

THE MAGAZINE OF SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

seasons

SUMMER 2021



New Beginnings,
Enduring Commitments

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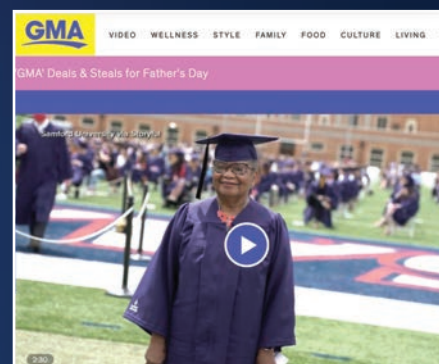
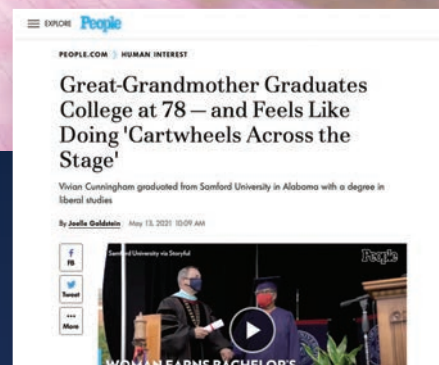


At the age of 78 years old, Vivian Cunningham '21 earned her Bachelor of Arts in liberal studies after taking courses for six years through the university's professional studies program. There was no easy path to her degree, and long breaks might have become permanent if not for the family, friends and Samford faculty and staff who encouraged her when she wasn't sure she could go on.

In the days following commencement, the news of Cunningham's achievement went viral. Her story was featured by ABC's World News Tonight with David Muir, People magazine, Southern Living magazine, Newsweek and more. It even garnered a mention on Saturday Night Live.

During a live interview on TODAY with Hoda and Jenna, NBC's fourth hour of The Today Show, it was announced that Samford had created the Vivian Cunningham Leadership Scholarship in her honor. The scholarship will help other students who exhibit characteristics of leadership, determination and perseverance pursue their dreams of a college education.

On the Cover: Amber Cruz '21 earned her Bachelor of Science in Education from Samford's Orlean Beeson School of Education in May.



From the President



New Beginnings, Enduring Commitments

As I begin my tenure as Samford's 19th president, I want to express my profound gratitude for the opportunity to serve this remarkable institution. Julie, Chloe and I are thrilled to be back in Birmingham and to rejoin this wonderful community that we already know and love. Thank you for the hundreds of emails, cards and letters that have so graciously welcomed us home. Mostly, we appreciate the commitments that so many have made to keep our family and Samford in their prayers. Thank you. For God. For Learning. Forever. These words not only serve as the university's motto, they reflect Samford's highest aspirations.

For God. Samford stands firmly and confidently as an institution that acknowledges and celebrates the Lordship of Jesus Christ. It is God in Christ whom we serve with our minds and hearts.

For Learning. Samford is first and foremost an educational institution. Our faithful convictions motivate us to be a place of fearless learning and discovery in order to prepare our graduates for lives of meaning and purpose.

Forever. By God's grace, Samford is an enduring institution. And our love and support for Samford and its people withstand the tests of time, place and circumstances.

Thank you for the many ways you embody Samford's motto in your lives and in your communities. The world is most certainly better for it. I look forward to the incredible journey ahead, in which we will learn, grow and serve—together.

In the Samford spirit,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Beck A. Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Beck A. Taylor, Ph.D.
President



Mark Your Calendars

First Day of Fall Semester, **August 30**

Opening Convocation, **August 31**

Family Weekend, **September 24-26**

Presidential Inauguration, **November 4**

Homecoming Weekend, **November 5-6**

Fall Commencement, **December 18**

Recognizing Faculty and Student Achievement

This spring, Samford University students and faculty were recognized for their pursuit of excellence and commitment to service. Additionally, honors were bestowed on academic schools and programs.



Sydney Bottcher, a senior who is a double-major in chemistry and biochemistry, received the Goldwater Scholarship, one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious academic honors. Bottcher is one of 410 students in the United States and one of only seven in Alabama named to the latest class of students who show exceptional promise for becoming research leaders in the natural sciences, engineering and mathematics. Each

Goldwater Scholar receives an annual scholarship of up to \$7,500.

Madison Hartley, a second-year Doctor of Pharmacy student in Samford's McWhorter School of Pharmacy, was named an Albert Schweitzer Fellow. She is one of 14 graduate students who will spend the next year immersed in community public health projects. Hartley plans to address diabetes management in north Birmingham by establishing a health navigator program at the Foundry Ministries' Changed Lives Christian Center mobile clinic.

Valerie Prince, Pharm.D., BCPS, FAPHA, professor in Samford's McWhorter School of Pharmacy, was selected president-elect of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) for 2022-2023. APhA is the largest and oldest pharmacy association in the United States.



Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing had a 95.8% first-time pass rate on the NCLEX for its December 2020 graduates, with all graduates passing the licensure exam by the spring to become a registered nurse (RN).

Haven Voorhees '21, who graduated with a B.S.B.A. in economics, was selected for the Hayek Fellowship at New York University (NYU). Through the fellowship, awarded annually to only two economics students in the United States, Voorhees will receive coverage for full tuition and fees while studying in NYU's Master of Economics program.





Sam Katulich '21, who was a Brock Scholar, University Fellow and graduated with a B.S.B.A. in economics and finance, was accepted to the Scalia Scholars Program at George Mason University's Antonin Scalia Law School. Through the program, he will receive full coverage of his law school tuition and fees and will have the opportunity to choose from the school's 17 concentrations and eight legal tracks.



Stephanie Wynn, professor in Samford's Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing and assistant dean for scholarly activity, was named a fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (FAANP), the highest professional designation for a nurse practitioner.



Camille Womack, a senior communication and media student, earned the American Advertising Federation's Mosaic Award for the organization's District 7, representing 19 affiliate advertising clubs and federations in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee. The Mosaic

Awards recognize companies, agencies and individuals whose commitment to diversity and inclusion is evident through their creative work and organization-wide initiatives.

Students in Samford's **School of the Arts** won eight Addy Awards from the Birmingham chapter of the American Advertising Federation. In addition, students in **Howard College of Arts and Sciences'** Department of Communication and Media won a Gold Addy Award for an Integrated Advertising Campaign.



Cumberland School of Law maintained its top 10 ranking for trial advocacy by *U.S. News & World Report*. The school ranked eighth in the nation out of the 186 law schools included.

Throughout the last year, students of Cumberland School of Law's consistently top-ranked program successfully adapted to the challenges of virtual competitions, including sweeping Region 8 of the National Trial Competition in February and the American Association for Justice (AAJ) Regional Trial Advocacy Competition.

The school also implemented expanded curricular offerings including Advanced Civil Trial Advocacy, Advanced Criminal Advocacy, a Mass Torts Advocacy course, Depositions and Technology, and Jury Selection.

Samford's debate program earned the rare honor of fielding two teams at the National Debate Tournament in March. Program leaders said that has occurred only about 10 times since Samford joined the National Debate Tournament in the 1950s.

Douglas A. Sweeney, dean of Beeson Divinity School, co-edited *The Oxford Handbook of Jonathan Edwards*, with Jan Stievermann, published by Oxford University Press in 2021. This volume offers a state-of-the-art summary of scholarship on American theologian Jonathan Edwards with articles by scholars on every major continent.





Divinity Announces New Center for *Women in Ministry*

This spring, Samford University's Beeson Divinity School launched a new center for women pursuing Christian ministry. The Center for Women in Ministry exists to encourage and equip women called to Christian work, and to serve as a resource for the church of Jesus Christ for the edification of the church and the thriving of women in ministry.

"Beeson has welcomed female students ever since its founding," said Douglas A. Sweeney, dean of Beeson Divinity School. "They come from many

different evangelical, Protestant denominations with different ways of making use of the gifts God has given to its female members with interests in public ministry. We are eager to work with all those the Lord brings our way, preparing them to serve the church with biblical fidelity, theological wisdom, strong ministry skills and deep love for God's people."

As the center grows, it plans to expand its services to Samford undergraduate women called to ministry, women in ministry outside the Samford community and church leaders. This new center aims to fulfill its mission by providing strategic

support in the key areas of Christian discipleship, placement, resources, mentoring, networking, events, research and consultation.

The center will be led and directed by Beeson School of Divinity alumna and manager of marketing and communication Kristen Padilla, who published a book with Zondervan Academic in 2018 for women discerning a vocation of Christian ministry titled, *Now That I'm Called: A Guide for Women Discerning a Call to Ministry*.

"I am thrilled by the opportunity to lead the work of this new center," Padilla said. "I look forward to working with partners who share our vision, so that women called to Christian ministry can live out their callings in faithful service to Jesus Christ." ▮

Learn more at
beesondivinity.com/women-in-ministry.



Introducing the Ragland Scholars

A new cohort program designed to enhance the Samford experience for multicultural students.

by Morgan Black

Earlier this spring, Samford University announced the Ragland Scholars program, a four-year cohort experience which aims to orchestrate an intentional learning community connecting multicultural student leaders with an enhanced Samford experience.

The program is named for Elizabeth Sloan Ragland who was the first Black undergraduate student to live in campus housing at Samford in 1969. Ragland, who was known for her warm heart and a bright spirit, was a vital part of campus as a leader and student, and she went on to be a woman of influence in her community. The students, faculty and staff that comprise the scholars program aim to empower, foster and promote the leadership and academic excellence of Ragland.

"I'm excited about this new opportunity for minority students at

Samford," said J. Michael Hardin, Samford's provost and vice president for academic affairs. "Through the hard work of our Office of Admission and our Office of Diversity and Intercultural Initiatives, and many others who contributed behind the scenes to establish this program, future students will be blessed with a truly unique Samford experience."

Ragland Scholars, selected through an interview process, will be prepared to succeed throughout their time at Samford and afterwards. Chosen scholars play an active role in furthering

diversity initiatives on campus.

The program will provide them with a built-in community and support system to complement their Samford experience. Students will take Cultural Perspectives, University Core Seminar and Foundations together. They also will be enrolled in the IMPACT (Inspiring Minorities to Pursue Academics and Communities Together) mentoring program, spearheaded by the Office of Diversity and Intercultural Initiatives. This unique mentoring program will provide support and resources both in the academic and social areas of campus. In addition, scholars will receive a competitive scholarship award, peer-to-peer mentoring and priority class registration.

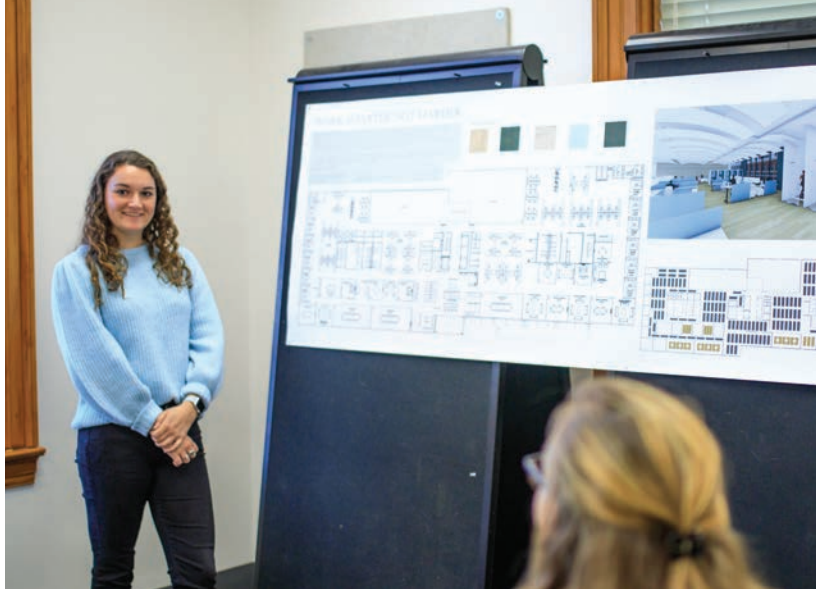
"Through this program, we can make a huge impact on the academic experience of our multicultural students," said Denise Gregory, professor and associate provost for student success and diversity and inclusion. "These students will have a built-in community that will provide encouragement and support for each as they walk through their college experience together." ■

Ragland Scholars

Jon Thomas Coley
Caley Lorraine Ingram
Iman Grace Bell
Hannah E. White
James U. Jefferson, Jr.
Gabriela Mia Aleman
Myles D. Wynn



Elizabeth Sloan Ragland was the first Black residential undergraduate student at Samford.



