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Useful and Enlightened Christian Citizens

In his latest book, From Every Stormy Wind That Blows, Jonathan Bass provides a thorough and comprehensive history of Howard College, spanning from the early 1800s to the turn of the 20th century.

Daniel House Celebrates 40 Years

Samford celebrates 40 years of the Daniel House in London. Samford acquired the house in 1983, and since then, thousands of students and faculty members have traversed the halls, studied in the parlor and explored all London has to offer.

The Ride of Their Lives

While Samford is familiar with being SoCon champions, not all NCAA tournaments are the same. March Madness shines a national spotlight, and under the pressure of these lights, Samford's men's basketball team did something special.

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From the President



"Let's go, Samford! Let's go, Samford!"

One point separated this season's upstart Samford men's basketball squad from matching the University of Kansas, one of college basketball's "blue bloods." Basketball fans at the Delta Center in Salt Lake City—17,000 strong—were on their feet. With only 16 seconds on the clock, A.J. Staton-McCray hustled to block a Kansas player's attempt at a two-handed dunk. The rest is history.

All ball.

Despite not getting the call, Bucky McMillan and the Bulldogs won the nation's heart. Gracious in defeat, the Bulldogs shined a light on our university in Homewood—a place where basketball is played at the highest level, and a place that transforms minds and hearts for great purposes.

This wasn't the first time, and it won't be the last, that Samford is on the national stage. Samford athletics is a wonderful "front door" to the university, exposing many people to the amazing place we all love. Thanks to Bucky Ball, tens of thousands more are aware of all the exciting things happening at Samford.

All heart.

In the Samford spirit,

ecua on L

Beck A. Taylor, PhD President

Samford Athletics Sweeps SoCon All-Sports Awards And Graduation Rate Award

For the second year in a row, Samford was named the winner of the Commissioner's Cup, which goes to the top all-around men's athletics program in the Southern Conference (SoCon), and the Germann Cup, for the SoCon's top overall women's athletics program. The university also received the Graduation Rate Award. This is the first time a school has swept all three awards in back-to-back years. "This is a testament to the hard work of our coaches, student-athletes and staff to work tirelessly to win championships in all aspects, both on the courts and fields and in the classroom," said Martin Newton, director of athletics.













News and Notes

Samford Announces New Provost

After an extensive nationwide search, Samford named **David**

cimbora as its next provost and vice president for academic affairs. Cimbora was previously the executive dean of George Fox University's Wellness Enterprise. He began his tenure at Samford on July 1.

"My aim is to continue to strengthen the positive momentum that Samford is experiencing. I endeavor to be an active leader in supporting the mission of the university under President Taylor's leadership, and more specifically to serve and equip Samford's extraordinary faculty and staff. I consider it a true privilege," he said.



Groundbreaking Commemorates Samford Horizons

In April, Samford held a ceremonial groundbreaking to commemorate phase one of *Samford Horizons: A Blueprint for Tomorrow*, the university's campus master plan. The massive project, the largest in Samford's history, will result in the addition of a new 513-bed residence hall for first-year students, two smaller residence halls totaling 140 beds for upper division students in Greek letter societies, and an addition to the north parking facility with more than 500 new parking spaces.



Newton Receives NACDA Athletics Director of the Year Award

Martin Newton was named an Athletics
Director of the Year by the National Association
of Collegiate Directors of Athletics. The award
recognizes commitment to higher education
and student-athletes, continuous teamwork,
loyalty and excellence, and the ability to
inspire individuals and teams to high levels of
accomplishments. Newton is one of only four
winners nationally at the Football Championship
Subdivision level.

Samford Gives Back Mobilizes Hundreds of Students in Community Service



In March, 1,328 Samford students from across campus partnered with 47 local ministries and nonprofits in honor of **Samford Gives Back**, the university's flagship day of community engagement. The theme for this year, "Love with Action, Love in Truth" drawn from 1 John 3:18, inspired participants to embody their service in meaningful, actionable ways in service to our local community.



Samford Track and Field Dominates for Fourth-Straight SoCon Outdoor Sweep

The **Samford men's and women's track and field teams** swept the Southern Conference Outdoor Championships for the fourth-straight season at Shauna Yelton Field at the Samford Track and Soccer Stadium in May. Samford student-athletes won a total of 16 events during the two-day meet.



Honorary Doctorate Presented to Bill Smith

Bill Smith, founder of Shipt and Landing, was presented with an honorary Doctor of Commerce before delivering his commencement address for the Brock School of Business and Orlean Beeson School of Education's ceremony in April. In his remarks, Smith spoke on the virtues of compound interest, and how graduating seniors' investments now, in business, relationships and education, will reap positive returns long after they have graduated.

Law and Pharmacy Climb in National Rankings

As a part of the *U.S. News & World Report's* 2024 **Best Law School** rankings, released in April, Cumberland School of Law was ranked #103 (tied) in the nation, climbing 28 spots. Additionally, the school retains its top 10 position for trial advocacy training, ranking #6 in the nation in this category.

At the same time, *U.S. News & World Report* released a new list for **Best Pharmacy Schools**, and McWhorter School of Pharmacy is now tied for the #1 private school of pharmacy in the South. The rankings also placed the school among the top 10 private schools of pharmacy in the country.

TJ Riggs Becomes Fifth Samford Student to Be Named Truman Scholar

by Diamond Nunnally

TJ Riggs, a senior, law, politics and society major, was named a 2024 Truman Scholar by the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation. Riggs is the first Samford student to receive this prestigious national scholarship since 2002.

"This is only the fifth time a Samford student has won this particular scholarship, so it's a big day for Samford. But it's a particularly big day for TJ Riggs," said President Beck A. Taylor before surprising him with the announcement in his class.

The Harry S. Truman Scholarship is the premier graduate scholarship for aspiring public service leaders in the United States. Riggs is one of only 60 exceptional students in the nation to be awarded this competitive scholarship. There were 709 candidates from 285 colleges and universities considered for this award.

"I was shocked and overwhelmed to have found out I received the Truman scholarship," Riggs said. "It is truly an honor to be selected as a scholar among such an incredible group of candidates."

According to the foundation's website, this scholarship is awarded to students who "demonstrate outstanding leadership potential and commitment to a career in government or the nonprofit sector and academic excellence."

Riggs served as the president of Samford's chapter of Amnesty International, later assuming the role of Alabama state death penalty abolition coordinator for the national chapter. He has been a judiciary council member in the Student Government Association for two years, played an active role on the Samford Gives Back leadership team, a debater for Samford's varsity policy debate team, and will assume the presidency for the Samford College Democrats for the coming academic year.

Scan the QR code to watch President Taylor surprise Riggs with this exciting news.

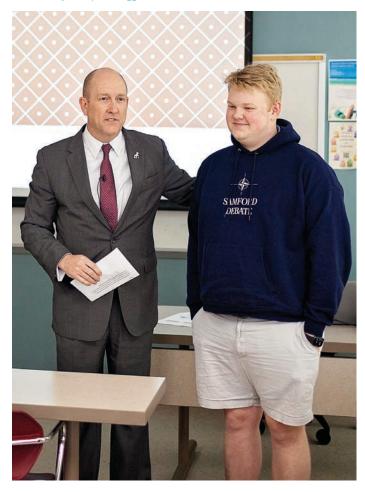


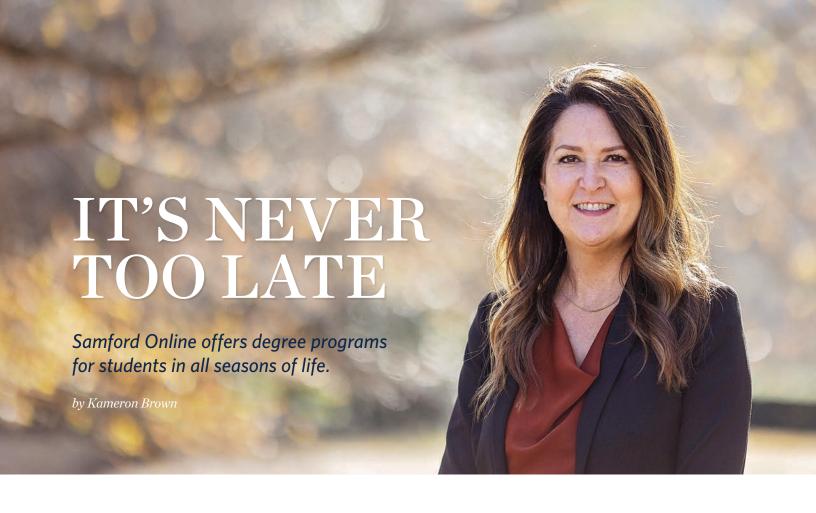
"I am passionate about public service as I believe it to be the chief duty of anyone pursuing education in politics and activism," Riggs said.

As a Truman Scholar, Riggs will receive funding for graduate studies, leadership training, career counseling, and internship and fellowship opportunities within the federal government.

Riggs plans to attend law school after graduating from Samford and hopes to use his degrees to represent and advocate for death row inmates in Alabama.

President Taylor surprised Riggs with the news at the start of class.





