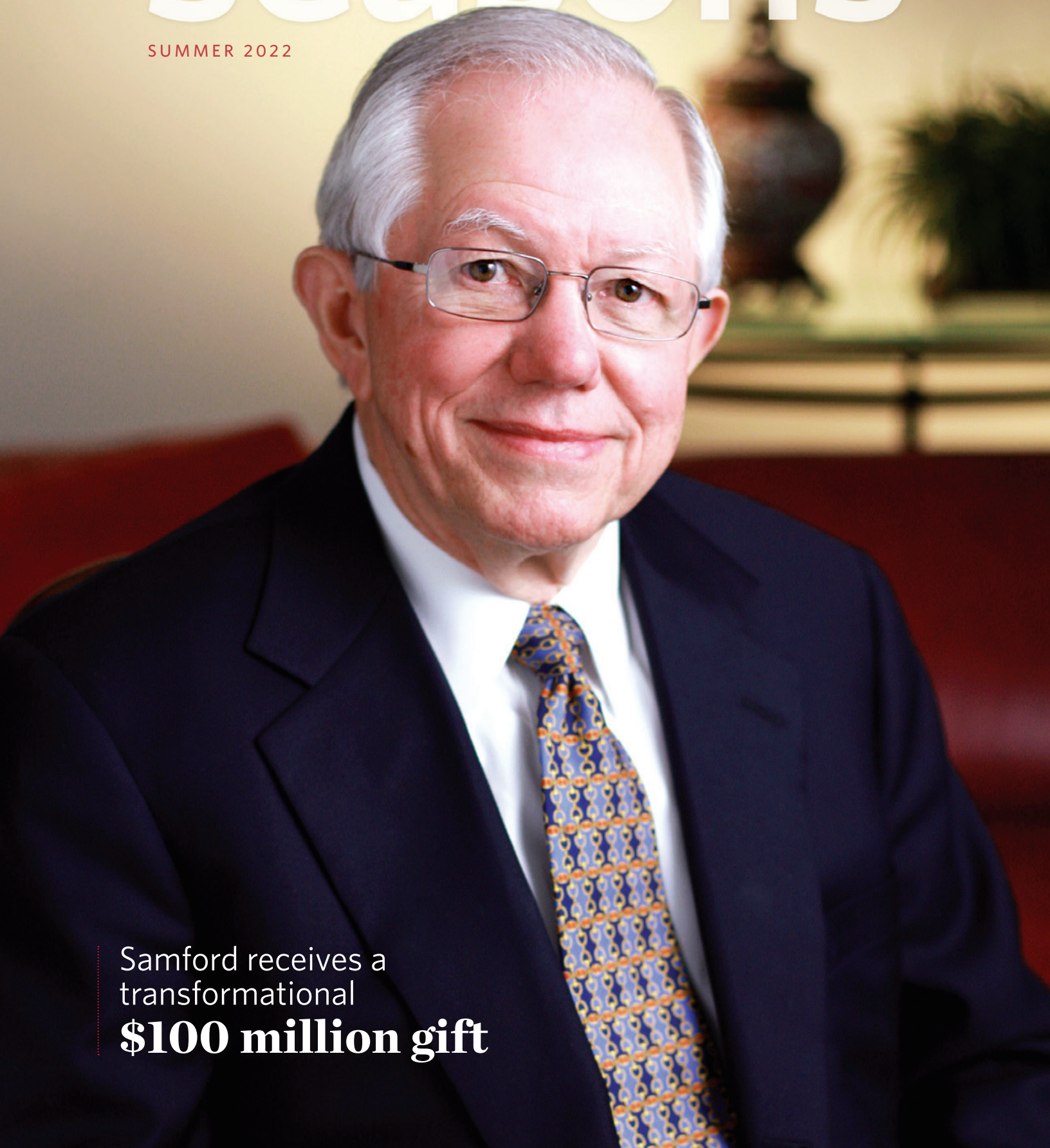


THE MAGAZINE OF SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

seasons

SUMMER 2022



Samford receives a
transformational
\$100 million gift

Contents



Samford Awards Degrees to 1,287 Students

Thousands of friends and family celebrated Samford's graduating class of 2022 across five commencement ceremonies.



Celebrating Marvin Mann's Legacy

As the first member of his immediate family to graduate from college, it is poignant that Marvin Mann '54 directed the university to use \$95 million of his historic \$100 million gift for student scholarships.



Experiential Learning Prepares Students to Succeed

A Samford education extends beyond the classroom through experiential learning, community service and study abroad opportunities.

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On Tuesday, Feb. 15, Samford officially dedicated its Racial Reconciliation Memorial during a public worship service on campus. The memorial honors the many contributions of African Americans who built and sustain the institution's mission while affirming the university's commitment to reconciliation. After the worship service, hundreds of students, employees and friends gathered at the memorial to lay roses in silent reflection and contemplation of its purpose. The memorial was authorized by the Board of Trustees and originally installed on May 5, 2020. However, the public dedication was delayed due to COVID-19.



From the President



Extravagant Generosity

On a beautiful day this past May, I had a privilege afforded to very few university presidents—the opportunity to announce a gift to Samford so generous that it can only be described as extravagant.

Marvin Mann's '54 estate gift of \$100 million to Samford is a game changer. Not only will it provide millions of dollars of financial support to undergraduate and graduate students and their families, thereby making a Samford education more accessible to many, it also places the university on firmer financial ground, adding to the university's endowment which is established to support and sustain Samford until Christ comes again.

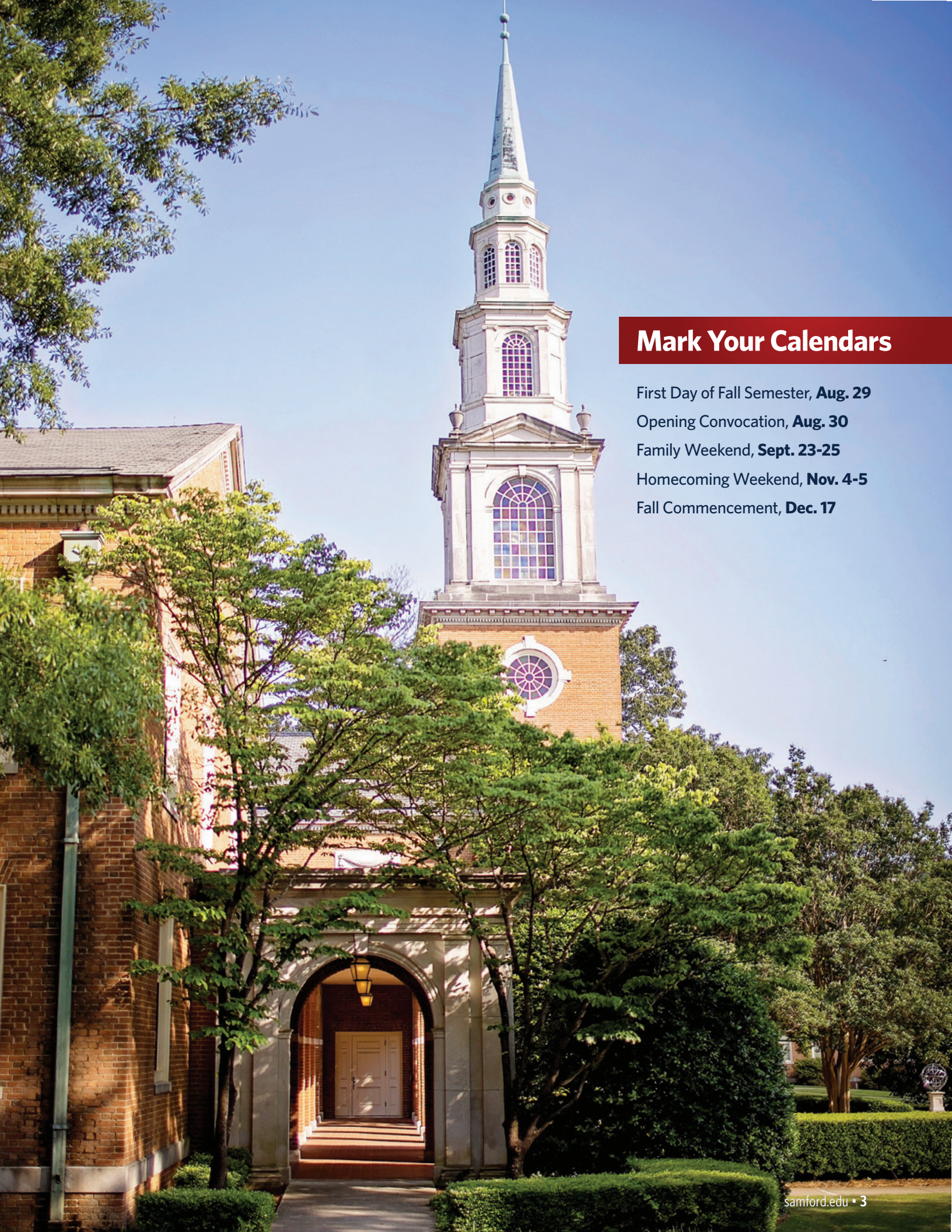
I met Marvin in 2006, and working together with other Samford colleagues including President Emeritus Andy Westmoreland, we established the Frances Marlin Mann Center for Ethics and Leadership at Samford, an entity that will also benefit from Marvin's largesse. I understood then what is now so apparent to all of us—Marvin loved Samford, and he was committed to seeing the university and its people flourish.

Marvin's love for Samford was rooted in the transformational experience he had here as a first-generation college student. While working side jobs and hitchhiking to Howard College in the early 1950s, Marvin was introduced to the world of ideas and opportunity. His Christian faith was strengthened. And when he graduated, he was equipped to serve others.

Marvin Mann showed extravagant love to us—to Samford. May we be quick to demonstrate the same to others.

In the Samford spirit,

Beck A. Taylor, Ph.D.
President



Mark Your Calendars

First Day of Fall Semester, **Aug. 29**

Opening Convocation, **Aug. 30**

Family Weekend, **Sept. 23-25**

Homecoming Weekend, **Nov. 4-5**

Fall Commencement, **Dec. 17**

Recognizing Faculty and Student Achievement



Kristin A. Bakkegard, the Paul N. Propst Professor of Natural Sciences in Howard College of Arts and Sciences, was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award to study the natural history and ecology of the Bahamian flat-headed frog, which was identified as a new species in 2007. The award is funded by the U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

Brock School of Business students **Copeland Petitfils**, **Alexandra Lewandowski** and **Kaleb Dillard** competed in the Intercollegiate Insurance Sales Challenge in April. Petitfils and Lewandowski advanced to the final round, finishing as runners-up in the national competition.



Entrepreneurship majors **Kylie Pitt** and **Haley Batson**, from Brock School of Business, participated in the inaugural Southern Conference Entrepreneurship Challenge, an event designed to showcase students who have innovative ideas for a business. Both Pitt and Batson advanced to the final round of their respective divisions.

Cumberland School of Law once again maintained its top 10 national ranking for trial advocacy by *U.S. News & World Report*. As part of the 2023 Best Law Schools rankings released in March, Cumberland School of Law ranked 10th in the nation in the Trial Advocacy Programs category out of 187 law schools listed.

Steven Potaczek, assistant professor of commercial music in the School of the Arts, is recording an album with a fellow artist, Brett Wiscons. Two of the songs included on this album were selected by major video game developers to be featured in two different video games: NASCAR Heat 5 for the Xbox One and SRX Superstar Racing Experience for the PS4 and PS5.





With 52 students and alumni matching with a pharmacy residency program this spring, **McWhorter School of Pharmacy** achieved a 72% match rate, the highest in school history. Likewise, the 52 students and graduates matching with a residency also equal a school record for the most matches in a single year.



Peter J. Hughes, assistant provost for faculty success and professor of pharmacy in McWhorter School of Pharmacy, served as an author of the 2022 National Standards for Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support, a document that sets national standards for diabetes education for patients who are newly diagnosed or face diabetes-related complications.



Math and computer science professor **Kwadwo Antwi-Fordjour** received a Center for Undergraduate Research in Mathematics grant to fund an undergraduate research group at Samford. The grant is funded by the National Science Foundation.

Corey Johnson, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry in Howard College of Arts and Sciences, earned a sabbatical fellowship from the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, a partnership of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the University of Colorado in Boulder. The sabbatical will take place this fall, where he will work on a project that focuses on the characterization of enzymes in a newly evolved microbial metabolic pathway that can degrade toxic pesticides.



Sport administration students from the School of Health Professions competed against teams from across the country in poster presentations, oral presentations and the case study competition at the Applied Sport Management Association (ASMA) Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. Teammates **Grayson Jones, Brittney Allen, Davis Woodliff** and **Drake Anthony** were selected as the 2022 Dr. Samantha Roberts Undergraduate Case Study Competition winners.

Samford graduate student **Blake Mitchell** received international recognition for his composition work. His collaboration with Samford student and poet **Margaret Kirby**, *Where Sky Meets Sea*, was announced the winner of the Walter Hussey Composition Competition 2020.



