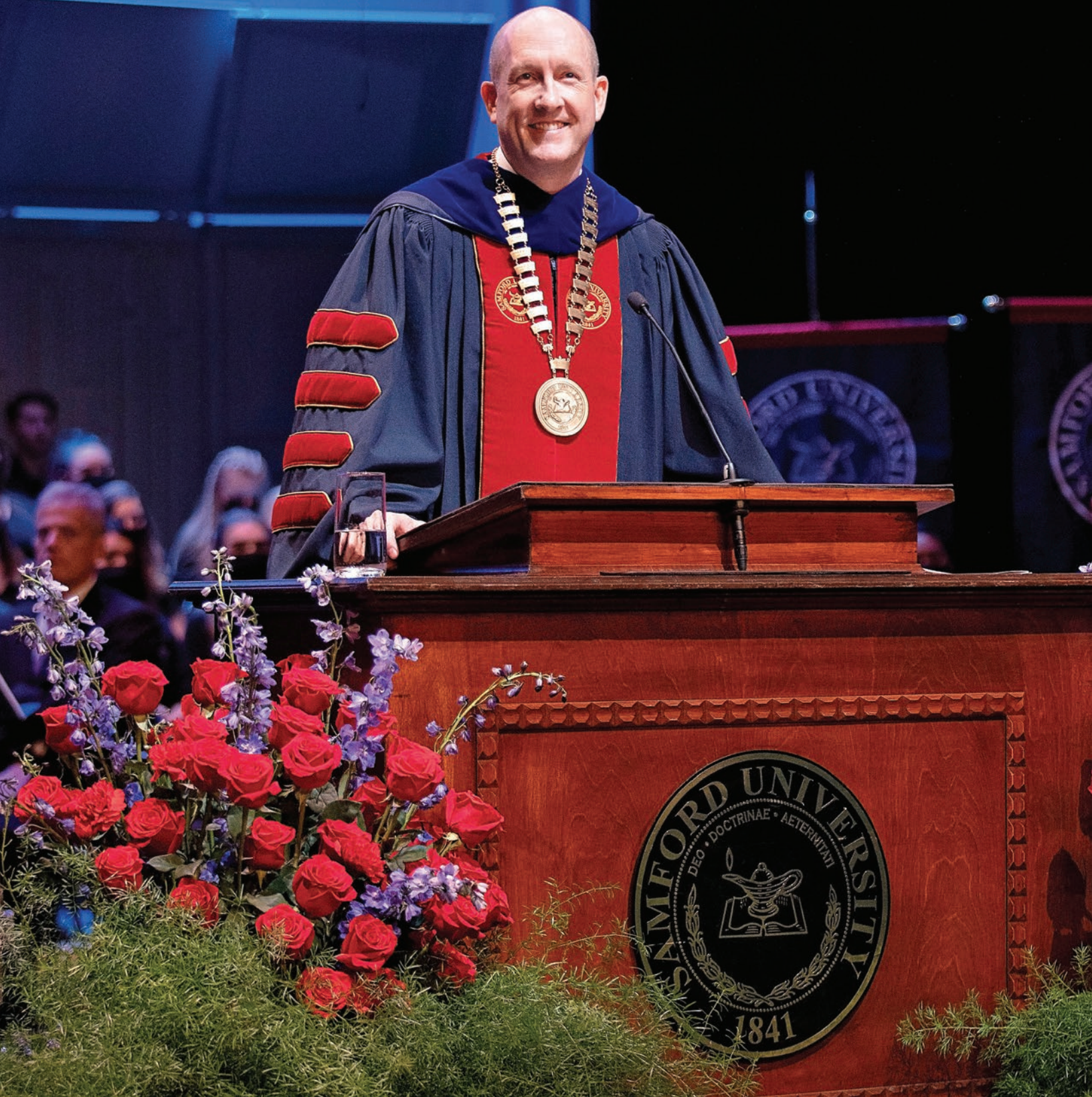


THE MAGAZINE OF SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

seasons

FALL 2021



Contents



3

1st in the Nation for Student Engagement

Samford's students are the nation's most engaged according to the 2022 rankings published by *The Wall Street Journal* and *Times Higher Education*.



14

Inauguration of Samford's 19th President: Beck A. Taylor

President Beck A. Taylor was inaugurated as Samford's 19th president on Nov. 4, with the theme of the celebratory week focused on being rooted and grounded in love.



18

A Return to Homecoming Weekend on Campus

Thousands of alumni, friends and family celebrated Homecoming Weekend on campus after it was held virtually last year due to the pandemic.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 2 From the President | 12 Meet the First Class of Ragland Scholars | 28 Public Health Alumna Serves Tribal Community Amidst COVID-19 |
| 3 1st in the Nation for Student Engagement, Leader in Undergraduate Teaching | 14 Inauguration of Samford's 19th President: Beck A. Taylor | 29 Grace Klein Community Shares More Than Food |
| 4 13 Consecutive Years of Record Enrollment | 18 Welcome Home, Bulldogs: Alumni Enjoy Return to Campus | 30 Samford and Miles College Announce Cultural Partnership |
| 5 New Initiative Connects Faith and Learning | 20 Alumnus of the Year: Gary Cooney | 31 Brock School of Business Opens Alfa Risk Management and Insurance Lab |
| 6 Buchanan Hall Renovation | 22 Alumnus of the Year: Jody Hunt | 32 Physical Therapy Launches Community Clinic |
| 7 Campus Updates | 23 Humanitarians of the Year: Herbie Newell and Lynn Smith | 34 Son Creates Scholarship to Honor His Mother |
| 8 Raising the Bar at McWhorter School of Pharmacy | 24 Outstanding Young Alumna of the Year: Alex McLure Colvin | 35 Samford Parents "Standing in the Gap" for One Another |
| 9 Mapping Project Helps Conserve Environment, Empower Communities | 25 Samford Honors, Remembers Football Legend Bobby Bowden | 36 Class Notes |
| 10 Business Student Completes Vogue Intensive Summer Program in London | 26 Goode's Love of Baseball Leads to Major Gift to Baseball Field | 38 Future Bulldogs |
| 11 Samford Student Named National Student Nurse of the Year | 27 Project SAMson Boosts Athlete Performance, Provides Experiential Learning Opportunities | 39 In Memoriam |

Seasons Fall 2021 • Volume 38 • No. 3

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We'd love to hear your feedback on *Seasons* magazine!

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Mark Your Calendars

Fall Commencement: **Dec. 18, 2021**

Step Sing: **Jan. 27-29, 2022**

Spring Commencement: **April 29-30, 2022**

From the President

Left to right: Chloe Taylor, President Beck A. Taylor, First Lady Julie Taylor and Zach Taylor (Lauren Taylor was unable to attend in person, but tuned in virtually and was there in spirit)



Rooted and Grounded in Love

Samford has an understandable love affair with trees. From the story of Sherman Oak to the beautiful trees that adorn our campus, and Dr. Westmoreland's reminder that we all enjoy the shade of trees we did not plant, Samford's institutional narrative would make any arborist proud. So, when I was asked to name a theme for my inaugural ceremony, indeed for my presidency, my mind went immediately to the Apostle Paul's exhortation to us found in Ephesians 3 to be "rooted and grounded in love."

What does it mean to be a university, a people, who are rooted and grounded in love?

That is the question we should explore as we set our sights on a new and exciting vision for Samford University. The answers to that question will animate our forthcoming plans for academic excellence, for cocurricular life, and for the many ways our students develop their intellect, creativity, faith, and personhood. How we love others should influence the many ways Samford's students and employees serve the communities we call home. Our love for mind, body, and soul should guide us as we articulate a vision for vocational preparation, for student wellness, and for how all of us grow closer to Jesus. Love should even shape the ways we envision what excellence looks like for our Bulldog athletics programs.

In other words, love—the love we have for God and for others—should influence all we do at Samford. By God's grace, it will. I look forward to casting an exciting vision for Samford's future, one rooted and grounded in the love of Christ.

In the Samford spirit,

Beck A. Taylor, Ph.D.
President

1st

in the Nation for Student Engagement, Leader in Undergraduate Teaching

By Holly Gainer

Samford University is a leader in student engagement and undergraduate teaching, according to the latest national rankings. *The Wall Street Journal* and *Times Higher Education* ranked the university first in the nation in student engagement, climbing from second place last year.

The annual Student Engagement ranking assesses the degree to which students feel prepared to use their education in the real world, how they immerse themselves in the intellectual and social life of their college and the quality of a student's contacts with faculty. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, this category examines "how engaged students feel they are with their professors, their peers and their education." Student engagement is deemed to be central to exceptional teaching quality and reflects "how well a university manages to inform, inspire and challenge students."

Samford also ranked 184th overall among nearly 800 universities in the national ranking and 1st in Alabama, a position held every year since the rankings' inception in 2016.

The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education rankings differ from other national rankings because they look more closely at outcomes, as opposed to the inputs such as the class ranks of the incoming class or the average SAT scores. These look at how the education will serve the student and the outputs of the education such as where the student will be after graduation.

"Being ranked first in the nation for student engagement by *The Wall Street Journal* is an honor for Samford. Our faculty and staff work tirelessly and have remained resilient, especially during these unprecedented times, to create engaging learning opportunities for students so they will be informed, inspired and challenged," said Samford President Beck A. Taylor. "Although national rankings are just one measure of success, the recognition provides affirmation for our students, employees and alumni."

U.S. News & World Report ranked Samford as 37th in the country for best undergraduate teaching. Considering there are over 3,900 degree-granting postsecondary institutions in the U.S. recognized by the Department of Education, this ranking places Samford among the top 1% of colleges and universities

in the country. Samford is the only university in Alabama to make this list.

Samford also continues to be ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as the best value for a college education in Alabama. In the list of national universities included in the best value ranking, Samford is ranked 97th, placing it among the most acclaimed universities in the country. To determine which colleges and universities offer the best value for students, *U.S. News & World Report* factors academic quality and cost after accounting for total expenses and financial aid. ▶





13 Consecutive Years *of Record Enrollment*

By Holly Gainer

Samford has experienced 13 consecutive years of enrollment growth, a remarkable achievement considering the unprecedented challenges facing national higher education due to COVID-19. A record of 5,758 undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in the fall 2021 semester.

Included in the totals are 3,607 undergraduate and 2,151 graduate/professional students, representing 48 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and 22 countries. The entering freshman class is made up of 918 students.

"Our 13th year of record enrollment is a result of hard work and resilience by our faculty and staff. Even during these challenging times, Samford has remained steadfast in its commitment to educate and nurture our students," said Samford Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management R. Philip Kimrey. "The extraordinary efforts of our admissions team are also essential in recruiting students to Samford. I am grateful for our employees and to the students who choose to attend this exceptional university."

Due to extensive planning and innovative approaches in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the university was able

to adapt and develop informative, engaging ways to share Samford and its culture with prospective, incoming and returning students. Samford's faculty and leadership found ways to persevere, preserving the student experience and maintaining a focus on its mission to nurture the development of intellect, creativity and faith. As a result, throughout the 2020-2021 academic year, most course work across undergraduate and graduate degree programs continued to be taught in either face-to-face or hybrid formats in order to maximize the number of in-person learning experiences. The university returned to normal operations this fall.

In addition to record enrollment across the university, Cumberland School of Law and McWhorter School of Pharmacy welcomed the most diverse incoming classes in the history of both schools. ▀

New Initiative Connects

Faith and Learning

By Holly Gainer

Connecting one's calling as a Christian and role as a teacher is the goal of a new campuswide program. The Faith and Learning Initiative will help faculty members discover how to align their faith with their teaching philosophy.