Michelle Little '23 started growing her family at an early age, and like many young mothers, decided to put higher education on hold to focus on the joys of parenthood. However, when her supervisors and colleagues began encouraging her to continue her education, Little decided it was time to return to the classroom, the virtual classroom, that is. In December 2023 she completed her Bachelor of Arts in organizational leadership through Samford Online.

"It is a significant milestone in my journey of personal and professional growth," Little said. "Completing my bachelor's degree at this stage of life is a testament to the belief that learning is a lifelong journey, and it's never too late to pursue your dreams."

Samford Online is designed for students like Little—with tailor-made programs that put higher education in reach no matter the season of life they may be in.

For Little, the program's flexibility was complemented by its personalized support. "Samford Online fostered a sense of belonging and connection, ensuring that each student feels valued. Additionally, the professors were understanding and gracious with deadlines during unexpected life difficulties. This made navigating the challenges of pursuing a degree, while

managing professional and personal obligations, possible," she said.

Samford Online helps students work at a pace that is right for their needs, while still providing the top quality in academic excellence for which Samford University is known.

"Earning my degree fills me with a sense of pride and accomplishment. I am excited to apply all I've gained to make meaningful contributions both professionally and personally," said Little.

Equipped with the knowledge and skills she needs be successful, Little has already begun putting her newfound confidence into practice at work and in her community, serving as a home group leader within her church and a mother to her three daughters.

"This achievement has had a profound impact on my family, who witnessed firsthand the hard work and determination it took to accomplish my goals. I hope that my journey inspires them to pursue their own aspirations, knowing that with dedication and perseverance, anything is possible," she said.

In addition to its four undergraduate programs, Samford Online has recently launched a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership, developed by Orlean Beeson School of Education, creating a natural pathway for students like Little, to continue their education at the graduate level. Through the university's educational partnership program, local organizations and corporations can partner with Samford to receive affordable education opportunities for their employees and members.

Scan the QR code to watch more of Little's story.



Faculty Retirements

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

Marshall E. Cates,

McWhorter School of Pharmacy

Marshall E. Cates taught psychiatric pharmacy
at Samford since 1995 while also holding
appointments in various practice settings and
leadership roles in statewide and national phar-

macy organizations. Cates's work centered around suicide prevention and mental health care for the medically underserved.

Marigene Chamberlain,
Howard College of Arts and Sciences
Marigene Chamberlain, a firm believer in the need to develop cross-cultural relationships to contribute positively to a globalized society,

joined the Samford faculty in 2005. She served in various roles, including the World Languages and Cultures department and the Global Engagement Office, preparing students for long-term, intensive study abroad courses.

Roy Ciampa,

Howard College of Arts and Sciences

Roy Ciampa came to Samford in 2018 as the chair of the Department of Biblical and Religious Studies. In addition to this role,

Ciampa taught New Testament and biblical studies and is also an ordained Baptist minister.

Moniaree Parker Jones,
Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing
Moniaree Parker Jones retired in December
from the Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing.
In addition to teaching future nurses in

Samford's classrooms, she was very involved in national and international nursing organizations including the American Psychiatric Nurses Association and the International Society of Psychiatric Nurses, as well as Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

Mike Pasquarello III, Beeson Divinity School
Mike Pasquarello was a commissioned officer in
the U.S. Marine Corps before entering pastoral
ministry. Since graduating from divinity school,

he has been ordained in the Methodist Church. He joined Beeson Divinity School in 2018 as the Methodist Chair of Divinity, director of the Robert Smith Jr. Preaching Institute and director of the Doctor of Ministry program.

Allen Ross, Beeson Divinity School
Allen Ross taught in Beeson Divinity School for more than 20 years. Renowned for his expertise in biblical exegesis and the Old Testament, Ross praised Beeson for the school's emphasis on the biblical languages and exegesis.

Lynette Sandley,

Howard College of Arts and Sciences

Lynette Sandley joined Howard College in 1997.

Throughout her tenure, she taught communication arts, core texts, creative writing and oral communication, among other topics. However, the most integral part of her growth as an educator was her involvement in Samford's study abroad programs and serving as a faculty-in-residence at the Daniel House.

Robert Smith Jr., Beeson Divinity School
Robert Smith Jr. retired as the Charles T. Carter
Baptist Chair of Divinity after 27 years. A
sought-after speaker, he also served as a pastor
and has authored several books. Smith is a
renowned preacher and teacher of preaching, and
Beeson Divinity School's Robert Smith Jr. Preaching Institute is
named in his honor.

Henry C. "Corky" Strickland III,

Cumberland School of Law

In 1988, after several years of legal practice in
Georgia and North Carolina, Corky Strickland
joined the Cumberland School of Law faculty.

Throughout his tenure, Strickland served as associate
dean of the law school from 2001 until 2011 and as dean from
2014 until 2022.

Mary Yakimowski,

Orlean Beeson School of Education

A native of Boston, Mary Yakimowski taught graduate courses in leadership, school improvement, tests and measurement, and research. In addition to serving on the Samford education faculty, she directed assessment and accreditation efforts at universities across the country.

Robert Smith Jr. Honored During Spring Preaching Conference

by Neal Embry

Robert Smith Jr., a longtime professor in Samford's Beeson Divinity School, retired at the end of the last academic year. To honor his 27 years of service, Beeson held a preaching conference in April where speakers paid tribute to Smith's ministries.

Over the course of two days, guest pastors from across the nation honored Smith and his work as a preacher and a teacher. Speakers included Fred Campbell, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in California, Michael Duduit, founder and executive editor of *Preaching* magazine and dean of the College of Christian Studies and Clamp Divinity School at Anderson University in South Carolina, Harry White, pastor of Watts Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in North Carolina, and Daven Watkins, pastor of First Baptist Church Pelham.

Duduit, who discussed the traits that have marked Smith's sermons, highlighted Smith's commitment to soaking in the Word of God, his dependence on prayer and the Holy Spirit, and the joyous celebration of God's truth.

Smith's legacy in preaching will echo through eternity,

Smith, who preached the closing sermon, exalted Christ as the one worthy of our faith. He said, "The church has wrinkles, and the church has its imperfections, but I love the church. I'm going to stay with the church, because there is One who knows where to take her, and there is One who knows how to take her. He'll take your life and fix your heart, fix your family, and fix your ministry."



Handled with Care

Crisis response is vital to support today's youth.

by Alison Ingle and Diamond Nunnally

The safety and well-being of children is the responsibility of the entire community, especially during times of crisis. Despite society's efforts to protect children, many endure distressing experiences with long-term consequences such as post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, substance abuse, personality disorders and physical health problems.

New research emphasizes the importance of addressing adverse childhood experiences and taking steps to lessen their long-term effects on health. Professionals who work with young people are increasingly aware of the growing need for mental health support.

Earlier this year, the School of Public Health's Department of Social Work

hosted a trauma and crisis de-escalation training conference to address the topic. Hundreds of Samford students, first responders, ministers, law enforcement and other area professionals gathered in the Wright Center to learn about supporting children and adolescents who have experienced a crisis or trauma.

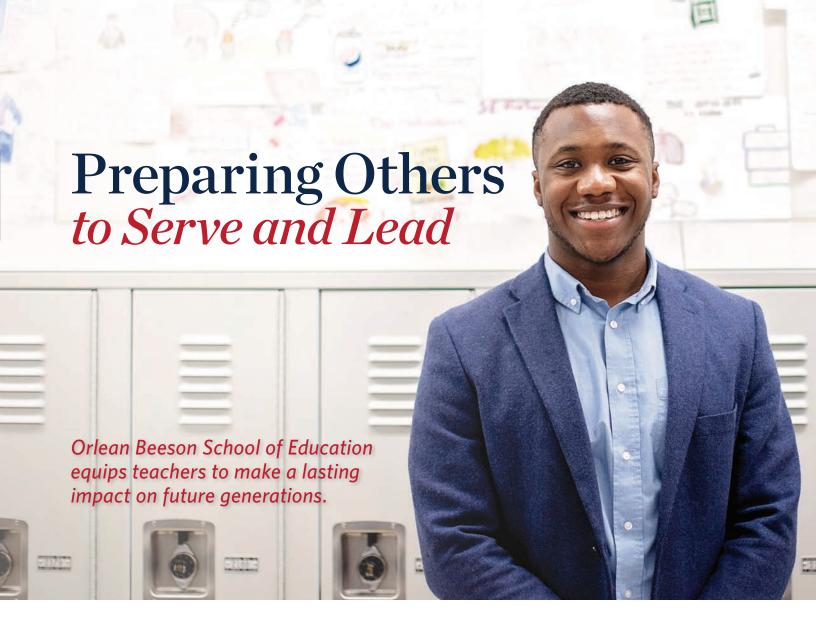
This event was made possible by an

Alabama Child Welfare Consortium grant. The School of Public Health partnered with Howard College of Arts and Sciences' Department of Psychology and Orlean Beeson School of Education's Department of Human Development and Family Science on this de-escalation event to expand their reach into the community.