New Faces



Hudson

Following a nationwide search, **Blake Hudson** has been named dean of **Cumberland School of Law**, effective July 1. A proven leader in legal education, Hudson joins the Samford community after serving as the Samuel T. Dell Professor of Law and director of the Environmental Land Use and Real Estate Law

Program at the University of Florida's Levin College of Law. "I am thrilled to join Cumberland School of Law and work with the faculty in continuing the important work of educating future lawyers," Hudson said. "I look forward to working with faculty, staff and students to make sure that Cumberland's strengths remain top notch while also developing new, innovative legal education programs to meet the demands of an ever-evolving legal landscape."

Angela Barber joined the **School of Health Professions** on Aug. 1 as the chair of the Department of



Barber

Communication Sciences and Disorders. She comes to Samford from the University of Alabama where she was an associate professor and graduate program director. Her primary research focuses on improving accessibility to effective early identification and

interventions for children with increased likelihood for autism spectrum disorders and their families by building cooperative and sustainable solutions that promote health equity.

Beeson Divinity School

appointed new faculty members. **Gordon Bals**, founder of Daymark Pastoral Counseling in Birmingham, Alabama, has been named associate professor of pastoral care and counseling. **Jonathan Linebaugh**, a University of Cambridge professor and New Testament scholar, will become the school's next Anglican Chair of Divinity and director of its Institute of Anglican Studies.



Bals



Linebaugh

Howard College of Arts and Sciences named alumnus **Tyshawn Gardner, M.Div. '14** associate professor and director of the Preministerial Scholars program in the Department of Biblical and Religious Studies. ▮



Gardner

Four Samford Leaders Appointed to New Positions, Responsibilities

This spring, four leaders at Samford received new appointments and titles, marking changes to the university's Executive Leadership Team. Jason Black, Colin Coyne, Betsy Holloway and Martin Newton assumed new responsibilities with these appointments, which were effective beginning July 1.

Jason Black was named vice president for enrollment management, a newly created role that separates the current Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management into two divisions. He previously served as the assistant vice president for enrollment management and dean of admission.

Colin Coyne transitioned from chief strategy officer to the newly created role of vice president for finance, business affairs and strategy. In this new position, Coyne continues his leadership of institutional strategic planning while also overseeing finance and business affairs.

Betsy Holloway was named vice president of advancement and marketing, assuming responsibilities for alumni relations, institutional fundraising and external affairs. She will continue to provide leadership for Marketing and Communication and will continue to serve as the university's



Jason Black, Colin Coyne, Betsy Holloway and Martin Newton

chief marketing officer. The university's marketing and communication operations have combined with the Division of University Advancement to create what is now known as the Division of Advancement and Marketing.

Martin Newton, Samford's director of athletics, now reports directly to President Taylor and is a member of the president's Executive Leadership Team. He has served as Samford's athletic director since 2011 and was recently appointed to the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee. ▀

Pittman, Brock Retire After Decades of Service to Samford

W. Randall "Randy" Pittman, who served as vice president for university advancement since 2008, retired on June 30. Through his leadership, Pittman steered multiple record-setting capital campaigns for the university, including the recent Forever Samford campaign which raised \$260 million. Prior to joining the Samford administration, Pittman served on the university's Board of Trustees.

"I don't have a Samford degree, but 13 members of my family do, including my daughters and sons-in-law. Through my time here, however, I feel I have been adopted completely into the Samford family. The relationships with alumni, parents, friends, faculty, staff and students are ones that I cherish. Even though I'm retiring

from my position, I will support Samford any way I can for as long as I live," Pittman said.

Harry B. "Buck" Brock III joined the Samford administration as the executive vice president and vice president for business and financial services in 2007. Brock, who retired on June 30, also previously served on the Board of Trustees from 1998-2007. As the leader of the Division of Business and Financial Affairs, Brock oversaw Accounting and Financial Services, Samford Dining, Decision Support & Financial Strategy, Human Resources, Samford One Stop, Samford University Post Office, Printing Services, Purchasing and Technology Services.



"These 15 years with Samford's administration have been the most rewarding and fulfilling years of my professional life in every respect," Brock said. "It's an enormously good feeling to be passing the baton to a terrific leadership team." ▀

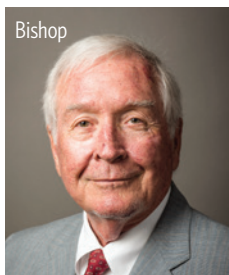
Decades of Service

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

T. Brad Bishop

Cumberland School of Law

Brad Bishop joined the faculty of Cumberland School of Law in 1971 after graduating from the law school. He first served as an assistant professor and the director of forensics. He later served as the acting dean of the school from 1984-1985. As a professor, he taught contracts for more than 45 years. He also served as the chief legal advisor to the governor of Alabama from 1993-1995.



Bishop

John Carroll

Cumberland School of Law

Judge John Carroll served as dean of Cumberland School of Law from 2001 until 2014. The 1974 Cumberland alumnus has remained on the law faculty since 2014. Carroll also served as the supervising attorney for the Cumberland Veterans Legal Assistance Clinic program, which provides free legal assistance to veterans and their families across the state of Alabama.



Carroll



Epley

Victoria Delchamps

Howard College of Arts and Sciences

Victoria Delchamps joined Samford in 2006, teaching Communications Arts. She served as assistant director of the Communication Resource Center until 2009 when she was named coordinator of academic enrichment for Howard College of Arts and Sciences. She was promoted to assistant professor in 2016 and joined the English department faculty in 2019.



Delchamps



Finn

Steven Epley

Howard College of Arts and Sciences

Steven Epley joined the faculty of the English department in Howard College of Arts and Sciences in 1992. Epley received the Jennings B. Marshall Faculty Service Award in 2015 and the Faculty Research Award from Howard College of Arts and Sciences in 2017.



Harper

David Finn

Orlean Beeson School of Education

David Finn joined the faculty of Orlean

Beeson School of Education in 1998 when he was hired to develop a special education program and serve as the director for the Children's Learning Center, a fully inclusive child development center on Samford's campus for children of all abilities. He also served as the school's international director, creating programs and providing training to people in war-torn countries who were passionate about teaching.

Larry Harper

Brock School of Business

Larry Harper has been a faculty member in Brock School of Business for more than 30 years. As a native of South Africa, Harper's career has spanned the globe. In June 1991, Harper brought his international business experience to Samford as the director of the Global Utilities Institute. While teaching, he also served as the director of the Executive Education program and the director of graduate programs in Brock School of Business.

David Johnson

Howard College of Arts and Sciences

David Johnson joined the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences in Howard College of Arts and Sciences as a full-time faculty member in 2008, but he has been associated with Samford for much longer. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the university and served as a visiting professor prior to 2008. Johnson's areas of expertise include genetics and molecular biology.

Margaret Johnson***School of Health Professions***

Margaret Johnson has taught at Samford since 2013. She served as professor and chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders in the School of Health Professions, and she taught hundreds of students about the science and art of speech language pathology.

David Little***Orlean Beeson School of Education***

David Little, an associate professor of teacher education, retired from Orlean Beeson School of Education after 33 years of service. Little first taught graduate students and then undergraduates majoring in elementary education. He also served as the director of the elementary education program and the fifth-year alternative master's program.

Archie Lockamy, III***Brock School of Business***

Archie Lockamy served as the Margaret Gage Bush Professor of Business in Brock School of Business since he joined the faculty in 2000. As a professor of operations management, he has helped strengthen the M.B.A. program, particularly through his role as chair of the Graduate Education Process Committee. In recognition of his

impactful career, Motion Industries endowed a new scholarship to be awarded to students studying in the M.B.A. program.

David Loudon***Brock School of Business***

David Loudon joined the faculty of Brock School of Business in 2005. As a professor of marketing, he taught courses in marketing and consumer behavior. Loudon is the co-author of 15 books ranging from textbooks used in classrooms around the world to specialized books.

Kenneth Mathews***Beeson Divinity School***

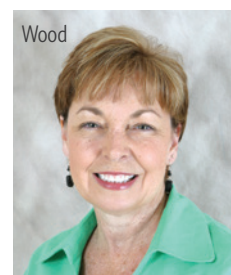
Kenneth Mathews joined the Beeson Divinity School faculty in 1989. He taught classes on the Old Testament and Hebrew exegesis. He is an ordained minister in the Southern Baptist Convention and serves as an itinerant preacher, conference speaker and Bible teacher.

Kenneth Roxburgh***Howard College of Arts and Sciences***

Kenneth Roxburgh taught at Samford for 20 years, joining the faculty in 2002. He was hired as the S. Louis and Ann W. Armstrong Chair of Religion and served as the chair of the Department of Religion in Howard College of Arts and Sciences until 2016. He taught classes on theology, pastoral theology, Christian spirituality, religion and film, contemporary theology and biblical foundations.

Dennis Samson***Howard College of Arts and Sciences***

Dennis Samson, who most recently served as professor and chair of the Department of Philosophy in Howard College of Arts and Sciences, joined the Samford faculty in 1988. Samson has served as chair of the department since 2000. He taught a wide range of



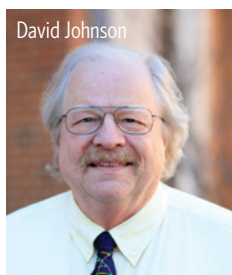
classes, but his primary focus was centered around the topic of ethics.

Rebecca Warr***Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing***

Rebecca Warr began teaching at Samford in 1981 as part of a joint appointment with Baptist Princeton Hospital where she worked two days a week in the psychiatric unit as a nurse. She has taught more than 2,000 students, which includes six current faculty members.

Patricia Wood***Orlean Beeson School of Education***

Patricia Wood has taught at Samford since 2006, teaching courses with a specific focus on working with children with special needs. She was hired to create a graduate program in Orlean Beeson School of Education that would train teachers in gifted education, of which hundreds of students have graduated since the program's inception. ▀



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

Samford Celebrates

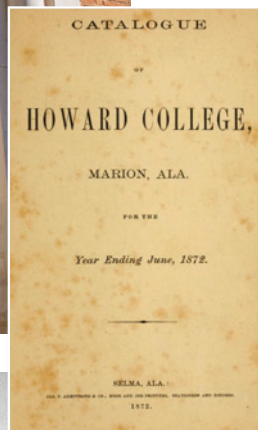
Historic Anniversaries

This year is filled with celebratory milestones for several Samford schools and programs. Notably, Cumberland School of Law celebrates its 175th anniversary and Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing celebrates its 100th anniversary.

Cumberland School of Law

Cumberland School of Law was established in 1847 and is one of the oldest law schools in the country. Originally located in Lebanon, Tennessee, the school was founded by Judge Abraham Caruthers, an innovator in legal education. In a time when legal study was conducted by apprenticeship or through lectures, the law school pioneered an instructional method based on intensive trial practice. It became part of Howard

College, now Samford, in 1961. Today, more than 9,000 alumni live in all 50 states and abroad. Notable alumni include two Supreme Court justices: Howell Edmunds Jackson and Horace Harmon Lurton; several governors, including former Florida Governor Charlie Crist; and U.S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull. Students, faculty, alumni and friends gathered for an anniversary celebration in April.



Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing

Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing was founded in 1922 by the Birmingham Baptist Association. Originally named the Birmingham Baptist Hospital School of Nursing, it was established as a hospital-based diploma program to educate

nurses. In 1968, the school was renamed Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing and became the first program in Alabama to achieve accreditation by the National League for Nursing. The program transferred to Samford in 1973 and today offers baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degrees in nursing. The school earned its current name, Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing, in 2020 in honor of former Dean Nena F. Sanders. Today, more than 7,000 graduates are providing health care and impacting the lives of others throughout the United States and around the world. While the name, location, programs and population have transformed since its founding 100 years ago, the school's mission remains unchanged—to

prepare students to provide exceptional, compassionate, patient-centered care. A celebration of the centennial will take place during Homecoming weekend.

150 Years of Graduate Education

Today, Samford enrolls more than 2,100 graduate students and offers 75 graduate degree programs. However, the first postgraduate education offering was established 150 years ago when Samford, then Howard College, was only 30 years old. The first graduate degree program began in 1871 with the Master of Arts with three students enrolled in the university's first graduate class. ▀



Love Thy Neighbor Week Focuses on Importance of Engaging in Respectful Civil Discourse

by Holly Gainer

Engaging in respectful civil discourse and showing Christlike love and respect to everyone, but especially to those with whom one disagrees, was the focus of a five-day series called Love Thy Neighbor held March 21-25. The campuswide event brought students, faculty and staff together to explore and reflect on how Christians can best engage others with dignity and respect.

The topic of civil discourse was addressed through lectures and discussions featuring renowned guests, faculty and students. A panel of deans kicked off the weeklong emphasis with a discussion, titled Community Conversation. President Beck A. Taylor presented On Civil Discourse to students and staff during the weekly Campus Worship service. During his presentation, he spoke about the importance of learning about different experiences and beliefs, especially those that may differ from one's own, not to necessarily change one's convictions, but to learn more and reflect on what one believes and why.

"I want Samford to be a community that embraces conviction and curiosity. We want students at Samford to hold to their beliefs strongly. No one is asking you to let go of your convictions. At the same time, I want you to remain curious," Taylor said. "I want you to seek out people with different ideas and convictions so you can put your beliefs to the test."