Fast-track Programs Accelerate Students to their Careers *by Sean Flynt*

Many students use their time at Samford to explore diverse academic disciplines and career options, and then create custom paths to the professional life they desire. Samford has long excelled in guiding students on that journey. But other students arrive on campus with a predetermined plan, knowing the graduate degree and career choice they want to pursue.

In recent years, Samford has created multiple fast-track programs to serve those students. With early advising and careful scheduling, they can significantly reduce the time required to earn both degrees without sacrificing the quality of their education.

Samford launched three new programs in the past year:

B.S. to Master of Architecture

The School of the Arts has expanded its offerings to include a five-year accelerated master's degree in architecture. Starting this fall, the program will offer students a terminal degree (upon NAAB accreditation) qualifying them to sit for the Architectural Registration Exam (ARE) on the way to careers in licensed architecture or related design fields. Growing out of the school's respected interior design program, the fast-track program will equip students with the tools to enter the architecture field and

use their design skills to enhance the world around them.

B.A. to Master of Divinity

Samford's interdenominational Beeson Divinity School has welcomed more than 250 Samford undergraduate alumni since its founding. The school's new collaboration with Howard College of Arts and Sciences and School of the Arts makes this transition even more appealing, allowing for undergraduate students pursuing majors in biblical studies, religion or Christian ministry the opportunity to reduce the time traditionally allotted for a B.S. and M.Div. from seven years to six.

B.S. to Master of Science in Health Informatics and Analytics

The School of Public Health's Master of Science in Health Informatics and Analytics provides students with the knowledge and skills needed to plan,

build, analyze and run the digital foundations of modern health care. A recent alignment of the graduate program and the undergraduate major in the same subject allows students to earn their B.S. and M.S. degrees in a total of five years rather than the traditional six. ▶

Samford offers a total of 11 fast-track programs, equipping students to complete bachelor's degrees in combination with:

Doctor of Pharmacy

Doctor of Physical Therapy

Juris Doctor

Master of Architecture

Master of Accountancy

Master of Business Administration

Master of Divinity

Master of Healthcare Administration

Master of Public Health

Master of Social Work

Master of Science in Health Informatics and Analytics

Level Up Continues to Motivate Faculty *to Develop Powerful, Engaging Assignments*

by Holly Gainer

Samford University's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), which equips and challenges faculty to design powerful assignments to engage students in higher-level critical thinking and information literacy skills, has made a lasting impact on the university.

The plan, which is called Level Up: Transformative Learning through Powerful Assignments, began in 2016 and focuses on the connection between increased investment in faculty development and improved student learning.

Samford leaders say it has changed the way students learn and faculty teach, and it will continue to inspire creative assignments for years to come.

"The best takeaway from the program is the ability for faculty to work across different colleges and schools and have their peers from other departments review their assignments and provide feedback," said Marci Johns, senior associate provost. "It cultivates the institutional culture where we are able to work across boundaries and help each other design transparent and engaging assignments."

"Looking to the future, there are early signs that Level Up will have a lasting impact on the learning environment at Samford," said QEP director Don Bradley, who also serves as the associate dean for Howard College of Arts and Sciences. "While continuing to work with faculty teaching in the core curriculum, Level Up expanded its reach in subsequent years."

In the last three years, nearly 100 faculty have completed a series of five workshops leading to the design and implementation of powerful assignments

in their undergraduate classes.

Samford also added the Faculty Success Center, located on the fourth floor of Dwight M. Beeson Hall, which is meant to provide a space for faculty to collaborate with one another, hold large meetings and faculty development sessions, and includes a media center to record podcasts and create videos for online classes.

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, Level Up continued to operate online using Microsoft Teams.

Level Up began in the 2016-2017 academic year as the focus of Samford's QEP, which is a core requirement by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges as part of the university's reaccreditation process. ▀



The new Faculty Success Center provides a space for faculty to collaborate with one another, hold large meetings and faculty development sessions, and includes a media center to develop online classes.

Orlean Beeson School of Education Leads Higher Education Institutions in Character Development *by Leighton Doores*

Samford University's Orlean Beeson School of Education has emerged as a leader of character development in higher education. In May, the school hosted its second-annual Character Convening conference, where faculty members led discussions among 13 universities from across the nation and England about character and competence in higher education.

Among those represented at this year's event were fellow co-founding institutions: the University of Alabama, the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and Lipscomb University.

Created in 2020 in partnership with the Hope Institute and with support from

the Kern Family Foundation, the Character Convening conference is the first event of its kind in higher education. The program provides participating higher education institutions with the opportunity to collaborate and learn from experts in the field of character

development, as well as from each other.

"Research shows that attention in higher education to modeling and embodying communities of character is relatively nonexistent," said Kara Chism, assistant professor of instructional leadership. "That's why creating opportunities such as the Character Convening is a high priority for us."

Orlean Beeson School of Education has long been engaged in the work of character education through its partnership with the Hope Institute, and it has most recently developed the C2 Task Force for Character and Competence, made up of faculty and staff members within the school.

After years of not prioritizing character education in schools, administrators and teachers are once again finding value in promoting character, leadership, citizenship and social-emotional learning.

"The current challenge is to explore the connection between values and programming that enable higher education institutions to become communities of character and the potential impact of doing so on K-12 teachers and leaders," Chism said. "We believe values and their defining actions are caught, taught, sought and shared." ▮

Kara Chism, assistant professor of instructional leadership in Orlean Beeson School of Education, was one of the lead organizers of the Character Convening conference.



Kinesiology Faculty Ensure Safe and Effective Undergraduate Research, Despite Pandemic

by Daniel Dodson

The quality and quantity of undergraduate research facilitated by students and faculty in the Department of Kinesiology has long been a distinctive feature of Samford's School of Health Professions. While COVID-19 presented many obstacles, faculty were resilient in making sure students could still complete their original research projects effectively and safely.

"When COVID hit and we had just finished the spring semester, faculty and administration in the School of Health Professions began work on what would be an all-summer endeavor to form a plan to complete undergraduate research safely," said Christopher Ballmann, an assistant professor in the Department of Kinesiology.

They read medical literature regarding the virus and top medical institutional guidelines to develop a plan that would allow for safe and effective student research.

"We read studies on the most effective cleaners to kill the virus, what special precautions and risk factors needed to be accounted for during high intensity exercise projects, what type of personal protection equipment was needed and how to maintain study design integrity even in the midst of drastic changes in procedures," Ballmann said. "Establishing our baseline knowledge of these areas was the first step, which had to be followed by training each and every student on equipment and safety protocols."

Throughout the year, faculty kept extensive records of time spent working in the lab and the amount of personal protective equipment (PPE) used. More than 520 hours of data collection took place over the past year, requiring the use of more than 800 surgical masks,

four gallons of hand sanitizer and more than 12 gallons of virucide and bleach.

"Students were ultimately following many of the same procedures as front-line medical workers, and all of them embraced the challenge and did a terrific job," Ballmann said.

A kinesiology faculty research mentor was always present during data collection to ensure safety protocols were being exercised in the lab. Sixty undergraduate research projects were completed without any COVID-19 cases being linked to the lab, and students were still able to virtually attend regional and national conferences to present their research. Thirteen of these student projects have been published or are in review for publication.

"Samford is among a small group of universities that have the infrastructure to complete high-volume, quality undergraduate research in kinesiology," Ballmann said.

"We teach our students the value of overcoming obstacles, and they, along with our faculty, modeled this principle beautifully. Through creativity, problem-solving and a lot of effort, the faculty and students were able to conduct high quality research in a safe environment during a pandemic," said Alan Jung, dean of the School of Health Professions. "They all deserve a lot of credit for this remarkable accomplishment." ▀



Students Play Integral Role in On-campus Vaccination Effort

by Sarah Waller

This spring, Samford University held COVID-19 vaccination clinics on campus, administering nearly 2,000 doses of the Pfizer SARS-CoV-2 vaccine to students, employees and members of the local community. The clinic was made possible through a partnership with Encompass Health Lakeshore, and it was an intensely collaborative effort with more than 100 Samford employees and students across multiple departments working to organize, communicate and facilitate these large-scale events.



"This clinic is interprofessional education in action," said Melissa Lumpkin, interim dean of Samford's School of Public Health. "We teach our students that health care cannot be administered by a single profession, but instead, it's a team-based approach to care. Here, public health, nursing and pharmacy students are working side-by-side to care for individuals—and ultimately protect the Samford community."

The process to receive a vaccine took less than 20 minutes, and each step along the way demonstrated the interprofessional work taking place.

As individuals arrived at the clinic, they were greeted by public health students who took their temperature and screened them for medical eligibility. They were then directed to a station where either a nursing or pharmacy student was there to administer the vaccine. Behind the scenes, additional pharmacy students were reconstituting the vaccine and drawing up doses.

"It was truly an honor to play a part in something as great as vaccinating and providing protection to our Samford family." —Aly York '21

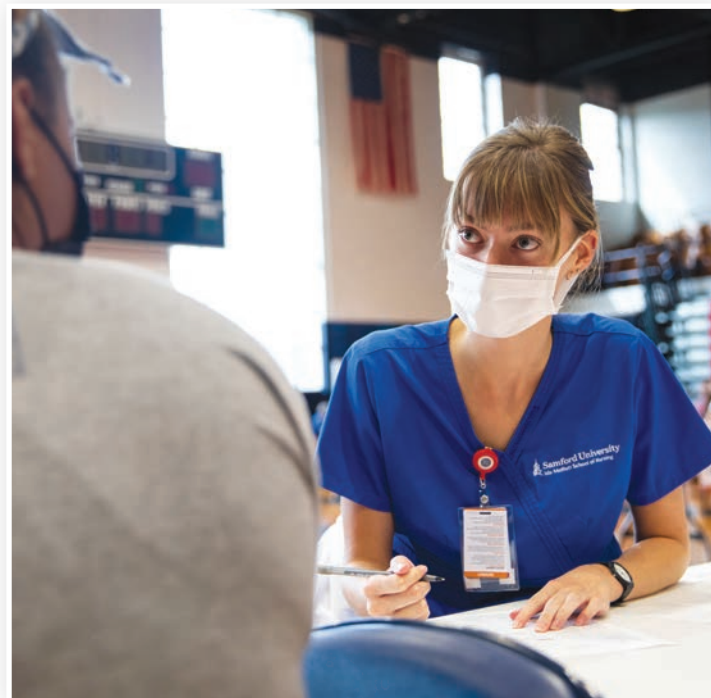


After receiving the vaccine, individuals were asked to stay for 15 minutes of observation, overseen by students and faculty; then, before they left, a public health student filled out their vaccination card, reminding them to mark their calendar for dose two.

The clinic was staffed by 50 people each day, and they worked at a pace of 18 vaccinations every five minutes. Nursing and pharmacy students are trained in giving injections as part of their respective programs, enabling them to administer vaccines as students.

"It truly was an honor to play a part in something as great as vaccinating and providing protection to our Samford family," said Aly York '21, a recent Doctor of Pharmacy graduate. "I had the opportunity to be part of the COVID-19 vaccine clinic on four different days, and I heard so many stories of how COVID-19 has changed us and how much hope we all have for a brighter future. It really was such an incredible experience."

The organized nature of the clinic enabled individuals to move quickly and efficiently through the process, and for everyone involved, the importance of the clinic was evident. "Even though it's just poking an arm, it's a good thing to remember that this work will protect our community," said Caroline Thomas '21, a recent nursing graduate. "Sure, we are not giving CPR or calling a code, but a little poke can go a long way." 📌





Samford Athletics Tackles Unprecedented Spring Season

by Joey Mullins

This spring proved to be the most unusual season in the history of college sports. Athletics departments across the country were faced with the difficult task of finding a way for most—and, in some cases, all—of their teams to compete at the same time.