Bryan Gill, director of university assessment and accreditation, will lead this effort.

"Since Samford is a Christian institution, we have the freedom and opportunity to let our faith shine through in our teaching. Samford does a great job of hiring world-class faculty members who are at the top of their field and are strong in their faith," Gill said. "However, these faculty members may not have been given the opportunity to learn how to infuse the two."

What began as a pilot project in Howard College of Arts and Sciences by the school's dean, Tim Hall, and Emily Hynds, associate dean and professor, will eventually expand across campus. According to Gill, the goal is to provide holistic professional development opportunities to faculty to help them explore how to connect their calling as Christians to their calling as teachers.

The initiative is not designed to be a "plug and play" model where a professor adds an assignment that connects faith to the classroom. Gill says adding material to a lesson plan may be part of it, but the decision on how to incorporate Christianity into their course will be up to each faculty member.

"The beauty of the Faith and Learning Initiative is that faculty members will discover how the alignment of faith and learning will uniquely look in

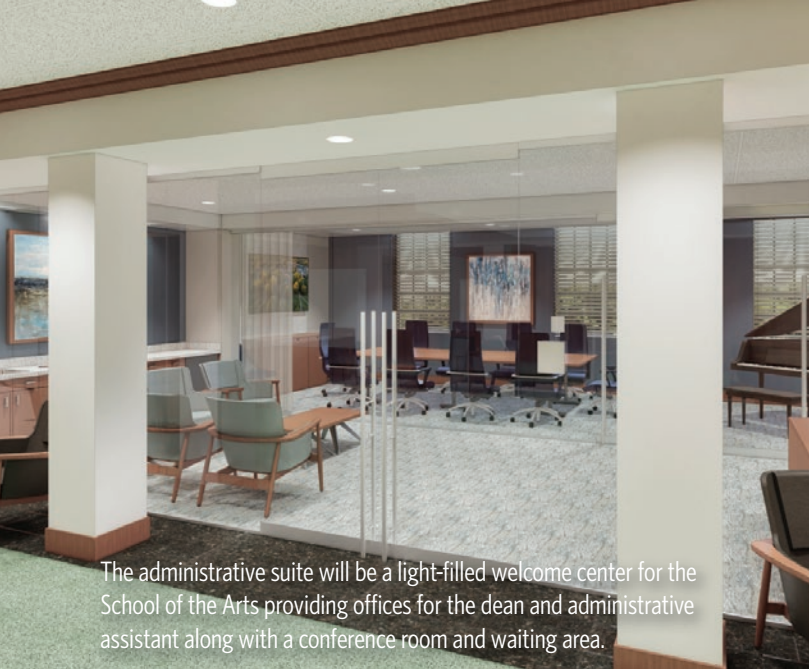
their classroom. The goal is to help faculty members begin to view their role at Samford through the lens of their faith and let their faith transform what happens in the classroom," Gill said. "What that will look like will be different for everyone, but the goal will be the

same as Samford's mission to help nurture persons in their development of faith and personhood."

While the Faith and Learning Initiative is still in development, the program is expected to be rolled out across campus in the fall of 2022. ▮

Gill, pictured below, hopes this will help faculty connect their calling as Christians to their calling as educators.





The administrative suite will be a light-filled welcome center for the School of the Arts providing offices for the dean and administrative assistant along with a conference room and waiting area.



New Student Commons on the first floor will be a place for gathering, studying and collaborating.

Buchanan Hall Renovation Under Way

By Ashley Smith

Samford's School of the Arts began a new chapter in its history with the renovation of Buchanan Hall, which has served as home for the music program since 1958 and was named in honor of John H. Buchanan, a Samford trustee and pastor of Birmingham's Southside Baptist Church in 1960.

The project reimagines the space, provides areas for growth and, most importantly, allows access for all students and faculty members. Davis Architects, a firm that has guided Samford's campus design for decades, created plans to transform the interior of the building to meet the needs of students and prepare them for future careers in the arts through a world-class education.

This project is part of the university's 20-year campus master plan. "The Board of Trustees supports this important renovation of Buchanan Hall as it will provide accessibility for all students and well-designed facilities to train musicians in the 21st century," said William Stevens, chairman of Samford's Board of Trustees.

"This renovation reflects the environment we want for our students," said Joe Hopkins, dean of the School of the Arts. "It will honor the historical architecture outside while creating more welcoming, contemporary spaces inside. With the inclusion of community gathering spaces for students and

faculty, the new facility will encourage interaction and collaboration, a key part of our teaching philosophy."

A complete interior renovation began in May 2021, resulting in a state-of-the-art building with modern administrative offices, new HVAC systems, an elevator, student common areas, contemporary furnishings, practice studios, sophisticated technology resources and a new inventory of pianos. Technology upgrades and new recording equipment will allow students to create and experiment more effectively in the new commercial music area, as well as in the more established programs like composition and performance.

Fundraising for furnishings, equipment, pianos, and program endowment continues as well as the possible co-naming of the building. Julie Boyd, director of donor relations is spearheading the many giving opportunities associated with this project.

The School of the Arts continues to grow, and the new facility is already sparking excitement among current and future students. "The renovation of our Buchanan Hall serves as inspiration for prospective Samford Arts families. It speaks to the investment Samford and our donors are making in their students' individual potential, major program and their students' ability to make their mark on society through the arts," said Katie Overturf, director of enrollment management.

Buchanan Hall is scheduled to be ready for the 2022 fall semester. ▶

For more information about this exciting project, contact:

Julie Boyd

Director of Donor Relations, School of the Arts

205-726-4656 | jboyd10@samford.edu

Other Updates Around Campus

A number of construction projects were completed on campus over the summer and in the fall.

Benjamin F. Harrison Theatre

The Benjamin F. Harrison Theatre underwent extensive renovations over the summer, providing an overall better experience for patrons. New seats were installed on a steeper rake to bring the audience closer to the stage. Accessibility platforms were added to provide seating for all guests. Two platforms have been installed at each entrance to provide new areas for lighting as well as access for performers to enter the stage from the audience side. The renovation also included life safety improvements such as fire sprinklers and upgraded railings for the catwalk platforms.



Leo E. Bashinsky Press Tower

The Leo E. Bashinsky Press Tower inside Seibert Stadium was renovated over the summer. The improvements include a redesigned VIP Suite, a new press box and new replay booths. Other renovations include new data wiring and audio visual technology. Restrooms were also upgraded and new furniture was installed throughout the space. Mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems were also fully upgraded.



Frank Park Samford Hall

Office space throughout Frank Park Samford Hall has undergone renovation for the first time since the building was constructed in 1955. The renovations also include new office space for Accounting and Financial Services, Human Resources, Business Services,

Marketing and Communication and Institutional Research and Analytics. In addition to renovated offices, the building now includes a new boardroom and conference meeting rooms. New life safety, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, data and audio visual systems were also installed. ■



Raising the Bar

By Sarah Waller

McWhorter School of Pharmacy launched its new Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum this fall, transforming its approach in preparing pharmacists to be practice and team ready.

When faculty in McWhorter School of Pharmacy decided in 2017 to launch what would become a four-year journey of curriculum transformation, it wasn't because the existing curriculum was inadequate. Rather, their motivation was driven by a desire to stay ahead of the ever-evolving health care industry, embracing innovation and creativity to raise the bar for both faculty and students.

The new curriculum, titled Practice and Team Ready, launched this fall with the school's first-year class. "We set out to create a curriculum that was innovative and unique while remaining effective for our students," said Mike Kendrach, associate dean for academic affairs. "I'm proud of the new elements we've incorporated—while staying true to what we know works—to develop

something that is distinct within pharmacy education."

Among these differentiators is a new approach to the structure of each year, incorporating weeks that are intentionally designed to support student success. Developing Academic Success and Health (DASH) weeks are designed to orient first-year students and reinforce knowledge with returning

students at the beginning of the semester. Similarly, at the halfway point and end of each semester, students step out of the classroom and engage in lab assessments and simulation experiences. These Simulating Practice, Readiness and Teamwork (SPRINT) weeks provide more formative avenues for feedback—ensuring students remain on course.

Clinical rotations now start in the student's third year, as opposed to the fourth year. In addition to placing students in practice settings earlier, this update also provides time for fourth-year students to return to campus for the Professional Activities and Competencies Evaluation (PACE) course that empowers them to demonstrate what they are learning at their clinical sites, as well as a course at the very end, Management, Innovation, Leadership, Entrepreneurship (MILE), focusing on career preparation and support for their licensure exam.

"Our faculty have created the most contemporary pharmacy curriculum in the country, infusing the latest innovation and improving pedagogy," said Michael Crouch, dean of McWhorter School of Pharmacy. "I'm incredibly proud of how our faculty came together to make this happen. Each faculty member served a vital role in the development process. It was truly a collaborative effort, which I believe, makes the curriculum even stronger."

Learn more at samford.edu/pharmacy/curriculum. ▀



Mapping Project Helps Conserve Environment, EMPOWER COMMUNITIES

By Sean Flynt

Samford geography professor Jordan Cissell is part of a Smithsonian Institution and Mesoamerican Reef Fund project providing powerful tools and training to help conserve the Mesoamerican Reef (MAR) ecoregion, encompassing the Caribbean coasts of Belize, Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras.

The stakes are high for communities in the region. “The livelihoods of more than 2 million people are directly or indirectly connected to the mangrove, seagrass, and coral reef ecosystems of the MAR,” Cissell explained. “These ecosystems provide habitat for commercial and subsistence fisheries like lobster, conch, and shrimp. They also support activities like snorkeling, diving, birdwatching and sportfishing that bring in more than 12 million tourists and millions of tourism dollars each year.” He said mangroves also help protect coastal communities from destructive storms and mitigate climate change by sequestering atmospheric carbon.

Previous efforts to map the ecoregion lacked the consistent methodology and high level of detail required to determine the rates and locations of losses, so Cissell and his colleagues—Michael Steinberg (University of Alabama), Steven Canty (Smithsonian) and Lorae’ Simpson (Florida Oceanographic Society)—have created a Google Earth Engine algorithm that generates high-resolution maps based on data collected in many seasons of fieldwork.

The group used the new system to complete mangrove maps for each of the MAR countries this spring and summer. It will map the reefs and seagrasses later, and might expand into Costa Rica, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Ecuador. First, it will develop workshops to help people in the region use the mapping system. “Because Google Earth Engine is free for anyone to use, our code empowers local stakeholders to make their own on-demand maps of mangrove trends, threats and successes within their own study areas,” Cissell said.

Cissell will introduce students to the importance of such work via a new course in spring 2022. Human-Environment Relationships in the 21st Century will gather insights from geography, environmental science, conservation, political science, economics, public policy, sociology and other disciplines to discuss pressing human-environment issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, and explore possible solutions. ▀

Samford geography professor Jordan Cissell conducts fieldwork in the mangroves on Coco Plum Caye in Belize in August 2021.



Business Student Completes Vogue Intensive Summer Program in London

By Morgan Black

Annabella Shima, a marketing and entrepreneurship major with a professional sales concentration, has a career in international business on her radar. During summer 2021, the Tampa, Florida, native completed the Vogue Intensive Summer Program at the Condé Nast College of Fashion & Design in London.



The four-week program provides a comprehensive introduction to the fashion industry and allows global participants the chance to connect with professionals who could provide internships, full or part-time work down the road.

During the program, Shima worked on various editorial projects based on Condé Nast's fashion publications, specifically *British Vogue*. The bulk of her time was spent creating a proposal for the October 2021 issue of the magazine including generating editorial concepts and producing visuals for multiple photoshoots, as well as designing her own *Vogue* cover.