He also called for the community to be known for its hospitality and humility, especially among those who have different beliefs.

"Let's resolve as a community that we will welcome and serve those with whom we disagree. Let's treat our guests with great respect and deference, welcoming them into our space and showing them the love within our community," Taylor urged.

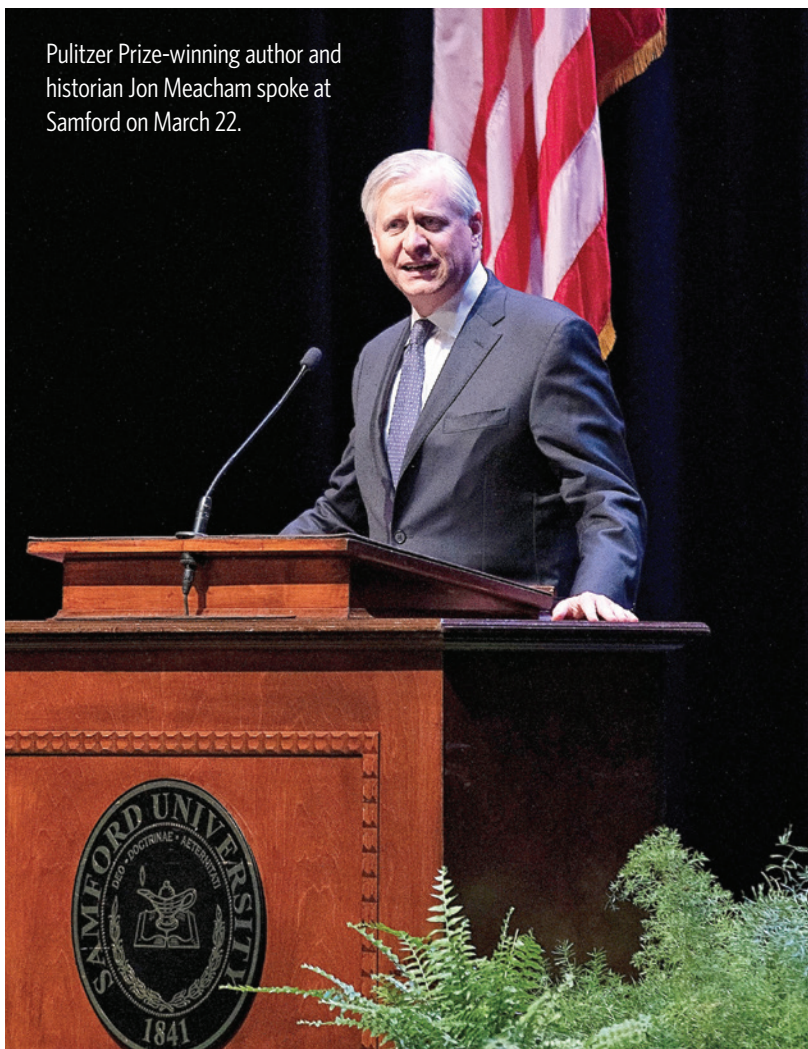
Pulitzer Prize-winning author and historian Jon Meacham delivered an address based on his *New York Times* best-selling book *The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels*. In his remarks, he spoke about four key principles to follow when trying to love one's neighbor: curiosity, compassion, candor and empathy. Meacham provided examples of how past national leaders embodied these principles, citing examples of compassion from John Lewis during the Civil Rights Movement and the empathy President George H.W. Bush displayed to others throughout his life.

Meacham called on the audience to love one's neighbor, especially those with whom one disagrees.

"Love your neighbor. It's the central command. Love God, love your neighbor," Meacham said.

Additional panels featured Christian leaders who spoke about the challenges they have faced in their fields with those who disagree with them and how they have responded with love and grace, as well as a panel led by students to demonstrate what engaging in civil discourse looks like. ■

Pulitzer Prize-winning author and historian Jon Meacham spoke at Samford on March 22.





Samford Announces New *State-of-the-Art Recreation Complex*

The \$65 million recreation complex is the largest capital project in the university's history and includes new spaces for mental and physical health resources.

by Holly Gainer

A new 154,000-square-foot wellness and recreation complex is coming to campus, furthering Samford's commitment to a world-class student experience. This historic project will create a state-of-the-art campus center providing students and employees with expanded opportunities to improve physical fitness and mental wellness as well as new spaces for campus events and student gatherings. Additional facilities will provide new practice and training spaces for the university's 17 Division I athletic teams.

The new complex is part of a comprehensive plan for expanded student recreation, health and wellness. The \$65 million venture is the largest capital project in the university's history.

Construction, which is scheduled to begin in early 2023, includes investments in four separate buildings totaling 154,000 square feet:

Seibert Hall will be completely redesigned to include two basketball courts, a new multiuse court, studios for fitness classes, an e-sports studio, dance studios, state-of-the-art weight and cardio machines, a multipurpose workout area, and common areas for students to gather, with lounge areas, a coffeehouse and a 24-hour convenience store.

Bashinsky Field House will be a fully refurbished, dedicated facility for Samford student-athletes, including new training spaces for teams and dedicated practice spaces for the men's and women's basketball and volleyball programs.

A **third building** will be constructed adjacent to Seibert Hall and encompass 20,000 square feet of recreation and event space. The new facility will include a suspended indoor track, additional basketball courts and cardio spaces, sound and staging to host campus events, a catering kitchen, covered outdoor athletic space, a pedestrian walkway and a covered balcony that overlooks Bobby Bowden Field.

The first floor of the **Dwight and Lucille Beeson Center**, located directly across the street from the complex, also will be renovated to serve as the new home for the university's health center and counseling services.

Cumulatively, the new and enhanced spaces throughout these four

buildings will not only enhance student wellness and life on campus, but will also help recruit and retain future students and student-athletes.

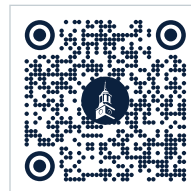
"This project represents a substantial investment in the health and wellness of our students. We are committed to supporting our students in their educational and spiritual journeys, and we also want to support them in their physical and mental well-being," said President Beck A. Taylor. "This new facility will enhance campus life and provide students with spaces to gather, exercise, socialize and participate in numerous recreational activities."

"Students want to lead a healthy lifestyle and we want their university to

provide them with opportunities to do so," Taylor said. "From physical fitness and recreation to counseling and health services, this facility will meet students' needs in mind, body and spirit."

The university is funding \$45 million of the project with current resources and is working to secure \$20 million in philanthropic gifts.

The complex, which will be designed and built in partnership with Hoar Construction and Davis Architects, is expected to be completed prior to the start of the fall 2024 semester. To learn more about the project, scan the QR code. ►



Novice Debaters Win National Championship

by Sean Flynt

Samford University debaters Grace Blackwell and Abi McKibben are the top novice team in the nation after winning in that category at the American Debate Association National Championship at Emory University March 5-7.

Left to right: Abi McKibben and Grace Blackwell



Blackwell and McKibben defeated teams from Indiana University, the University of Houston, St. Mary's College, the University of Miami, West Virginia University, Liberty University and James Madison University before the final round against Boston College, in a competition Ryan Galloway, Samford professor and director of debate, described as "exhausting."

Blackwell and McKibben also won the Front Royal Cup for the American Debate Association, presented to the first-year team with the best record in the regular season. That record included advancing to the final round of three tournaments in addition to the team's national championship victory. Also at the national championship, votes by coaches, judges and peers from other universities honored Blackwell as Novice of the Year. She earned the regional Novice of the Year title in another competition in February.

"This is the first time in university history that Samford has won the ADA novice national championship, the gold standard for college novice debate in the United States," Galloway said. "Abi and Grace have been phenomenal all season long, and their performance is truly one that will stand the test of time."

Lee Quinn, an instructor and assistant director of debate at Samford, said the victory is also noteworthy for a female team in a male-dominated activity. He praised Blackwell's and McKibben's dedication to the work—even when they could've been resting—during Samford's spring break. "Abi and Grace were busy winning a national championship in one of the most intellectually intense activities one can compete in," Quinn said. "Their victory is a testament to literally hundreds of hours of hard work and effort, of setting a goal and working exceptionally hard to achieve it."

These latest honors for Samford's debate program follow its success at the District 6 regional competition in late February. Sawyer Emerson was named Varsity Debater of the Year, another first for the program, and two Samford teams qualified for the National Debate Tournament. ■

Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation Utilizes Samford Students to Analyze Charitable Marketing Campaign

by Morgan Black

Like many Major League Baseball organizations, the Los Angeles Dodgers operate a nonprofit entity, the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation, which aims to improve access to education, health care and sports for youth in the Los Angeles area. Over the past year, Samford's sports marketing and analytics students conducted research analyzing one of the foundation's recent charitable marketing campaigns.

By partnering with corporate gasoline brand 76, the Dodgers foundation sought to raise money to enhance STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education for underserved students in the L.A. community.

Darin White, executive director of Samford's Center for Sports Analytics, said, "It's very common for a major sport property to raise money or awareness for a cause in their community, but it's very uncommon for them to partner with a large corporate brand to do this."

In evaluating the campaign, Samford students discovered that the age of the donors was in the range of 20 to 40-year-olds rather than older and more financially established donors. They also found that the campaign was popular with Generation Z, an age group (ages 9-24) known to align with brands that have a social consciousness.

In their final presentation to the Dodgers foundation and 76 executives in February, Samford students proposed ideas for improving the campaign for its next installation, including suggestions to maintain authenticity with future social causes.

Nichol T. Whiteman, the foundation's chief executive officer said, "Our team unanimously expressed how polished, poised and confident the students were. They provided important grounding for the work we are doing, and clearly showed that it is quite

meaningful. We loved the feedback and recommendations they provided and the differentiating motivations to engage and donate based on demographics, which is so helpful to our continued work."

A bonus finding of the students' research was that, by partnering with a large brand to further a social cause, sports organizations can drive new sponsorship revenue. With the approval of the foundation, future students will have the opportunity to pitch similar projects to sports entities across the nation. Since February, this idea has been

shared with executives of the Atlanta Braves and the New Orleans Saints organizations, with plans to pitch it to others.

Chandler Smith, who graduated from Samford this spring, served as the team leader for the project.

"This may be the only school in the country where you can get this kind of experience as an undergraduate," he said. "This was an incredible opportunity for our whole group to be able to do this detailed research for such large brands." ▀

Left to right: The team members in Cooney Hall's M. Chad Trull Data and Sports Analytics Lab: Chandler Smith, Elijah Leonard, Emma Williams, Austin Streitmatter, Will Simmons and Jerrod Abee



Red Cross Club Helps Students Grow by Making a Difference for Others

by June Mathews

Serena Simoni, associate professor and director of Samford's international relations program is a strong advocate of holistic development, the idea that students develop as "whole persons" as they progress through their college experience.

One way to enhance this process, Simoni believes, is through extracurricular activities that help students develop intellectually, emotionally, socially, ethically, physically and spiritually—thus, her intention to engage Samford students through a Red Cross Club.

"A Red Cross Club is an organized group of registered youth or young adult volunteers committed to serving the Red Cross mission," Simoni said. "A club like this can empower students to help prepare our university and community to respond to emergencies by giving our students Red Cross knowledge and lifesaving skills."

These clubs add a unique experiential element to students' formal education that can be gained only by active participation in their activities. Simoni's own involvement with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe during the 1990s, for example, taught her the importance of intercultural experiences and honed her ability to work with people from different social, political and cultural backgrounds.

"To this extent, programs like the Red Cross Club are key," Simoni said. "This club allows this kind of development because it provides students with opportunities to make a difference by addressing our community's greatest needs, and it also fosters the development of leadership skills."

Not only that, Simoni said, students who volunteer with



the American Red Cross become part of one of the largest and most effective humanitarian organizations in the world. This affiliation gives students opportunities to participate in mission-related service projects focused on preparedness, blood donations and fundraising. In the process, they can earn community service hours, which may be required for graduation.

Simoni encourages Samford students to maximize their talents, learn new skills, improve their résumés and meet new people by joining this nationwide and international humanitarian service.

"This is a huge opportunity for Samford University to make a difference and have an impact locally and globally," she said. "Samford's Red Cross Club will make the world a better place." ▀

**"Samford's Red Cross Club
will make the world a better place."**

—Serena Simoni

Hope for Haiti

*Student Social Work Project
is Changing Lives Abroad*

by Frank Ruggiero

Graduate students from the Department of Social Work in the School of Public Health have developed training modules for nannies at a children's home in Jacmel, Haiti. The home is owned and operated by Alabama-based nonprofit, Children's Hope, founded by Samford trustee and alumnus Andy Birchfield '88.

Created by 2022 Master of Social Work graduates Brooke Bissell, Sarah Golden, Taylore Miller, Zelda Peach and Brenna Vincent, these training sessions are based on trauma-informed care, featuring interactive, narrated slides covering such topics as coping skills for children, recognizing trauma and self-care.

Lisa Baker, professor and chair of the Department of Social Work, saw the need firsthand, when she and a team of faculty from the College of Health Sciences visited Haiti in 2019 to learn more about Children's Hope and how Samford could help.