"It gives us access to different partners, their resources and experience," said Jean Roberson, assistant professor in the Department of Social Work. "It also allows for professional conversations among students. The different perspectives they bring can make a difference in the lives of the people they serve."







by Kameron Brown ---

Having majored in secondary education with a concentration in English, Micaiah Collins '24 is now prepared to teach at the middle and high school levels.

Unlike most education programs in Alabama, Samford's secondary education students have the ability to double major and graduate in four years with a bachelor's degree and a teacher certification in several areas, like English, math and more. Additionally, students can begin clinical observations in local schools as early as their freshman year.

"The range of resources and opportunities that we provide is a key attraction to many of our students. When they graduate, they are doing so with tested skills and experience," said Anna McEwan, dean of Orlean Beeson School of Education.

For Collins, this meant having the rare opportunity to return to his alma mater, Ramsay High School, to complete his internship experience.

"This opportunity was surreal; not only did I have the chance to work alongside some of the teachers who

influenced me to become a teacher myself, but I was given the chance to work with students sitting in the desks that I sat in just a few years ago," he said.

While interning at Ramsay, Collins had the chance to put into practice theories and pedagogy that will define his classroom culture and shape the hearts and minds of America's next generation for years to come.

"Working with students reminded me that the late study nights and early morning preparations were worth it.

Empowering students to be the best versions of themselves is my 'why,'" said Collins. "It made me feel confident that I could do this job and do it well."

Orlean Beeson School of Education is committed to filling the national teacher shortage and filling it well, equipping future educators and leaders with skills to face the complex challenges in the field of education.

"I want to be a role model for students. Preparing others to serve and lead is the best way I can use my Samford education," Collins said.

Junior Music Student Receives Becker Family Foundation Fellowship

by Anne Madison Adcock

In November 2023, Paul Becker, president of the Becker Family Foundation, visited Samford to evaluate a music student as a potential recipient of a fellowship. The Becker Family Foundation is a nonprofit organization that focuses on increasing awareness and appreciation for stringed instruments by providing services and funding for education, research and performances to young, talented musicians.

During this visit, Becker was introduced to junior violin and piano pedagogy double major, Shannon Boutwell, and



asked her to play a piece that portrayed who she was as a violinist. She chose the piece that made her a concertmaster solo at age 15: the first movement of Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*. Becker was impressed by her special connection to music, and decided she qualified for a fellowship with the Becker Family Foundation.

"I was stunned," she said. "There's a part of me that is still in disbelief."

This prestigious fellowship has only been given to a handful of students across the country and allows artists to benefit from the use of high-quality instruments which otherwise would not be available to them. The foundation lent Boutwell a violin of her choosing from their world-renowned collection to use for the remainder of her musical career. The fellowship aims to unite talented students and professional artists with instruments of a quality that encourages their growth as musicians and enables them to communicate more effectively through their music. Additionally, the fellowship includes an annual trip to the foundation's head-quarters in Chicago to perform in concert.

In January, just days before her 20th birthday, Boutwell flew to the foundation's headquarters in Chicago to sample the Becker Family Foundation violin collection and be matched with an instrument of her choosing. When she arrived at Becker's shop, she was speechless at the elegant sound of 17th century violins reverberating around the room. Boutwell sampled four state-of-the-art violins, including two Guarneri violins, one Amati violin and one Guadagnini violin. "There have been so many ways God has pushed me to keep going," said Boutwell. "Playing those violins was one of those moments."

Finally, she chose a 100-year-old violin built by Carl Becker Sr., valued at \$115,000.

Boutwell expressed how incredibly honored she feels to be the temporary owner of her "new best friend," and for the amazing opportunity this fellowship has given her.

PA Student Initiates Inclusive Health Care **Technology in the Classroom**

by Eric Holsomback

Julianne Blackburn, a physician assistant studies student, has spearheaded a groundbreaking advancement in health care education in Samford's School of Health Professions by adopting a digital stethoscope that connects to her cochlear implant via Bluetooth. This innovative solution, suggested by her professor, Heather Hallman, not only accommodates Blackburn's unique needs but also enhances the learning experience for the entire class.

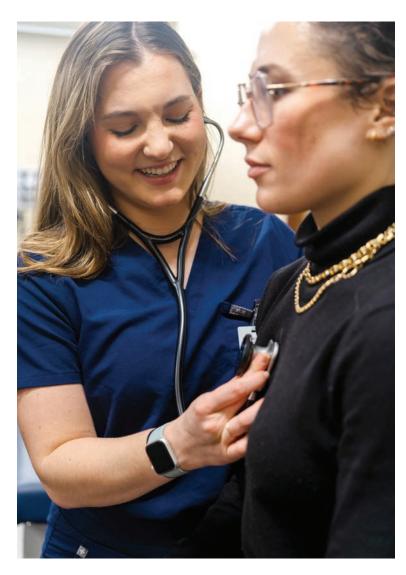
Blackburn's journey began with a simple conversation during her first semester at Samford, discussing necessary accommodations with Hallman. Recognizing Blackburn's hearing impairment, they jointly researched stethoscopes compatible with her cochlear implant. After careful consideration, they selected a digital stethoscope with Bluetooth connectivity, allowing Blackburn to hear cardiac sounds clearly.

"Beyond benefiting Julianne, it has the potential to elevate the educational journey for all learners," Hallman said. "Observing how this technology can bridge gaps is



not only exciting, but also reflects progress in promoting inclusive educational practices."

Due to the positive outcome for Blackburn, Hallman is now developing a grant proposal to acquire additional Bluetooth stethoscopes for the



classroom. These stethoscopes not only amplify cardiac sounds but also facilitate real-time sharing of audio within the entire class. Additionally, they can perform a three-lead EKG while listening, enhancing students' diagnostic skills.

Blackburn's initiative highlights the options for accessibility in higher education while emphasizing the power of technology in health care.

From Tracks to **Snacks**

Moore completes successful track and field career and leaps into entrepreneurship.

by Sofia Paglioni



These experiences have sharpened Moore's professional skills to launch and expand his granola enterprise. Moore's Granola was inspired by his own experience as a student-athlete, looking for a convenient and affordable snack with all-natural, simple ingredients. In February, he launched his

the first batch of inventory within two days. This initial success has motivated him to push his business further.

Now, after completing his successful collegiate track and field endeavors, Moore is focused on the entrepreneurial career that lies ahead of

signature granola bar, and he sold out of



him. With goals to expand his business, Moore's Granola has become the official snack provider for track and field athlete Curtis Thompson, who was recently the first-place qualifier for Team USA's Olympic javelin squad, and Zeph Carico-McLennan, a fellow Samford student-athlete who competed in the track and field Olympic trials.

"Curtis and Zeph have done commercials for my product and eat it as an energy booster as they prepare to compete," Moore said.

In addition, Moore has also signed agreements with the athletics department at Samford and the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Moore's Granola will become the official snack bar of Samford athletics beginning this fall.

"My time at Samford has been a great blessing, equipping me with the skills and networks needed to become a young, confident professional. The relationships I formed with faculty and other students were among the most valuable aspects of my time at school. They have given me support that continues to inspire and encourage me to be the best I can be," he said. "This Christ-centered environment allowed for personal growth and innovation, creating a foundation that I know I can rely on for the rest of my life."



To learn more about Moore's Granola go to mooresgranola.com.



A riana Allgood, a junior, math and psychology double major, has always had a love for all things related to time and space. And with the robust opportunities Samford provides, she has pursued these passions with purpose.

Allgood credits her love for astronomy to her father. "We frequently visited Space Center Houston, our local planetarium, and I even received a telescope for my ninth birthday," Allgood said. "I have a lot of fond memories of us spending summers at the lake identifying stars, planets and constellations. My dad is a large inspiration to my interest in astronomy and work ethic."

It's no surprise that when Allgood came to Samford, she further pursued this passion. Since 2022, she has been interning at the university's Christenberry Planetarium, one of only four in Alabama.

"The planetarium currently has over 10 interns, but when I started, I was one of three," Allgood said. "As the previous interns graduated, my initial role expanded beyond researching and creating visuals."

Now, she's involved in managing shows, creating outlines and delegating tasks. Planetarium director Don Olive said she's been a ray of sunshine and is incredibly passionate about her work at the planetarium.

"Ariana's impact on the Christenberry Planetarium has been dynamic, both with her creative style of putting shows together, but also in her leadership by building a team of planetarium interns that work so beautifully together," he said.

"Working at the planetarium allows me to engage my many interests," she said. "My favorite part is making the visuals for each show. It's fun to draw inspiration from the heavens and create a narrative that helps engage the audience."

Allgood plans on pursing a career in industrial/ organizational psychology, a field focused on the use of psychological practices in an organization's workforce. Her role at the planetarium has provided opportunities to gain practical insights and cultivate essential skills applicable to her future career.

"As my role has evolved, I've grown more confident within it," Allgood said. "From helping train newer interns to interacting with those interested in using the planetarium as a venue, I've learned to be professional in interacting with others to achieve a common goal."

HELPING HEROES

C-VETS clinic serves over 600 U.S. veterans since inception.