Complementary to this hands-on experience, she engaged in workshops and events with professionals, specifically those with expertise in journalism, creative direction, trend forecasting, magazine styling, marketing and social media.

"It was amazing to make connections with a wide range of international industry experts and Condé Nast professionals, who provided great career advice while allowing me to get my foot in the door of the fashion industry," Shima said.

Shima is passionate about consumer behavior and trend research,

which she plans to incorporate into a future career in luxury brand marketing. She feels her Samford business education pairs well with the creative aesthetics of high fashion and believes that understanding how a business runs has been and will be very valuable to her success in the industry.

"Through my business communication and sales classes, I feel like I had really good sales and presentation skills during the course of the program," she said. "This experience was such a good starting point for me to really break into the industry and to understand all the different opportunities that exist."

Her experience this summer was not her first exposure to international business. During the summer of 2019, she took Strategic Decision-making in U.K. Organizations, a class developed and led by Barbara Cartledge, senior assistant dean for Brock School of Business, to expose students to a variety of business types in the U.K. Shima returned to London in the fall where she lived in Samford's Daniel House and interned at Grove Communication, a boutique public relations agency which specializes in fashion accessories and luxury goods.

Approximately 97% of business students participate in at least one internship before they graduate from Samford's Brock School of Business. Samford is nationally recognized for its internship program and other high-impact practices that contribute to student learning and engagement. ▀

Annabella Shima

Samford Student Named National Student Nurse of the Year

By Sara Roman

Senior Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing student Lonnitria Keenan was selected as the 2021-22 National Student Nurse of the Year by the National Black Nurses Association. Although her journey to the nursing profession may not have been a direct one, it has certainly been one where she has flourished.

At the ripe age of two, her mother says Keenan began saying she wanted to be a doctor. Keenan followed that passion throughout her collegiate studies and even shadowed a neonatologist at UAB Hospital and Children's of Alabama, but during her junior year she recalls the Lord shifting her heart.

"My grandmother fell ill and I noticed how the nurses knew her and truly cared for her," said Keenan. "As I continued shadowing, my lead physician observed how I would always try to spend more time with the families we visited. He suggested that I shadow the head nurse. After just a few days, I knew nursing was the profession I was called to."

Although she fell in love with the nursing profession, she did not change her major. She completed her Bachelor of Arts in biology with a focus on premedicine and enlisted with the U.S. Air Force. Keenan says becoming a member of the armed forces felt like a rite of passage; her sister is a Marine and her brother is in the Army.

"I look back now and think the Lord must have been saying, 'You can complete it on your time or mine, but the field of nursing is where I have called you.'"

In fall of 2019, Keenan decided to answer the call and enrolled in Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing's second-degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. Throughout her academic journey she says the Lord's presence has been evident.

According to Keenan, nursing school has been hard at times, and she was even called to active duty during her study. "Nursing preparation and the profession are not easy but God orders our steps," said Keenan. "He has provided for me in monumental ways."

"Time and time again I've felt the Lord say, 'Do what I have called you to do and I will bless your efforts,'" said Keenan. "As I look towards my graduation this December, this recognition as the National Student Nurse of the Year feels like the Lord's way of reassuring me that I am exactly where I am meant to be."



"I look back now and think the Lord must have been saying, 'You can complete it on your time or mine, but the field of nursing is where I have called you.'"

Following graduation, Keenan plans to commission as a second lieutenant with the Air Force and serve as a nurse. Eventually, she plans to become a flight nurse and obtain her emergency nurse practitioner certification. ▀

Meet our Ragland Scholars

By Daniel Dodson

Meet the first class of Samford's Ragland Scholars, the new cohort experience which aims to orchestrate an intentional learning community connecting multi-cultural student leaders with an enhanced Samford experience. The program is named for Elizabeth Sloan Ragland who, in 1969, became the first black undergraduate student to live in campus housing at Samford.

Caley Ingram

Caley Ingram, who plans to major in public health on a predoctoral track, is from outside of Atlanta, Georgia. Prior to coming to Samford, Ingram was involved in her church's children's ministry and served as a summer camp leader and the children's ministry intern. Ingram became interested in the Ragland Scholars program because she was excited about the opportunity to be a part of a group that shared similar interests and fosters academic growth and leadership development.

"I cannot wait to see how God works through the wonderful people who comprise the Ragland Scholars program as we work towards cultivating an environment that embraces our beautiful differences as well as

seek to make a meaningful impact on campus and beyond," Ingram said.

Gabriela Aleman

Gabriela Aleman, who is from Madisonville, Louisiana, is dedicated to serving others in her community. Prior to coming to Samford, she volunteered in nursing homes and with children with disabilities. Aleman plans to major in nursing. After hearing about the Ragland

Scholars program, she became inspired and knew that she wanted to be a part of it to promote diversity on campus.

Aleman says she chose Samford because she knew it would prepare her for a future career in nursing, but also for life.

"I know that nursing school will not be easy, but I know it will be worth it. I trust that God will be with me every step of the way, and that my hard work will pay off in the end," Aleman said.

Hannah White

Hannah White, who plans to major in entrepreneurship, is from Tuskegee, Alabama. Prior to coming to Samford, White was involved as an active member of Girl Scouts, Relay for Life, the youth department at her church and as a class representative for all four years in high school. She says she wanted to be a Ragland Scholar because



Caley Ingram



Gabriela Aleman



Hannah White

it is a program that promotes social and academic excellence for people of color.

"For me, being a Ragland Scholar feels like I just got hired and already received a promotion," White said. "I know that I'm going to excel in this program because I have people, that look just like me, here to support me."

Iman Grace Bell

Iman Grace Bell came to Samford because she saw an opportunity to make a dynamic change to a place that was like a second home for her. Both of her parents attended Beeson Divinity School when she was a toddler. Originally from the Birmingham area, Bell previously volunteered with the YouthServe's Youth Philanthropy Council, where she advocated and served communities that have endured domestic abuse, oppression, poverty and the effects of gang violence. Bell felt that the Ragland Scholars program aligned with her interests and past community involvement.

"Now that I am a student here, I feel it is my turn to do the work, add to the conversation, represent the underrepresented, and open up doors for others who look like me," Bell said.

James Jefferson

Community service has long been an integral part of James Jefferson's life. Originally from Shreveport, Louisiana, Jefferson grew up in a family of community leaders, public servants and law enforcement officials. Prior to coming to Samford, he was involved in his high school's student and faculty advisory council, which aimed to promote an environment that was inclusive, dedicated and committed to the needs and desires of others. He was also named the freshman class president at Samford. The Ragland Scholars program

felt like a natural fit for him.

"Being able to participate in an organization named after and dedicated to the trailblazer Elizabeth Sloan Ragland not only sparked my interest, but it ultimately inspired me to want to be a part of this wonderful cohort," Jefferson said. "After being named freshman class president at Samford, it is my hope that I am to help cultivate an environment that is inclusive for all students."

Myles Wynn

Myles Wynn always wanted to follow in his father's footsteps. But when he chose Samford, it wasn't just because it was the university his father attended, it was also due to its academic reputation and its distance to his hometown of Pelham, Alabama. He became interested in the Ragland Scholars program while researching colleges and felt that he would be a good fit.

"The Ragland Scholars program wasn't just a good way to start relationships with others. It was also a good way to build relationships with people with similar backgrounds as mine. I found the Ragland Scholars as a good way to get outside my comfort zone and build connections with others," Wynn said.



Iman Grace Bell



Myles Wynn



James Jefferson



Jon Coley

While at Samford, Wynn says he wants to grow as a person and become a leader.

Jon Coley

Jon Coley is originally from Montgomery, Alabama. Prior to coming to Samford, he was involved in his community through volunteering with organizations that converted buildings into homeless shelters and academic tutoring. A prepharmacy major, Coley came to Samford to be challenged academically and for the school's fast-track Pharm.D. program. He says the Ragland Scholars program will help motivate him to succeed.

"It gives me the drive to continue to strive for academic excellence and the desire to lead and empower others just as Ms. Elizabeth Sloan Ragland did before me," Coley said. ▮

Read more about each scholar at samford.edu/go/ragland-scholars.



Dr. Beck A. Taylor

Inaugurated as Samford's 19th President, Remains "Rooted and Grounded in Love"

By Jessica Black

On Nov. 4, Dr. Beck A. Taylor was inaugurated as Samford University's 19th president. In his moving inaugural address to the more than 1,200 guests in attendance, President Taylor shared the theme of his presidency, centered around Ephesians 3:16-19—and encouraged the Samford community to remain "rooted and grounded in love."



Left to right: President Emeritus Andrew Westmoreland, Former First Lady Jeanna Westmoreland, Former First Lady Marla Corts, First Lady Julie Taylor and President Beck A. Taylor

It was a day of tradition and celebration, as Samford hosted the ceremonial inauguration of President Taylor. Rich with the formality of academic ceremony and elements of university history, the service was a glorious demonstration of Samford's faith, unity and legacy.

Set in the Leslie S. Wright Fine Arts Center, the service began in spectacular fashion, with a procession of robed delegates from more than 65 higher education institutions and associations, Samford's Board of Trustees, deans, members of the executive leadership team, faculty members, representatives of student organizations, administrative officers, and 112 flags representing the



states, territories and countries that are home to Samford's 54,000 alumni.

Following performances by the University Combined Choirs and Brass Ensemble, official welcomes were presented by Bobbie Knight, president of Miles College, on behalf of the Birmingham community; Robert Hensarling, chair of the Faculty Senate, on behalf of the Samford faculty; Keith Deakle, chair of the Staff Advisory Council, on behalf of the Samford staff; Tyler Kendall, president of the Student Government Association, on behalf of Samford students; and Judge Stephen Dillard, president of the Samford Alumni Association, on behalf of Samford alumni.

Accompanied by his wife, First Lady and Executive Director of Legacy League Julie A. Taylor, President Taylor then received the Oath of Office from Board of Trustees Chair William J. Stevens, followed by the investiture, in

which he was conveyed the ceremonial chain of office.

In his inaugural address that followed, President Taylor shared the theme of his presidency, centered around Ephesians 3:16-19 with a focus on being "rooted and grounded in love."

"I challenge us to make such love the cornerstone of all we do at Samford, to make love the foundation of any vision that we might cast together in the coming months and years," Taylor said. "Some might think it too abstract, or too emotional, or too self-evident to claim as the foundation of all we do at an academic institution, at a modern university. But, if our efforts aren't rooted and grounded in love, in the love of Christ, I contend that we will fail."

As a Christian university, Taylor explained how love is at the heart of Samford's motto of "For God, for learning, forever."

"It should be no surprise to us now

that Christ's commandment to us is rooted and grounded in love—a commandment to love God with all of ourselves (heart, mind, body, soul, spirit) and to love others fiercely, devotedly, sacrificially, even as we love ourselves," Taylor said. "I'm not sure that the mission and vision of Samford

To celebrate the inauguration of President Taylor, delegates from more than 65 higher education institutions and associations joined the Inauguration Ceremony at Samford.





During the Inauguration Ceremony, the Ceremonial Chain of Office was conveyed to President Taylor by William J. Stevens, chair of the Samford Board of Trustees. The chain bears the names of those who have served as president and represents the authority and responsibility bestowed by the Board of Trustees. President Emeritus Andrew Westmoreland assisted with the investiture to represent continuity of the university's Christ-centered mission since 1841.