Samford University was no exception. In August 2020, the Southern Conference (SoCon) Council of Presidents announced that the league would not have fall conference competition, instead, postponing all fall competition to the spring.

Samford Athletics' staff—including coaches, administration, facilities and operations, external relations, sports performance, equipment management, academics, compliance, and many others—faced a dilemma they had never faced before, working together to facilitate athletic competition for 15 of its 17 teams during the same season.

Michelle Durban, Samford's deputy director of athletics, said she was impressed with the way the staff came together. "It was a total team effort," Durban said. "Every area had to step up and do more than what is normally expected of them."

In addition to 15 different sports teams competing in one season, several areas encountered additional issues concerning the COVID-19 restrictions that had to be put in place.

For the athletic training staff, one of the greatest concerns was making sure the teams and department staff remained compliant with CDC

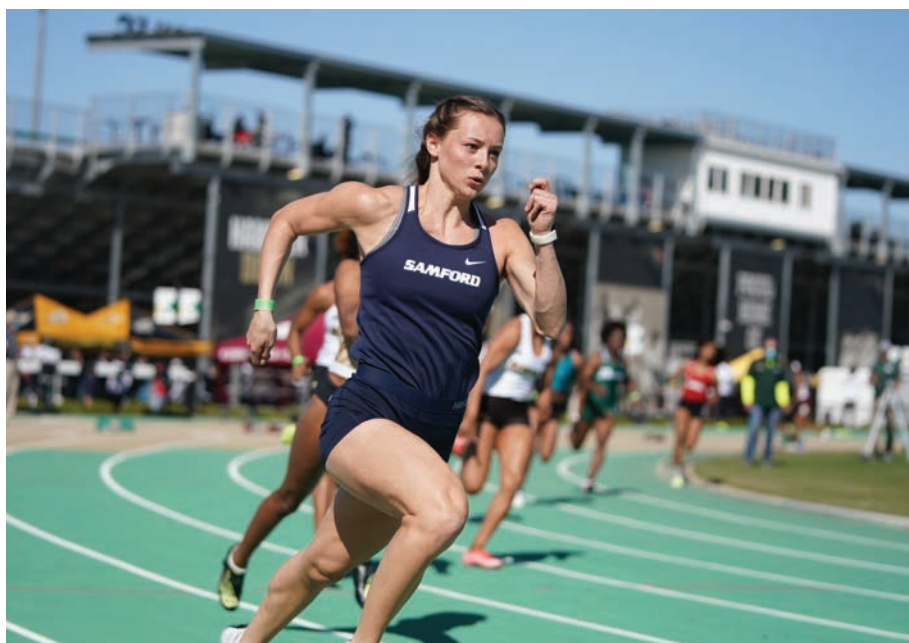
guidelines, as well as the NCAA, Samford, SoCon and the state of Alabama policies. They also had to make sure the teams were following the opposing schools' pandemic guidelines for road games, and that the opponents were aware of Samford's guidelines for home contests.

The compliance office ensured all parties were made aware of the most up-to-date COVID-19 policies, which were updated frequently. The strength and conditioning staff coordinated every team's in-season workout schedule during the same season. The group also had to make sure the weight rooms met the specifications for all of the COVID-19 guidelines.

The external operations department, which houses marketing, communications, broadcast, social media, ticketing, video and photography, was charged with making sure all teams received their due coverage.

The game operations staff wrote detailed plans for all athletics venues that addressed modified seating plans, additional COVID-19 signage and restricted areas to create safe environments for home and visiting teams. And the academic staff was in charge of coordinating class schedules, study halls, tutoring, practice and travel schedules for Samford's nearly 400 student-athletes.

All of this and more was integral in making it possible for Samford's teams to compete in this historic season. ►





A Championship Season

Despite the challenges, six Samford athletic teams claimed the top spot, winning Southern Conference championships.



Women's Basketball (Regular Season)

The Samford women's basketball team captured its second-straight SoCon regular-season title during the 2020-2021 season. The Bulldogs posted a record of 14-11 overall and 11-2 in SoCon play, and the squad did not lose a home conference game all season.

The women's basketball team clinched the regular-season championship with an impressive 74-65 win at Mercer University in the final game of the regular season. Natalie Armstrong had 24 points and eight rebounds to lead the team in the win. The team also earned a WNIT bid, which is the fourth national postseason bid in program history.

After the season, Andrea Cournoyer was named the SoCon Player of the Year after leading the league in scoring, and head coach Carley Kuhns was named the Coach of the Year. Cournoyer and Armstrong were both named first team All-SoCon, while Annie Ramil earned second team honors.

Volleyball (Regular Season and Tournament)

The Samford volleyball team won its third-straight SoCon Tournament title and second-straight SoCon regular-season championship during the 2021 spring season. The tournament win gave the Bulldogs a third-straight NCAA Tournament bid.

The squad (15-4, 13-3 SoCon) clinched the regular-season championship with a dramatic 3-2 win over The Citadel at the Pete Hanna Center.

The Bulldogs then hosted the SoCon Tournament. The team picked up a 3-2 win over Wofford College in the semifinal match. The Bulldogs then swept Mercer University 3-0 to capture the tournament title. Lauren Deaton was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player. Emily Naubert and Sinclair Green were also selected for the All-SoCon Tournament team.

Deaton was named the SoCon Player of the Year. Kenya McQuirter was



also named the league's Freshman of the Year. In addition to the two specialty awards, Corinne Meglic and Sierra Rayzor were both named second team All-SoCon.



Baseball (Tournament)

The Samford baseball team earned its third SoCon baseball title, the first since 2018, with a thrilling, 8-6 walk-off win over Western Carolina in the championship game of the SoCon Tournament in Greenville, South Carolina, in May.

Center fielder Max Pinto hit a two-run home run right-center field with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning to give the Bulldogs the win. The team advanced to the NCAA Tournament, playing eventual national champions Mississippi State in the first round.

The Bulldogs posted a 35-22 record overall. At the SoCon Tournament, Towns King was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player. He was joined on the all-tournament team by Pinto, pitcher Hamp Skinner, second baseman Brooks Carlson, third baseman Will David and designated hitter Tyler McManus.



Soccer (Regular Season)

The Samford soccer team picked up a record seventh-straight SoCon regular-season title during the spring season. The Bulldogs also reached the finals of the SoCon Tournament, held at the Samford University Track and Soccer Stadium.

The championship was clinched with a 2-0 win at University of North Carolina Greensboro. Kylie Gazza and Kyla Reynolds scored a goal each in the win for the Bulldogs.

The Bulldogs hosted Mercer University in the SoCon semifinals, earning a 6-1 win, before falling in the championship match to Furman University. Gazza, Reynolds and Jennifer Seward were all named to the All-SoCon Tournament team. The team finished the season with a mark of 8-2-3 overall and 7-0-2 in SoCon contests.

Taylor Yount, Alyssa Frazier, Gazza, Lexi Orman and Morgan McAslan all received the first team All-SoCon honors. Caroline Orman earned second team All-SoCon honors.

Indoor Track and Field

The Samford men's and women's track and field teams swept the SoCon Indoor Championships this season. For the women's team, it marked the sixth-straight championship, while the men's team claimed its second-consecutive title.

The men won their championship by a score of 191-129 over Western Carolina University, and the women's squad won 155.5-131 over second-place Wofford College.

Matt Cahoon and Ty Kimberlin were co-winners of the Heath Whittle Award, which goes to the Men's Most Outstanding Athlete at the championship. Head Coach Rod Tiffin was named the Men's Indoor Coach of the Year. Jeb Jones won the Men's Pinnacle Award, while



Amanda Dumar secured the Women's Pinnacle Award. The Pinnacle Awards go to the student-athlete with the highest GPA on the championship winning team.

Outdoor Track and Field

The men's and women's track and field teams swept the SoCon Outdoor Championships, giving the program all four titles (indoor and outdoor) for the first time in program history.

The men's team overcame a day one

deficit to capture a 204.50-139.50 win over second-place Western Carolina University, which had won the last four titles in a row. The Samford women's team led wire-to-wire, earning a 229.50-120.50 win over second-place Wofford. Overall, the Samford men won

nine individual SoCon titles, while the women captured six individual championships.

On the men's side, Matt Cahoon was named the Men's Most Outstanding Athlete. Luke Dobbins won the Men's Pinnacle Award, while Aiya Finch captured the Women's Pinnacle Award. Matt Cahoon was also named the Men's Most Outstanding Field Performer; Maggie Johnston was named Female Most Outstanding Field Performer; Ty Kimberlin was named Male Freshman of the Year; and Rod Tiffin was named both men's and women's Coach of the Year. Justin Stuckey received Second Team All-America honors in the NCAA Outdoor Championships.





Samford Awards **1,340** Degrees *in Spring Commencement Ceremonies*

by Holly Gainer

After a year without in-person commencement ceremonies on campus due to COVID-19, in May, Samford University held five commencement ceremonies and awarded degrees to 1,340 graduates. The university also held a celebration to honor graduates from the class of 2020, who received their degrees via virtual ceremonies last year.

Then-President Andrew Westmoreland spoke at three ceremonies for undergraduate and graduate programs in Samford's School of the Arts, Howard

College of Arts and Sciences, Brock School of Business, Orlean Beeson School of Education, School of Health Professions, Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing,



McWhorter School of Pharmacy, and School of Public Health. Westmoreland called on the students to follow nine lessons that he tries to live out each day. The lessons include:

1. Listen carefully.
2. Guard and limit your speech, spoken or written.
3. Extend grace to others, even if you do not feel you have received grace from them.
4. Apologize quickly and without qualifying conditions.
5. Recognize that loneliness you may occasionally feel is shared by everyone.
6. Find happiness in the fleeting moments of the day.
7. Respect everyone.
8. Take a walk when stressed.
9. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.



Awards Presented at Commencement



Gilley

Physics major and University Fellow Stephanie Gilley '21 earned the President's Cup, which is the valedictorian award given to the graduating senior with the highest cumulative grade point average across all academic units at Samford.

Julia Sisk '21, a graduate of Brock School of Business, received the John C. Pittman Spirit Award, which honors the 1944 alumnus who served on the university's Board of Trustees for 62 years. Robert Millican '20, who graduated in December with a Bachelor of Arts in organizational leadership, received the Velma Wright Irons salutatorian award as the graduating senior with the second-highest cumulative grade point average.

Andrew Brunson, an American missionary imprisoned in Turkey under false charges from 2016 to 2018, spoke to Beeson Divinity School graduates, where he encouraged students to prepare to stand firm under persecution.

"I think you are coming into a much more challenging environment than I did when I graduated from seminary 30 years ago," Brunson said. "This time needs men and women of courage who will remain faithful to Jesus under pressure."

Cassandra W. Adams, former assistant dean for Cumberland School of Law's public interest program and current dean of students at Wake Forest University School of Law, spoke at the law school's ceremony, where she praised students for overcoming the hurdles of the past year and remaining hopeful.

"Your perseverance is unearthed; your persistence is awakened; your understanding evolves; your commitment is challenged. In short, you grow for the better. When you are in the state of 'hope' you will experience some confusion, some discouragement, some fatigue. But then you start feeling a difference within yourself," Adams said. "You develop a sense of clarity, confidence, and courage. Your mental, emotional and physical fatigue is replaced with new energy that propels you to the other side of hope!"

Graduates of the class of 2020 were also honored with an on-campus celebration in Seibert Stadium on April 24, followed by an outdoor reception. ▀



2021 GRADUATE SPOTLIGHTS

As a University Fellow and musical theater major, **Bradyn Debysingh '21** packed his four years with accomplishments. He performed in multiple productions each year in both opera and musical theatre while pursuing his passion for Greek and Latin. When asked what he will miss most, he said, "The people, the Samford family, is what makes Samford strong. I could not have asked for a more beautifully compassionate, academically excellent and Christ-honoring community to call home for the past four years."