"Children's Hope is doing incredible work, meeting the needs of all these children, some of whom are literally abandoned at their gates," Baker said. "They're trying to provide medical care, schooling and a safe home environment."

The organization was founded following the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti in 2010, Baker explained, and all the children who come to stay with Children's Hope remain there until adulthood.

But then came COVID-19.

"With COVID, everything shut down," Baker said. "So, we wondered how we could use our resources from Birmingham to stay connected to Children's Hope and help them the best we can."

Baker identified students focusing on trauma-informed care, namely Bissell, Golden, Miller, Peach and Vincent, and set them to work on a literally life-changing assignment.

"I was able to share my knowledge and experience about trauma from being a graduate social work student with individuals across the world," Golden said, noting that the project will help inform her future endeavors in trauma-related work.

"With social work, people often don't realize the scope of what we do and how we can take what we're teaching here in the middle of Birmingham, Alabama, and totally apply it in another country," Baker said. "God has given us all sorts of different gifts, and he calls us to use those gifts to serve others. This is one example where it's not a typical approach, but it's upholding the mission of Samford." ▀



The nonprofit Children's Hope operates a children's home in Jacmel, Haiti, providing shelter, medical care, education and more. Samford social work graduate students have created modules to train the home's nannies in trauma-informed care.



Samford University College of Health Sciences faculty members Scott Bickel and Lisa Baker, social work student Karina Cortes and CHS faculty members Melanie Manis, Karen Gibson Flynn and Rachel Casiday Bailey visit the Children's Hope home in Jacmel, Haiti, in 2019.

To learn more about Children's Hope and how you can help, go to childrenshope.com.

Samford Faculty Strive to Bridge the Gap in Health Care for Performing Artists

by Ashley Smith

Over the past year, Dana Daniel Blake and Jason Terry joined forces to research and improve the health of music students. Blake is an assistant professor and director of clinical education for the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Samford and recently was appointed to the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy. Terry is an assistant professor of piano and director of keyboard studies in the Division of Music in the School of the Arts.

Terry initiated the collaboration to help Samford students gain better awareness of health issues related to playing the piano. Blake has over 25 years of experience in ergonomics.

"From a health care perspective, the performing arts should be viewed through a special lens. I treat football players as a competitive athlete. I treat people that work in manufacturing as an industrial athlete. I need to treat those in

the arts as a performing arts athlete," Blake said.

Most health care for artists is a response to an already existing condition according to Terry.

"Our goal is to train our students to proactively identify and understand the physiological aspects of being a pianist and how we can prevent medical issues from happening in the first place," Terry said.

In March 2021, they hosted an information session for current and prospective Samford keyboard students that stressed the importance of stretching, breathing and body alignment while playing the piano. This work continued in November 2021 when 17 instrumentalists visited a spine class in the School of Health Professions, led by associate

professor Nick Washmuth. There, physical therapy students examined each musician and prescribed a personalized regime.

In June 2022, Blake and Terry presented their collaborative research at the Performing Arts Medicine Association's (PAMA) four-day international symposium in Chicago. PAMA is the leading organization bridging the gap between health care professions and performing artists.

They also presented at the American Physical Therapy Association Educational Leadership Conference (ELC) in Atlanta, Georgia, which led to Drs. Blake and Terry being one of four recipients of the 2021 Physical Therapy Learning Institute Innovator Award at the ELC.

On campus, they have received grant money to develop a course in ergonomics and injury prevention.

"The course will be used for Samford students as well as to help educate others via summer camps for high school teachers that come to Samford. We want to show what we are doing so others can replicate it and prevent injuries and take care of our performing arts students," said Blake.

Both see tremendous opportunities for this research on and off campus. They anticipate their collaboration will initiate other partnerships across schools and departments at Samford. ▀



Emergency Preparedness Simulation Prepares Nursing and Social Work Students for Real-life Experiences

by Sarah Waller

In Samford's Experiential Learning and Simulation Center, students have the opportunity to engage in health care simulations, or scenarios that test their clinical skills and challenge them to think critically and collaborate as a health care team. One of the more unique events that the center holds is its emergency preparedness simulation, which was held this year with students in Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing and the School of Public Health.

The scenario was a semitruck had collided with a city bus and a fire ensued. Students were part of a community response team that helped triage and manage victims until first responders arrived on the scene. The simulation not only exposes students to on the job training, but it's also an opportunity for interprofessional education between undergraduate nursing and Master of Social Work students.

"For this simulation, collaboration was key," said Jill Pence, executive director of the Experiential Learning and Simulation Center. "While we hope our students never experience something like this in real life, we want this experience to embed in them an understanding of the roles each profession plays in caring for people in the wake of a crisis or emergency."

More than 140 students participated in the simulation as responders. The center's standardized patients, as well as additional students, engaged in the simulation as victims, using moulage to simulate their wounds and injuries.



"To a spectator, this simulation may appear chaotic, but in reality, this is a very controlled and safe space for students," Pence said. "We challenge them with these scenarios because we want them to think through the process and learn from their mistakes before facing an actual emergency." ▮

Scan the QR code
to watch the video





Samford Awards Degrees to 1,287 Students

by Holly Gainer

Thousands of friends and family members celebrated the graduation of 1,287 Samford students during five commencement ceremonies held on campus April 29-30.

Ceremonies for Beeson Divinity School, Brock School of Business, Orlean Beeson School of Education and the College of Health Sciences were held on Friday, April 29. Mark Dever, senior pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., gave the sermon during Beeson Divinity School's Commencement and Service of Consecration. David Little, recently retired

associate professor of teacher education, spoke to graduates of Brock School of Business and Orlean Beeson School of Education. Scott Bickel, professor and director of scholarship and service in the School of Health Professions, and director of the Office for Faith and Health, delivered the keynote address to graduates of the College of Health Sciences.

On Saturday, Dennis Samson, recently retired professor and chair of the Department of Classics and Philosophy, gave the commencement address during Howard College of Arts and Sciences and the School of the Arts ceremony. Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin, who graduated from Cumberland School of Law in 2007, gave the keynote address to the law graduates.

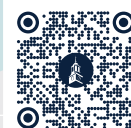
Three awards were presented to students, including the John C. Pittman Spirit Award, the President's Cup and the Velma Wright Irons Award.

This year, three students received the Pittman Spirit Award. The award recognizes graduating students who consistently exhibit Christian character in community life. The recipients were Jacob Hopkins, who graduated from Brock School of Business and majored in marketing; Caroline Kizer, who graduated from the School of Health Professions with a major in communication sciences and disorders; and Anna Claire Noblitt, who graduated from Howard College of Arts and Sciences with a major in public administration.

Edward Lee Garner, a music major from the School of the Arts, received the President's Cup. The award is given to the graduating senior with the highest grade point average. Ansley Burnette, an English major, received the Velma Wright Irons Award which is presented to the graduating senior with the second highest cumulative grade point average. ▀



To read more about commencement and view videos and images, scan the QR code.





Samford Receives Transformational \$100 Million Gift

by Holly Gainer



Marvin Mann '54

In May, Samford announced an unprecedented \$100 million gift—the largest gift to the university by a single donor and the largest gift ever made to a higher education institution in the state of Alabama by a single donor. Funding for the generous donation comes from the estate of Marvin Mann '54, who passed away on March 19. According to Mann's wishes, \$95 million will go toward endowed student scholarships and \$5 million will support the Frances Marlin Mann Center for Ethics and Leadership, which was established by Mann in 2008 in honor of his late wife, Frances.

"Marvin Mann's generosity to Samford is unmatched in the institution's history books. This is a truly transformational gift that will fulfill Marvin's desire for more students to have the life-changing opportunities he had as a student and to strengthen the university for the future," said President Beck A. Taylor.

The gift is expected to provide approximately \$3.75 million annually to support and expand access to individuals seeking a Samford education. Including both undergraduate and graduate programs, more than 100 students will benefit each year. Mann's vision extends Samford's legacy of financially supporting academic opportunity; during the 2021-22 academic year, the university funded nearly \$75 million of scholarships for its students.

"Together with the Board of Trustees, members of the University Council, and with input from many of Samford's stakeholders, I look forward to developing plans to strengthen the university's ability to attract high-caliber students from a variety of backgrounds, for whom a Samford education would be financially out of reach without important scholarship support," Taylor said. "Access and affordability remain two of the largest opportunities Samford has to extend its reach to more students and families. These funds will allow us to come alongside students who want to attend Samford in new and exciting ways while also reaching new populations of prospective students for whom Samford will be a great choice for their educational needs."

While the majority of the gift will go toward student scholarships, \$5 million will go to the Frances Marlin Mann Center for Ethics and Leadership, which Mann established in 2008 in memory of his beloved wife, Frances. The center is an endowed, university-wide unit that promotes student development and enriches teaching and scholarship in the university's 10 academic schools. It

"Marvin Mann's generosity to Samford is unmatched in the institution's history books."

—President Beck A. Taylor

provides resources to students, faculty, staff and Alabama nonprofits in order to promote the understanding and practice of positive character and servant-leadership. The \$5 million will be added to the center's current endowment to sustain and strengthen Samford's emphasis on virtue and character formation.

"Teaching students how to succeed in the world of business is no longer enough," Mann said in 2008 when the center was announced. "They must also enter their careers with a complete understanding of the connections between performance, ethics and leadership."

"When I spoke with Marvin last fall, nearly 15 years after establishing the Mann Center, he continued to voice his desire to see Samford's students develop through virtue and character education. He was an inspiration to me," Taylor said.

With this generous, historic and record-setting gift, Samford will continue to honor Mann's legacy through modeling his commitment to scholarship, leadership and service to others. ▀



Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin, J.D. '07



Left to right: Vice President of Advancement and Marketing Betsy Holloway, Homewood Mayor Patrick McClusky, President Beck Taylor, Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin, recently retired Vice President for University Advancement Randy Pittman, Chairman of the Board of Trustees William Stevens.



Celebrating Marvin Mann's Legacy and Commitment to Serving Others

by Holly Gainer

As the first member of his immediate family to graduate from college, it is especially poignant that Marvin Mann directed the university to use \$95 million of his historic \$100 million gift for student scholarships. Growing up in Springdale, Alabama, during the Great Depression, Mann began working at the age of 4, candling eggs at his grandfather's distribution business. His hard work continued throughout college, working two jobs: one for his father who was a truck driver and another in the accounting department of the University of Alabama Medical Center.

Legacy



Marvin and Frances Mann



President Taylor, who was dean of Brock School of Business at the time, spoke during the dedication of the Frances Marlin Mann Center for Ethics and Leadership in 2008.

"My father occasionally told stories of hitchhiking to and from Samford during the 1950s, so he must have highly valued his experience there, especially considering the effort he had to go through to attend," said Mann's son, Jeff Mann. "It's obvious that my father revered Samford University and its community."

Days after his graduation from Howard College in 1954, Mann joined the U.S. Navy and was shipped overseas to serve in the Korean War. Upon his return, he worked for IBM for 32 years. He went on to found Lexmark International, Inc. in 1991, a leading developer, manufacturer and supplier of printing solutions to customers in offices and homes in more than 150 countries. He served as chief executive officer and chairman until 1999. Mann also served as the chairman of the Independent Board of Directors of Fidelity Mutual Funds.

Throughout his career, he remained committed to his alma mater, and his alma mater committed to him.

"Despite Marvin Mann's largesse, his gift represents not the capstone of support to this university, but rather it represents a catalyst for future investment in this special place that provides a unique, Christ-centered, and

high-quality education to its students, students who then—in turn—transform the families, neighborhoods, churches, cities and organizations they call home," said President Beck A. Taylor.

"One of the greatest things that always impacted me about Marvin was his humility. While he was extremely successful and a giant in business, he never forgot where he came from, he cared about people and he never made the conversation about himself," said Doug Wilson, assistant vice president for University Advancement. "He loved Samford and told me on one of our first visits, 'there are many places that mean something to me, but Samford is a place that I feel an emotional bond with.' Marvin's desire to provide opportunities for future generations of students and his love for Samford converged with this transformational gift."

In 1993, Samford awarded Mann an honorary doctorate in commerce. In 2004, he was named Alumnus of the Year and in 2006, he was the first recipient of the university's Ethics-in-Business Award. The award, which was later renamed as the Marvin Mann Ethics-in-Business Award, recognizes individuals who embody professional achievement and personal integrity, who

display an uncommon commitment to leadership through service, and who have left their marks of influence on institutions and industries without compromising Christian virtue or charity.

In 2008, he established the Frances Marlin Mann Center for Ethics and Leadership in memory of his beloved wife of 54 years.

"Frances was a gracious and caring person," Mann said in 2008 when the Mann Center was announced. "She was a fun-loving person who was an unusually talented and creative homemaker. She had a positive impact on everyone who knew her, and she left the world a more beautiful place."

Per Mann's wishes, his funeral was held in Hodges Chapel on Samford's campus on April 2 where hundreds of friends and family members gathered to honor his memory and legacy—a legacy that will be appreciated and treasured by the thousands of students his gift will assist for years to come.