"The names of 18 presidents on this chain of office I now proudly wear, including the names of two Samford presidents I've known and loved, Drs. Corts and Westmoreland, don't just point to a line of presidential succession," Taylor said during his inaugural address. "No, they also give us confidence that from one season of leadership to the next, God has important plans to accomplish in and through all of us here at Samford."



could be articulated more succinctly or more inspirationally."

Looking ahead to the future, Taylor encouraged the Samford community to "complete the work that the Lord has given us while carrying the solemn duty to plant new seeds of hope, healing, justice, mercy and love" through our actions.

"We will be confident that the Good Lord will protect our humble offerings, nurturing those tiny seeds – those acts of love we will produce – until great timbers of goodness, and truth and beauty are established and graciously provide their welcome shade

to future generations, and generations beyond those, until the Lord comes again," Taylor said. "May some future president and Samford congregation gathered on a day like today remember us fondly in posterity for being faithful in this next season of growth. May they remember us for our love."

After the service, guests joined the Taylors in the lobby of the Wright Center for a celebratory reception.

Inauguration Day culminated with the Presidential Inaugural Ball, hosted by the Student Government Association. It was a black-tie affair, as more than 1,000 students and special

Samford Medallion Awards

Three individuals and organizations whose good works have made a difference in society, the life of the church and the quality of life for others received the Samford Medallion Award on Nov. 1, one of several events planned to celebrate President Taylor's inauguration. The recipients included Tony Cooper, who served as the executive director of the Jimmie Hale Mission; Frances Ford, executive director of Sowing Seeds of Hope; and Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief with Mark Wakefield accepting the award on behalf of the organization.





guests enjoyed dancing, entertainment and refreshments. President and Mrs. Taylor kicked off the evening by welcoming the crowd and leading the first dance to “Stars Fell on Alabama.”

All told, the Samford University community united to celebrate the inauguration of President Taylor with

more than a dozen events, including special opportunities hosted by each of the university’s 10 academic schools.

Truly, it was a historic occasion for Samford University and a celebration of faith, learning and love that will be remembered forever. ▀

Samford Presidents Through the Years

As Samford’s 19th president, Beck A. Taylor joins a list of distinguished leaders throughout the university’s 180-year history.

1842 – 1852, Samuel Sterling Sherman

1853 – 1863, Henry Talbird

1865 – 1868, Jabez Lamar Monroe Curry

1868 – 1869, Edward Quinn Thornton*

1869 – 1871, Samuel R. Freeman

1871 – 1887, J. T. Murfee

1888 – 1893, Benjamin Franklin Riley

1893 – 1896, Arthur Watkins McGaha

1896 – 1897, A. D. Smith

1897 – 1902, Frank M. Roof

1902 – 1912, Andrew Phillip Montague

1912 – 1918, James Madison Shelburne

1919 – 1921, Charles B. Williams

1921 – 1931, John C. Dawson

1932 – 1939, Thomas V. Neal

1939 – 1958, Harwell G. Davis

1958 – 1983, Leslie Stephen Wright

1983 – 2006, Thomas Edward Corts

2006 – 2021, Andrew Westmoreland

2021, Beck A. Taylor

* Thornton was omitted from the traditional listing of presidents due to his short term of service, but is included in the historical record.

The Samford Mace

The Samford mace is an ensign of authority. It is borne by a faculty representative at the head of all university academic processions to recognize the faculty as the stewards of academic quality. Samford University uses two maces for academic ceremonies – the oldest was first used in 1983 at the inauguration ceremony of our 17th President, Thomas Corts, and features a medallion used in prior university presidents’ inauguration ceremonies; the current mace was introduced at spring commencement in 1994 and features intricate design elements that symbolize Samford’s history and tradition as a Christian university.