Kevin Patton serves as the clinic's

supervising attorney.

by Sofia Paglioni

Cumberland School of Law's Veterans Legal Assistance Clinic (C-VETS), which was founded in the fall of 2020, provides free legal assistance to veterans and their families across the state of Alabama. Since its inception, the clinic has had 62 volunteer law students and has served over 600 veterans, including 239 in the 2023-24 year alone.

Through the clinic, students not only get to assist veterans with various legal needs, they get to hear these heroes' incredible stories. Tamar Dennis, JD '24, volunteered in the clinic during her time in law school. Dennis reflected, "I had a fantastic opportunity to meet one remarkable man, a brave Vietnam veteran who gave so much to this nation. Drafting his will to ensure that his property is distributed to his adult children, per his wishes, was one of the highlights of this semester. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our veteran community through Cumberland's C-VETS clinic. They are our ultimate heroes."

Kevin Patton, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, former A-6 pilot and shareholder at Maynard Nexsen, succeeded the late Judge John Carroll, JD '74, founder of the clinic, as the clinic's

student advocates clear a path for countless veterans, allowing them and their families to prosper. Judge Carroll's passing in August of 2023 marked the end of an era, but his spirit of service continues to guide C-VETS student advocates as they impact the lives of our veterans and their families."

In April, Patton hosted a recognition ceremony in appreciation of the students' hard work and dedication. Each student received a personalized flag and eagle sculpture sponsored by the Central Alabama Veterans Collaborative (CAVC). Additionally, representatives from CAVC presented Patton and the students an American flag to display at the law school, with an official certificate verifying the flag had previously flown over the U.S. Capitol.







Samford Debate Finishes Season Third in the Nation, Highest Achievement in Program History



by Diamond Nunnally

Samford's debate program just completed its best season to date. Ranked third in the nation by the American Debate Association (ADA) for the first time in program history, the team broke records and won numerous prestigious awards.

While the team celebrates its overall success, notably, the junior varsity team finished first, marking Samford's highest achievement in this category. The students responsible for this unprecedented feat are seniors Mary Grace Hammond, Grace Scott, Sarah Chew, Madison Hackett '24, and sophomore Laurel Pack.

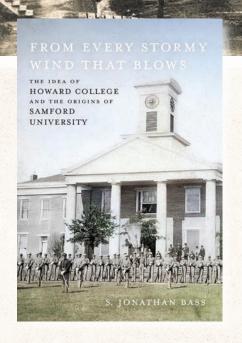
Professor Ryan Galloway emphasized that this achievement marks the most tournaments won in a single season. "The teamwork these young women displayed was the secret to our success," he said. "They are probably the most cohesive unit I've ever seen, creating a spreadsheet of advanced scouting on their opponents, doing high-quality research and coordinating feedback from coaches and judges. They operate more like a family than a debate team."

Varsity also put in work during the season competing against the top teams in the country. Joey Tarnowski '24 and

senior TJ Riggs won the Wayne State Invitational and advanced to the triple-finals at the UT at Austin tournament. They qualified for the National Debate Tournament along with Grace Blackwell '24 and junior Ella Ford. This duo started debate as novices and won major victories against California State University, Fullerton and Missouri State University. They were only the second female team from Samford to qualify for the National Debate Tournament, making them the most successful female duo in program history.

Reflecting on the team's success, Tarnowski said, "Seeing them do so much better than anyone could have possibly anticipated—winning national tournaments and winning top speaker awards at those national tournaments—and knowing I had a part in helping facilitate that has been my biggest accomplishment."





1872

Useful and Enlightened Christian Citizens

From every stormy wind that blows; From every swelling tide of woes. —Hugh Stowell

n 1841, the founding of Howard College in Marion, Alabama, was not a random occurrence. In the rough-and-tumble frontier town filled with whiskey taverns and rowdy boys, a fledgling Christian liberal arts college seemed out of place. But the Holy Spirit was at work. Inspired by the life of its namesake, 18th-century British reformer John Howard, the founders envisioned a college with the purpose of transforming local wild-eyed boys into useful and enlightened Christian citizens.

In his latest book, From Every Stormy Wind That Blows: The Idea of Howard College and the Origins of Samford University, Jonathan Bass provides a thorough and comprehensive history, spanning from the early 1800s to the early 20th century. Bass, who serves as university historian and professor in Howard College of Arts and Sciences, was asked to write this scholarly account by President Emeritus Andrew Westmoreland. His research spanned several years, reaching its culmination when Louisiana State University Press published the book earlier this year.

Bass emphasizes the founders' notable choice for the college's name. Instead of naming the institution after a founder, like James DeVotie, or a prominent supporter, like Julia Barron, Howard College was named after a man who had no direct connections to the Alabama frontier. In fact, Howard had died more than 50 years earlier in 1790. "DeVotie suggested naming the new institution after the type of person he and other founders hoped these young men (and later women) would become," Bass explains. "Throughout the early 19th century, John Howard was still remembered worldwide. His virtues were the four founding principles of what would become Howard College."

As the book explains, "DeVotie and other Marion Baptists imagined that their new Christian college would become a community of learners who accepted and furthered the Gospel message (faith), pursued a deeper understanding of God's universe (intellect), served their community and country (benevolence) and exemplified good moral character (virtue). Putting these four principles into action required a unifying curricular model that demonstrated Howard College's mission and identity."

The idea of Howard College was rooted in "its founders' firm

UNIVERSITY HISTORIAN, Jonathan Bass

A native of Fairfield, Alabama, Jonathan Bass holds a BA and MA from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and his PhD from the University of Tennessee. Bass joined Samford's faculty in 1997, and he has written several books, including He Calls Me by Lightning: The Life of Caliph Washington and the Forgotten Saga of Jim Crow, Southern Justice, and the Death Penalty and Blessed Are the Peacemakers: Martin Luther King Jr., Eight White Religious Leaders and the "Letter from Birmingham Jail," which was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. He dedicated his latest book to his students.

commitment to orthodox Protestantism, the tenets of Scottish philosophy, the British Enlightenment's emphasis on virtue, and the moral reforms of the age.

From the Old South, through the Civil War and Reconstruction, to the New South, Howard College adapted to new conditions while continuing to teach the necessary ingredients to transform young southern men."

Samuel Sterling Sherman, who would become the college's first president, was appointed to spearhead the development of Howard College's first liberal arts curriculum. He established a "common core of knowledge" where the classic texts were complemented by the Scriptures. For, as Sherman believed, "an education at a Christian college was incomplete and illiberal without the Bible serving as

the *sine qua non* [the essential element] of classical texts."

Throughout the 19th century, Howard College "faced challenges both within and without. As with other institutions in the South, slavery played a central role in its

(Left) The college was named after British philanthropist

founding, with most of the college's principal benefactors, organizers and board of trustees earning financial gains from enslaved labor. The Civil War swept away the college's large endowment and growing student enrollment, and the school never regained a solid financial footing during the subsequent decades."

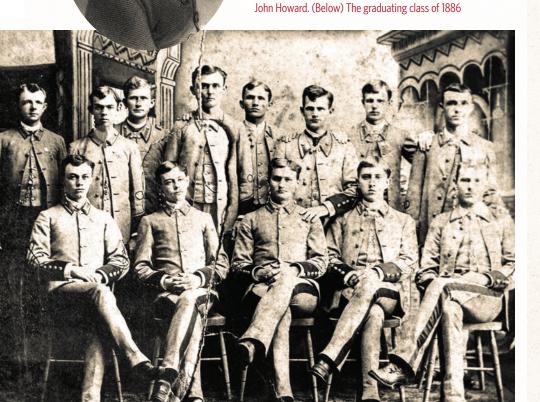
In 1871, under the leadership of James T. Murfee, the college adopted the model of a classic military school. Murfee revitalized the college's academic program, creating a new academic structure based on small class size and individual attention and practice. He also imposed military discipline. Students were required to wear military uniforms on public occasions, and the college began to resemble a military academy. By the end of that decade, military drills were a daily routine for many students.

Throughout these years, Howard College teetered on the edge of financial ruin. In 1884, facing bankruptcy, the college's property was put up for

public auction on the steps of the Perry County Courthouse. The property was saved when two members of the Board of Trustees submitted the only bid. They, in turn, sold the property for \$1 to the Alabama Baptist State Convention, which allowed Howard College to continue to operate.

In 1887, the Alabama Baptist State Convention decided to move Howard College from its birthplace to a new campus in East Lake, on the outskirts of Birmingham. The move was a point of contention with opposition on both sides. Many believed that Birmingham was the "optimal educational center" of the state. Yet for others, Birmingham was a detestable city, calling it an "immoral place for a college founded on the principles of virtue and faith." But the convention was decisive; the 1887-88 academic year was the first at the new East Lake campus.

President Benjamin Franklin Riley, a well-known New South economic





Beginning in 1894, male students were required to wear West Point "regulation uniforms."

booster, fought to restore the college's financial health. Despite his best efforts, Howard College continued to struggle economically, but his recruitment efforts, which led him to travel throughout the state, proved fruitful. In 1890, Howard College enrolled its largest class to date, comprised of 206 students. Finally, with the financial assistance from several local bankers, the college gained some footing, enabling Howard College to enter the 20th century with a measure of financial stability.