Micah Jones '21 was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Air Force, and he will begin his Air Force career with pilot training at Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi in 2022. He hopes to earn a slot as an A-10 pilot, an aircraft with a mission to provide close air support to the brave men and women on the ground. Jones graduated from School of Health Professions, earning a Bachelor of Science in health sciences.



Courtney Howard, J.D. '21 did not always have a dream of going to law school. Throughout her life and path to law school, tough times seemed to follow her. "Over time, I developed the ability to find and appreciate the joy in what people will view as moments of tragedy. All times may not be the best times, but we cannot appreciate the sweet if we don't get a taste of the bitter."

During her time at Cumberland School of Law, Howard was involved in numerous student organizations and led the class of 2021 as its president. At commencement, she was named the recipient of the Daniel Austin Brewer Professionalism Award, which recognized her for exemplifying the high standards of ethics and professionalism expected of members of the legal profession.



Rebecca McCoy '21 was also commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Air Force and plans to pursue a career as a pilot. She earned a degree in economics from Brock School of Business. During the fall 2020 semester, McCoy served as the cadet wing commander, successfully leading over 50 cadets while navigating a host of challenges presented by COVID-19.

The son of Salvadoran immigrants, **Isaiah Cruz, M.A.T.S. '21** is the first person in his family to earn a graduate degree. In May, he earned a Master of Arts in Theological Studies from Beeson Divinity School, saying, "My prayer is that I will be able to engage in humanitarian work related to refugee resettlement, immigration reform and the protection of human rights (especially women) in Latin America at large and Central America in particular. ▮"



Rachel Stokes, Dr.P.H. '21 walked the commencement stage, becoming the first graduate of the School of Public Health's Doctor of Public Health. Unlike a Ph.D. that leads to careers in research, the Doctor of Public Health is a professional degree, focused on the practical application of public health principles across a variety of settings.



Decades of Service

A legendary group of faculty take the next step into retirement

Eleven faculty members retired from Samford University this year, and through their multiple decades of service, they each leave an impact that will last for generations.

Jeanie Box Cook

Orlean Beeson School of Education

Jeanie Box Cook retired from Samford after 30 years. She has served in numerous roles, first as an assistant professor and then chair of the Department of Teacher Education. In 2005, she assumed the role of dean of Orlean Beeson School of Education. When she stepped down from this position in 2017, she returned to teaching as a professor of early childhood education.



Cook

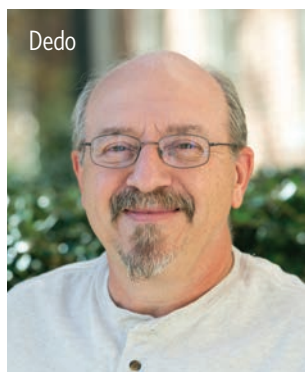


Guess

David Dedo

Howard College of Arts and Sciences

David Dedo worked at Samford for three decades, first joining Samford's faculty in 1990. He taught courses in communication arts, public speaking and professional communication. His interest focused on how new technology is changing writing and other forms of communication, and what that meant for his students.



Dedo



Ledgerwood

Rosemary Fisk

Howard College of Arts and Sciences

English professor Rosemary Fisk '77 retired after 40 years on campus, which includes her time of undergraduate study and the teaching that followed. She joined Samford's faculty in 1984 and played key roles during her tenure, including associate dean of Howard College of Arts and Sciences from 2001 to 2017, directing the university's core curriculum.



Fisk



Marshall

Kay Guess

Brock School of Business

Kay Guess served on faculty as a professor of accounting on two separate occasions, first from 1993 to 1997 and again in August 2012 until her retirement in 2021. She was instrumental in creating many of the cornerstone aspects of the accounting program, and her efforts led to the creation of the first accounting advisory board in Brock School of Business.

Mike Ledgerwood***Howard College of Arts and Sciences***

Mikle (Mike) Ledgerwood came to Samford in 2007 as professor of romance languages and linguistics, and he served as chair of the Department of World Languages and Cultures for 11 years. At Samford, he taught all levels of French, beginning and graduate Spanish, Linguistics, Cultural Perspectives, Communication Arts, and Intercultural Communication.

Jennings Marshall***Brock School of Business***

Jennings Marshall joined the faculty in 1985, and provided service in all facets of campus life, leading to the creation of the university's Jennings B. Marshall Service Award. He served as director of undergraduate studies and chair of the Department of Economics, Finance and Quantitative Analysis, teaching courses focused on economics and data analytics.

Jane Martin***Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing***

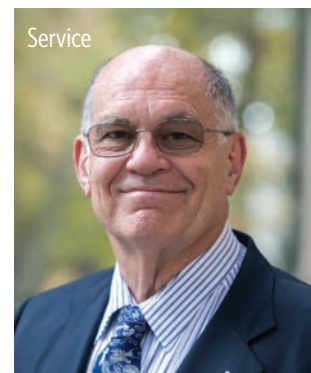
Jane Martin, interim dean and professor in Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing, retired after 25 years. She was the first graduate faculty member hired by the nursing school and taught the school's first nurse practitioner program. This program, which started with four students, has developed into a full department, contributing to the careers of more than 900 nurses.

Gretchen McDaniel***Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing***

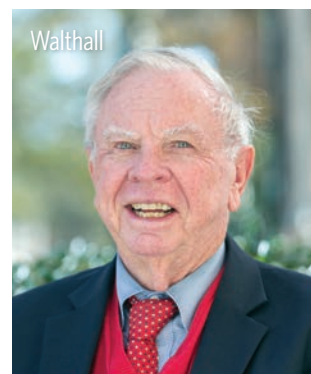
Gretchen McDaniel served on Samford's faculty for a total of 30 years, including service as an associate dean and professor in Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing. Her tenure offered opportunities ranging from teaching nursing students not to fear statistics to helping develop the university's first online program.

Morgan Ponder***Howard College of Arts and Sciences***

Morgan Ponder served as chair of Samford's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry for 22 years, providing the administrative support that made it possible for faculty and students to work together in dedicated research labs. His entire tenure at Samford spanned 32 years.

**Bill Service*****Brock School of Business***

During his time at Samford, starting in 1993, Bill Service was a impactful teacher at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Service taught extensively internationally and brought those experiences back to his classes. Paired with his successful career prior to academia, Service was able to effectively bridge the gap from the classroom to the "real world."

**Howard Walthall*****Cumberland School of Law***

Howard Walthall served Samford for 45 years, imparting analytical skills, knowledge and wisdom to thousands of law students in a range of courses, including Contracts, Bankruptcy, Taxation, Equitable Remedies and Constitutional Law. He will also be forever associated with Cumberland School of Law's Rascal Day tradition, providing his annual oration in tribute to Rascal.

Read their full stories at samford.edu/go/retirees.

New Academic Leadership Ready to Further Exceptional Education

Samford announces new deans for Brock School of Business and Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing.

by Morgan Black



Carson

Samford University named new academic leadership for its Brock School of Business and Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing. Following nationwide searches, Charles M. (Chad) Carson, Ph.D., and Melondie Reeves Carter, RN, Ph.D., were named deans of the two schools, respectively, both ready to advance the Samford mission through their roles.

Brock School of Business

A proven leader on campus and in the community, Chad Carson joined the Brock School of Business faculty in 2004, having served in numerous leadership roles, most recently as interim dean.

Brock School of Business has seen tremendous growth over the past decade while providing quality business education grounded in a distinctly Christian worldview. Carson successfully led the school through two continuous improvement review visits by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International, both resulting in extensions of accreditation. In addition, innovative

“I’m blessed and honored to have been charged with this significant role.”

—Charles M. Carson, Ph.D.

curriculum enhancements, and enrollment and fundraising growth are all highlights of Carson's administrative tenure.

Prior to entering academia, Carson worked as a senior auditor for the state of Mississippi, and a human resources benefits generalist for Mississippi State University. Carson received his Ph.D. in business administration from the University of Mississippi and his Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Professional Accountancy from Mississippi State University.

"I'm blessed and honored to have been charged with this significant role," said Carson. "With the Lord's guidance, and with support of the amazing Brock School of Business faculty, staff, alumni and students, I am ready to lead our work in developing the next generation of Christian business leaders."

When the news was announced in February, Samford Provost J. Michael Hardin said, "I'm honored Dr. Chad Carson accepted the call to serve as the next dean of our Brock School of Business. The resilience he displayed throughout the pandemic not only displayed his capability for the job, but it revealed his heartfelt passion for this business school and our university."

Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing

Last fall, Samford announced Melondie Carter as dean of Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing. An accomplished administrator and educator, she comes to Samford from the Capstone College of Nursing at The University of Alabama, where she served as assistant dean of undergraduate programs and professor.

Previously, Carter served for five years as the assistant director of the Office of Health Promotion and Wellness at The University of Alabama, where she codeveloped the WellBAMA health screening program. Carter also maintained a worksite wellness faculty practice for 10 years in Sumter County, Alabama.

Carter earned both her Ph.D. in community mental health with a functional role in nursing service administration

Carter



and her M.S.N. in adult health nursing with a functional role in nursing education from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She received her B.S.N. from Troy University.

"I'm also extremely pleased to have Dr. Melondie Carter join the leadership team at Samford. Her extensive experience in all aspects of nursing education will be a tremendous asset to Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing. With her strong Christian faith and background in the development of wellness programs, she is the right person at the right time to be our next dean of nursing," Hardin said. ■

A New Era *for Samford*

by Jessica Black



When Andrew Westmoreland announced his retirement as president of Samford University in August 2020, Beck Taylor wasn't looking for his next call to serve. At the time, Taylor was more than a decade into his role as president of Whitworth University, and his impact on the Christian university in Spokane, Washington, was significant.

But, after nearly a month of prayer and consideration, the opportunity to return to Samford University, where he served as dean and professor of economics for Samford's Brock School of Business from 2005 to 2010, was a calling that he could not ignore.

"Samford is a crown jewel in Christian higher education, and it is committed to pursuing excellence at the intersection of faith and learning," said Taylor. "It is a profound honor to return to Samford University, and to follow my good friend, Andy Westmoreland. My wife, Julie, and I already love this place and its people, and we're excited about the journey ahead."

Taylor's tenure as the 18th president of Whitworth, a position which he occupied from 2010 to 2021, was highlighted by a renewed emphasis on community involvement; efforts to enhance academic programs and quality; the building of new campus infrastructure to facilitate the university's academic, athletic, and student life programs; the creation of newly endowed faculty positions and centers; leading Whitworth's largest-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign; and an emphasis on overall institutional effectiveness.

As dean of Samford's Brock School of Business, Taylor led the rapid

transformation of the business school, including its renaming to honor Harry B. Brock, Jr., founder of Compass Bank. Taylor led the Brock School of Business to establish eight new academic programs, as well as the school's new honors program.

Now, he looks to apply that experience and success to his presidency at Samford.

"My 11 years as president at Whitworth—paired with my previous experience at Samford—prepared me well to lead here," he said. "Samford is its own special university in a different stage of its own journey as an institution. But armed with the skills, knowledge and relationships that I accumulated at Whitworth and throughout my career, I am ready to serve this campus and community."

Following his election in March, Taylor focused his efforts on finishing his presidency at Whitworth, while also refamiliarizing himself with Samford and its people. Now, in his first few months as president, Taylor has started charting his own path forward for the university—a path that will continue the steady growth of Samford, while maintaining a relentless pursuit of its mission.

Inauguration ceremonies for President Taylor will take place on Nov. 4. ►

President Beck A. Taylor

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Samford University

President (*July 2021*)

Dean and professor of economics,
Brock School of Business (*2005-2010*)

Whitworth University

President and professor of economics
(*2010-2021*)

Baylor University, Hankamer School of Business

Associate dean for research and faculty
development (*2004-2005*)

Graduate program director,
Department of Economics (*2003-2004*)

The W.H. Smith Professor of
Economics, Department of Economics
(*2000-2005*)

Assistant professor of economics,
Department of Economics (*1997-2000*)

Harvard University

Visiting scholar, Graduate School of
Education's Department of Human
Development and Psychology
(*2002-2003*)

Purdue University

Research fellow, Purdue University
Research Foundation (*1996-1997*)

Lecturer, Krannert School of
Management's Department of
Economics (*1993-1996*)

EDUCATION

Ph.D., economics, *Purdue University's
Krannert School of Management*

M.S., economics, *Purdue University's
Krannert School of Management*

B.B.A., economics and finance,
*Baylor University's Hankamer
School of Business*



Meet the Taylors

Get to know Samford's new first family: President Beck Taylor, his wife, Julie, and their children Zachary, Lauren and Chloe.

by Jessica Black

Born in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, and raised in Houston, Texas, Beck Taylor demonstrated a love of learning and natural curiosity as a child, spending his summers exploring the country with his grandparents in their RV. A believer from an early age, he professed his faith in Jesus and was baptized at "Beach Camp" at Second Baptist Church in Houston when he was 11.