"Through this gift and throughout his lifetime, Marvin models for all of us, regardless of our financial capacity, what it means to support and love others," Taylor said. ▀



Engaged and Experiential Learning Prepares Students to Succeed Beyond Graduation

by Holly Gainer

A Samford education extends beyond the classroom. From faculty providing experiential learning experiences to community service and study abroad opportunities, each student is engaged both inside and outside of class.

Ranked as one of the nation's top universities for best undergraduate teaching by *U.S. News & World Report*, experiential learning is a key element of what students receive during their time at Samford. With a student-to-faculty ratio of 14:1, students receive individualized attention from their professors and often work alongside faculty to apply what they learn.

In the College of Health Sciences, students learn and work in an interprofessional environment that mirrors the clinical settings they will eventually practice in upon graduation. Combining the latest technology and equipment and working alongside faculty, students receive a hands-on approach to learn the essential skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in the health professions.

In Orlean Beeson School of Education, students have the opportunity to gain experience in a variety of off-campus classroom settings, preparing them for leading their own classrooms one day. This past year, Samford partnered with Birmingham City Schools and United Way of Central Alabama to help address COVID-19 related learning loss due to school closures during the pandemic. Students from across campus volunteered to participate in an innovative tutoring program that provided intensive tutoring to K-12 Birmingham students.

"I attended and graduated from Birmingham City Schools, so the tutoring partnership provides an opportunity for me to give back to students who are currently in the school system," said Micaiah Collins, a rising junior and the Student Government Association president. "I am a secondary education major, and this program exposes me to the school setting—I can inspire

and support students, something I'm very passionate about."

Samford's mission to nurture student development intellectually, ethically and spiritually is fostered through an array of opportunities, including 166 student organizations, global engagement in more than 19 different countries and nearly 300 courses that incorporate community service. Additionally, undergraduate students complete Samford's core curriculum, providing a well-rounded foundation in the liberal arts. The result is a highly tailored educational experience that results in 97% of undergraduate alumni employed or in further study within six months of graduation.

Graduate students also participate in service opportunities, both in the Birmingham community, as well as around the country and the globe. At Beeson Divinity School, Master of Divinity students intern in local churches as part of the Supervised Ministry Practicum, giving them real-life experiences in ministry while also serving others.

Cumberland School of Law students participate in legal clinics, such as the Cumberland Innocence Clinic, which helps investigate and secure counsel in cases where there is factual evidence that someone was wrongfully convicted in Alabama. The school also hosts the Cumberland Veterans Legal Assistance Clinic which provides free legal assistance to veterans and their families around the state.

All of these opportunities result in a well-rounded education where Samford graduates, regardless of their area of study, are prepared to succeed in their careers and be good servants to their communities. ▀

SAMFORD startup

Provides Engagement Opportunities for All Samford Students

by Morgan Black

The Samford Startup student-led business incubator program, housed in Brock School of Business, creates a supportive environment for any Samford student to launch and run their own business, providing them with an understanding of how to fully embrace an entrepreneurial mindset. This spring, the program served as a national launching pad for several students.

In February, Kylie Pitt and Haley Batson, both spring 2022 graduates, participated in the inaugural Southern Conference Entrepreneurship Challenge. The event, hosted by The Citadel's Tommy and Victoria Baker School of Business in Charleston, South Carolina, showcased students from all 10 SoCon schools who have innovative ideas for launching a business.

Pitt participated in the for-profit division where she presented her business, Revenge The Label, and Batson competed in the tournament's nonprofit track with her business concept called Imagine. They both advanced to the final round of their divisions and walked away with an unforgettable experience and new professional contacts to help grow their businesses and networks.

"This experience and my new connections really opened my eyes to what can happen next," said Batson.

In March, Pitt traveled to Chicago, Illinois, where she competed in the national round of the Entrepreneurs'



Kylie Pitt and Haley Batson with Matt Mazzei, associate professor and Brock Family Chair in Entrepreneurship, at the SoCon Entrepreneurship Challenge.

Organization (EO) Global Student Entrepreneur Awards.

"The event was informative and transformative, and it was incredible to be around people who understood how I feel as a young entrepreneur," said Pitt.

After being selected to participate in the final round of the national competition, Pitt was the only female chosen as one of the top seven student entrepreneurs in the country to advance to the global competition. In addition, one of the judges invited her to apply for a competition solely for businesswomen in technology known as the WMNtech Pitch

Competition. At the global competition in May, she competed against the top 65 student entrepreneurs in the world.

"I really had no idea I'd be in this position when I started Revenge," she said. "I am so thankful for the opportunities I've had to share my story through the Samford Startup program and why I'm so passionate about my business. All of this has just inspired me to work even harder." ■

To learn more about Samford Startup, scan the QR code.



Fostering Globally Engaged Citizens Through International Learning Opportunities

by Holly Gainer

Learning about other countries and cultures is an important element of a well-rounded college experience. Samford aspires to foster global citizenship among its students through an array of curricular and co-curricular opportunities. Whether it is traveling to another country to study, joining an intercultural club or embracing international students, these experiences prepare students to engage in a global society.



In the university's first May term, students studied in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Israel, Italy and Spain. This summer, students studied in Spain, Germany, the U.K., New Zealand, Peru, Argentina and France.

"Participation in a Samford Abroad program helps students gain cross-cultural competencies, all while earning academic credit toward their degree. Samford Abroad students develop a global perspective while acquiring key skills such as communication, problem-solving, adaptability, self-awareness and teamwork that are highly sought after by prospective employers," said Jill Fisse, director of Samford

Abroad in the Global Engagement Office. "Studying abroad can expand a student's personal and professional opportunities and thus impact their lives in a way that is unparalleled."

Experiencing other cultures is also an important facet of student life on campus. This past academic year, Samford enrolled students from 22 countries.

"Samford benefits from having international students on campus because it brings new perspectives to other students, and it brings a global perspective to the classroom from a firsthand source. As these students are participating and learning, they are also

"Our campus benefits because we learn about other cultures from around the world."

—Jennifer Beck



contributing the knowledge they bring on international issues and foreign affairs,” said Jennifer Beck, international student and scholar coordinator in the Global Engagement Office. “Our campus benefits because we learn about other cultures from around the world, even if you are unable to travel to those countries.”

Cultures from around the world are highlighted annually through International Education Week and Global Connections, programming which celebrates the myriad of

countries represented on campus by international students and promotes the benefits of international education opportunities. The International Club, which is led by students, holds annual events to introduce the campus community to the countries and cultures represented by international students.

“Our international students and our domestic students are broadening their

world views thanks to their interactions both in and out of the classroom,” Beck said.

In addition to academic programs abroad offered through the Global Engagement Office, Beeson Divinity School’s Global Center equips students for cross-cultural and global missions. ▮

For more information on international education opportunities, scan the QR code.



How One Samford Alumna is Following Her Calling—*To the Ends of the Earth*

by Kameron Brown

Serving others is a passion of Katherine Rodgers '15, M.S. '17, but serving those who are in need and often ostracized has become her life calling. Rodgers established Purposefully Made Ministries, a nonprofit organization in Kenya that provides education and health care to children with disabilities.

Her passion for serving children began at an early age and grew as she pursued her bachelor's and master's degrees from Orlean Beeson School of Education.

"During my time at Samford, my professors and the experiences provided to me—truly molded me into who I am today. I was reminded who I am and whose I am, first and foremost in Christ. I was given the opportunity to experience the beautiful and diverse community around me in a way that prepared my heart to serve the least of these wherever the Lord called me to be—to the ends of the Earth," Rodgers said.

Her passion led her to travel to several countries on mission trips and ultimately start Purposefully Made Ministries.

"I established Purposefully Made Ministries after seeing the vast need for resources within the area of special education

in rural Kenya. After witnessing the heartbreaking stigma associated with many children with disabilities, I felt called to create a ministry to not only provide education and resources for these children and their families, but to spread the gospel to these villages, one child at a time, teaching them that every child has a unique purpose from the Lord," Rodgers said.

According to Rodgers, many children with disabilities do not attend school in their communities for several reasons, one being the stigma associated with having a disability. Due to the lack of education, many people view those with disabilities as being "cursed or possessed."

"Our ministry focuses on serving the whole child: spiritually, emotionally, physically and academically. We partner with local Christian therapists who meet with several of our children regularly to help process trauma and learn new coping strategies. My staff and I teach our children in a one-on-one or small group setting by focusing on crucial developmental milestones, such as cognitive, social, emotional, sensory and fine motor skills. Each child receives routine wellness visits by local doctors, and when severe medical cases or emergencies arise, our team partners with other contacts in larger cities, such as Nairobi," Rodgers said.

Despite challenges, Rodgers says she continues in her mission of serving children in need thanks to her faith in God, who she credits for the success of the organization.

"There have been challenges along this journey, such as communication and cultural differences. However, the Lord has used these opportunities to allow me to grow in my dependence upon him and his plan, for it is his story and all for his glory," Rodgers said. ▮

For more information about Purposefully Made Ministries, go to purposefullymadeministries.org.



Parisian Pastor Reflects on How Beeson Prepared Him for International Church Work

by Grace Thornton

Parker Windle, M.Div. '07, says that there are a lot of things about his life that have surprised him over the years. One was that, after growing up in Alabama, he ended up becoming a pastor in Paris, France.

A second was this—he found that his time at Samford's Beeson Divinity School had prepared him for ministry in the French-speaking city of 14 million in a way he never would've guessed.

Windle's journey to serving as pastor of Emmanuel International Church began after his time at Beeson when he went to Paris to serve as a Journeyman, a two-year missionary, in 2008.

He was excited about the short-term assignment, but he also felt conflicted.

"I wanted to be a missions-minded pastor," Windle said. "I expected to do the Journeyman program, come back home, and get a pastor job. I felt that if I did a missionary term, I would be a better pastor."

But he said when he arrived in Paris, God showed him a way to put those two passions together. The city draws the "poorest of the poor, the richest of the rich and everyone in between," and Windle wanted to reach them all, starting with the Punjabi people.

During his Journeyman term, he helped start a church among a group of Punjabi people after eight of these men heard the gospel and decided to follow Jesus.

"The work among that group was slow at that time back in India, and there was an unusual openness among them in Paris," he said.

As Windle continued to work with that church, he began to see the possibilities of reaching others and drawing them into a diverse body of believers who could encourage each other in faith.

When another church in the city, Emmanuel, asked him to be their youth pastor, he said yes. Three years later, he became its lead pastor.

According to Windle, Paris has anywhere from 3 to 4 million English speakers but very few English-language evangelical churches. So, at Emmanuel, "you end up getting people who come from a variety of theological backgrounds just because you're the closest thing to them."



Because of that, Windle says his church has become a bit of a melting pot of evangelical believers. He said Beeson prepared him for this work.

"I think Beeson is excellent preparation for the specific type of ministry I'm involved in, because of the interdenominational nature while still having an emphasis on doctrine," Windle said.

David Parks, director of the Global Center and Contextual Learning at Beeson, said this is the kind of equipping that the faculty aims for.

"Beeson was founded on an 'ecumenism of conviction,'" he said. "Our commitment to the Bible, in combination with church history and interaction with students from other denominations, produces a fluency of gospel understanding that is foundational when it comes to identifying partners in other parts of the world. I know it helped me in Southeast Asia, and it helps Parker in France." ▀

To learn more about preparing for missions with Beeson's M.Div. with a Missions Certificate, scan the QR code.



State of Collaboration

*Samford Pharmacy Alumna Elevates
Role of Pharmacists in Alabama*

by Frank Ruggiero

Anne Marie Nolen, Pharm.D. '18, M.P.H. '18 is making significant strides in the field of pharmacy—across the board. As the collaborative practice manager for the Alabama Board of Pharmacy (ALBOP), Nolen is playing an integral role in providing accessible health care to countless Alabamians.

Collaborative practice is a formal agreement between physicians and pharmacists, under which pharmacists may provide expanded care to patients.

For instance, with an approved agreement, a patient newly diagnosed with diabetes could regularly visit with their pharmacist in the weeks or months until their next physician's appointment and achieve their blood sugar goal in significantly less time, or a patient diagnosed with the flu could be

prescribed and receive treatment on the spot.

Nolen witnessed the benefits of collaborative practice firsthand, while completing her residency in Portland, Oregon.

"I was in a doctor's office every day, seeing patients who needed more follow-ups than their doctors could give them," she said. "In rural areas, trying to see a physician or urgent care may be a 45-minute drive. Oftentimes, patients

may not even be able to afford transportation."

There, Nolen operated under more than 30 collaborative practice agreements, treating patients for diabetes, asthma, anxiety, depression and more. Nolen said her residency, facilitated by Jessica Skelley, Samford residency program director and associate professor of pharmacy practice in McWhorter School of Pharmacy, gave her the experience to apply for her role at ALBOP, where she's been instrumental in establishing collaborative practice in Alabama.

"Samford allowed me to gain the experience I needed to get my dream job," Nolen said. "It's having the faculty there to help every student. There's always a Samford professor who's willing to put in the effort to help you get there. I think that correlates with how we practice as pharmacists. We're always available for patients and always want to be available in case that patient needs us."