As the book explains, "Although problems remained, the end of the century provided a major turning point in the history of Howard College. The stormy winds of debt that had enveloped the college for six decades finally eased—leading to a sustained period of unprecedented growth and expansion."

With the publication of this book, the Samford University community is invited to explore the highs

and lows, the successes and failures, of an institution that has weathered the "stormy burdens of southern history: from the rowdy Frontier South of drinking, fighting, and mayhem to the Old South of cotton, plantations and slavery to the New South of iron, steel and segregation."

In the book's introduction, Bass clearly states its purpose: "to reconstruct the 'idea' of Howard College and to recover the institution's history and original mission—all within the context of southern history." From Every Stormy Wind that Blows does just that.

From Every Stormy Wind that Blows can be purchased online at LSU Press (use the code **LSUSAVE40** at checkout for a 40% discount) or on campus at the Samford Shop.





THE DANIEL HOUSE

Celebrates 40 Years of Global Education and Opportunity

by Dakota Rice



Outside the Daniel House, 1995

Sometimes, a building is simply a building—with layers of brick and a collection of rooms. Other times, a building can carry a deeper purpose, becoming a vessel or space through which history is created by the generations who pass through it.

The Daniel House is one of those buildings, and this year, Samford celebrates 40 years of history in this special home. The Daniel House sits in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, just a mile from Kensington Palace. Samford acquired the house in 1983 during the presidency of Thomas E. Corts, and since then, thousands of students and faculty members have traversed the halls, studied in the parlor and walked through the front door to explore all London has to offer.

Corts had a vision for students to see and experience the world in an immersive, educational way. He didn't want students to simply visit London, but to live there, study there and have intercultural experiences that can be difficult to gain in the classroom. With help from the Daniel family, the property was purchased, and its doors were opened to students in 1984.

According to testimonial accounts and oral histories, the first professors-in-residence braved the house without heat and took on construction projects to make the house enticing for students to leave the comfort of their own country, their classrooms and their friends.

In a 1985 issue of *Seasons* magazine, a typical day for the inaugural students was described. The day started with a 9 a.m. literature course, followed by an afternoon exploration of the British Museum, dinner at Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese and viewing the Royal Shakespeare Company's performance of *Hamlet*. As Corts had hoped, all of London was considered a classroom.

Corts emphasized the program's importance because "it enables students to grow in global awareness, to see the diversity of human experience and to prepare for a world of international consequence."

Over the years, the Daniel House has grown and evolved, but the core of the program has stayed the same. At its heart, the Daniel House can awaken passions in students they may not have even known were there.

Andrew Farrell '08 shared how his time at the Daniel House formed his life path. "London has everything for everyone," he said. "Within a couple years of visiting the Daniel House, I attended grad school back in London to study museums. It was from wandering about and exploring and diving into both the small places and these large international institutions that led me into my career today."

In more recent years, the London Internship Program has provided professional development opportunities for students aligned with their career aspirations. From interning in Parliament to dynamic workspaces like Interactive Workshops, students are placed in roles where they are empowered to make decisions and produce work that challenges their own capabilities.

Lauren Doss '08, MDiv '12, serves as the executive director of SamfordGlobal and oversees study abroad programs across the university. She encourages anyone contemplating studying abroad to pursue the opportunity







"In the area of personal growth,

we see students gain independence and confidence as they successfully navigate as international travelers."

-Lauren Doss
Executive director, SamfordGlobal







DANIEL HOUSE FAMILY

To support the sustained success of the Daniel House for future generations, a new initiative, called the Daniel House Family, has been created as an exclusive opportunity for friends and alumni to directly support the future of the house and remain an active part of the Daniel House story. By making an annual pledge of \$100 or more, members of the Daniel House Family will enjoy benefits such as specific communications, events and recognition.

Daniel House Family members also have exclusive access to the first-ever Family Week in London, Dec. 16-22, 2024. The week will be filled with activities, dinners, community events, classroom experiences and walking tours. And if you would prefer not to spend the week in a bunk bed, you can still participate even if you choose to stay elsewhere.

Learn more at **samford.edu/ global-engagement/daniel-house.**

because once a student enters the next phase of life, these opportunities are few and far between.

Daniel House programs are designed to foster student development. "In the area of personal growth, we see students gain independence and confidence as they successfully navigate as international travelers. Professionally, students gain work experience as well as intercultural competency and 'soft skills' that come with an international internship. We've seen students find their vocational calling in the program, and we utilize our Faith and Vocation course to help students process the experience," she said.

Alumni who have shared their experiences often note the fellowship and camaraderie they experience with the other housemates. These students spend a great deal of time together, and by the end of their term, they've often formed lifelong friendships.

Meg Donovan '19 studied at the Daniel House in January 2018 and shares how the program shaped her Samford experience. "My favorite memory from studying abroad were the friendships I formed with other students I would not have otherwise met," she said. "One afternoon, several of us went and had tea on the grounds of Kensington Palace. I remember feeling so grateful for both the experience and the friendships."

In 2019, the Daniel House underwent a major



President Taylor shares a few remarks at an anniversary event at the Daniel House in March.

renovation. While several updates were made to maintain and restore the historical home, many features were added to enhance the student experience. Both students and visitors are enjoying the renovated facility, and the 40th anniversary allowed alumni to experience the house as well.

The anniversary celebration in March was packed with a week full of events planned by the SamfordGlobal office. From a networking event to walking tours to a trivia night, the week celebrated 40 years of innovative global education and an appreciation for Samford's thriving global programs.

Tom Crosby, Samford's director of U.K. programs and operations, has seen the journeys of hundreds of students during his tenure—from the time they enter the house to the time they leave—and is immensely encouraged by their evolution.

"This kind of cultural capital stays with students long after they leave the Daniel House," he said. "It changes the way they view the world, enhances their perspective of their own country and fosters a nuanced understanding of themselves and their own identity."

Scan the QR code to watch a playlist of videos highlighting the Daniel House and its 40th anniversary.







THE RIDE OF THEIR LIVES

SAMFORD'S MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM UNITES THE CAMPUS AND THE COMMUNITY TO MAKE HISTORY.

by Kevin Scarbinsky

How much did Jermaine Marshall, who came home to make it happen, enjoy the experience of a lifetime? How much did it mean to Rylan Jones, who left home and his comfort zone in search of it, to make history? How do you measure the impact of Samford's unforgettable 2023-24 men's basketball season on the university, the program and the men who came together to make it happen?

The ink is barely dry on the record book they rewrote, yet head coach Bucky McMillan is already looking forward to a reunion of this tight-knit team that accomplished so many firsts while cementing a standard built to last. His fourth Samford team was the first from the university to:

Win 17 consecutive games, the longest streak in the nation.

Win 29 games overall, more victories than any other Division I team in the state.

Win the outright Southern Conference (SoCon) regular-season championship after sharing it the year before.

Win the SoCon Tournament after becoming the first Samford team to reach the championship game.

Earn a trip to the NCAA
Tournament in 24 years, just the
third Samford team to participate in
March Madness.



The numbers scream "great team, great season," but numbers alone don't tell the whole tale, even for a coach who believes in the power of analytics.

McMillan has been a part of "teams that were awesome" but by season's end, he said, the tank was empty. After the grind of weeks and months, practices and games, illness, injury and other adversity that never sees the light of day, the players, coaches and support staffers would say they were awfully

glad it happened. Yet, they were not totally sad it ended.

This team and this season were different.

Bucky Ball's core philosophy of ferocious daily competition, every drill scored and charted to bring out the best in his players and push opponents to the breaking point, did not soften. Multiple regulars missed games because of injuries. There was pain in losing that final game to Kansas, but no shame after a spirited comeback. The blueblood Jayhawks were only two years removed from their last national championship.

The grind was as demanding as ever, but losing that last game hurt a little more for that very reason. It was their last game together. This band of brothers bonded in a rare way, especially at a time when the NCAA transfer portal and NIL opportunities have combined, in McMillan's eyes, to make the current state of college basketball "transactional, not relational."

To rise above forces that shift the focus away from the team to the





individual, he said, "You have to have people made of the right stuff. We had guys invested in Samford as a core, a bunch of guys who had something to prove."

Those selfless personalities meshed to create an unusual chemistry. Put simply by McMillan, "Everybody on this team liked each other. Everybody respected each other."

Nobody wanted the experience to end, a feeling embodied by the team's veteran leaders. Jones, the graduate transfer from Utah State, had to stop as his voice started to break with emotion in the postgame press conference at the finality of the Kansas defeat. More than a month later, Marshall, the fifth-year senior from Hueytown, Alabama, described the pain of a loss greater than the 93-89 scoreboard could measure.

"It was my last time playing with the guys," Marshall said. "They are my real-world brothers. I love each and every one of them. To win a championship when you know how much time, effort, blood, sweat and tears you put into it, it's special. I will never forget this season."

One day, Samford will organize the first formal reunion of the team that took the SoCon by storm, taking the Samford campus and city of Homewood along for the ride. Marshall and Jones may still be playing professional basketball overseas, which is one of their goals, but they would not miss this gathering for the world.