Following an impressive high school career as a standout student and quarterback of his football team, Taylor accepted a nomination at the United States Military Academy at West Point, but soon realized that God had other plans for him. After failing his vision exam, he transferred to Baylor University, where he met his wife, Julie, in an 8 a.m. calculus class on the first day.

After 29 years of marriage, their journey together continues to be filled with impact and guided by faith.

"We are doing what we're called to do," said Julie Taylor. "We get to meet so many extraordinary people in our work and love the energy and activity that comes with leading a university. We are always inspired."





The Taylors are also parents to three children—Zachary, Lauren and Chloe.

Zachary, 25, is a graduate of Belmont University and a recording artist living in Nashville, Tennessee. Lauren, 22, is a recent graduate of Whitworth University and current student at the University of Washington School of Medicine. Chloe, 14, relocated to Birmingham with her parents this summer and attends Vestavia Hills High School.

Now that the Taylors have settled into life in Birmingham, their presence will be considerable—both at Samford and in the community.

Julie Taylor, who launched the Student Ambassador Program and Women's Leadership Network at Whitworth, has assumed the role of executive director of the Samford Legacy League, and looks forward to continuing her work with student mentoring, program development, university advancement and constituent engagement.

"Beck and I are passionate about building strong and generative connections between Samford and the citizens of Birmingham and our region," she added. "I can't imagine more fulfilling work than supporting the flourishing of Samford's students, faculty, staff and surrounding community." ▮

Twitter: [@BeckTaylor](#) Instagram: [@prezbecktaylor](#)

Peanut, *the Presidential Pup*

Also excited to join the Samford family is Peanut, the Taylors' 6-year-old Goldendoodle. Born in Spokane, Washington, Peanut is a very good girl who you may see walking around the quad, loving on students, or playing keep away (which she prefers over fetch).



Follow Peanut and her adventures on
Instagram: [@peanut.the.prez.puppy](#)

Theatre Alumna Kat Conner Sterling Featured in Netflix Christian Movie

by Ashley Smith

Recent Samford alumna Kat Conner Sterling has seen success since she graduated in 2019. Her first big break was appearing in Marvel's *The Gifted* while she was still a student at Samford. Now she is part of the cast of Netflix's original musical *A Week Away* about a teenage Christian camp and a story of redemption, in which she plays the role of Presley.

"She's quirky, awkward and has some spunk to her like I do. I love that she's not seen as the classic 'loser/nerd' troupe character that everyone is trying to change to be seen as 'good enough,'" Sterling said.

Sterling won the role by submitting a self-tape. "The producers liked my tape so much that they booked me straight from that without a callback," she said. "I found out I booked the role on a cruise ship in the middle of the ocean just three months after graduating from Samford!"

She said the experience was something she will never forget. "The director and producers were so encouraging to let me have fun with this. They let me improvise some things which I loved doing. We also filmed at a real camp, so we got to actually

zip line, do three-legged races, have a pie eating contest, and so many other fun camp activities," Sterling said.

Professionally and personally, she learned a great deal from the experience. "Acting wise, I've learned a lot about how to stand out as an actor and give a unique performance for the camera. However, I've really had to step up to the plate professionally. Once the film is finished, your job keeps going. I've had to learn how to handle press junkets, navigating a social media presence, and promoting myself and the movie in a way that will push my career further," Sterling explained. "Personally, I've learned that you really have to walk onto the set with both confidence and humility. You've got to feel comfortable in your own skin to do your job, but nobody wants to work with someone who has a big head."

She gives Samford credit for setting her up for success. "Samford always let me be 100% authentically Kat. My friends, my professors, the Samford community—they've always made me feel loved, quirks and all. My professors and classes allowed me to experiment with different characters and really hone in my acting skills so that I felt prepared to take apart each script I'm given and give it layers. With every audition I get, I'm always using the techniques I learned at Samford and applying them."

"I'm delighted that others will see what we have all seen in Kat for so long, that she is a unique and talented actress with a long professional career ahead of her," said Mark Castle, chair of Samford's Department of Theatre and Dance.

"I never imagined I would gain a fan base like this. The film came out and suddenly I had thousands of people on social media messaging me, making videos, fan edits, etc., telling me how much the movie and character impacted them. I'm so happy that it's been received so well and that I can be a role model to young people to represent that you're more than good enough exactly as you are," Sterling said.

When asked what is next for her career, Sterling hinted that more roles may be in her future. "This movie is bringing about some exciting opportunities. I can't say much, but when I can, I'll be sure to keep my Samford family in the loop." ▀



Images Provided by Netflix.



CLASS NOTES

Compiled by the Office of Alumni Programs and Annual Giving.

1950s

'53 Bobby Bowden was awarded the inaugural Florida Medal of Freedom by Gov. Ron DeSantis.

1960s

'62 Jim Pesnell is the 2020 Champion of Health Care in the volunteer category.

'69 Lynn Edge recently released a book, *From Steel Mills to Stethoscopes: A History of the Birmingham Medical Profession*.

1970s

'70 Judith S. Crittenden was honored by The Nature Conservancy as Alabama Fundraising Professionals' 2020 VIP.

'71 Sid Burgess has a new non-commercial, non-political blog, storytimerevisited.com, featuring autobiographical stories; stories about his imaginary friend, "The Rev Ralph, Snakehandler Extraordinaire," and more.

'72 Buddy Anderson was part of the inaugural class of the Vestavia Hills City Schools' Hall of Fame.

'75 David Dykes has announced his retirement from Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas, after 30 years of service in the ministry.

'75, '78 Mike McKinley was selected to lead as president of the Salesmanship Club of Dallas, Texas, in the organization's 100th anniversary year.

'75, '78 David Miles was part of the inaugural class of the Vestavia Hills City Schools Hall of Fame.

'76 Samuel R. McCord, Esq., was recognized by Continental Who's Who as a Top Attorney in the field of Law as an acknowledgment of his work with Samuel R. McCord Attorney at Law.

'78 Melodie Dickerson has been named the inaugural chair of the performing arts department at State College of Florida in Bradenton, Florida. She has held the position of director of choral and vocal studies for the past 17 years and was recently awarded the President's Excellence Award as outstanding faculty member 2020.

'79 Gary Smith has been named vice chairman of the Business Council of Alabama's 2020 executive committee.

1980s

'80 Michael F. Dignam joined the law firm Green Schoenfeld & Kyle LLP.

'80 Timothy N. Thomassian was awarded a Doctor of Ministry from Bethel Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, with the course of study being Servant Leadership for Team and Organizational Effectiveness.

'81 Dr. J. Woods Watson published his book, *What in the World Is God Doing ... in My Life*.

'84 Tom Clark has returned to Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A. as a stockholder.

'84 Norma Mungenast Lemley retired April 1, 2021 after almost 32 years as in-house counsel with The University of Alabama System Office of Counsel.

'87 Hon. Evan Jenkins is serving as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia.

'88, '91 Todd Carlisle will serve as vice chair for the Samford University's Board of Overseers for a three-year term.

'89 Steve Layton has joined the Alabama Board of Missions.

'89 Hon. Todd Roper was sworn in as district judge in Pittsboro, North Carolina. Governor Roy Cooper named Roper as the new District Court Judge for Judicial District 15B, which covers two counties.

1990s

'90 Karen Fairchild and Kimberly Schlapman (former student) of Little Big Town received a nomination for Group of the Year for the 56th Academic of Country Music Awards.

'90 Kevin Phillips has been hired as director of customer experience by Mspark, a leading shared mail company.

'90 Lee Scott is opening her own firm, Lee McArthur Scott, Attorney at Law, specializing in family law, criminal law and health care law.

'92 Amy Fowler Murphy was recently named science coordinator for the Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative at the Alabama State Department of Education.

'93 Chris Clark has been named CEO for iRis Networks.

'93 Ashlee Dunn has published her first book, *NO THANKS, I DON'T DRINK. MY NEW MANTRA*.

'93 Col. Jeffrey Newton has been named the new assistant commissioner for the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs.

'93 DeWayne Pope has joined Baker Donelson as of counsel for the business litigation group.

'94 Rev. Chad Eaton was promoted to director of government affairs for Nucor Corporation. In addition to leading the company's state government affairs work in all 50 states, he will lead the company's federal work on environmental legislation and climate work.

'95 Dennis Clark has been appointed as chief of the Researcher and Reference Services Division for The Library of Congress. He will lead public research services, onsite and online user engagement and the development of the majority of the 30 million items in the library's General Collections.

'95 Emma Wyatt Morris has joined the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees following her election by the S.C. General Assembly.

'95 Dr. Thomas Rogers has been appointed to the board of directors at Citizens Bank & Trust Co. in Campbellsville, Kentucky.

'96, '97 Dr. Dorinda Cale has been named vice president, pharmacy services at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama.

'96 R. Todd Epps has been named as U.S. Director of Quality and Regulatory Compliance at PerkinElmer Scientific.

'96 Deana Hood has been appointed by the Supreme Court of the State of Tennessee to the Judicial Ethics Committee.

'96 Drew Langloh was named to the *Birmingham Business Journal's* list of 30 People to Watch in 2021.

'96 Eric Motley has been appointed deputy director for the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. In addition, he has been appointed to the Board of Directors for Harmony Biosciences Holdings, Inc., a pharmaceutical company dedicated to developing and commercializing innovative therapies for patients living with rare neurological disorders who have unmet medical needs.

'96 John Roland has been named as director of advancement for Howard College of Arts and Sciences at Samford University.

'96, '01 Bob Sands has been promoted to lead counsel for global trade for Walmart Inc.

'96 Sen. Cam Ward has been appointed by Alabama Governor Kay Ivey to serve as the new director of the Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles.

'97 Jennie Compton has been named vice chair of the management committee at the law firm, Shumaker, where she was named managing partner in 2019 for the Sarasota office.

'97 Suellen Williams Epps is now the assistant principal at Mt. Carmel Elementary School.

'97 LeJon Poole has been elected board chairman of Continuing Care at Trinity Health, Livonia, Michigan.

'98 Jon Acuff released a new book, *Soundtracks*.

'98 Candace Boeninger has been named vice president for enrollment management at Ohio University.

'98, '02 Collin Brown has joined the executive leadership team for Physical Rehabilitation Network (PRN). Brown joins PRN as executive vice president, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary.

'98 Dr. Bobby Craig earned a Doctor of Worship Studies from Liberty University.

'98 Rev. Dr. Cecelia Walker was recently elected to the board of trustees for Samford University.

'99 Clint Carr, Jr. was recognized for exceptional commitment to improving care for older adults and for successful completion of the UAB Geriatric Scholar Interprofessional Program.

'99 Paul A. Clark, whose practice focuses on civil defense litigation in transportation, insurance, health care and transactional law, has joined Hill, Hill, Carter, Franco, Cole & Black, P.C. as of counsel.

'99 Ken Drake retired in June 2021 after 25 years of service in the United States Army.

2000s

'00 Scarlet Ann Thompson was honored by professional colleagues as Alabama Fundraising Professionals' 2020 VIP.

'00, '01, '16 Millard Williams was honored by Hoover City Schools with the 2021 Finley Award

'01 Meredith McCollum Aldridge was tapped to lead the University of Mississippi Medical Center's fundraising efforts as the executive director of the Office of Development.

'01 Danielle Moore Davis has been promoted to senior vice president and Mortgage Executive of Cadence Bank's Mortgage Division.