"I'm incredibly proud of Dr. Nolen and her work with the Alabama Board of Pharmacy," said Michael Crouch, dean of McWhorter School of Pharmacy. "Through her leadership of collaborative practice, she is elevating pharmacy care to patients throughout the state. Her educational path is a wonderful example of how a joint degree from Samford, including a Doctor of Pharmacy and Master of Public Health, can uniquely prepare a graduate to make a difference in the community they serve." ■



Working at ALBOP, Nolen helps provide health care to Alabamians, especially those in rural areas.

Physician Assistant Graduate

Pays It Forward in NYC

by June Mathews

Courtney Webb '17, M.S.P.A.S. '21 is living the life. A Southern girl with North Carolina roots and a Samford education, she's making her way in New York City as a physician assistant at New York-Presbyterian Hospital. And so far, the going is good, if a bit overwhelming.

"My job is in general surgery, which involves a wide variety of subspecialties. So, on any given day, you never know what you're going to see," said Webb. "It's exciting, but it's a lot to take in and try to learn."

But as a member of the inaugural class of Samford's Physician Assistant Studies program in the School of Health Professions, Webb is well-prepared for whatever comes her way.

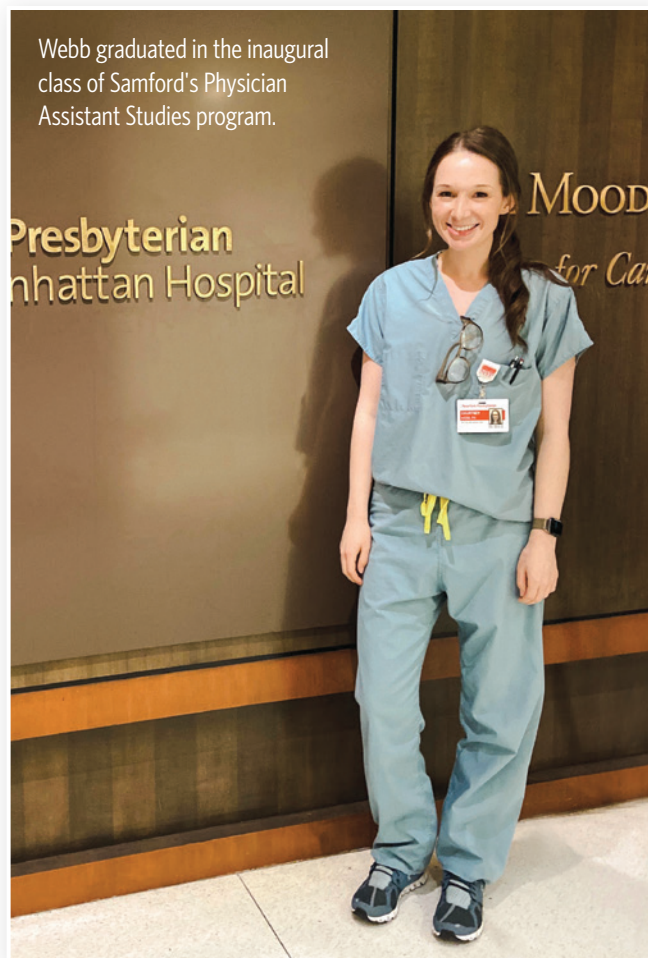
Started in 2019 in response to the increasing demand for physician assistants, the program is centered around small class sizes and a low student-to-faculty ratio. Graduates earn a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies.

Webb first became acquainted with Samford when her older sister scheduled a college tour and invited her along. The sisters liked what they saw, and both ended up attending Samford. Webb earned a Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders and planned to become a speech-language pathologist or an audiologist. But neither path seemed a good fit.

"I knew I wanted to go into something medical, but did I want to be a nurse? Did I want to go to med school?" she said. "After a lot of prayer and a lot of soul-searching, I knew that being a PA was the right call."

So, Webb applied to Samford and one other program. But knowing from experience how Samford invests in its students, not only educationally but personally, her hope was to return to her alma mater.

"Thankfully, it worked out that way," she said, "I cannot speak highly enough about the program. The faculty was



Webb graduated in the inaugural class of Samford's Physician Assistant Studies program.

great, and there was something special about our cohort. There were 36 of us, and we got along so well. We were more encouraging to one another than competitive, which I think is unusual for PA school."

Webb now pays forward the care she experienced at Samford in the way she relates to her patients. And co-workers often note the extra effort she applies to her work.

"How the faculty cared about us in the classroom affects how I practice here," she said. "It's cool to think about how many people in all kinds of places are being impacted by the seeds of care they're planting. I hope they know they're accomplishing that goal." ■

"How the faculty cared about us in the classroom affects how I practice here." —Courtney Webb '17, M.S.P.A.S. '21

A Passion for Food

by Nancy Dorman-Hickson

As the family watched *Beat Bobby Flay* one afternoon, James Briscione '01 strategized with wife Brooke Parkhurst, daughter Parker, 13, and son August, 6, only a few days before the chef would leave to compete on the Food Network culinary show. Watching contestants rev up the audience, he remarked he might worm dance. "Don't even consider it," Parker said. Challenged, the Samford University nutrition and dietetics graduate had to worm dance in the heat of the moment halfway through the round as he cooked against Flay.

When he was a student at Samford, Briscione initially planned to major in sports medicine, but restaurant work led him to switch majors. He recalls how helpful professor Patricia Hart Terry was. Terry, who is now retired, taught nutrition and dietetics courses at Samford for 30 years.

"As I was going through my studies, food really became what I was passionate about," he said. "She was so wonderful about helping to feed that passion. In my last two years, I was working full time for James Beard Award-winning chef Frank Stitt. She helped find ways for me to work through my studies, but also be able to immerse myself in the kitchen."

Briscione cooked not only with the legendary Stitt but, later, Daniel Boulud in New York City. He directed culinary research at the Institute of Culinary Education and he and his wife—a culinary star, too—produced several cookbooks together. In 2019, the couple



opened Angelena's Ristorante Italiano in Pensacola, Florida, where he is executive chef and she is the wine director.

Although the two-time *Chopped* winner had served as a judge on *Beat Bobby Flay*, he'd not competed on the show. When Flay announced guava as the competitors' secret ingredient, Briscione figured Latin chef Sue Torres would have the advantage. Nevertheless, he was pleased with his fried goat cheese salad served with guava bourbon jam and pickled guava vinaigrette, up against her guava empanada. Chef Torres ran out of time and didn't finish, so Briscione moved up in the competition.

Briscione chose tortellini for the next battle against Flay. While Flay

Briscione defeated renowned chef Bobby Flay in the Food Network show *Beat Bobby Flay*.

stuck with a traditional seafood-stuffed tortellini, Briscione honored his Southern roots with a crawfish version, featuring

andouille sausage, crawfish sauce, charred corn and brown butter. He won. And despite his daughter's warning, he did the worm.

Briscione said his experience at Samford is one of the keys to his success.

"It was the nature of Samford to nurture the students' passion and to help them find what they loved," he said. "I'm a great example of that." He also credits Samford for lifelong friendships made on campus. "So much about the community and environment fosters those relationships."

Those relationships continue to grow on campus as Briscione gives his time by serving on the Advisory Board for the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics. ▀



Photos provided by Food Network

Beeson Divinity School Positioned to Train More *Chaplains Thanks to Birmingham Donors*

by Kristen Padilla

When Birmingham physician Alton Baker and his wife, Mary, established the General James M. Hutchens Military Chaplain Scholarship at Samford's Beeson Divinity School in 2019, they wanted to "make Beeson the premier divinity school that supplies military chaplains."

The Hutchens scholarship financially supports men and women enrolled in the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program who are committed to pursuing a career in the military as an active-duty chaplain. Now their investment is bearing fruit.

In the fall, the Hutchens scholarship was awarded to its first recipient, M.Div. student Josiah Trombley, who is preparing for chaplaincy in the U.S. Navy.

"To have the Hutchens scholarship is one of those things that I know an investment is being made and a deposit is being entrusted to me," Trombley said.

On March 1, Trombley and the Bakers met for the first time during the Beeson's Military Chaplaincy Day, during which recruiters from four branches of the United States military were on campus to speak to students interested in various chaplaincy opportunities.

"To meet him was to meet a true servant who wants to raise up leaders for the gospel. It truly was incredible," said Trombley.

Hutchens was a chaplain in the 10th Special Forces Group, which is where Baker met him while serving as group surgeon. Hutchens died on July 13 last year.

"When we would parachute at night, the chaplain would always say a prayer before we got into the plane," Baker said. "Any time we had a problem, we could go see him. His spirituality was upmost and helpful to our group."

Baker wants more chaplains like Hutchens in the military. Beeson Divinity is well-positioned for this task, he said, for one of its strengths is providing theological education in person and not over the computer. This incarnational approach is important to the military.

"If it's not for the faculty and the student body, it's just a pile of bricks," Baker said. "I think this place is an embodiment of what all could be good. It's been a great help to me."



Dr. Alton Baker and Josiah Trombley

Thanks to people like the Bakers, Beeson Divinity has a new chaplaincy emphasis for students preparing for chaplaincy ministry in various fields. This emphasis includes a recommended track of study within the M.Div. program, a rich offering of vocational guidance and enrichment from local chaplains, financial support and access to Beeson's advisory board of chaplaincy professionals. ▀

To learn more about preparing for chaplaincy at Beeson Divinity School, scan the QR code.



CLASS NOTES

Compiled by the Office of Alumni Programs and Annual Giving.

1950s

Roy Anderson '51 has been inducted into the Jackson County Sports Hall of Fame.

1960s

Edwin Bagley '68 has received The Charles and Hazel Corts Award for Excellence in Teaching at Wingate University.

1970s

Barbara Eubanks '70 recently published a devotional book, *Fear to Fearless: 365 Interactive Devotions to Unlock Your Faith in Christ*.

Ron Wilson '76 has joined the University of Alabama as Director of Development in the College of Engineering.

Beth Taylor '76 has been appointed to First Community Bankshares' Board of Directors.

Nancy Jones Davis '78 has received the Ham Lifetime Impact Award by the Auburn Chamber of Commerce.

1980s

Rick McKay '80 has been inducted into the Vestavia Hills City Schools Hall of Fame.

Sandra Austin '82 has joined the faculty at Carson-Newman University as an assistant professor of education.

Clark Hammond '84 has been named at-large director for USA Swimming.

G. Michael Escoe '84 has been inducted into Marquis Who's Who Biographical Registry.

Richard Reynolds '84 has joined Charlotte Christian Law as vice president.

Buddy Champion '86 has been elected president of the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

Phillip Burgess '88 has been named dean of

the Shuford School of Performing Arts at Catawba College.

Susan Besh Comensky '88 has joined Leadership Alabama's 2021-22 class.

Zeke Smith '88 has been honored as an Auburn Distinguished Engineer.

Tracy Sherman '89 has been hired as client service associate for The Trust Company of Tennessee.

1990s

Kevin Phillips '90 has been promoted to vice president of customer experience and creative operations at Mspark.

Tom McDougal '91 has been named chief executive officer and managing director at Manatee Memorial Hospital.

John Rigrish '91, '93 has made the *Birmingham Business Journal's* 2021 Who's Who in Education.

James Williams '91 has been inducted into the Birmingham Bar Foundation Society of Fellows Class of 2022.

Ande Myers '92 has been named senior pastor at Central Baptist Church Fountain City.

Tony Hale '92 co-starred in the new film *Being the Ricardos* and recently co-starred in *Clifford the Big Red Dog*.

Derek Wardlaw '94 has been appointed head of business development for O2 Investment Partners.

Michael Odom '94 has been named partner at McGlinchey Stafford.

Clyde "Tres" Westbrook '95 has joined Watkins and Eager.

David Peacock '95 has been appointed director of pastoral care for Shelby Baptist Medical Center.

Frederick Thurman '95 has been selected as regional leader for the labor, employment and

pensions service line for Shumaker.

James "Jay" Stewart '95, '02 has joined Heninger Garrison Davis LLC as partner.

Chad Scroggins '96, '98, '00 has joined Leadership Alabama's 2021-22 class.

Lance Richardson '96 has joined the University of Maine Athletics as director of quality controls and operations.

Kimberly Greene '96 has been named chair of the board for the American Gas Association.

Michael Hogue '96 has been appointed by the American Pharmacists Association as the liaison representative on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Infection Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

Beth Linton '96 has been named president of Environmental Underwriting Solutions.

Brad David '97 has joined Evercore as senior managing director in the company's advisory practice.

Nicole Hardee '98, '99 has joined Watkins and Eager.

Betsy Bugg Holloway '98 has joined Leadership Alabama's 2021-22 class.

Lana Alcorn Olson '98 has been named president-elect of the Defense Research Institute.

Stephany Pedigo '98 has joined Chambliss, Bahner & Stophel, P.C.

Chris Robbins '98 has been hired as chief learning officer for Hoover City Schools.

2000s

Robert Maddox '00 has been elected as a member of the Governing Committee of the Conference on Consumer Finance Law.

Stephen Winters '00 has been appointed district attorney for the First Judicial Circuit in Alabama.

Ashley Dumat '00 has been hired as the first assistant general counsel for Rutherford County Schools.