Scan the QR code to see full coverage



Welcome Home, Bulldogs

~~~~~ Alumni Enjoy Return to Campus ~~~~~

*By Laura Lee Caum and Harrison Pike*



## *After a year without Homecoming*

Weekend being held on campus, hundreds of alumni, along with their families and friends, returned to Samford Nov. 5-6. Last year's reunion event was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Abby Sander '13 has attended every Homecoming Weekend since she graduated.

"Coming to campus for Homecoming this year felt a bit like sitting on the porch with an old friend. For me, the events of these last few years have given me a greater gratitude for the relationships that the Lord has placed in my life, and this weekend was a precious reminder of that," Sander said.

To kick off the weekend, the Homecoming King and Queen were announced Thursday night at the Inauguration and Homecoming Ball, with Titus Gardner, a senior marketing major, crowned king and Song Bowers, a senior health sciences major, crowned queen.

On Friday night, the Samford Alumni Association created a new twist on an old tradition, transforming the Candlelight Dinner into the Alumni Celebration. Instead of a sit-down dinner, food stations were set up throughout Seibert Hall, which was covered in floral arrangements, while a jazz ensemble played throughout the evening. The recipients of the 2020 and 2021 Alumni Awards were also recognized.







Titus Gardner and Song Bowers were crowned Homecoming King and Queen.



"I have not visited since 2014 and I loved returning to campus and attending this event, especially so that I could introduce my husband to my friends and show him Samford," said Emily Barton '10.

"This evening is special to me because it is a chance to reunite with my old friends in a place that we all love," said Tommy Hamby '67.

On Saturday, Samford's quad was packed with tailgaters ahead of the football game, with tents set up by various schools and student organizations.

"It's been two years since campus felt this normal to me," said Ethan Byrd '21. "It is great to be back."

To close out the weekend, the Bulldogs defeated The Citadel 35-14. ▮

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**"This evening is special to me**

because it is a chance to reunite with my old friends in a place that we all love."

—Tommy Hamby '67



## ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

# Gary Cooney

*By Holly Gainer*

**Gary Cooney '74 says being named Alumnus of the Year is something he does not feel worthy of, but an accolade that he considers to be a great honor.**

Cooney, who graduated with a degree in finance, is the vice chairman of McGriff Insurance Services, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Truist Financial Corporation. He began working there while he was a student at Samford and has remained with the company for more than 48 years.

"It has become part of my family. It is a second family to me," Cooney said. "However, I would not have succeeded in this industry and company had it not been for what I learned and my experiences at Samford."

His success has been noted around the world. He was named the United States Surplus Lines Broker of the Year by Lloyd's of London in 2003.

Cooney is well-known and beloved across the university for both his generosity as well as the time he invests in sharing wisdom and knowledge to advance the university, from training and conditioning in athletics to insurance services and finance in business.

Cooney, who lives in Dallas, currently serves on the Brock School of Business advisory board and previously served as a Samford Overseer. He is a major supporter of the Brock School of Business and provided the lead gift in the construction of Cooney Hall. He also was the lead supporter for the construction of the Sullivan-Cooney Family Field House.

Most recently, Cooney has played a lead role in the vision and creation of Project SAMson, an innovative initiative involving several academic programs, athletics, Andrews Sports Medicine & Orthopaedic Center and the American Sports Medicine Institute. Project SAMson combines the latest technology, data analytics and sports medicine practices together to enhance the training regimen of all Samford student-athletes across the university's 17 NCAA Division I teams.

"I was taught by my parents that for those who much has been given, much is asked. I am so much happier when I am giving a gift rather than being the one to receive it," Cooney said. "I am incredibly honored to even be considered for this. Whatever I have done for Samford, I am most proud of because I have never had to be asked to do any of it."

Cooney played football for the





Bulldogs and was a member of the 1971 national championship team. He, along with the championship team, was inducted into the Samford Sports Hall of Fame in 2019. He says attending Samford was one of the best things to ever happen to him.

"When I arrived, I was an average student and yet I was not forgotten. I was challenged to do better because my professors knew I was very capable of it. Samford turned the lightbulb on in my head so I could see how fun and exciting learning was," he said.

Being a member of the team only enhanced his collegiate experience.

"Being part of the football team was something that I still value. Being a member of a team teaches you to sacrifice for others and understand that no man does it by myself. I have had the same experience through working at McGriff over the past 48 years," he said.

To Cooney, Samford is where he has more "God moments" than anywhere else in his life.

"Samford is a place of worship for me. Rarely have I had a moment on campus when I wasn't moved by the quality of our faculty, staff and students," he said.

It is also where he has met three important mentors through his relationship with Samford: Malcolm Miller '50, who is one of the people who gave him his first job at McGriff Insurance Services, former Samford football head coach Pat Sullivan, who was also a lifelong friend and former teammate, and President Emeritus Andrew Westmoreland, who he says has had one of the greatest impacts on his life.

"These are three men who all know where true north is on their Christian compass," he said. "They are men of character and they have done a lot to change lives for the better, including mine."

Because of what Samford has given him – the inspiration and interest to expand his knowledge, the drive to succeed and the humility to put others first – Cooney says the university continues to be one his greatest blessings.

"I have been blessed beyond my wildest expectations, and often times I do not know why this has happened to me other than my determination to work hard and never quit, which was something that was ingrained in me as a Samford student," he said. "The only thing I can explain is that it is part of God's plan for me." ▀



Pictured in the images below: Cooney's grandchildren: Mary Harter, Emma, Catherine, Miles, Lila Jane and Harper Lee





ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

# Jody Hunt

*By William Nunnelley*

When Jody Hunt, one of this year's Alumni of the Year, decided to pursue a career in law, he never imagined that one day he would find himself in the Oval Office giving advice to the president. Or that as chief of staff to the attorney general, he would have a front-row seat to some of the most extraordinary and significant events of his time.



Nor did he ever imagine that having decided to enter public service at the Department of Justice, he would one day become the only person ever to rise from the ranks of career line attorney to be nominated and confirmed by the Senate to serve as the assistant attorney general for the civil division in charge of the federal government's litigation.

Such were the opportunities that came Hunt's way during a legal career that has spanned 30 years. It was a career that easily could have taken him in other directions.

"My undergraduate studies at Samford prepared me well for a career in law even though it was never my intention to go on to law school or to have a career in the law when I was an undergraduate," he said. "I majored in public administration and had planned to teach or to pursue a career in the foreign service."

"Fortunately, Samford invited me back for a brief period to serve as interim Director of Student Activities, and it was during that time that I was persuaded that attending law school would open a number of doors for me," Hunt said.

He recognized that he could still teach or go into the foreign service, and that a law degree would provide other opportunities. He went on to earn a J.D. at Columbia Law School.

Hunt, the son of missionaries, has fond memories of participating in Step Sing and intramural football. He served as president of the Student Government Association as a senior and was recognized as co-valedictorian of his class and recipient of the John R. Mott Cup when he graduated in 1982.

Hunt described Samford as "a special place" and "more than just a place to study." He said it was "a deep honor" to be recognized as an Alumnus of the Year. ■



## HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR

# Herbie Newell

By Daniel Dodson

**Advocating for** orphans and vulnerable children is a passion for Herbie Newell '01. He strives to do this each day as the executive director of Lifeline Children's Services, a Birmingham-based nonprofit that serves through international and domestic adoption, birthparent ministry,

foster care, family reunification, strategic orphan care, counseling and education. Samford is honored to recognize Newell with the 2021 Humanitarian of



the Year Award.

"I am truly passionate about the gospel being made known to every tribe, tongue and nation. And some of the most unreached are orphans and vulnerable children. If we advocate for them and show them Christ-like care and concern we are making not just a momentary or short-term difference, but we are making long-term impacts on the life of a child," Newell said.

Newell is one of two recipients of the Humanitarian of the Year Award this year. He graduated from Samford with a bachelor's degree and went on to earn a Master of Accountancy degree from Brock School of Business. Following

graduation, he worked at an accounting firm in Birmingham while his wife was employed at a local pregnancy center, a partner of Lifeline. In 2003, Lifeline was seeking an executive director, so Newell applied.

"When they were looking for a new director we had been praying about how the Lord would have us get engaged with the orphan, vulnerable child, and vulnerable pregnant woman as a family," Newell said. "I loved the ability to lead, travel internationally and take the gospel to the most vulnerable. As a family, we felt the Lord was confirming a calling to use my business, accounting, and ministry skills."

Newell is a second-generation Samford alumnus and the school is close to his heart. He met his wife while attending and his parents also met while they were students at Samford. Newell said he is honored to receive the award and that his time at Samford helped prepare him for a life of serving others. ▀

## HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR

# Lynn Smith

By Daniel Dodson

## Lynn Smith '76

spent his career as an electrical engineer for Southern Company in Birmingham, Alabama. Now in retirement, he has dedicated his time



to volunteering for various organizations locally and around the world. He worked as the part-time accountant for Hope Manifest, a nonprofit that works with other nonprofits to help the organizations thrive. Because of his commitment to service, Smith is one of Samford's 2021 Humanitarians of the Year.

"One of the nonprofits Hope Manifest was working with at that time was EDGE (now WaterStep), out of Louisville, Kentucky. EDGE trains people from third world countries or people planning on traveling to other countries on health and hygiene, sanitation and hand pump repair. Through this, I was able to participate in WaterStep's hand pump repair class," Smith said.

After completing the class, Smith was asked to visit Haiti following the 2010 earthquake to repair hand pumps. He eventually acquired enough field experience during multiple trips to Haiti that he began teaching the hand pump repair class in Louisville and other countries.

Smith is also involved with

MedWater, another nonprofit that provides training in health and hygiene, sanitation and water purification techniques. He has traveled all over the world, including Uganda, Ecuador and Romania.

Smith is a member of the Alabama Woodworkers Guild and has been building wooden toys for patients for children's hospitals across the Southeast.

Smith said he is "shocked and humbled" to receive the award.

"My name may be on the award, but the accolades belong to all the other people. The others that saw something in me that moved them to invite me to come alongside them to work with them to accomplish things that I could do, but would never have done by myself," Smith said.

The Humanitarian of the Year award is given to Samford graduates of true distinction, wide respect and acknowledged leadership. Nominees are recognized for having given selflessly and working tirelessly to better the lives of others and society at large by staying true to the Samford University mission. ▀

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

# Alex McLure Colvin

*By William Nunnelley*

One of the best things about Alex Colvin's job is the opportunity it provides her to delve into Alabama history, and to share what she finds with others. Colvin, who was named Samford's Outstanding Young Alumna of the Year, is the public programs curator at the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH).

She helped plan major activities for the recent commemorations for the Alabama bicentennial in 2019 and the centennial of the 19th amendment in 2020.

Colvin recently assisted in the planning and opening of a new exhibit, *Justice Not Favor: Alabama Women and the Vote*, which looks at the long story of women's suffrage in Alabama.



She frequently gives presentations around the state and said she "always enjoys telling an audience something new about Alabama and its people."

History is an important discipline to study, Colvin said, because it teaches empathy.

"To study history properly, you need to understand how complicated every event, decision, and moment truly was," she said. "All historical events have multiple perspectives that tell us so much about the relationships between people and cultures that are sometimes very different from our own."

Colvin said Samford prepared her for her job by teaching how to research a topic, how to craft an effective argument and to present information in a clear, engaging manner. She said her professors helped her to develop her own thoughts and not to give up when finding resources was difficult.

"Faculty encouraged me to be curious and not just accept what I was told in class," she recalled.

Colvin graduated from Samford in 2012 with a degree in history. She later earned her Ph.D. in history from Auburn University in 2019.

Recipients of the Outstanding Young Alumnus of the Year are distinguished in their professional careers, community and church involvement, and in their ongoing support of Samford. ■



# Samford Honors, Remembers Football Legend Bobby Bowden

*By Holly Gainer*

Bobby Bowden, former Samford football player and coach, and college football legend, will forever be part of the Samford family. Bowden passed away on Aug. 15 at 91 years old. In memory of the coach and his lasting impact on Samford, the university honored his legacy in a number of ways, including naming the football field in his honor during a home game this fall.