"There's no doubt in my mind that whenever the first reunion is," Jones said, "everybody will be there, and it'll be like we were still practicing together every day. We have a bond not a lot of teams have and a feeling we will never forget."

Confident but Humble

Before the ride began, McMillan had a strong sense of what was to come in his fourth season as head coach. The Bulldogs had made spectacular progress since athletic director Martin Newton hired him in April 2020 straight out of Mountain Brook High School, where he led the Spartans to five state championships.

COVID-19 decimated McMillan's first Samford roster and shortened the schedule. His second team improved by 15 wins to finish 21-11, the first 20-win regular season for the program since 1999. The 2021-22 team also set program highs by winning 10 Southern Conference games and earning a #3 seed in the SoCon Tournament.

McMillan's third Samford team raised the bar even higher. The Bulldogs won 15 SoCon games to earn a share of their first conference title since joining the league in 2008. Another 21-11 record marked the first time the program had won 20 regular-season games for two straight years.

It was all a prelude to 2023-24. The roster featured seasoned returning veterans in Marshall, Achor Achor, A.J. Staton-McCray, Jaden Campbell and Nate Johnson; experienced transfers in



Jones, Garrett Hicks, Dallas Graziani, Chandler Leopard and Zach Loveday; and promising freshmen in Riley Allenspach, Josh Holloway and Lukas Walls.

During the preseason, despite the poll of league coaches that picked Samford to go backward and finish fourth, McMillan told both Newton and University President Beck Taylor that he expected this team to win the conference championship.

"I recall the conversation," Newton said. "It wasn't that he was being cocky. He knew enough about this group, and he is an excellent judge of people."

There was an early opportunity for doubt to creep in, but the lopsided opening-game road loss to a Purdue team that would reach the national championship game didn't deter them. "Purdue smashed us," McMillan said. "The players could've questioned a lot of things. We didn't have any of that."

Instead the program earned a mountain of goodwill. An advance Samford social media campaign hyped "The Tip Heard Round the Basketball World" between Graziani, the new 5-foot-8 point guard, and 7-foot-4 Purdue center Zach Edey. Samford billed this "fight" as "Heart Over Height," but for all the fun they had helping Graziani "grow," the real plan was designed to steal the opening possession. A trap just missed creating a turnover, and the tone was set. This team would attack everyone and back down from no one.

After the opener, their heart would maximize their considerable talent, and their play would generate its own hype.

The Streak and The Pete

After a second straight road loss at VCU to fall to 0-2, a winnable game that got away late, the return began to match the investment. The Bulldogs would not lose again for 75 days, an eternity even during a lengthy basketball season. Their 17-game winning streak set a

school record and outlasted every other run in Division I during that time.

With different players starring and stepping in for Marshall, whose knee injury sidelined him for the first nine conference games, they established themselves early as SoCon front-runners, and the Pete Hanna Center stamped itself as one of the best homecourt environments in the country.

Samford played 18 games on its own campus and won every single one. The power of the Pete proved itself time and again as the students showed up in full voice, the community made itself heard.

Two games in particular made it clear that something special was happening in that building. On Jan. 31, Samford let a nine-point lead slip away late. Wofford hit a 3-pointer to tie with 19 seconds left, and a week after their long winning streak ended, the Bulldogs were in danger of losing for the second time in three games.

The danger passed as the crowd pumped up the volume while the players steadied themselves thanks to

the composure of Jones. The SoCon leader in assist-to-turnover ratio orchestrated the last-play two-man game to perfection, his pinpoint pass setting up Achor's game-winning layup.

On Feb. 21, Furman, who had ended Samford's 17-game winning streak a month earlier, was poised to sweep the season series and hand the Bulldogs their first home loss. The Paladins led by five points inside the final minute when the most magical 45 seconds unfolded.

Ranked by the analytics gurus at Synergy Sports as the #5 catch-and-shoot marksman in the country, the fifth-year senior Campbell swished a deep jumper to cut the lead to two. Then came Marshall.

"His will to win was higher than anyone I've ever coached," McMillan said. Marshall simply refused to let the Bulldogs lose. He stole the inbounds pass, got fouled and made both free throws to tie. Then he hawked Furman star J.P. Pegues into an off-balance miss, grabbed the rebound, barreled down the floor and banked in the winning layup.



Bucky Ball mandates that every drill has winners and losers to sharpen the team's competitive spirit. No one hated to lose more than Marshall. On the road at UNC Greensboro, McMillan ejected him from practice for arguing too vehemently over a call during a game day mini-scrimmage. That fueled Marshall's fire all the more. That night, despite an illness that had him sick at halftime, he scored 16 points in 12 minutes.

In his mind, "I had to prove a point."

A United Campus and Community

After every home victory, Marshall and his teammates made their way around the floor, starting with the student section, thanking the fans for their support. The bond the players enjoyed with one another extended to the student body because the Bulldogs were not a collection of strangers seen only on game days.

The players didn't subscribe to "a professional mentality" Newton said he's witnessed at other programs. "They didn't walk around campus with their heads down and their headphones on."

Marshall gave full credit to their classmates as "the reason we started most of our runs."

"I would look over there and see everybody going crazy," he said. "I wanted to play harder for them. I really appreciated them. They put life in the Pete Hanna Center."

And they had help. For they weren't just Samford's team, they were Homewood's team. This community spirit was on full display on Selection Sunday as Homewood's Edgewood neighborhood hosted a Selection Sunday Watch Party for the Bulldogs. The team, cheerleaders, mascot and hundreds of supporters celebrated the SoCon Tournament title and gathered around a stage with a massive screen to learn their NCAA Tournament opponent and destination.

When "Samford" popped up on the screen opposite Kansas, the crowd let loose a roar not unlike the crescendo at the completion of the Furman comeback. The watch party would become a traveling party all the way to Salt Lake City. Jones, the Utah native, was going home and taking his brothers with him.

Newton was in Indianapolis watching with the rest of the NCAA Division I Basketball Committee as their bracket was revealed. His colleagues noticed the joyful noise from Homewood, telling him that Samford "had the best watch party" and asking, "How did you pull that off?"

Simple. Much like the team they rallied around, everyone pulled together.

All Heart, #AllBall

Taking down Mercer, Furman and East Tennessee State to win the program's first Southern Conference Tournament title had not been easy, but the Bulldogs never trailed in the second half in any of those games. Punching their ticket to March Madness fulfilled one of McMillan's recruiting promises.

Three years earlier, Marshall was looking for a new home after one season at Florida SouthWestern and another at Akron. Last year, Jones needed a fresh start after two seasons at Utah and two more at Utah State. McMillan sold them on the idea that, while they could play and win at other places, they could do things at Samford that had rarely, if ever, been done before.

They had scaled a mountain to be able to climb that ladder and cut down those nets in Asheville, North Carolina, which made that SoCon championship the most satisfying moment of the season for the head coach.

"The group that knocks the door down first had to believe it could be done when it had never been done,"



(L to R) On-campus watch party; welcoming the team home after the SoCon championship; Selection Sunday in Homewood; the fans in Salt Lake City.



McMillan said. "Who do we remember? That first group. And that team just deserved it."

Mission accomplished but not completed. The two previous Samford teams to reach the NCAA Tournament didn't stay long, going one and done. This team believed it could make more history by upsetting Kansas.

The way the game unfolded and ultimately ended provided a lifetime of telling and inspiring moments. The refusal to yield in the face of a deficit that grew as large as 22 points. The reliance on Bucky Ball basics, pressuring the Jayhawks, speeding them up until they began to breathe hard and break down. The relentless, contagious effort that got the crowd on their side as another comeback approached the finish line.

The game will be remembered for the Achor rim run and earth-rattling dunk, the Jones baseline out-of-bounds dive to Campbell for the 3-pointer to pull the Bulldogs within a point with 20 seconds left, and the Staton-McCray chase down block of a Kansas dunk that would've sparked a 5-on-4 Samford fastbreak for the win—if an official hadn't called a foul that no one else saw.

This was heart over height, #AllBall as the hashtag declared. The highlight video went viral, and the Bulldogs secured their legacy even in defeat. For Jones, hearing 17,000 people in the Delta Center chanting "Let's go Bulldogs" down the stretch "was a feeling that will give me chills forever."

Homewood's team had made its mark. Before the Big Dance, McMillan explained that part of his personal satisfaction in making the NCAA Tournament was showcasing the university on the national stage "for the world to see and learn what a great place this really is."

The world saw it in Marshall's

passion and Jones' poise, in a close-knit collection of winners, in a comeback that made a statement even though it fell short.

A year ago, two days after Jones entered the transfer portal at Utah State, he got a call from Samford assistant coach Danny Young. Jones admits now that, at the time, "I had never heard of Samford."

Now he knows all about what he calls "this great school... this hidden secret... this basketball program that's here to stay." He knows all about "the culture Coach Bucky has built with guys who are unselfish and want to play together."

He knows that when the team, the campus and the community make it all about Samford, they can make history. Jones is not alone in that awakening, and when this special team comes together again down the road, he will have plenty of company there, too.