'01 Mark Gainey has joined the Alabama Board of Missions.

'01 Brad Hendrix has been promoted to vice president of legal at CBL Properties.

'01 Derrick Jones, Port Allen head basketball coach, was named the Louisiana Association of Basketball Coaches' Coach of the Year in Class 2A.

'01 Rebecca Losli has been named director of engineering for Missouri American Water.

'01 Hon. Martha Roby has been named senior advisor for Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP's government affairs and economic development practice groups.

'01 Leah Fenton Treadwell, Crestline Elementary School guidance counselor, is this year's recipient of the Margaret Spencer Ragland Award. The honor recognizes a professional staff member for superior contributions above and beyond the call of duty and is sponsored by the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation.

'02, '08 Andria Cleghorn has been named chief financial officer for O'Neal Steel.

'02 Melissa Huff has been named development director at the Greenville Center for Creative Arts.

'02 Caleb Ross has joined the football staff at Troy University as the director of player personnel and high school relations.

'02 Gage Smythe has joined Cornelius and Collins as an associate attorney.

'03 Aimee Thomas-McCracken Barbour is founder and CEO of Arise for Families, which provided emergency food for over 3,000 indigenous people in Uganda during the COVID-19 pandemic.

'03 Torin Brazzle, founder of IGNITE! Alabama, has received a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to support IGNITE! Alabama's Doing Business in Alabama program.

'03 Matt Grimes is now serving as lead pastor at TriStar Church, a contemporary church that recently launched in Knoxville, Tennessee.

'03 Aryvia Holmes was hired as head football coach at McAdory High School in Jefferson County.

'03 Sara Gossum Johnson has been promoted to general manager of the Montana Division of the BNSF railroad.

'03 Dennis Willingham has been appointed superintendent of Walker County Schools.

'03 **Melissa Wright** has been named on the 2021 Super Lawyers List in the Family Law division in Wilmington, North Carolina.

'04 **Jennifer Pharr Davis** has been appointed to the President's Council for Sports, Fitness and Nutrition.

'04 **John Florence Jr.**, vice president of human resources, general counsel and secretary for Sonoco Products Company, has been elected to the Coker University Board of Trustees.

'04 **Dr. Paul N. McDaniel** recently earned tenure and promotion to associate professor of Geography at Kennesaw State University.

'05 **Leigh Davis** will serve as chair for Samford University's Board of Overseers for a three-year term.

'06 **Andrew Burrow** has been named assistant professor of religion at Carson-Newman University.

'06 **Dr. Brittney Gould Crain** is now the clinic manager for Health Actions Physical Therapy-East Dothan, in Dothan, Alabama.

'06 **Dr. Lindsey Harris** has been elected as the first African American president of The Alabama Nurses Association in its 107-year history. Harris has also been named a Next GenBHM: Health, Tech and Innovation winner for 2020.

'06, '07 **James Moody** has been appointed to serve as chair of the Alabama Society of Certified Public Accountants (ASCPA) for a one-year term beginning in June 2021.

'06 **Dr. John Ogeorek** has joined Maine Medical Partners-Women's Health.

'06 **Lockett Tally**, an attorney in Fayetteville, North Carolina, has joined the Board of Trustees at Fayetteville Technical Community College.

'07 **Bart Allen** has been named vice chair of the Central Florida Development Council.

'07 **Keith Blackwood** has been named the new Chief Assistant District Attorney for the Mobile County District Attorney's Office.

'07 **Michael Deen** has been appointed to serve as Judge on the Orange County Court in Florida.

'07 **Mary Blanch Neese Hankey** will serve as chief counsel and policy advisor for Senator Tommy Tuberville.

'07 **Jeremy Sandefur** has been elected as the next president and headmaster at Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy/The King's Academy.

'07 **Bailey Sexton** has been appointed as the new International Society of Appraisers (ISA) Director of Marketing.

'08 **Britney "Brit" Blalock** was recently named one of the 2020 honorees of the sixth annual Women Who Shape the State, presented by This is Alabama.

'08, '09 **Roger Dobnikar** has been named principal at Liberty Park Middle School.

'08, '11 **Sydney Trew** has been promoted to partner at Moore Colson.

'09 **Andy Jackson** was named Alabama Teacher of the Year. Jackson received the honor for his outstanding work as a fourth grade teacher at Eden Elementary in Pell City, Alabama, where he has taught for the last eight years.

'09 **Tina Person Garner** became one of the first African American women to be sworn in as district attorney in Gwinnett County, Georgia.

'09 **Summer McWhorter** has been appointed to the role of Deputy D.A., for the 9th Judicial Circuit, Cherokee County.

'09 **Jessica Whatley O'Connor** has been named to *Georgia Trend* magazine's prestigious 40 Under 40 list for 2020.

2010s

'10 **Heather Civils** has been named to the *Birmingham Business Journal's* NextGenBHM list.

'10 **Emily L. Hart** has been named COO for MotionMobs, a Birmingham technology company.

'10 **Brenda Jacobs** has returned to Mainline Health Systems, Inc. as a nurse practitioner.

'10 **Dr. Ashlin Martin Paz** has been announced as the new OB/GYN doctor for Sweetwater Hospital in Tennessee.

'10 **Lindsay Singletary Whitworth** has been promoted to shareholder at Maynard Cooper & Gale.

'11 **Pamela Springrose Hallford** has been selected as one of three shareholders to lead Carr Allison's first Georgia office.

'11 **Ruby Jackson** has joined the Momentum Upward Early-Career Program Class.

'11 **Dr. Connor Ojard**, board-certified Orthopedic Surgeon, has joined Cullman Regional.

'12 **Emily Armantrout** has been honored as a Forty Under 40 for the Public Relations Society of America's Georgia Chapter.

'12 **Caleb Bowman** has joined the Salvation Army's Chattanooga Area Command as a new board member.

'12 **Thomas Fellows** has completed his fourth book, *Mrs. Dubose's Last Wish: The art of embracing suffering*.

'12 **Kori Bledsoe Jones** has been hired by Nolensville, Tennessee as interim town attorney. Jones is an attorney with Mounger & Molder PLLC and serves as the City Attorney for the City of Mt. Pleasant.

'12 **Lauren Sanderson Miller** was named one of *The Birmingham Business Journals'* 2020 Women to Watch.

'12 **Dan Ruth** has been named to the *Birmingham Business Journal's* NextGenBHM list.

'12 **Alyssa Whitehead** has been announced as the next head coach of the women's soccer program at Milligan University.

'13 **Emmanuel Antwine** has been named to the *Birmingham Business Journal's* NextGenBHM list.

'13 **Heather Robertson Hill** has been named partner at Lloyd & Dinning.

'13 **Sidney Jackson** has been named to the *Birmingham Business Journal's* NextGenBHM list.

'13, '18 **Jenee Spencer** has joined the Momentum Upward Early-Career Program Class.

'13 Arthur Strauss, CFP, has acquired independent wealth advisory firm, Strauss Financial Group, Inc. and has been named CEO.

'14 Nina Herring has been named to the *Birmingham Business Journal's* NextGenBHM list.

'14 Heather Robertson Hill has become a partner in the law firm Lloyd & Dinning, LLC.

'14 Al Teel has been promoted to partner at Burr & Forman.

'15 Mollie Bounds, fourth grade teacher at Athens Renaissance School, has been chosen by Athens City Schools as Teacher of the Year.

'15 James Bradberry was named one of the New York Giants Top 7 Most Critical Players of 2020. He also was named to the Pro Football Focus list of top 101 players from the 2020 football season.

'15 Patrick Chambless was named Elkmont High School's Teacher of the Year.

'16 Oluwabunmi Dada has been selected by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education for the Academic Leadership Development Institute cohort of 2021.

'16 Dr. Kerry Donaldson, assistant principal at James Clemens High School, has been named administrator of The Academy for Madison City Schools.

'16 Dr. Joe Hagood has been named president of Bevill State, which has four campuses and an educational site.

'16 Brook Robertson has been added to the real estate practice group of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP in the Birmingham office.

'16 Brandi Russell has joined Balch & Bingham as the chief diversity and inclusion officer and director of talent management.

'16 Nathan Yoguez has joined Brigham and Women's Hospital pursuing public health research to personalize medicine. He is currently attending Harvard Medical School for their program in effective writing for health care.

'17 Anna Akers has been named to the *Birmingham Business Journal's* NextGenBHM list.

'17 Alexis Crutchfield has joined Miller & Martin PLLC as an associate in the Chattanooga, Tennessee office.

'17 Jordan Jackson has been named to the *Birmingham Business Journal's* NextGenBHM list and a NextGenBHM: Health, Tech and Innovation winner for 2020.

'17 David Manush has joined the litigation practice with Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe, PC.

'17 Trey Perdue has joined Clark, May, Price, Lawley, Duncan & Paul, LLC as an associate.

'18 Gage C. Smythe has joined Cornelius & Collins, LLP as an associate attorney.

'18 Wesley Walters has released *The Virus that Came to Town*, a children's book that shares about health measures during a pandemic.

'19 Averie Armstead has been selected to serve on the inaugural core leadership team for Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin's Women's Initiative.

'19 Austin Boyd has joined Sirote & Permutt, P.C. as an associate in the Birmingham office as a member of the tax practice group.

'19 Taylor McCarley recently joined Big Communications as a business development coordinator.

'19 Mia Owens is the inaugural fellow for a new, two-year public history graduate fellowship in the history of slavery and its legacies in Washington, D.C. The fellowship is a partnership between The White House Historical Association and AU's Antiracist Research & Policy Center.

'19 Katherine "Kat" Conner Sterling is one of four lead actors in *A Week Away* on Netflix.

2020s

'20 Anna Bain earned the American Advertising Federation (AAF) Birmingham Student of the Year ADDY Award for her work at Samford.

'20 Robert Blakesley has joined Sirote & Permutt, PC.

'20 Theo Edwards-Butler has recently launched, "The Modern Green Book" and is founder and CEO.

'20 Nolan Clark has joined the Montgomery office of Balch & Bingham as a member of the Litigation Practice.

'20 Andrew Edge joins Huie, Fernambucq & Stewart, LLP as an associate attorney in Huie's automotive litigation, product liability, nursing home litigation and general insurance defense practice groups.

'20 Hugh Gainer has joined Maynard Cooper & Gale as an associate in the insurance and financial services litigation practice.

'20 Brooke L. Messina has joined Lightfoot, Franklin & White, LLC in the firm's Birmingham office.

'20 Daniel Moss has joined Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz P.C. as an associate.

'20 Elizabeth Pilcher has joined Maynard Cooper & Gale as an associate in the insurance and financial services litigation practice.

'20 Brock Pinson has joined Watson Spence.

'20 Page Secreast received a National Gold Key award from the Public Relations Student Society of America. The award is the highest individual honor bestowed upon PRSSA members and recognizes outstanding academic excellence in public relations and leadership in the organization.

'20 Nathan Stotser has joined Sirote & Permutt, P.C.

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NEW ARRIVALS



Vivian Hope Hutchins, a daughter, born August 8, 2019. Parents are Ricky Hutchins '07 and Eden Richardson Hutchins '07 of Atlanta, Georgia. **1**

Foster Malone Labak, a son, born November 19, 2019. Parents are Dr. Lauren Malone Labak '15 and Seth Labak of Loxley, Alabama. **2**

Madeline Culbreth, a daughter, born March 8, 2020. Parents are Matthew Culbreth '11 and Elizabeth "Craig" Kleimeyer Culbreth '12 of Marietta, Georgia. **3**

Eli William Kenney, a son, born March 9, 2020. Parents are Rachel Cason Kenney '15 and Jacob Kenney of Opelika, Alabama. He joins big brother, Caleb.

Molly Campbell McNamara, a daughter, born March 11, 2020. Parents are Alex McNamara '15 and Katie McNamara of Birmingham, Alabama. **4**

Merritt Elizabeth Faulkner, a daughter, born March 16, 2020. Parents are Melia Faulkner '14 and Austin Faulkner of Warrior, Alabama. **5**

Nora Blaze Burks, a daughter, born April 3, 2020. Parents are Dr. Ross Burks '16 & Cassity Burks of Moody, Alabama. **6**

Joseph Rhett Owens, a son, born May 13, 2020. Parents are Joseph Owens III '15 and Kristi Owens of Gadsden, Alabama. **7**

Virginia Grace Davies, a daughter, born July 13, 2020. Parents are Josh Davies '15 and Katherine Clemens Davies '15 of Franklin, Tennessee.