Wes Garrison '01 has been named chief nursing officer for Anderson Regional Health System.

Brent Herrin '01 has been appointed to the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family.

Sara Newell '01 has been named president and chief executive officer of The Exceptional Foundation.

Amy Jo Osborn '02 has been appointed chief executive officer for the Austin Hatcher Foundation.

David Henson '03 has been elected as the next rector at St. James Episcopal Church.

Brent Boltwood '03 has joined Pinnacle Financial Partners as a financial advisor.

James Drake '03, '10 has been appointed to the Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council.

Brad Landry '03 has been named rector at All Saints Episcopal Church.

Andrew Gunn '04, '08 has been named principal of Oak Mountain High School.

Nathan Holladay '04 has been recognized in *Louisville Business First's* Forty Under 40.

William Peek '05 has been named chief risk officer for Lincoln Savings Bank.

Leo Muralles '06 has made the NFL's first co-ed cheer squad for the New Orleans Saints.

Vince Johnson '06 has been named the group publisher for *The Sumter Item* and *Gulf Coast Media*.

William Waring '06 has joined Thurmond Kirchner & Timbes PA as of counsel.

Blake Neill '06 has been selected as a circuit court judge for the 25th Judicial District in Nashville, Tennessee.

Daniel Dennis '06 has been named president of Illustrated Properties.

Stephen Hunt '06 has been named shareholder at Cory Watson Attorneys.

Ashby Pate '07 has been appointed as secretary to the board of directors for the Birmingham Airport Authority

Tanya Kassis Shunnara '07 has received The Communication Foundation of Greater Birmingham Outstanding Professional Advisor as part of the 2021 National Philanthropy Day Awards.

Stephanie Houston Mays '07 has been added to the *Birmingham Business Journal's* Top 40 Under 40.

Jennifer Reid Egbe '07 has been appointed to the board of directors for the Birmingham Airport Authority.

Kenneth England '07, '10 has joined Spring Hill College as executive vice president and chief financial officer.

Randall Woodfin '07 has been named to the Accelerator for America Advisory Council.

John Lundeen '08 has been selected for the 15th class of fellows for the National League for Nursing Academy of Nursing Education.

Kameron Monet '09 has been named a FACE of Birmingham with *StyleBlueprint*.

Delvetra Calvin '09 has been appointed as elementary director at Alabama School for the Deaf.

Laura Herndon '09 has joined the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina as vice president of development.

2010s

Lori Lioce '10 has been inducted as a fellow of the Society for Simulation in Healthcare Academy.

Andrew Crosson '10 has received a diplomatic assignment as consul at the U.S. Embassy to Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Amanda Stanton '10 has been named vice chair of the Committee on Committees for the Southern Baptist Convention.

Craig Pouncey '10 has made the *Birmingham Business Journal's* 2021 Who's Who in Education.

Patrick Dean '10 has been named to the 2021-22 class of the Alabama Leadership Initiative.

Lewis Brooks '10 has been inducted into the University Montevallo Athletics Hall of Fame.

Oliver Reynolds '11 has returned to Samford University as the head men's tennis coach.

Stephanie Smith Johnson '12 has joined Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP as an associate.

Jaclyn Suzanne Evans '12 has been recognized by Marquis Who's Who for Excellence in Pharmacy.

Paul Simon '13 has been named partner at Hedgepeth Heredia.

Arica Dykes Moss '13 has been appointed as head coach for Homewood High School's softball team.

Casey O'Flynn '13 has joined McGlinchey Stafford as an associate in its New Orleans office.

Reynolds Anderson '13 has been named vice president of operations at Fairin Realty LLC.

Keri Johnson '14 has been appointed superintendent of the Tuscaloosa County School System.

Julie Horton '14 has joined CHI Memorial Internal Medicine Associates as a nurse practitioner.

Allison Lavender '14 has been named to the 2022 Momentum Upward early-career program class.

Kelsey Pope '14 has been named the wide receivers coach for the University of Tennessee.

Albert Elmore '16 was named to the *Birmingham Business Journal's* NextGenBHM in Real Estate and Construction.

Caroline Jenkins '16 was named to the *Birmingham Business Journal's* NextGenBHM in Real Estate and Construction.

Joel Hagood '16 has made the *Birmingham Business Journal's* 2021 Who's Who in Education.

Katy Reed '16 has been named to the 2022 Momentum Upward early-career program class.

Griffin Gullledge '16 has received the ERLC Religious Liberty Award.

Barrett Merrill '16 launched a new app, Storyline.

Cody Walker '16 has joined The Prewitt Group in the role of risk consultant.

Emily Dunleavy '16 has been appointed assistant principal at Inverness Elementary School.

Rebecca Jackson Plowman '16 has been honored with The DAISY Award® for Extraordinary Nurses.

Brandi Russell '16 has been named to the 2022 Momentum Upward early-career program class.

Janet Turner '17 has been named principal of Holly Pond High School.

Greg Mula '17 has joined the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation as a board member.

Anna Akers Hornsby '17 has joined Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP as an associate.

Devlin Hodges '18 has been signed to play with the Ottawa Redblacks.

Justin Coleman '18 has been named Tennessee Tech's director of basketball operations.

Ruth Ann Moss '18 has been named to the 2021-22 class of the Alabama Leadership Initiative.

Carmen Weite '18 has joined Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP as an associate.

Brook DiSalvo '19 has joined Boyd & Jenerette as an associate attorney.

Cecilia Bagley '19 has joined the Austin Hatcher Foundation for Pediatric Cancer team as the front desk coordinator.

Lisa Saunders '19 has published her first book, *Daughter of the King*.

2020s

Pilar Murphy '20 has joined the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences as an associate professor.

Sawyer Hicks '20 has been named sales agent at the Luxe Group at White House Real Estate.

J.P. Rooney '20 has been named a ticket sales account executive for the High Point Rockers.

Hunter Phares '21 has joined Cory Watson Attorneys as an associate.

John Banks '21 has joined Balch & Bingham LLP as an associate.

Carson Campbell '21 has joined Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers, LLP in the workers' compensation practice.

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Samford University

HOMECOMING

[Nov. 4-5, 2022]

Make plans to join your fellow alumni and friends for Homecoming 2022!

Participate in the many activities taking place during the weekend including the Samford Alumni Celebration, tailgates, football game and reunions for the classes of 1972, 1997 and 2012!

See the full weekend schedule at samford.edu/alumni/homecoming



FUTURE BULLDOGS

Lucy Olivia Elmore, a daughter, born May 2, 2021. Parents are Sarah Norville Elmore '14 and Evan Elmore '13 of Nashville, Tennessee. **1**

Margaret Jane Brison, a daughter, born January 25, 2021. Parents are Lindsay Wilson Brison '11 and Bo Brison of Gainesville, Georgia. **2**

Tucker Matthew Longworth, a son, born July 29, 2021. Parents are Julianne Murphy Longworth '13 and Matt Longworth of Nashville, Tennessee.

Anne Lisette Reeves, a daughter, born April 11, 2021. Parents are Katherine Reeves and Dylan Reeves '06 of Nashville, Tennessee.

Annie James Rakoczy, a daughter, born September 2, 2021. Parents are Kristin Coffield Rakoczy '11 and Sam Rakoczy of Knoxville, Tennessee. **3**

Samuel Keith Cox, a son, born May 5, 2021. Parents are Emily Smothers Cox '11 and Matt Cox of Nashville, Tennessee. **4**

Graham Clark Campbell, a son, born October 30, 2021. Parents are Emileigh Wilhite Campbell '14 and Patrick Campbell of Vestavia Hills, Alabama. **5**

John Parker Agan, a son, born May 14, 2021. Parents are Lexie Strong Agan '11 and Payton Agan '12, '13 of Orlando, Florida. **6**

Tucker Jordan Randall, a son, born October 19, 2021. Parents are Angela Armstrong Randall '07 and Leo Randall '07 of Buford, Georgia. **7**

Lochlan Harold Lichtner, a son, born July 7, 2021. Parents are Whitney Woodall Lichtner '09 and William Lichtner '12 of Vestavia Hills, Alabama. **8**

Kai Asher Tullos, a son, born January 10, 2022. Parents are Ashley Tullos '18 and Cody Tullos of Mobile, Alabama. **9**

Charles "Cashel" Collins, a son, born May 7, 2021. Parents are Cameron Collins '13 and Laura Collins of Nashville, Tennessee. **10**

Landon Rayan Kenney, a son, born February 18, 2022. Parents are Melissa Caudill Kenney '08 and Alex Kenney of Lewis Center, Ohio. **11**



IN MEMORIAM

'43 Col. Carl Cooper, age 101, of Vestavia Hills, Alabama, died on August 29, 2021.

'46 Jacqueline Sudduth Pittman, age 94, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on December 28, 2021.

'49 James Calvin Stivender, age 97, of Gadsden, Alabama, died on October 4, 2021.

'52 Lawrence Kendrick, age 96, of Hoover, Alabama, died on October 24, 2021.

'52 John Herbert Davis, age 98, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, died on November 13, 2021.

'52 Richard Powell "Dick" Countzler, age 93, of Greensville, Kentucky, died on February 17, 2022.

'52 William "Bill" Kremer, age 92, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on February 12, 2022.

'54 Marvin Mann, age 88, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida and Cary, North Carolina, died on March 19, 2022.

'54 Bobby Glenn "Bob" McCombs, age 88, of Concord, Georgia, died on September 3, 2021.

'54 Robert "Bob" Ford, age 88, of Jacksonville, Alabama, died on March 11, 2022.

'55 Gene Wayne Smith, age 88, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on December 31, 2021.

'56 Hugh Delano Spruiell, age 87, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, died on October 14, 2021.

'56 Walter Grinell Barnes, age 87, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on November 5, 2021.

'56 Charles Talbert, age 87, of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, died on November 21, 2021.

'56 Frances Lee Blankenship, age 88, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on February 12, 2022.

'56 William Gerald "Gerry" Claxton, age 87, of Deatsville, Alabama, died on February 26, 2022.

'56 Jed Karey Vaughn, age 87, of Orlando, Florida, died on March 13, 2022.

'58 Martin Eugene Elder, age 85, of Aztec, New Mexico, died on November 4, 2021.

'58 John Staples Stanley, age 89, of Peterborough, New Hampshire, died on February 4, 2022.

'58 William Felton "Bill" Chilton, age 86, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on February 15, 2022.

'59 Jennings Jerome "Jerry" Baggett, age 84, of Dothan, Alabama, died on January 27, 2022.

'60 James Lewis "Jim" Smith, age 92, of Houston, Texas, died on September 28, 2021.

'60 Jake Ronald Vaughn, age 82, of Indian Springs Village, Alabama, died on March 1, 2022.

'61 Mary Anne Thomas Sanford, age 81, of Fayette, Alabama, died on February 5, 2022.

'62 John Walker "Johnny" Woodall, age 81, of Hartselle, Alabama, died on September 4, 2021.

'62 Martin Doyle Palmer, age 81, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on December 31, 2021.

'63 John Oehlschlaeger, age 82, of Paducah, Kentucky, died on September 21, 2021.

'63 Heidi Foreman, age 79, of Huntsville, Alabama, died on November 7, 2021.

'64 Linda Gail Trittippo, age 79, of Webster, Texas, died on October 5, 2021.

'64 Elizabeth "Jane" Riley Blackwell, age 79, of Hueytown, Alabama, died on February 10, 2022.

'64 Harry C. Thompson Jr., age 78, of Mountain Brook, Alabama, died on February 12, 2022.

'65 Tony Butts, age 79, of Knoxville, Tennessee, died on August 30, 2021.

'65 Kay Parker, age 78, of Florence, Alabama, died on September 25, 2021.

'65 Robert Wylie Shepherd, age 84, of Mountain Brook, Alabama, died on October 11, 2021.

'65 Robert Carl Ward, age 86, of Mooresville, North Carolina, died on December 19, 2021.

'65 Evelyn Myrtle Collier, age 79, of Newton, Alabama, died on January 31, 2022.

'66 and '69 James Edward Roberts, age 77, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on September 4, 2021.

'66 Alan Johnson Hosier, age 80, of Huntsville, Alabama, died on September 14, 2021.

'66 Angeline "Angi" Grooms Proctor, age 77, of Rancho Palos Verdes, California, died on October 22, 2021.

'66 Dorothy Mae Thompson Chambers, age 95, of Fairhope, Alabama, died on December 8, 2021.

'66 Ray Williams, age 77, of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, died on October 28, 2021.

'66 Taylor D. "Red" Wilkins Jr., age 81, of Bay Minette, Alabama, died on February 12, 2022.

'67 Wayne Watkins Martin, age 86, of Morganton, North Carolina, died on September 9, 2021.

'67 and '71 Michael Cleveland Moore, age 75, of Huntsville, Alabama, died on November 2, 2021.

'67 Mellina Ready Hudgins, age 76, of Huntsville, Alabama, died on December 9, 2021.

'67 John Terry Leesburg, age 80, of Trussville, Alabama, died on February 1, 2022.

'67 Kenneth Peters, age 76, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on February 26, 2022.

'67 Patrick Hagerty, age 77, of Franklin, Tennessee, died on February 21, 2022.