"Although Bobby Bowden is perhaps best known for his amazing coaching career, he is also known in the Samford community as a devoted family man and a person of deep Christian faith," Samford University President Beck A. Taylor said. "We want to honor Coach Bowden's exemplary character and his love for all things Samford with the naming of Bobby Bowden Field. We are proud to link our football program with his enduring legacy."

His wife, Ann, and two of his children attended the dedication of Bobby Bowden Field on Sept. 25.

Bowden played for the Bulldogs, when it was then Howard College, from 1949 to 1952 where he was a standout on the football team. As quarterback, he earned Little All-America honors following his senior season. He later returned to his alma mater as head football coach in 1959.

"Bobby Bowden was a legend and was one of the greatest ambassadors Samford has ever had," Samford director of athletics Martin Newton said. "It didn't matter if you were the president or the janitor, he treated everyone he met with such respect. He will be remembered here for a long time."

Bowden lay in repose in Reid Chapel on Aug. 15, the day before he was buried in Trussville, Alabama. More than 1,500 visitors from across the country visited Samford to remember Coach Bowden and pay their respects.

"Bobby Bowden is synonymous with college football to the people of our country, but to his friends he grew up with and those he is most intimately close to, it's Birmingham and Howard College and obviously Samford University," said Terry Bowden, who followed in his father's footsteps, serving as head football coach at Samford from 1987-1992. "This has been our family school, our home. It's where we grew up and where we saw our first football games. We celebrate the fact that just as he was when he went to school here, he is a Christian and a man of faith. He knew exactly where he was going." ▀



President Taylor greets Ann Bowden during the celebration announcing the naming of the Bobby Bowden Field.

# Goode's Love of Baseball Leads to Major Gift to Joe Lee Griffin Baseball Field

By William Nunnolley

**Joe Goode has been a baseball fan ever since his days as a second baseman on his regimental team while serving in the Army. Over the years he has followed the fortunes of his alma mater, the Samford Bulldogs, providing his financial support along the way. Now, Goode's generosity will become apparent in a spectacular manner.**

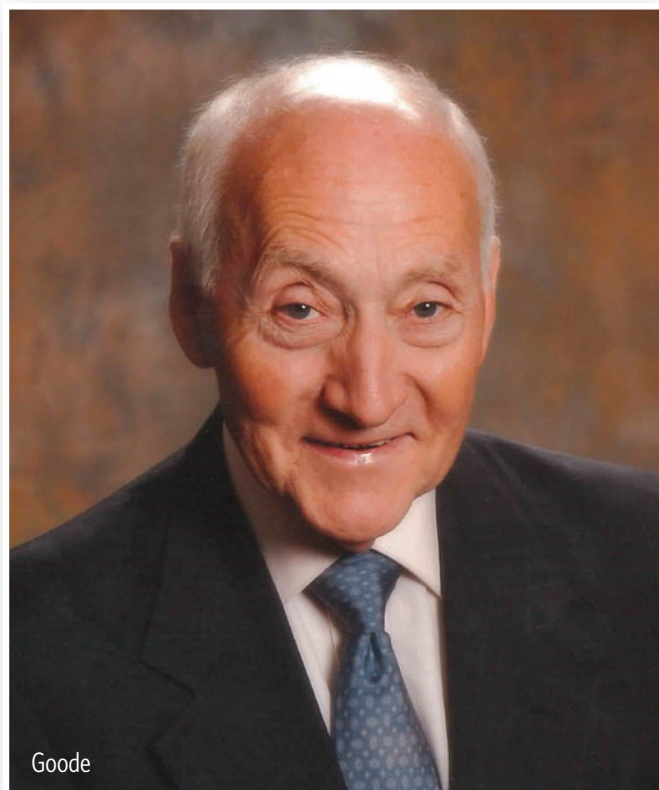
Goode has provided the lead gift of \$165,000 that will enable Samford to install a new videoboard, scoreboard and audio system, dramatic additions to Joe Lee Griffin Baseball Field, the home of Samford baseball.

"This will be the first videoboard for our baseball program, which will enhance the fan experience and create additional opportunities to generate revenue," said Martin Newton, Samford's director of athletics. "We are committed to providing our student-athletes and fans with first class facilities and a game day atmosphere that is second to none in the Southern Conference."

A member of Samford's class of 1952, Goode received his bachelor's degree in business administration and economics. Following graduation, he served in the U.S. Army as a member of the Special Forces Airborne. He stayed in touch with the university over the years and supported it along the way.

After serving in the military, Goode entered the financial planning profession with Prudential Financial. Among his clients over the years was Bellmark Records, who represented the hip-hop duo Tag Team for a time. The duo is best known for their 1993 single "Whoomp!" (There It Is). It has recently experienced a rebirth in a popular Geico commercial.

A Birmingham native, Goode was one of 10 children born to his parents. His father pastored several Baptist churches in the Birmingham area, so it was natural for Goode to attend



then-Howard College in nearby East Lake.

"I worked two jobs and lived in the Hash House, a boarding house next to the campus," he recalled.

Besides baseball, another one of Goode's lifelong interests was flying. He earned his pilot's license in 1967 and continued the avocation until 2015.

Currently a resident of Columbia, Tennessee, Goode keeps up with the Bulldogs.

"Although I cannot follow the team in person as much as I once did, I still enjoy following Samford baseball by watching them on ESPN Plus," he said. "I think the new videoboard will be an exciting addition to the ballpark for Samford players and fans."

Thanks to Goode's generosity, the new videoboard is scheduled to be in place by the start of the 2022 season. ▀

**"I think** the new videoboard will be an exciting addition to the ballpark for Samford players and fans." *-Joe Goode*



# Project SAMson Boosts Athlete Performance, Provides Experiential Learning Opportunities

By Holly Gainer

Groundbreaking technology combined with a multidisciplinary team of leaders is taking Samford University's athletes to the next level while also giving students from across campus real-world experience for a career in sports analytics and science. Project SAMson, an initiative launched by the university in partnership with Samford Athletics, Andrews Sports Medicine & Orthopaedic Center and the American Sports Medicine Institute, creates a new approach to sports performance with a focus on performance, injury prevention and well-being for the student-athletes.

The initiative brings the latest technology, data analysis and sports medicine together to enhance the training regimen of all Samford student-athletes, while also preparing students for careers in sports analytics, medicine, training, physical therapy and more. Samford is the only university in the Southern Conference with a program of this caliber.

"Project SAMson not only impacts roughly 400 student-athletes and their coaches and trainers, but it also reaches hundreds of students on campus who are studying sports analytics in Brock School of Business and our students in the College of Health Sciences who are studying sports medicine," said Gary Cooney, '74, former Samford football player and supporter of Project SAMson.

"The collaboration we've created with Project SAMson is a game changer for our campus community," said Martin Newton, director of athletics at Samford.

"Project SAMson offers hands-on learning opportunities for our students interested in a career in athletics or data analytics as we develop a world-class training environment for our student-athletes."

The technology, which is being applied across all of

Samford's athletic programs, includes polar wearable GPS monitors. Weight racks with the Elite Form Program, a velocity and biochemical screening tool to ensure proper form, count reps and provide real-time tracking data, have also been added to training rooms. Hand Dynamometers are being used by Samford Sports Medicine to gather and measure pre-and-post injury data points to help return athletes to play following surgery or treatment.

Through the Center for Sports Analytics, students will analyze the data

and learn how data analytics impacts sports, particularly in the areas of player tracking and sports medicine. Students from the College of Health Sciences will also work with the project's partners and Samford Athletics to receive real-life experience.

"This opens doors for students who are interested in sports science, physical therapy, or basically the medical side of sports. By using data to gain insights around those areas, we are educating students for the growing sports analytic field," said Mike Hardin, provost, vice president and professor of quantitative analytics. "Students will be able to gain real-world experience without ever leaving our campus, which will make them more marketable when they graduate."

**For more information about Project SAMson, visit its website at [samford.edu/go/samson](http://samford.edu/go/samson).**



# Public Health Alumna Serves Tribal Community Amidst COVID-19

By Sarah Waller

**In the spring of 2020, alumna Rachel Stokes '14, Dr.P.H. '21 was working as an environmental health specialist with the Indian Health Service in Arizona. In her role, she assisted the tribe in a variety of ways—from promoting health and safety in public gathering spaces to managing environmental health emergencies.**

When COVID-19 began to impact the tribal community she served, her work went into overtime and her role as a public health professional grew exponentially.

"Early on, the CDC was pushing out messages that encouraged people to frequently wash their hands and avoid interactions with the elderly, but this advice was not exactly applicable to many tribal communities," Stokes said. "For example, many of the homes are multigenerational. In fear of getting their family members sick, some community members chose to sleep outside. This was not ideal because of the risk of contracting Rocky Mountain spotted fever, which is a tick-borne disease that is endemic in the area and can be fatal. We had to come up with culturally appropriate guidance that met the needs of the community."

In working with the Indian Health Service, Stokes saw up close how culture goes hand-in-hand with health, particularly with indigenous communities. "For example, when COVID hit, many tribal members asked for a certain tea or herbal medicine because it's such an integral part of the culture and tradition," Stokes said.

In January, Stokes left her position in



Arizona to finish her final semester of Samford's Doctor of Public Health program (of which she was the inaugural graduate). But this fall, she plans to return to the Indian Health Service and assume a new position in Michigan, working with six tribes in the health service's Bemidji Area.

Serving with the Indian Health Service is a commitment that runs in Stokes' family. Her grandmother served as a nurse in Arizona, and her mom worked as a doctor in California for the organization. "Growing up, I heard their stories and how it was a meaningful experience in their careers," she said. "I wanted the same for my career."

Stokes and her work are examples of the need for public health professionals which is overwhelming and growing annually. Samford is preparing these servant leaders to face the emerging challenges to human health from a population perspective while demonstrating God's love. ■





# Grace Klein Community Shares More than Food

By Leighton Doores .....

When Jason and Jenny Waltman first founded Grace Klein Community in 2010, they had no idea the organization would one day grow to provide food support to 10,000 people every week from 40 of 67 counties in Alabama. In 2020 alone, Grace Klein Community donated groceries valued at \$2.1 million to 25,000 households.

What started out as a simple concept of sharing, “your plenty meeting my need and my plenty meeting yours,” soon became an effective way to share the love of Christ through food and resources.

“Our goal is to meet people where they are, by meeting tangible needs, in hopes of leading them to Jesus,” said Jason. “Every day we desire to show people who Jesus is and remind people they are loved and that they are valuable.”

As graduates of Samford University’s human development and family science program in Orlean Beeson School of Education, the Waltmans feel prepared to meet people in their unique situations and provide a holistic response according to their needs.

Grace Klein Community operates with about 400 volunteers each week, many of whom have received services from the organization. Not only are they able to build relationships and pray for each person who comes through the drive-thru, they also invest in high school and college students, adults re-entering the workforce, and court-mandated

community service requirements to develop and improve job readiness. While 80% of the organization’s aid is food support, they also supply diapers, school supplies and Christmas gifts to financially insecure families.

Also based on the idea of sharing is a Facebook platform Grace Klein Community maintains called Acts 4:32 where people can share anything from job leads and furniture to prayer requests and encouragement.

The Waltmans believe they were given the necessary foundation at Samford to equip them to give back to the community generously.

“If we’re going to be successful as a city then we have to be able to teach people how to live openhanded lives where we all give our lives away in whatever capacity and in whatever giftings we have,” said Jenny. “Samford equips all of us to

identify our unique skills and abilities and thrive in our giftings as each of us have so much to give to the world.”

**To become involved or view the locations of the donation sites, please visit [gracekleincommunity.com](https://gracekleincommunity.com).** ▶

**“Our goal** is to meet people where they are, by meeting tangible needs, in hopes of leading them to Jesus.” —Jason Waltman



# Samford and Miles College Announce Cultural Partnership

By Ashley Smith

Over the past year, students, faculty and staff from Samford's School of the Arts and Miles College have worked together to develop a cultural partnership, the MISA Collaborative, that is intended to strengthen and expand the relationship between the two institutions and bring together the respective members of the two campuses. It is also meant to foster culturally significant arts and humanities opportunities that benefit the stakeholders at both institutions.

*Crumbs from the Table of Joy*, which is the first collaboration under the MISA name, was directed by Miles College instructor Chaletia Williams, and cast

and crew members included both Miles alumni and Samford students. The production was part of the Michael J. and Mary Anne Freeman Theatre and

Dance Series at Samford as well as a Diversity Series event.

The MISA Collaborative became official on Saturday, Oct. 30 at a formal signing prior to the performance of *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*. Samford's President Beck A. Taylor and Miles' President Bobbie Knight took part in the signing.

"Our collaboration has been inspired by the work of students at Miles and Samford to integrate a concert of the Birmingham Symphony in 1965. We hope to create work that tells the story of these and other heroes of justice. Perhaps we can sew a new work of justice along the way, and we are finding that we can build friendships that deepen and transcend," said Joe Hopkins, dean of Samford's School of the Arts.

Another key element will be to integrate service learning between the constituents of Miles College and Samford University, and the Birmingham/Fairfield communities at large.

"Higher education institutions must not remain insulated from communities. Students who are immersed in their own racial or ethnic culture need variety in their lives. They need to learn of the rich cultures each group possesses and that which the groups have in common," said Dr. Bala Baptiste, professor of mass communication and chair of communications at Miles College.

Samford and Miles have been awarded community grants from the Alabama Power and Daniel Foundations for the MISA Collaborative's current and forthcoming work in the community. ■





# Brock School of Business Opens Alfa Risk Management and Insurance Lab

By Morgan Black