Barrett Levi Graham, a son, born July 14, 2020. Parents are Brooke Smith Graham '14 and James Graham '14 of Birmingham, Alabama. **8**

William Patrick Couch, a son, born July 31, 2020. Parents are Natalie Couch '04 and Sean Couch of Owens Cross Roads, Alabama. **9**

George Gregory Tanner, a son, born August 4, 2020. Parents are Molly Michaud Tanner '08 and Greg Tanner of Sandy Springs, Georgia. He joins big sister, Lydia. **10**

Ava Rose Evans, a daughter, born August 12, 2020. Parents are Roderick Evans '07 and Cornesha Terry Evans of Hoover, Alabama. **11**

Blaire Elizabeth Burress, a daughter, born August 23, 2020. Parents are Olivia Wagoner Burress '11 and Brian Burress of Simpsonville, South Carolina. **12**

Teagan Olivia Torti, a daughter, born August 21, 2020. Parents are Sarah Moorad Torti '07 and Christopher Torti '04 of Nolensville, Tennessee. **13**

Fuller Williams Knight, a son, born October 3, 2020. Parents are Melissa Plash Knight '09 and Chris Knight of Fairhope, Alabama. He joins big sister, Ann Douglas. **14**

James Leland Schlundt, a son, born December 10, 2020. Parents are Karisa Bassett Schlundt '10 and Walden Schlundt of Birmingham, Alabama. **15**

Emily Millicent Fawcett, a daughter, born January 21, 2021. Parents are Carter Ann Chambliss Fawcett '10 and John William Fawcett '09 of Smyrna, Georgia. **16**

Luke Morgan Stinson, a son, born January 30, 2021. Parents are Morgan Howard Stinson '06, '10 and Eric Stinson of Hartselle, Alabama. **17**

Charlotte Jane Hyde, a daughter, born February 9, 2021. Parents are Lauren Bates Hyde '13 and Foster Hyde of Mountain Brook, Alabama. **18**



IN MEMORIAM

'43 Jo Medlin Ballard, age 97, of Mountain Brook, Alabama, died Sept. 8, 2020.

'44 Fred Halbrooks, age 100, formerly of Decatur, Alabama, died on Feb. 8, 2021.

'45 Anne Thornton Neill, age 96, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on Friday, March 12, 2021.

'46 Benna Jean Dowdey, age 92, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on March 4, 2021.

'46 Wilma Awbrey Duke, age 95, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, died Sept. 16, 2020.

'47 Doyal Hutto Good, age 97, of Pinson, Alabama, died Nov. 6, 2020.

'48 Mary Anne Boswell Givens, age 94, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Nov. 26, 2020.

'48 Lester Alonzo Watson, Jr., age 94, of Pell City, Alabama, died Oct. 16, 2020.

'49 Dr. Clarence Donald Cheatham, age 97, of Tullahoma, Tennessee, died Sept. 18, 2020.

'49 Patricia Trent Scofield, age 91, of Mountain Brook, Alabama, died on March 22, 2021.

'49 Jean Daugherty Williams, age 94, of Fairhope, Alabama, died on Jan. 29, 2021.

'50 Dr. David Carl Gustafson, age 91, of Birmingham, Michigan, died Sept. 23, 2020.

'51 Thelma Roe Cofer, age 94, of Webb, Alabama, died Jan. 7, 2021.

'51 Thomas Letcher Lucius, age 93, of Waverly, Alabama, died Oct. 26, 2020.

'51 Pheroba Ann Thomas, age 91, of Fort Payne, Alabama, died on April 5, 2021.

'51 Clinton Mason Wood, age 93, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on April 3, 2021.

'51 Dr. Robert W. Youngblood, Jr., age 90, of Florence, South Carolina, died on Jan. 16, 2021.

'52 Rev. Dr. Harper Shannon, age 89, of Montgomery, Alabama, died Dec. 30, 2020.

'52 Rev. Dr. Leo "Dudley" Wilson, age 90, of Mobile, Alabama, died Jan. 12, 2021.

'53 Pauline J. "Polly" Clarke, age 91, of Montgomery, Alabama, died on April 4, 2021.

'53 Joan Cunningham Heidelberg, age 87, of Troy, Ohio, died August 14, 2020.

'53 Dr. Paul Anderson Talmadge, age 92, of Rock Hill, South Carolina, died Nov. 20, 2020.

'54 Hon. William "Bill" Robinson, age 88, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Jan. 2, 2021.

'55 Sarah Dedman Arthur, age 88, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Sept. 6, 2020.

'55 Rev. Charles Reece Woods, Sr., age 86, of Albertville, Alabama, died Sept. 16, 2020.

'56 John Earl Craig, Jr., age 89, of Dothan, Alabama, died Aug. 23, 2020.

'56 Dr. Gresham Talmadge Farrar, Jr., age 87, of Metairie, Louisiana, died on Feb. 4, 2021.

'56 Sarah Sue Partin, age 87, of Durham, North Carolina, died March 12, 2021.

'56 Sarah Joe Lamb, age 85, of Gulf Breeze, Florida, died Dec. 17, 2020.

'56 Rev. Ronald Whelan Palmer, age 86, of Lexington, South Carolina, died Jan. 8, 2021.

'57 Rosemary Cox Bamberg, age 85, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on May 9, 2020.

'57 Ltc Luther "Joe" Braswell, age 89, of Vestavia Hills, Alabama, died Dec. 1, 2020.

'57 John Floyd Clower, age 90, of Winston, Georgia, died Nov. 4, 2020.

'57 Dr. Vernon Delane O'Rear, age 83, of Nauvoo, Alabama, died Aug. 20, 2020.

'57 James "Jim" Peck, age 91, of Knoxville, Tennessee, died on Feb. 1, 2021.

'58 Rev. Delmus Anthony, age 85, of Jasper, Alabama, died on Feb. 22, 2021.

'58 Dwayne Hawkins, age 85, of St. Petersburg, Florida, died Dec. 24, 2020.

'58 Dr. Charles Douglas McCullough, Sr., age 87, of Thompson's Station, Tennessee, died Aug. 4, 2019.

'58 William "Malcom" Tuck, age 87, of Jasper, Alabama, died Sept. 16, 2020.

'59 John "Johnny" David Humphreys, age 83, of Ooltewah, Tennessee, died on Feb. 14, 2021.

'59 Judy "Ann" Breckenridge Mann, age 82, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Jan. 5, 2021.

'59 Rev. Zeak "Sonny" Clifford Mitchell, Jr., age 87, of Mount Hope, Alabama, died Nov. 29, 2020.

'60 Shirley Sharp Clark, age 82, of Snellville, Georgia, died Oct. 31, 2020.

'60 Rev. O. Thomas Eason, age 83, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, died on March 12, 2021.

'60 Mary Nell Lockhart, age 81, of Hoover, Alabama, died on February 4, 2021.

'60 Carolyn Yeager Robinson, age 82, of Alabaster, Alabama, died Dec. 18, 2020.

'60 Isaac "Bud" Marion Sumners, age 83, of Tallahassee, Florida, died Nov. 23, 2020.

'60 Colon Dean Woodham, age 82, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Sept. 24, 2020.

'61 Coleman Kimbrell, age 90, of Florence, Alabama, died on Jan. 16, 2021.

'61 Betty A. Scharf, age 81, of Hoover, Alabama, died on March 14, 2021.

'62 Dr. Charles "Charlie" Samuel Capra, age 86, of Smith Lake, Alabama, died on March 25, 2021.

'62 Sharon Covington Heddle, age 80, of Santee, South Carolina, died Sept. 7, 2020.

'62 Dr. Sherrill Virginia Martin, age 80, of Wilmington, North Carolina, died Dec. 1, 2020.

'62 Leslie "Bill" Springer, age 79, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on Jan. 18, 2021.

'63 Walling Shook Keith, Jr., age 80, of Mountain Brook, Alabama, died Dec. 28, 2020.

'63 Robert "Bob" Douglas Kelley, Jr., age 81, of Sylva, North Carolina, died Nov. 11, 2020.

'63 James Truman Parrott, age 80, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on April 12, 2021.

'63 Dr. Jere Wayne Patterson, age 84, of Decatur, Alabama, died Dec. 12, 2020.

'64 Benjamin "Ben" E. Bingham, age 77, of Hoover, Alabama, died April 27, 2020.

'64 Joseph Lamar Vaughn, age 78, of Geneva, Alabama, died Oct. 13, 2020.

'64, '70 Aubrey Williams Payton, age 102, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on Feb. 7, 2021.

'65, '74 Robert Boyce, age 77, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Jan. 28, 2021.

'65 Harold "Lavon" Nichols, age 79, of Mountain Brook, Alabama, died Oct. 29, 2020.

'65 Mary Davis Smith, of Austin, Texas, died Dec. 28, 2016.

'65 Dr. Travis Jordan Tindal, age 76, of Jacksons Gap, Alabama, died Sept. 11, 2019.

'66 James Richard Anderson, age 77, of Altoona, Alabama, died on Feb. 26, 2021.

'66 Peggy Kelly, age 76, of Wenatchee, Washington, died on Feb. 2, 2021.

'66 Gordon Wayne Linderman, age 80, of Decatur, Alabama, died on Feb. 26, 2021.

'66 John "Jack" Shoemaker, age 95, of Gainesville, Florida, died on March 2, 2021.

'66 James "Jim" Stanley Witcher, Jr., age 80, of Mountain Brook, Alabama, died Dec. 24, 2020.

'67 Rev. William "Billy" Harris Austin, age 77, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, died Sept. 12, 2020.

'67 Jack E. Brymer, Sr., age 84, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Oct. 28, 2020.

'68 John David Bevis, age 79, of Florence, Alabama, died Oct. 30, 2020.

'68 Luther Rhinehart Boyd, age 80, of Gulfport, Mississippi, died Jan. 4, 2021.

'68 Howard Wayne Merritt, age 74, of Avondale Estates, Georgia, died Aug. 5, 2020.

'68 Randy Robbe, age 73, of Statesville, North Carolina, died on Jan. 28, 2021.

'68 Leigh Schniper, age 75, of Mountain Brook, Alabama, died on April 9, 2021.

'69 Beryl Jackson Anderson, age 72, of Montgomery, Alabama, died Sept. 9, 2020.

'69 Gary Lee Harrington, age 75, of Panama City, Florida, died Nov. 9, 2020.

'69 Robert Frederick Hester, age 75, of Tallahassee, Florida, died Nov. 1, 2020.

'69, '94 Dr. Calvin Marvin Howard, age 83, of Homewood, Alabama, died Oct. 17, 2020.

'69 William "Bill" E. Penney, Jr., age 73, of Huntsville, Alabama, died Nov. 4, 2020.

'69 James R. Woods, age 72, of Jasper, Alabama, died on Jan. 19, 2021.

'70 Emmett Blocher, Jr., age 72, of Cullman, Alabama, died Jan. 7, 2021.

'71 Rev. Riley Joe Enfinger, age 82, of Dothan, Alabama, died March 10, 2021.

'71 Elizabeth "Sue" Grimsley, age 74, of Molino, Florida, died Jan. 12, 2021.

'71 Hon. James "Jimmy" W. McKenzie, age 76, of Dayton, Tennessee, died Jan. 2, 2021.

'72 Barton Willoughby, age 70, of Gordon, Alabama, died Sept. 22, 2020.

'73 S. Allen Bradley Baker Jr., age 73, of Mountain Brook, died Oct. 27, 2020.

'73 Rev. Robert Alvis Bradley, Jr., age 81, of Montgomery, Alabama, died Dec. 29, 2020.

'73 Carrol Hartford Cox, age 74, of Hueytown, Alabama, died Nov. 14, 2020.