'67 and '68 William "Bill" Hyde, age 85, of Florence, Alabama, died on March 8, 2022.

'67 and '71 Ralph Alexander Sheets, age 76, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on December 7, 2021.

'68 Barbara Ann Collins, age 73, of Knoxville, Tennessee, died on September 30, 2021.

'68 Hazel Roberts Buckner, age 93, of Enterprise, Alabama, died on October 9, 2021.

'68 Judy Awbrey Childress, age 75, of Hoover, Alabama, died on October 1, 2021.

'69 Theodore M. "Ted" Hayes, age 75, of Marietta, Georgia, died on January 14, 2022.

'69 Larry Martin, age 78, of Trinity, Alabama, died on January 31, 2022.

'69 Margaret Binder, age 74, of Lexington, Kentucky, died on February 2, 2022.

'69 Ronda Lou Hall, age 75, of Shawnee, Oklahoma, died on February 21, 2022.

'70 Bob Daily, age 73, of Tusculumbia, Alabama, died on September 11, 2021.

'70 Robert Kenneth "Ken" Coleman, age 85, of Oxford, Mississippi, died on January 25, 2022.

'70 Herschel Larry Hand, age 73, of Selma, Alabama, died on January 20, 2022.

'70 Robert "Glenn" Woodard, age 77, of Tyler, Texas, died on February 10, 2022.

'71 and '76 Bruce Michael Green, age 73, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on September 23, 2021.

'71 Braxton Robert Ezell, age 77, of Bradenton, Florida, died on October 26, 2021.

'71 Sharon Pass Bailiff, age 73, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, died on January 18, 2022.

'71 Alvin Ward Vogtle III, age 74, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on March 9, 2022.

'72 William Foster Kinney, age 76, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on October 27, 2021.

'72 Ann Mintz Steppe, age 72, of Vestavia Hills, Alabama, died on December 6, 2021.

'72 Thomas Foster, age 76, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on December 23, 2021.

'72 James Haman "Jimmy" Dolan, age 87, of Springville, Alabama, died on March 4, 2022.

'73 Earle Farley Moody II, age 76, of Orange Beach, Alabama, died on August 27, 2021.

'73 Donald Joseph "Joe" Sides, age 77, of Decatur, Alabama, died on August 31, 2021.

'73 Charles Louis Campbell Jr., age 92, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on January 19, 2022.

'73 Harry Lynn Nunnally, age 71, of Petal, Mississippi, died on January 15, 2022.

'74 William "Randy" Long, age 74, of Savannah, Missouri, died on December 30, 2021.

'74 William Comer "Bud" Ireland Jr., age 74, of Nashville, Tennessee, died on February 5, 2022.

'74 Jack Flynn, age 73, of Frankfort, Kentucky, died on December 23, 2021.

'74 Rufus Randolph Smith Jr., age 72, of Dothan, Alabama, died on September 12, 2021.

'75 Barbara Anne Bridges, age 93, of Hoover, Alabama, died on November 16, 2021.

'75 Robert Jones Jr., age 73, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on January 14, 2022.

'76 David Wheeler, age 72, of Vestavia Hills, Alabama, died on March 9, 2022.

'76 Suzanne Paulson, age 70, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on September 9, 2021.

'76 Anne Bruno LaRussa, age 83, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on March 9, 2022.

'76 Madelyn Burdick Olson, age 67, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on February 4, 2022.

'77 Sue Jones, age 80, of Bessemer, Alabama, died on September 8, 2021.

'77 Lawrence Bryce Whitmire, age 79, of Brevard, North Carolina, died on September 29, 2021.

'77 James Lee Branum, age 68, of Gardendale, Alabama, died on January 27, 2022.

'79 Garold Jordan, age 73, of Marietta, Georgia, died on December 3, 2021.

'80 Keith Samuel Jones, age 72, of Huntsville, Alabama, died on September 5, 2021.

'81 Hall Williams Thompson Jr., age 72, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on August 28, 2021.

'81 Mark Parrish, age 63, of Glencoe, Alabama, died on September 27, 2021.

'81 Lavonya K. Chapman, age 69, of Sarasota, Florida, died on January 8, 2022.

'81 Donald T. Smallwood, age 68, of Saint Cloud, Florida, died on January 20, 2022.

'81 and '85 Janet Harrington Parker, age 64, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on March 7, 2022.

'82 James "Jimmy" Hasser, age 64, of Mobile, Alabama, died on September 24, 2021.

'82 Mary E. Wyatt, age 77, of Hoover, Alabama, died on March 12, 2022.

'84 David Steele Gaines, age 60, of Fletcher, North Carolina, died on December 20, 2021.

'84 Mike Samuel Hight, age 72, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, died on February 24, 2022.

'85 W. Wade Thompson, age 60, of Palmetto, Florida, died on September 22, 2021.

'85 and '86 Lee Ledbetter Coggins, age 59,

of Huntsville, Alabama, died on September 13, 2021.

'85 Donald Oliver Henderson, age 76, of Oriental, North Carolina, died on February 1, 2022.

'85 Brant Bice, age 60, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on March 5, 2022.

'86 Elliott Herrin III, age 68, of Irondale, Alabama, died on August 27, 2021.

'86 Martha Gladden Hill, age 85, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on February 21, 2022.

'87 Malcolm Douglas Duncan Jr., age 64, of Carrollton, Georgia, died on August 30, 2021.

'88 Kelly Virginia Stevens, age 56, of Daytona Beach, Florida, died on August 23, 2021.

'88 William "Bill" Nickell III, age 59, of Tallahassee, Florida, died on September 6, 2021.

'89 Joseph Harold "Hal" Lunsford, age 73, of Cropwell, Alabama, died on October 31, 2021.

'89 Melissa Whitted, age 58, of Panama City Beach, Florida, died on February 2, 2022.

'90 Matthew Spruell Meadows, age 53, of Jacksonville, Florida, died on August 2, 2021.

'91 Henry Morris "Hank" Anderson, age 56, of Florence, South Carolina, died on October 29, 2021.

'91 Thomas Jeffrey "Jeff" Huseman, age 66, of Hoover, Alabama, died on November 2, 2021.

'91 Robert D. "Bob" Campbell, age 58, of Parkersburg, West Virginia, died on February 7, 2022.

'93 Eleanor Caine Carns, age 51, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on March 15, 2022.

'94 Jeffrey Vernon, age 54, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on December 20, 2021.

'04 Cynthia Jane Treadwell Holston, age 56, of Helena, Alabama, died on September 3, 2021.

'09 Joseph Andrew Crumpton, age 39, of Toccoa, Georgia, died on December 19, 2021.

'10 Kristin Cobb, age 43, of Mobile, Alabama, died on October 5, 2021.

'11 Molly Catherine Braswell, age 34, of Charleston, South Carolina, died on August 30, 2021.

'13 Marivel Christina Subia Perez, age 46, of Austin, Texas, died on September 3, 2021.

'18 Lucas Anderson Spickard, age 27, of Nashville, Tennessee, died on November 11, 2021.



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Newton Appointment *Makes NCAA History*

by June Mathews

When Samford's athletic director Martin Newton was appointed to the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee in March, he became one of 12 athletic directors and conference commissioners charged with selecting and seeding the NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament. His five-year term begins in September.

But aside from the honor, according to Newton, the appointment created a unique moment in NCAA history: He and his late father, legendary basketball player and coach C.M. Newton, became the first father-son duo to serve on the prestigious committee. The senior Newton served from 1992 to 1999, including two years as chair.

"My dad was such a role model to me and our family, so to be a part of something that meant so much to him is very rewarding," Newton said. "I think he would have first been very proud and excited. Then he would have quickly put on his business hat and said, 'Okay, get ready to roll up your sleeves because you've got a lot of work to do.'"

"A lot of work," however, may prove to be an understatement. With 350 schools and 32 conferences, the committee has a fair amount of ground to cover. But according to Newton, having a loving and supportive wife at home and an incredible staff holding down the fort at work provides him with the kind of backing he needs to get things done. He's also motivated by the opportunity to represent Samford on a national level.

"I'm excited about the future of our men's basketball program under Bucky McMillan and can't wait for the day when I have to leave the selection committee room



Left to right: C.M. Newton, Charles Martin Newton, III and Martin Newton

because they are discussing Samford basketball making the tournament," he said. "It's an honor to even be considered to serve on the committee, and I hope to make the Samford community proud."

When it comes to his overall success on the NCAA committee or otherwise, Newton says that the biggest key is the example set by his father, a legacy that continues to influence him to this day.

"I've always had my dad on a high pedestal and wanted to be like him because he was such a good husband, father and friend," he said. "If I can be half the man he was and fill up half of those giant footprints, I'll feel a sense of accomplishment." ▀



Author Charles Martin

Talks About His Journey to Becoming a Writer and the Meaning of Success

by Holly Gainer

In April, *New York Times* bestselling author Charles Martin spoke at Samford as the keynote speaker for the Tom and Marla Corts Distinguished Author Series. Martin, who has authored more than 17 books including *The Mountain Between Us* and *The Dead Don't Dance*, shared his exploration of biblical truths in his book *What If It's True?: A Storyteller's Journey With Jesus*. He examined key moments from the life and ministry of Jesus, as well as from his own journey as a disciple of Christ. Martin, whose son is a Samford undergraduate student, spoke with us about his career, advice for aspiring authors and what success means to him.

Q What led you to become a writer?

A I started writing when I was 15 because I did not have the skills to articulate with my mouth what I was experiencing. I did not have the tools to tell you I was struggling—from girls to sports to grades. One night I sat down and wrote a story, and honestly, I can't tell you why I sat down and wrote it. I just knew that when I was finished it was like taking a deep breath for the first time in my life. I did that through high school, I did that through college, I did that through graduate school, and then at the age of 27, I wrote a novel. Until then, I was probably afraid to try to write a novel. It seemed like something other people did. Then one day I realized those authors weren't always authors, they were like me. I wrote a manuscript and after 86 rejections, my first novel, *The Dead Don't Dance*, was finally published.

Q What advice do you have for aspiring writers, especially for students and recent graduates?

A I think 90% of success is just showing up day after day, sitting in a chair and writing. Books don't write themselves. I show up every day to a blank page. No matter how magnificent

or horrible I was the day before, the page is always blank. No one is going to write it for me. Somewhere, somehow, you have to decide you are going to do this and see it through.

Q How does your faith guide you as a father, husband and writer?

A I really love Jesus, and I just want to follow him and do what he says. I do that not because he makes my life better, but because he is better than life. I want my wife and kids to walk with him in the same way. The end of Psalm 45 says, "it is my great desire to make your name known to the nations." I wonder if that could be said of me. I hope the answer is yes, but that is my prayer for myself and my family.

Q You have written more than 17 books which are published all over the world in more than 40 languages, with *The Mountain Between Us* made into a movie that starred Kate Winslet and Idris Elba. For many, these achievements are the epitome of a successful career. What does success look like to you and what does it mean to you?

A I am grateful for all of the things you mentioned, but that is not how I define success. The best way to explain how I view success is to tell you about an experience I had earlier today. This afternoon, I received an email from a mom who has a son in federal prison. He has not been doing well, but he began reading my book *What If It's True?* and he and his mom have begun discussing it. His mom wrote to me and said he told her that for the first time in his life, he does not feel like a number. She said he surrendered his life to Christ after reading my book. I would give up every single earthly accolade to receive emails like that. That is success to me. ▀

For more information about Charles Martin, visit his website charlesmartinbooks.com. To read a recap and watch a video of his lecture from the Corts Distinguished Author Series, scan the QR code.





Jerry Siegel - Thornton Dial, McCalla, Alabama, 2007
(courtesy of the artist, © Jerry Siegel)

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Visit our Art Gallery, attend a concert and enjoy a theatre or opera production.

I, Too, am Thornton Dial

In Partnership with the Abrams-Engel Institute for the Visual Arts at UAB and the Wiregrass Museum
Sept. 15-Dec. 2, Art Gallery

Demondrae Thurman, euphonium with pianist Kathryn Fouse

Davis Architects Guest Artist Series
In Partnership with the Birmingham Chamber Music Society
Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall

Hymn Sing

Sept. 25, 2 p.m., Reid Chapel

Orphie and the Book of Heroes

Emma Taylor Theatre for Youth Series
Sept. 30-Oct. 2, Harrison Theatre

SPA Trio

Davis Architects Guest Artist Series
In Partnership with the Birmingham Chamber Music Society
Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall

Stewart D. McLaurin, President of The White House Historical Association

Oct. 20, 7 p.m., Brock Recital Hall

Beauty of God: A Preaching, Worship and the Arts Conference

Oct. 24-25

Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play

Michael J. and Mary Anne Freeman Theatre and Dance Series
Oct. 27-30, Boren Courtyard

Amahl and the Night Visitors

Dr. Chandler and Jane Paris Smith Opera Series
Sponsored by Elouise Williams
Dec. 1-4, Harrison Theatre

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At Senior Walk in May, President Beck A. Taylor led the undergraduate class of 2022 down Centennial Walk, retracing the steps they took as entering freshmen. New to this long-standing tradition, the class commissioned a bell that graduates rang in celebration.