Samford University's Brock School of Business, in partnership with Alfa Insurance®, has opened the Alfa® Risk Management and Insurance Lab, a major component of a multipronged initiative to prepare students for careers in the risk management and insurance industry.

Equipped with leading data analytics software, students will use the lab to work on real-world industry projects. The space will also allow them to engage with professionals, many of whom are members of the Brock School of Business Risk Management and Insurance advisory board.

Members of Alfa's leadership team have expressed confidence in the educational purpose of the new facility as well as their assurance in the partnership's investment in people.

"At Alfa, we are focused on excellence in the four Ps—products, pricing, processes and people," said Tommy Coshatt, Alfa's executive vice president of operations. "That fourth P is what distinguishes Alfa from our competitors. This lab is an investment in people."

In addition, Brock School of Business will launch the risk management and insurance concentration for business majors in spring 2022, pending final approval. The curriculum will include courses such as International Insurance Markets and a FinTech/InsureTech course.

Samford's Gamma Iota Sigma student chapter, another prong of the initiative, has been in place since 2019. This group, a subsidiary of the international risk management and insurance fraternity, allows students to engage with their peers and industry professionals across the country through conferences and seminars.

"The things our students will be able to accomplish with the addition of this lab will set them apart as they go seek out jobs in the industry," said Brock School of Business Dean Chad Carson. "Alfa and Samford share the Christian values that are integral to our cultures and that has made this partnership even more significant to us."

Alfa Insurance president and chief executive officer Jimmy Parnell agreed

that the two organizations have shared values.

"All companies are looking for people with values," he said. "Skill sets are important, but values are probably more important and that background that Samford students have is huge. We're thankful to have this partnership with Samford, and we hope this lab will be a benefit to the university as you continue to develop your risk management and insurance program."

Future goals of the initiative include a student managed insurance company and a study abroad program which will focus on the London insurance market. ▀



# Physical Therapy Launches *Community Clinic*

By Sara Roman

Service is at the heart of Samford's Department of Physical Therapy. Since the program's inception in 2013, faculty have continuously sought to teach students to live out the School of Health Professions' theme verse 1 Peter 4:10, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others."

At a Samford event featuring Cahaba Medical Care, Scott Bickel, physical therapy professor and director of scholarship and service, proposed an idea to one of the clinic's employees, asking, "Would Cahaba Medical Care be interested in launching a physical therapy clinic?" His question was later answered by Lacy Smith '04, a physician and the organization's chief operations officer, chief medical officer and associate program director.

"I introduced myself and pitched the idea of a student-led clinic. I knew it would be a big initiative, but I also knew a clinic

would be a great fit for our department and Cahaba Medical Care," said Bickel. "Dr. Smith called me the next day and said 'Let's do it.'"

Cahaba Medical Care is a federally qualified health provider that provides high-quality health services regardless of a patient's ability to pay. They offer a wide variety of procedures and advanced services but have not offered physical therapy services until now.

Under the supervision of faculty, students from Samford's Department of Physical Therapy worked to launch and staff a fully operational clinic at the West End and Bessemer locations. Since the clinic opened, nearly 400 Cahaba Medical Care patients have received physical therapy with most completing multiple visits.

"Cahaba Medical Care continually tries to find new partnerships and relationships that help provide easier access to valuable services for our patients. One noticeable area that has been missing was access to physical therapy," said Smith. "We have patients who deal with chronic or acute pain or musculoskeletal issues where the provider knows physical therapy would be beneficial but the patient's insurance, transportation or financial situation has prevented them from being able to reliably access therapy. Having Samford come on-site to two of our clinics and see patients has been such a benefit to help break down these barriers."

At the start of their second year in the program, students begin serving in the clinic. They are responsible for providing patient care and overseeing the clinic's administrative needs over the course of three semesters. Working at the clinic affords students with the opportunity to collaborate with fellow classmates, faculty and Cahaba Medical Care staff as







they create and implement a care plan while continuously monitoring the progress of their patients.

"My time at Cahaba West End equipped me with skills that translate to my current clinical rotations exceptionally. I encountered a variety of patient situations that forced me to adjust my plan of care and become creative with my treatments," said Cara Reedy, a third-year Doctor of Physical Therapy student.

The need for physical therapy at Cahaba Medical Care is great, according to Bickel. Every student has a relatively full caseload which Reedy says taught her the importance of time management and efficient treatment sessions.

The Department of Physical Therapy faculty teach students to use their skills and knowledge to make the lives of patients better both physically and spiritually. With encouragement from faculty and Cahaba Medical Care staff, students offer prayer with patients at the end of their sessions.

According to Bickel, the department will continue serving the West End and Bessemer communities for the foreseeable future. "It's been incredible to watch patients' lives change and simultaneously watch students learn to utilize their calling to serve others." 🙏



# Son Creates Scholarship to Honor the Memory, Kindness of His Mother

By Kristen Padilla.....

Most people do not know the name Dolores Nation. But for those at NorthPark Baptist Church (formerly called Roebuck Park Baptist Church) in Trussville, Alabama, who received handwritten letters from her at significant moments in their lives, Dolores Nation is remembered as a person of compassion.

"Dolores Nation had a compassionate heart and was someone who was for the underdog, for the hurting and the mourning, for those celebrating the birth of a child," said her son Philip Nation '91, '94, vice president and publisher of Thomas Nelson Bibles of HarperCollins Publishers. "No matter what moment of change or crisis they were in, she just wanted the everyday person around her to be able to see the compassion of Christ."

On Oct. 30, 2004, Dolores died after a nine-year fight with lung cancer. Now her son, who received his

undergraduate degree from Samford and later a graduate degree from Beeson Divinity School, says the time is right to honor her memory by establishing a student scholarship in her name.

The Dolores Emanuel Nation Endowed Scholarship will be used to provide financial support for Southern Baptist students preparing for ministry to attend Beeson Divinity School. Nation hopes that by naming this scholarship for his mother, future recipients of the scholarship will always keep in mind the person in the pew to whom they will be ministering.

"Theology is never an ethereal idea you're just handing to people," Nation said. "The people to whom you are handing the big ideas of Scripture—the massive idea of the glory of God and the mission of God in the world—just had their first baby and they're exhausted. You're ministering to single parents. You're ministering to people that just lost a loved one."

Nation said Beeson set him on a course that saved his ministry before it ever started by combining scholarship with spiritual formation.

"What I inherited as a trust from Beeson, I want to make sure gets passed on to another generation of students, so that as they come here to learn about the glory of God, that they do so, understanding that they are being prepared for the mission of God in the world," he said.

"Dolores Nation was a person of compassion who cared deeply for people and who later on in her life needed the compassion poured back out on herself during her own illnesses that she endured," Nation said. "This scholarship represents her legacy of compassion."

**To give to the Dolores Emanuel Nation Endowed Scholarship or to start a scholarship in the name of a loved one, contact Gary Fenton at [gdfenton@samford.edu](mailto:gdfenton@samford.edu) or visit [givecampus.com/campaigns/23832/donations/new](https://givecampus.com/campaigns/23832/donations/new). ▮**



Philip Nation Sr. and Dolores Nation



# Samford Parents

## *"Standing in the Gap" for One Another*

*By Susan Doyle*

**As Sarah Grace Copeland's '20 story was told publicly for the first time during the Family Weekend Parents Association Breakfast in September, it brought back vivid personal memories for Belinda Stroud '89, a Samford mom and alumna. Elements of Copeland's story were so similar to Stroud's, it could have been her own--a story of financial and emotional uncertainty when parents divorced during her final semesters at Samford.**

Stroud's husband, Stephen, who serves on the Parent Scholarship Oversight Committee, stood at the podium during the breakfast to give Samford parents an update on the scholarship and Copeland, the latest scholarship recipient to graduate.

"When Stephen began speaking, I didn't know the story he was about to share, or that it would be so similar to my own," Stroud said. "Only because of the many ways the Samford community helped me as a student when my parents divorced was I able to finish. Now, here we are, Samford parents supporting this scholarship that does this very thing! We have come full circle and are able to pay forward the gift I received so many years ago."

The story of students who face withdrawal from college in the last semesters because their families can no longer support them for one reason or another, obviously, is not new. What is still relatively new is Samford parents' organized response to helping students like Copeland.

The Samford Parent Scholarship was created five years ago when four Samford parents heard a heartbreaking story of a student nearing graduation who faced withdrawing from school due to an unexpected family crisis. These four parents immediately wanted to help. They saw how easily their own sons and daughters could find themselves in the same situation, and how much they hoped other Samford parents would be there to stand in the gap for them. When they learned that the situation wasn't an isolated one but happens often, they resolved to do even more to help as many students as possible.

Their gifts and the gifts of hundreds of Samford parents to the Samford Parent Scholarship through the last five years have helped a growing number of students each year.

At this five-year milestone anniversary, your gift to this life-changing scholarship program will make a difference in students' lives. For years to come, students like Sarah Grace

Copeland and Belinda Stroud who find themselves without the necessary resources and in a family crisis will cross the stage at graduation, receive a well-earned degree, and go on to make a difference in our world because you invested in them. You can see Copeland's story and support the Samford Parents Scholarship by going to [samford.edu/give/parents](https://samford.edu/give/parents). ▮



# CLASS NOTES

*Compiled by the Office of Alumni Programs and Annual Giving.*

## 1970s

**Steve Tucker '74** made the "Lawyer of the Year" list for the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America.

**Charlie Peppler '77** has been selected as city attorney in Pensacola, Florida.

**Doug Jones '79** joined the Center for American Progress as a distinguished senior fellow.

## 1980s



**Dr. David Saint '80** was recognized for achievements in the medical profession by the Capital Medical Society in Tallahassee, Florida. Saint, an accomplished cardiovascular surgeon, received the society's

2021 Outstanding Physician Award. The Capital Medical Society is a nonprofit membership organization devoted to promoting the practice of medicine for the ultimate benefit of the patient. It provides physician advocacy and support for more than 630 Tallahassee-area physicians. His wife, Rhonda '80, '83, is also a Samford graduate.

**Mark Tew '80** joined Lincoln Memorial University as the vice president of academic affairs.

**Todd Fredella '83** has become a partner at Baldwin Krystyn Sherman Partners LLC.

**Robert Smith '84** has been elected president of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyer's Alabama Chapter.

**Marty Keely '84** has been named Metro Alabama's Crime Stopper of the Year.

**Gerald Swann '86** has been named president of the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association.

**Darrell Scarlett '88** has been elected secretary for the Tennessee Judicial Conference.

**Earl Parsons III '88, '90** has joined Taylor English in the General Counsel group, in addition to the firm's consulting and government affairs-focused decisions group.

**Kurt Close '89** has been named president of Valent Group, an EBSCO company.

## 1990s

**Brian Driskill '90** has been named president of Jackson Thornton Technologies (JTT), a subsidiary of Jackson Thornton CPAs and Consultants.

**Karen Westbrook '90** and Kimberly Schlapman of Little Big Town won the 2021 CMT Music Award in the category of Duo/Group Video of the Year.

**Daphne Robinson '91** has been named the first female president of Judson College.

**Tom McDougal, Jr. '91** has been appointed CEO and managing director for Manatee Memorial Hospital.

**Tony Hale '92** will star in the film, *Eat Wheaties!* as well as the *The Mysterious Benedict Society*.

**Barbara Snyder '93** has been named facilities and maintenance coordinator by the Shelby County Board of Education.

**Rickey Letson '94** joined the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as a congregational stewardship officer.

**Todd Jones '94** has been appointed principal of Nelson Middle School in Lovingston, Virginia.

**Bobby Christine '95** has been named the first district attorney in Columbia County, Georgia, in a new judicial circuit.

**Jay Stewart '95, '02** has been appointed to the Vestavia Hills Board of Education.

**Kim Benner '95** has been installed as a member of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Board of Directors.

**Jamie Spencer '95** was awarded the Mossy Oak Properties, Inc. Fox Haas Award by Mossy Oak Properties Tennessee Land & Farm.

**Michael Jenne '95** received a judicial appointment to the 10th Judicial District Circuit Court by Tennessee's Office of the Governor.

**Britt Hammond '95** has been elected to serve on the Board of Governors for the State Bar of Georgia.

**Cam Ward '96** has been appointed to Troy University's Board of Trustees.

**Julie Taylor '96** has been appointed to the Duval County, Florida bench.

**Hayley Burgess '96, '97** has been named Chief Clinical Officer at VigiLanz.

**Christopher Bottcher '96** has been recognized in the 2022 "Best Lawyers in America" list.