Scan the QR code to relive the best moments from March Madness.



Samford Student-Athletes Make Dreams Come True

by Dakota Rice

In 2022, a group of student-athletes were inspired to form the Samford Collegiate Dream Team, a student group aligned with Dream on 3, a national organization committed to fulfilling sport-themed "dreams" for kids with life-altering conditions, including developmental disabilities.

After a successful first year, the Samford Collegiate Dream Team was introduced to Zach Byars, a middle schooler from Homewood, Alabama, who lives with retinitis pigmentosa, a condition that causes intellectual developmental delays.

A huge fan of Samford basketball, he dreamed of having a VIP game day experience.

In February, his dream came true. Along with his family, Byars sat courtside for both a private practice and a basketball game—wearing his own Samford basketball jersey. He was named the honorary captain, which

meant presenting the game ball to the referee. And as a trumpet player himself, he was thrilled to spend time with members of the Samford band in attendance at the game. The student-athletes even gifted him and his family a weekend stay at Ross Bridge Golf Resort and Spa.

But the fulfillment of his dream went beyond the game day activities. The student-athletes ensured that his "dream weekend" would be forever remembered for the friendships he made. From spending the afternoon shooting hoops and playing volleyball to getting pizza with the student-athletes who led the Samford Collegiate Dream Team, Byars' time on campus was marked by intentionality and camaraderie.

Ella Simpson '23, a member of the Samford soccer team and a Dream on 3 team captain, shared that planning this experience for Byars was worth every minute and every meeting.

"There has always been a passion in my heart for children with special needs," Simpson said. "For the entire fall semester, we worked on constructing the perfect dream for Zach. Being a Dream on 3 captain was such an incredible experience because of the joy that I was able to see in Zach that weekend. The highlight was eating pizza with him on Friday night and getting to know him and his family. Everything that we had planned was worth it and truly made him feel so special."







An Alumna's Journey from **SWIMMING PRETTY TO PARTING THE WAVES**

by June Mathews

Sometime around 2010, Vicki Valosik '02, an international relations alumna of Howard College of Arts and Sciences, was casting around for a different way to spend time outside her job at a Washington, D.C., nonprofit. With her love of being in the water and years of dance lessons, synchronized swimming came to mind. So, she signed up for a class at a local pool.

The class, Valosik discovered, was a group of women who had done water ballet or synchronized swimming in the past and got together to practice their moves for fun and exercise. They welcomed Valosik with open arms.

"They were delighted to have a newcomer, and they set about teaching me the foundational positions and propulsions," she said. "I was blown away at how difficult it was to work against gravity and buoyancy in a foreign element."

But she quickly got the hang of things.

After the 14-week session ended, one of Valosik's classmates invited her to a practice session of Washington's DC Synchromasters, a competitive group of synchronized swimmers ranging in age from 20 to 70 years old. Valosik soon became a member. "From the first practice I was hooked," she said. "Now more than a dozen years later, I am still competing on the team."

But as she mastered the physical and performance aspects of synchronized swimming, she also developed an intellectual interest. "I began my research partly because of my curiosity as to whether synchronized swimming had begun as a sport or a performance," she said. "As a practitioner, I could see the tensions between the two."

In the process, Valosik discovered overlaps between the development of synchronized swimming and the histories of women's swimming, lifesaving, the Red Cross, physical education, vaudeville and cinema, Title IX and more.

"I realized I had landed on something bigger than the history of a sport," she said. "It was a story of women's empowerment in the water that had never been told."

To tell that story, Valosik wrote a book, Swimming Pretty: The Untold Story of Women in Water, which was published this summer. In it, she relates the progression of synchronized swimming from "just bathing beauties" to becoming a major competitive sport.

Through her efforts, Valosik hopes readers will gain an appreciation for the trailblazing athlete-entertainers who paved the way and whose impact extended far beyond the water.

"Every step of the way, these swimming women defied society's rigid expectations of what was proper and possible for their sex," she wrote in the book's prologue. "Any American woman who enjoys swimming today has these women to thank for parting the waves."





It's All in the Family

The Harrisons' legacy and their impact on pharmacy in Alabama is four generations strong.

by Alison Ingle

Some family traditions run deeper than others. The Harrison family has made remarkable contributions to the field of pharmacy and is recognized as the first family of pharmacy in the state of Alabama. Carter Harrison '24, a recent graduate of Samford's McWhorter School of Pharmacy, is carrying on the family legacy by pursuing a career in pharmacy.

The family's journey in the pharmaceutical field began with James
Harrison Sr., who started working at a drugstore at the age of 15. He opened
Central Drugs, the family's first drugstore, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, in 1944, marking the beginning of a legacy that would span four generations.

The journey continued with his son, James (Jimmy) Harrison Jr. '56. After playing basketball for two years at the University of Alabama, he was determined to follow in his pharmacist father's footsteps and decided to attend pharmacy school. Harrison Jr. then transferred to what was then Howard College, where he still holds the record for the most points scored in a basketball game, 48. In 2019, he was inducted into the Samford Athletics Hall of Fame.

The family's drugstore grew to six

locations before Harrison Jr. developed the family business into the nation's second largest privately held drugstore chain, Harco Inc., which comprised 153 stores throughout the southeast. *Chain Drug Review* named Harco the nation's top community drug store chain in 1995, and two years later, the business merged with Rite Aid Corporation.

Harrison Jr. received many accolades honoring his service to his community and state through numerous educational and service enterprises. Through his efforts, in 2002, Auburn University renamed its pharmacy school for his father, who was a 1928 graduate.

The family tradition continues through two additional generations, with grandson, Ronald Harrison, also a pharmacist, and now great-grandson, Carter, is stepping into the profession.



Carter currently is employed at Senior Care Pharmacy of Birmingham, which provides pharmacy services to long-term care facilities.

"Growing up, I heard many stories about Harco Drug, not only from my dad and grandfather but also from former employees and customers," said Carter. "Those stories left an impression on me of the impact a pharmacist can have on a community."

During McWhorter School of Pharmacy's hooding ceremony this spring, Carter was honored with the Community Pharmacy Management Award for displaying management and leadership qualities during his fourth year APPE rotations. "An acknowledgment for characteristics that align with my grandfather's values and ambitions is an honor that I will remember proudly as I begin my pharmacy career," he said.

NURSING ALUMNA TAKES FLIGHT IN ALASKA'S WILDERNESS

by Eric Holsomback

Becky Caron '05 has charted an exceptional career path as a flight nurse and base chief for LifeMed Alaska at Dutch Harbor on Amaknak Island in Alaska. With nearly 14 years of experience in emergency nursing, Caron's commitment to live and work in remote Alaska illustrates the profound impact of her education.

Caron credits Samford's Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing for instilling essential skills for her current role.
Guided by mentors like professor Cindy Berry, she gained insights into emergency nursing and leadership, laying a robust foundation for her career. "Samford instilled in me the importance of critical thinking and adaptability," she said.

In her current capacity, Caron confronts the unique challenges of Alaska's terrain. Situated 800 miles from the nearest hospital, flights can be up to five hours away from some remote islands. Her team navigates weather

from -32 to 32 degrees in the same day to serve as a vital link for isolated communities. "We regularly get winds as strong as category one hurricanes and deal with volcanic eruptions causing us to get stuck on an island for days at a time," Caron said.

"Since we have very strong connections to the communities, if we cannot fly a patient off the island, we will help the clinic on the island with critical care until we can leave," she said.

Caron's experiences highlight the multifaceted nature of her role.
Collaborating closely with local clinics

and emergency services, she recounts a recent case where swift action led to the successful evacuation of a patient experiencing a massive heart attack.

"The island has limited resources, but together with a clinic, fire department and our medevac team, we were able to resuscitate and transport the patient to Anchorage," Caron said.

In Alaska, where access to medical care is limited, aeromedical services like LifeMed Alaska play a pivotal role in health care. Caron encourages aspiring flight nurses to gain diverse critical care experience and remain committed to continuous learning.

Caron's trajectory from Samford to the Alaskan skies serves as a testament to the transformative power of mentorship, experience and unwavering dedication to her community.





CLASS NOTES

Compiled by the Office of Alumni and Philanthropic Engagement. Share your updates via sualumni@samford.edu or 205-726-4808.

1960s

William "Bill" Sasser Jr. '66 has been presented the American Dental Association's Humanitarian Award, one of the association's highest honors.

James Bailiff '69 has been named executive director of the Scenic City Chorale, a nonprofit community chorus in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

1970s

James "Jimmy" Rane '71 has been named the 2024 Business Alabama Lifetime Achievement recipient. He is chairman, president and CEO of Great Southern Wood Holdings, producers of YellaWood brand pressure-treated pine products.

Timothy "Tim" Childers '78 has been named pastor at Cook Springs Baptist Church in Pell City, Alabama.

1980s

Ronald Boulware '81 has been named pastor at First Baptist Church Georgiana in Georgiana, Alabama.

Ernest Cory '81 has been named to *Birmingham Business Journal's* 2024 Best of the Bar.