'74 Lawrence Richard Rausch, age 73, of Middleburg, Florida, died March 1, 2021.

'75 Honorable James George Troiano, age 71, of Brielle, New Jersey, died on March 31, 2021.

'76 Anthony D. Mancinelli, age 70, of Williamsville, New York, died Feb. 27, 2021.

'76 Alan Richard Walter, age 67, of Owensboro, Kentucky, died Jan. 9, 2021.

'77 Ralph Richard "Rick" Anderson, age 69, of Branchville, Alabama, died Oct. 18, 2020.

'77 Lorelei "Lori" Harris Spikes, age 63, of Mobile, Alabama, died Nov. 21, 2020.

'78 David Montgomery Hardee, 67, of Jackson, Tennessee, died on March 17, 2021.

'79 Davidson "David" Lynn Laning, age 72, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Dec. 11, 2020.

'79 Dr. Billie Jean Young, age 73, of Marion, Alabama, died on March 30, 2021.

'80 James Lee Horsley, age 62, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Sept. 5, 2020.

'80 William Frawley Staub, age 63, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on Nov. 16, 2020.

'81 Penny W. Urbanek, age 62, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Oct. 1, 2020.

'83 David Ray McAdams, age 70, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, died Jan. 4, 2021.

'83 Rev. Mickey A. Jones, age 62, of Coal City/Wattsville, Alabama, died on Jan. 29, 2021.

'83 Linda H. Meier, age 79, of Mountain Brook, Alabama, died Jan. 12, 2021.

'84 Frank Williams, age 64, of Southborough, Massachusetts, died on Jan. 26, 2021.

'84 James Haywood Graddy, age 61, of Cottonwood, Alabama, died on March 20, 2021.

'84 Sue Ellard Martin, age 86, of Mountain Brook, Alabama, died April 8, 2021.

'85 Chandler Vreeland, age 62, of Marietta, Georgia, died on Feb. 12, 2021.

'85 Julia Ann Lake, Esq., age 72, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, died on March 21, 2021.

'87 Jacqueline Jones Cockrell, age 81, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Oct. 4, 2020.

'87 Elizabeth "Lisa" Compton Sallo, age 55, of Huntsville, Alabama, died Sept. 8, 2020.

'89 Gregory "Greg" Keith Burdine, age 61, of Florence, Alabama, died Dec. 13, 2020.

'89 Michael Keith Tedder, age 57, of Atlanta, Georgia, died Oct. 17, 2020.

'89 Joseph "Joe" Wiley, age 63, of Columbus, Georgia, died on Jan. 16, 2021.

'90 Neal George Hart, age 65, of Salt Lake City, Utah, died Sept. 11, 2020.

'90 Deborah Fioravante White, age 64, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Oct. 12, 2020.

'92 Katherine "Kathy" Young Martin, age 51, of Metropolis, Illinois, died Oct. 17, 2020.

'95 James "Brent" Fleming, age 51, of Wise, Virginia, died on March 28, 2021.

'95 Robert Daniel "Dan" Hester, age 49, of Spring Hill, Tennessee, died Dec. 1, 2020.

'95 Eric Thomas Skipwith, age 48, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Nov. 17, 2020.

'95 Surpora Lee Thomas, age 80, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Oct. 3, 2020.

'97 Terry Charles Beaird, age 68, of Atlanta, Georgia, died Dec. 22, 2020.

'98 Patricia "Patsy" F. Hutchison, age 72, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Sept. 27, 2020.

'03 Raymond Newton, Jr., age 53, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on Dec. 22, 2020.

'09 Wesley "Wes" Earl Alexander, age 34, of Madison, Alabama, died Jan. 4, 2021.

'11 Timothy Edward Willis, age 32, of Barnesville, Georgia, died Dec. 19, 2020.

'14 Allen Barton DeMent, age 29, of Atlanta, Georgia, died Nov. 23, 2020.

Former Faculty Dr. Denita Renée Steinbach-Drees, age 55, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Sept. 29, 2020.

Former Staff William Michael "Mike" Coppage, age 71, of Irondale, Alabama, died Jan. 1, 2021.

Former Staff Elizabeth A. Hopson, age 72, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Sept. 9, 2020.

Retired Faculty Sara Dominick Clark, age 102, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Nov. 8, 2020.

Retired Faculty Eleanor "Nora" O. Ousley, age 94, of Vestavia, Alabama, died Nov. 3, 2020.

Retired Staff Harold W. Riffe, age 92, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Sept. 13, 2020.

Former Trustee Rex Jackson Lysinger, Sr., age 83, of Destin, Florida, died Oct. 1, 2020.

Friend Judy Riddle Archer, age 80, of Trussville, Alabama, died Aug. 21, 2020.

Friend Audrey Carr Evans Cowley, age 93, of Vestavia Hills, Alabama, died Dec. 11, 2020.

Friend H. Corbin Day, age 83, of Mountain Brook, Alabama, died Jan. 10, 2021.

Friend Barbara Carlisle Head, age 89, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Jan. 6, 2021.

Friend Billie H. Pigford, age 93, of Lookout Mountain, Tennessee, died Oct. 21, 2020.

Friend Dr. John Carlton Smith, age 83, of Vestavia Hills, Alabama, died June 17, 2020.

Friend Lanny Sterling Vines, age 80, of Hoover, Alabama, died Dec. 9, 2020.

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, contact Rochelle Harrison at rochelle.belton@samford.edu.



Welcome back to Samford Arts

We are rolling out the red carpet for our Samford friends to come see our ensembles, guest artists, faculty and more.

Matter & Spirit

Clarence Brooks Art & Design Series
Sept. 1-Oct. 7, Art Gallery

Faculty Gala

Sponsored by Patty McDonald
Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall

Randy Atcheson Christian Ministry Benefit Concert

Sept. 19, 4 p.m., Reid Chapel

Hymn Sing, Family Weekend

Sept. 26, 2 p.m., Reid Chapel

The Wind in the Willows

Emma Taylor Theatre for Youth Series
Oct. 1-3, Harrison Theatre

Disclosure, Tad Gloeckler

Clarence Brooks Art & Design Series
Oct. 19-Nov. 19, Art Gallery

Crumbs from the Table of Joy

Michael J. and Mary Anne Freeman Theatre and Dance Series
Sponsored by Alabama Power and The Daniel Foundation
and part of the Diversity Series
Oct. 28-31, Harrison Theatre

A Christmas Carol, the musical

Michael J. and Mary Anne Freeman Theatre and Dance Series
Sponsored by Elouise Williams
Dec. 2-5, Wright Center

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

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. 8, 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

Laramie Project

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

Dance Concert

Michael J. and Mary Anne Freeman Theatre and Dance Series
Feb. 24-27, 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
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ticket information.



The Big Give

Celebrates the Westmorelands, Raises \$235,693 for Scholarships

by Rochelle Harrison

Spring marked the return of Samford's foremost philanthropic tradition. On April 13-14, friends of Samford united to celebrate the tenure of Andrew and Jeanna Westmoreland during the eighth annual Samford Big Give. In honor of their 15 years of service, 1,439 alumni, employees, students and friends contributed \$235,693 to endowed scholarships established by the Westmorelands in each of Samford's academic schools.

"The support our friends show toward Samford is always humbling and encouraging, but it was especially so on this occasion," said Randy Pittman, vice president for university advancement. "Andy and Jeanna's leadership means so much to Samford, and I am grateful that many in our community feel the same way."

Samford students joined the two-day celebration with the #JustGiveFive campaign, which originated as a challenge offered by alumni Chase Ezell '88 and Keith Kirkland '88. The campaign invited students to make a \$5 gift, replicate a comical graduation photo of the longtime friends and share their version on social media.





In recognition of the leadership and retirement of Samford's 18th President and First Lady, Andrew and Jeanna Westmoreland, this year's Big Give focused on supporting need and merit-based scholarships and diversity initiatives across the university.

"We loved the premise of making a big impact with small gifts, so our goal was to find a small way for students to do this and have fun along the way," Kirkland said.

More than 160 students joined the challenge, raising more than \$1,500 for scholarships.

"We're incredibly proud of Samford's students," Ezell said. "This campaign was entirely for them, so to see how they turned out to support one another is amazing."

The 36-hour celebration was further amplified by the Samford Black Alumni Association, whose efforts topped \$25,182 for scholarships and initiatives for underrepresented students, and the participation of Samford's faculty and staff with nearly 65% of employees pledging their support for students and programs.

"The Big Give truly brings out the best in everyone at Samford," said Kim Cripps, director of stewardship. "The event isn't about how much you give, it's about finding what interests you and getting involved in something you love."

Punctuated with numerous gift challenges, matches and a series of memorable video reflections from some of the president's closest colleagues and friends, the Big Give was a joyous commemoration of Andrew and Jeanna Westmoreland's service to students and the Samford community. ▀



Night of Celebration Honors the Legacy of Andrew and Jeanna Westmoreland

by Ashley Smith

The Samford community celebrated former President and First Lady Andrew and Jeanna Westmoreland on April 27 in the Pete Hanna Center with a night of musical entertainment and personal tributes. Westmoreland made one request for the night—for it to feature student talent—and with the support of Samford's School of the Arts, it did just that.

Samford's orchestra, jazz band, wind ensemble, brass ensemble, commercial music ensemble and A Cappella Choir all took part in the event. "It was very meaningful to honor the Westmorelands with a live, in-person collaboration with multiple groups from the School of the Arts after a year of smaller, more isolated concerts," said

Anna Kate Saucier, a flute player and senior, nursing major.

In addition to music ensembles and a Broadway musical number, the evening was sprinkled with video testimonials and heartfelt gratitude for the entire Westmoreland family. Westmoreland even participated himself, paying tribute to his wife by

playing his trumpet in a rendition of "You're Still the One" with the help of Samford's new commercial music ensemble, directed by Steven Potaczek, assistant professor of commercial music.

Videos from members of the Samford community and the broader higher education community applauded the work of the Westmorelands. Of the many testimonials, their daughter Riley, a 2012 alumna, may have described the spirit of the Westmorelands best. She noted how they had not planned to come to Samford, but "God changed their plans. They were faithful and found such joy in it."

She explained there is no distinction for her parents in terms of work and calling. "Work is a calling. Our calling demands our lives and that is who they are," she said.

Michael Morgan, assistant to the president, offered a few personal reflections. Although he said it was "impossible to pay tribute" to their 15 years of service, Morgan used Scripture to express his gratitude and thank the Westmorelands for always pointing Samford toward Jesus.

At the conclusion of the event, William Stevens, chair of Samford's





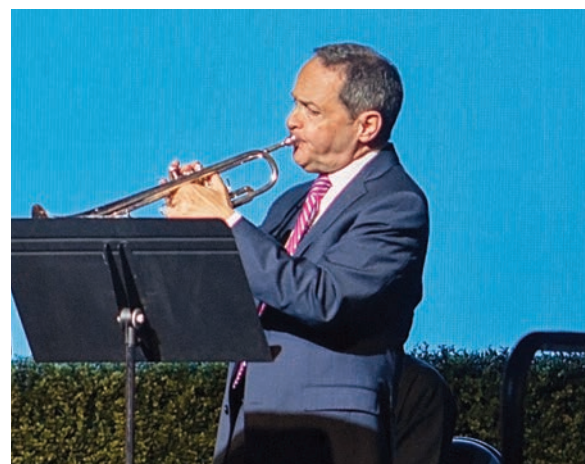
“God changed their plans. They were faithful and found such joy in it.”



Board of Trustees presented the Westmorelands with numerous gifts. Most notably, they were named alumni honoris causa by the Board of Trustees, which includes them as lifetime members of the Samford family. In addition, they received leather boxes brimming with notes written by Samford students, parents, alumni and employees and a commissioned painting by Larry Thompson, associate dean of the School

of the Arts and longtime friend to the Westmoreland family.

Providing his own reflections, Westmoreland recounted his first day at Samford in June 2006. He received two notes on his desk, one from the then outgoing President Thomas E. Corts and one from his successor, Beck A. Taylor, who was then the dean of Samford’s Brock School of Business. “God’s providence is magnificent,” he said. ▀





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