**Cedrick Bridgeforth '97** has been named director of innovation and communications for California-Pacific Conference of The United Methodist Church.

**Joanna Milkay '97** and her husband have opened a franchise location of Caring Transitions in the Birmingham area.

**Mark Nixon '97** has been named vice president of sales at Camber Spine.

**Stephany Pedigo '98** has been elected as member of Rainey, Kizer, Reviere & Bell, PLC in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

**Genet Holcomb '99** has been appointed principal at Helena Elementary School.

**Jennifer Nabors '99** has been named assistant principal at Calera Middle School.

**Jake Hall '99** has been named director of initiatives in faith and culture at Mercer University's Eula Mae and John Baugh Center for Baptist Leadership.



## 2000s

**Christopher Wright '00** has been named executive director of Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy.

**Derek Conrad Brown '01** has been appointed president of Ken Chapman & Associates, Inc.

**Kitty Rogers Brown '01** has been named to be in the 2021-22 Leadership Birmingham class.

**Kimberly Beiersdoerfer '02**, owner of Heavenly Donuts, received recognition from Travel Magazine as one of "The 10 Best Donuts Shops to Visit in the USA."

**Terrance Brown '03** has been named dean of Potter College of Arts & Letters at Western Kentucky University.

**Jonathan Hooks '00, '03** joined Weinberg Wheeler Hudgins Gunn & Dial as partner.

**Danny Steele '02, '05** has been named principal at Homewood Middle School.

**Missy Polhemus '05** has been named CEO of Wyndy.

**Scott Holmes '06** has been named city attorney for Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

**David Breland '06** has been appointed general counsel, head of risk and compliance for Bloom Credit.

**Randall Woodfin '07** has been re-elected as mayor of the city of Birmingham, Alabama.

**Christian Corts '08** has been named North Texas regional president for Truist Bank.

**Teri Nash '08** has been named the technology coordinator for Homewood City Schools.

**Donna Williams '09** has been named Faculty Member of the Year at Mississippi University for Women.

**Kellie O'Connell Sallis '09** has been inducted into the Wilson Central Sports Hall of Fame in Lebanon, Tennessee.

**Blaire Badham '09** has been appointed managing director of Lafayette Square.

**Matthew Penfield '09** has been named in the 2021-22 Leadership Birmingham class.

## 2010s

**Monica Maxwell '10** has been named head women's basketball coach at James Clemens High School in Madison, Alabama.

**Dayne Cutrell '10** joined Maynard Cooper & Gale as a shareholder in the firm's government and regulatory affairs practice. He will serve in the role of director of federal affairs.

**Clayton Garrett '11** has been named shareholder in Sirote & Permutt's Mobile office.

**Joel Henneke '11** has been named principal at Homewood High School.

**Richie Fordham '11, '13** has been named director of finance with Starboard Investments.

**Danielle Tinker '11, '16** has been named principal at Vestavia Hills Elementary Cahaba Heights.

**Chris Duffy '11, '12** has been named president of Middleby Coffee Solutions Group.

**Alyssa Aldape '11** joined Good Faith Media as a contributing correspondent.

**Evan Clark '12** has been named shareholder with Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz PC in Nashville, Tennessee.

**Nathan Gordon '12** has been named a shareholder for Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz PC in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Kate Nickerson '12** has been promoted to director of accounting with the NAI Nashville Stanton Group.

**Will Harrell '12** joined Miller Law in Lakeland, Florida.

**Owen Anderson '12** joined Valent Group, a subsidiary of EBSCO Industries, as a risk consultant.

**Wendy Story '13, '17, '21** joined Shades Cahaba Elementary School as principal.

**Mallory Webb '13** has opened a storefront to her specialty cake company, Daughters Baking, in Mountain Brook, Alabama.

**Bo Morris '13** has joined The Internet Association as director of federal government affairs.

**Paul Simon '13** has been named Partner at Hedgepeth Heredia.

**Josh Tolman '14** has been named the new head wrestling coach at Wesleyan School.

**Nic Seaborn '14** joined Shades Crest Baptist Church as pastor.

**Lara Schuler '14** has been named the director of Catholic education for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

**Kelly McMahan '15** opened his third CPR Cell Phone Repair location, part of the CPR franchise.

**Clayton Cain '15** has been named to "The National Trial Lawyers: Top 40 under 40" list in Lawrenceville, Georgia.

**Rhonda Davidson '15** has been named principal of Sumiton Elementary School.

**James Bradberry '15** has been ranked as a top 10 cornerback according to the Madden NFL 22 ratings.

**Krista Baldwin '16** has been named head coach of the Madison Academy girls basketball program in Madison, Alabama.

**Evan Bates '16** joined Big Communications as Art Director.

**Bret Thompson '16** joined Huie Fernambucq & Stewart LLP as an associate.

**Hannah Garrett '17** joined The Andrews Agency as an account executive.

**Mattie Gardner '17** has been named head volleyball coach for Mountain Brook High School.

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# FUTURE BULLDOGS



**Charlotte Elizabeth Beard**, a daughter, born March 26, 2021. Parents are Ashley Turner Beard '08 and Josh Beard of Mountain Brook, Alabama.

**Ivy Gene Fuqua**, a daughter, born March 24, 2021. Parents are Tyler Fuqua '06 and Allison Pittman Fuqua '06 of Vestavia Hills, Alabama.

**Selah Grace Smelley**, a daughter, born April 27, 2021. Parents are Kristy Sheffield Smelley '10 and Shannon Smelley '10 of Moody, Alabama.

**Beckham Daniel Phillips**, a son, born May 13, 2021. Parents are Aundrea Olszewski Phillips '12, '13 and Chad Phillips of Dallas, Texas. **1**

**Emmi Ruth Roach**, a daughter, born April 21, 2021. Parents are Amanda McCollum Roach '21 and Matthew Roach of Jacksonville, Florida. **2**

**Savannah Laine McIntosh**, a daughter, born September 2, 2020. Parents are Ashley Pulley McIntosh '07 and Taylor McIntosh of Birmingham, Alabama.

**Riley Jane Tarpy**, a daughter, born August 26, 2021. Parents are Jenna Mann Tarpy '09 and Chris Tarpy of Talking Rock, Georgia. **3**

**Rayleigh Elizabeth Pack**, a daughter, born March 3, 2021. Parents are Paula Baltz Pack '12 and Justin Pack of McCalla, Alabama. **4**

**John Russell Higdon**, a son, born July 29, 2021. Parents are Rebecca Mayhall Higdon '09 and Doug Higdon of Clarksville, Tennessee. **5**



# IN MEMORIAM

**'43 Martha Campbell**, age 98, of Bay City, Michigan, died on August 10, 2021.

**'46 Ivan Dowdey**, age 94, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on May 10, 2021.

**'57 Mary Ann Weston**, age 86, of Montgomery, Alabama, died on April 17, 2021.

**'51 Willard Burt**, age 93, of Trinity, Alabama, died on April 23, 2021.

**'51 Robert R. Stewart**, age 92, of Anniston, Alabama, died on June 8, 2021.

**'51 Janette Welch Heard**, age 92, of Huntsville, Alabama, died on August 7, 2021.

**'54 Earl Gray "Buddy" Pitman Jr.**, age 88, of Dothan, Alabama, died on April 28, 2021.

**'54 Leland Meade Gardiner Jr.** age 88, of Huntsville, Alabama, died on August 10, 2021.

**'56 William Joseph "Bill" Whitfield Sr.**, age 89, of Clanton, Alabama, died on October 17, 2020.

**'58 Anita Rachel Haygood Bridges**, age 83, of Covington, Louisiana, died on April 24, 2021.

**'58 Ira Leonard West Jr.**, age 93, of Mountain Brook, Alabama, died on June 14, 2021.

**'58 John Thomas Ashley**, age 86, of Canton, Georgia, died on August 24, 2021.

**'58 Colleen Lawrence Dozier**, age 85, of Decatur, Alabama, died on August 22, 2021.



**'60, Edwin Thomas "Tom" Cleveland**, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on April 26, 2021. He was a long-time leader at Samford who served as dean of admissions and director of financial aid for more than two decades. He cared for and assisted countless students with their financial, personal and spiritual needs.

**'59 John Lewis Haley Bobo**, age 85, of Claremont, California, died on May 5, 2020.

**'59 Chester Talmadge Poff**, age 92, of Avon Park, Florida, died on August 11, 2021.

**'60 Carter Schoolfield**, age 84, of Signal Mountain, Tennessee, died on September 23, 2020.

**'60 James Ferrell Purnell**, age 86, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on May 3, 2021.

**'60 and '81 Bonnie Patterson Brown**, age 80, of Odenville, Alabama, died on April 29, 2020.

**'60 Joe Hodges**, age 84, of Hoover, Alabama, died on May 16, 2021.

**'60 Charles Ray Magnusson**, age 84, of Conyers, Georgia, died on June 2, 2021.

**'61 Roy Orlando Swift III**, age 82, of Poulsbo, Washington, died on May 8, 2021.

**'62 Joy Blouin Chandler**, age 83, of Austin, Texas, died on May 4, 2021.

**'62 Jean Mash Still**, age 85, of Goose Creek, South Carolina, died on May 16, 2021.

**'62 Rabun Johnson**, age 84, of Atlanta, Georgia, died on May 30, 2021.

**'62 James Harris Smith**, age 93, of Pensacola, Florida, died on July 31, 2021.

**'63 Bonnie Doughty**, age 79, of Reform, Alabama, died on April 28, 2021.

**'63 Louis Hill, Jr.**, age 81, of Colorado Springs, Colorado, died on July 15, 2021.

**'63 Wayne Holley**, age 81, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on August 8, 2021.

**'64 Don Graham**, age 80, of Clanton, Alabama, died on May 17, 2021.

**'64 Sarah Whitman Housh**, age 82, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on June 15, 2021.

**'64 Olivia Ruth Bruner North**, age 79, of Ashford, Alabama, died on August 9, 2021.

**'65 and '67 Charles M. Purvis**, age 79, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on June 24, 2021.

**'66 William "Bill" Lee Irons**, age 79, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on June 1, 2021.

**'49 James "Jim" Stivender**, age 97, of Gadsden, Alabama, died on October 4, 2021. He served on Samford's Board of Trustees from 1958 until he was named an honorary trustee in 2019. He was named chairman of the Board of Trustees in 2003.



**'66 Harriet Larson**, age 76, of Fayetteville, North Carolina, died on July 27, 2021.

**'67 Patricia Corr Taylor**, age 75, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, died on May 9, 2021.

**'67 Alfred Benjamin "Ben" Strand Jr.**, age 81, of Dandridge, Tennessee, died on August 18, 2021.

**'68 Lionel Smith**, age 77, of Hartselle, Alabama, died on May 15, 2021.

**'68 Ruth Sherrill Cummings**, age 76, of Meadville, Pennsylvania, died on June 5, 2021.

**'69 Edward Dwight Fay Jr.**, age 83, of Huntsville, Alabama, died on July 25, 2021.

**'69 Charles Walter Brunson**, age 90, of Kevil, Kentucky, died on August 3, 2021.

**'70 George Wilfrid Hibbert, III**, age 73, of Atlanta, Georgia, died on July 7, 2021.

**'71 Thomas Cook**, age 74, of Tupelo, Mississippi, died on June 20, 2021.

**'72 Karen Davis Willoughby**, age 71 of Gordon, Alabama, died on July 8, 2021.

**'73 Theodore "Ted" S. Royster Jr.**, age 75, of Lexington, North Carolina, died on May 20, 2021.

**'73 Jean Guthrie Hare**, age 94, of Pooler, Georgia, died on July 3, 2021.

**'73 William Durwood Knowles**, age 81, of Webb, Alabama, died on July 8, 2021.

**'74 Ellen Worthy Massey**, age 77, of Dunwoody, Georgia, died on July 6, 2021.

**'74 Leonard Simpson**, age 72, of Laporte, Pennsylvania, died on June 14, 2021.



**Mary Johnston Shaw**, age 68, of Pelham, Alabama, died on July 10, 2021. She attended Samford in 1970 and had served as a member of the university's Board of Trustees since 2012. At the time of her death, she was serving her third term on the board.

**'74 John Robert Burgess**, age 77, of Livingston Parish, Louisiana, died on July 27, 2021.

**'75 Sam Chiarella**, age 73, of Atlanta, Georgia, died on August 18, 2021.

**'76 Robert Herman Harris**, age 74, of Miramar Beach, Florida, died on May 24, 2021.

**'77 James M. "Jim" Wilson**, age 70, of Harrogate, Tennessee, died on March 7, 2021.

**'78 Jo Anna Stewart**, age 88, of Mountain Brook, Alabama, died on July 2, 2021.

**'81 Carol Jean Ledbetter Allen**, age 65, of Anniston, Alabama, died on May 4, 2021.

**'82 Anthony Paul DeMarco**, age 80, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on April 20, 2021.

**'82 J. Scott Langner**, age 68, of Oneonta, Alabama, died on April 14, 2021.

**'82 Robert Wallace Hudson**, age 75, of Vincent, Alabama, died on July 9, 2021.

**'85 Lenora Pate**, age 72, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on June 23, 2021.

**'88 Mark Helms Thomas**, age 55, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, died on June 19, 2021.

**'88 Jackie Swinford**, age 59, of Munford, Alabama, died on August 20, 2021.

**'89 Jeffery Robert Halter**, age 55, of Bowling Green, Kentucky, died on May 31, 2021.

**'90 and '91 Harriett Nakos Marinos**, age 84, of Mountain Brook, Alabama, died on July 31, 2021.

**'90 Timothy Wade Morris**, age 53, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on August 3, 2021.

**'92 Pamela Gail Brannon Allen**, age 51, of New Smyrna Beach, Florida, died on July 18, 2021.

**'93 John Rudd**, age 53, of Sylacauga, Alabama, died on August 12, 2021.

# Support Samford with a Samford License Plate from the DMV in Alabama

**If you have a vehicle licensed in Alabama**, please consider purchasing a Samford license plate at your local Department of Motor Vehicles 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, email [philanthropy@samford.edu](mailto:philanthropy@samford.edu).**





# Make plans to join *Samford Arts this Spring!*

Visit our Art Gallery, attend a concert of one of our music ensembles and enjoy a theatre or opera production.

## Samford Art & Design Faculty Exhibition

Clarence Brooks Art & Design Series  
**Jan. 13–Feb. 3, Art Gallery**

## Misha Dichter, pianist

Davis Architects Guest Artist Series Co-presented  
with the Birmingham Chamber Music Society  
**Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall**

## The Laramie Project

Michael J. and Mary Anne Freeman  
Theatre and Dance Series  
**Feb. 3–6, Harrison Theatre**

## All That You Hold is Yours, Jamaal Barber

Clarence Brooks Art & Design Series  
**Feb. 8–March 3, Art Gallery**

## Rachel Barton Pine, violin

Davis Architects Guest Artist Series Co-presented  
with the Birmingham Chamber Music Society  
**Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall**

## Sandbox Percussion

Davis Architects Guest Artist Series Co-presented  
with the Birmingham Chamber Music Society  
**Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall**

## re/vise

Annual Dance Concert in collaboration with  
Alabama State University  
Michael J. and Mary Anne Freeman Theatre and Dance  
Series and Diversity Series  
**Feb. 25–27, Wright Center**

## Annual Juried Student Exhibition

Clarence Brooks Art & Design Series  
Sponsored by Michael J. and Mary Anne Freeman  
**March 22–April 7, Art Gallery**

## Invoke

Davis Architects Guest Artist Series Co-presented  
with the Birmingham Chamber Music Society  
**March 22, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall**

## The Magic Flute

Dr. Chandler and Jane Paris Smith Opera Series  
**April 7–10, Harrison Theatre**


Visit [samford.edu/arts/events](https://samford.edu/arts/events) for the most up-to-date listings and ticket information.





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President and Mrs. Taylor  
speak with parents and family  
members of Samford students  
during Family Weekend  
Sept. 24-26.