David Silverstein '81 has been named in *Birmingham Business Journal's* Who's Who in Commercial Real Estate.

Samuel "Sam" Fisher '82 has been named to *Birmingham Business Journal's* 2024 Best of the Bar.

Charles "Craig" Carlisle '83 has been named president of the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

Kelly Lambert '84 has been awarded by the Society of Neuroscience with the 2023 Science Educator Award.

Ramona Rosser '84 has received the DAISY Award with Marshall Medical Centers in Guntersville, Alabama.

Carolyn Coleman '85, '91 has been included in the *Marquis* Who's Who.

Robert "Rob" Jackson '86 has been named director of evangelism and church revitalization for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions.

Robert "Bob" McNabb'86 has been named director of mission mentorship for Missio Nexus.

Alan Thrasher '86 has been named chairman of the board for the United Motorcoach Association.

Evan Jenkins '87 has been named general counsel for Ramaco Resources.

Michael Johnson '87 has been named to *Birmingham Business Journal's* 2024 Best of the Bar.

Martin "Marty" Lester Jr. '87 has joined Goggans, Stutzman, Hudson, Wilson & Mize, LLP in Columbus, Georgia.

Thomas "Tom" Luckie'87 has received the Silver Medal Award from the American Advertising Foundation Birmingham.

Edna Moore '87 has written a book, *Learning Outside the Box*.

James Ross '87 has been named president of the Tennessee General Sessions Judges Conference.

Rex Tuckier '87 has been named chief of staff at Lawrence Medical Center in Moulton, Alabama.

Christopher "Chris" Hunt '89 has been hired to the Civil Litigation Division for the Florida Office of the Attorney General.

1990s

Annica Conrad '90 has been named chief brand officer for City Barbeque.

Douglas "Doug" Kauffman '90, '93 has been named an award honoree for *Birmingham Business Journal's* 2024 Leaders in Diversity.

Claude Tindle '90 has been named in *Birmingham Business Journal's* Who's Who in Commercial Real Estate.

Beau Byrd '92 has been named in *Birmingham Business Journal's* Who's Who in Commercial
Real Estate.

Cynthia "Cindy" Echols '92, '98 has been named principal at Vestavia Hills Elementary East in Vestavia Hills. Alabama.

Todd Payne '92 has been named the 2023 Large Market Account Executive of the Year by the Bott Radio Network.

Jill Vaughan '94 has been named Teacher of the Year for Shelby County Schools in Alabama.

Bobby Christine '95 has been promoted to major general in the U.S. Army National Guard.

Jeffrey "Jeff" Dyess '95 has been selected as a member of the Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel (FDCC) in Birmingham, Alabama.

Nanette Edwards '95 has joined Burr & Forman's Regulatory and Government Affairs Team in Columbia, South Carolina.

Paul Malek'95 has been named to *Birmingham Business Journal's* 2024 Best of the Bar.

Robert Martin '95 has been appointed as presiding judge for the Odessa Municipal Court in Odessa, Texas.

Cameron "Cam" Ward '96 has been appointed chair of the Council of State Governments
Justice Center, a national, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that serves Alabama state officials in all three branches of government with policy and research expertise.

Peter Lejeune '97 has been named to *Birmingham Business Journal's* 2024 Best of the Bar.

Margaret "Meg" McGlamery '97 has been named executive director of the Laura Crandall Brown Foundation in Hoover, Alabama.

Deborah Moskowitz '97 has been added by ADRsource to its panel of neutrals.

Brett English '98 has accepted a position as global medical lead for a large phase 3 trial for cognitive impairment in schizophrenia.

Brandom Gengelbach '98 has been named president and CEO of Greater Bentonville Area Chamber of Commerce in Bentonville. Arkansas.

Stephany Pedigo '98 has been named shareholder at Chambliss, Bahner & Stophel, P.C. in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Jeffrey "Jeff" Pomeroy '98 has been named chair of Baker Donelson's real estate group in Birmingham, Alabama.

Matthew "Matt" Hoppe '99 has been named head boys basketball coach at Boyd-Buchanan School in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Robert "Rob" Lucas '99 has received the Tennessee Pharmacists Association's 2023 Health-System Distinguished Service Award.

Curt Stokes '99, '00 has been added to Oakworth Capital Bank's Central Alabama Market Board.

India Vincent '99 has been named to *Birmingham Business Journal's* 2024 Best of the Bar.

2000s

Jennifer Campbell '00 has opened MedsPLUS Consulting location in Birmingham, Alabama.

Raymond "Ray" Thornton '00 has been named as an enterprise managing consultant for RealFoundations.

Sarah Schroeder '01 has been named compiler of the 2025 repertoire books for The Royal Conservatory of Music's College of Examiners.

Rebecca Losli '02 has been named chairperson of the board of the Illinois Utilities Business Diversity Council.

Virginia "Ginny" Gambacurta '03 has joined Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers, LLP as partner in Birmingham, Alabama.

Bill Lewis Jr. '03 has been named by Governor Kay Ivey to the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals.

David Oakley '03 has been named in *Birmingham Business Journal's* Who's Who in Commercial Real Estate.

Desiree Smith '03, '05 has been named chief talent officer at the Hoover Board of Education in Hoover, Alabama.

Jammie Cowden '04 has been named in *Birmingham Business Journal's* Who's Who in Commercial Real Estate.

Katherine Wolf '04 has released a new book, Treasures in the Dark: 90 Reflections on Finding Bright Hope Hidden in Hurting.

Kendell Jno-Finn '04 has opened a new location of his practice, M3 Performance and Physical Therapy, in Calera, Alabama.

George Morris IV '05 has been named to *Birmingham Business Journal's* 2024 Best of the Bar.

Alisha Damron Seruyange '05 has been named associate coordinator and young Baptist event specialist by the Alabama Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Andrew Patterson '05 has been named in *Birmingham Business Journal's* Who's Who in Commercial Real Estate.

Lydia Parkey '05 has been named president of St. Bernards Foundation in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

Christopher "Chris" Smith '05, '15 has been named associate professor at East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, Texas.

Tara Winton '05 has been named education director at The Center for the Arts in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Victoria "Tori" Dye '07 has been named to *Birmingham Business Journal's* 2024 Best of the Bar.

Mina Elmankabady'07 has joined Baker Donelson as a shareholder in the real estate and financial group in Atlanta, Georgia.

Roderick "Rod" Evans '07, '10 has been named to *Birmingham Business Journal's* 2024 Best of the Bar.

John Henson '07 has joined Troutman Amin's compliance legal team in Birmingham, Alabama.

Chitra Kirpalani '07 has been named in the 2023-24 class of the Alabama Leadership Initiative.

Robert Nichols '07 has been named general counsel for the Texas Department of Banking.

Joshua Vaughn '07 has been named director of advocacy and marketing at Alabama Trucking Association.

Britney Blalock '08 has been named in the 2023-24 class of the Alabama Leadership Initiative.

Matt Butler '08 has been named senior vice president at Corpay, a global corporate payments company.

Justin Nalls '08 has been named lead pastor at Ingleside Baptist Church in Macon, Georgia.

Daniel "Dan" Strickland '08 has been named executive pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Andrew "Drew" Ellis '09 has been added as a commercial litigation partner at Christian & Small, LLP in Birmingham, Alabama.

Darrell Kent '09, '10 has been named partner at Moore Colson in Atlanta, Georgia.

2010s

Brandi Maiorino '10 has joined Husch Blackwell as partner in Nashville, Tennessee.

Chelsea Reynolds Nicholson '10 directed *Into the Woods* at the Virginia Samford Theatre in Birmingham, Alabama.

Ali Wilburn '10 has been named in *Birmingham Business Journals'* Who's Who in Commercial Real Estate.

Charlie Baxley '11 has been added to Oakworth Capital Bank's Central Alabama Market Board.

DeMarcus Covington '11 has been named defensive coordinator for the New England Patriots

Sara Hunt-Felke '11 has been named program coordinator for youth at Passport.

Edward "Eddie" Kiessling IV '11 has been named counsel for the Huntsville, Alabama, office of Patterson + Sheridan, LLP.

Winston Busby '12 has been named to *Birmingham Business Journal's* 2024 Best of the Bar

Daniel "Blake" Williams '12 has been named partner at Prince, Glober & Hayes, P.C. in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Kevin Gibson '13 has been named in the 2023-24 class of the Alabama Leadership Initiative.

R. Andrew "Andy" Jones '13 has been named principal attorney at Cory Watson in Birmingham, Alabama.

Austin Murphy '13 has joined Campbell Clinic in Memphis, Tennessee, as a physician.

Courtney Hancock '14 has been named CEO of *SoulGrown*, a digital publication that highlights Alabama's culture, beauty and people.

Trett Hardman '14 has been named principal at Cullman County Child Development Center in Cullman. Alabama.

Eleanor Jolley '14 has been named partner at Wilson Elser in Atlanta, Georgia.

Laura Williams '14 has been promoted to sergeant in the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department.

Katherine "Katie" Fish '15 has joined the Atlanta office of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP.

Sarah Osborne '15 has been selected to participate in the 2023-24 Huntsville Momentum executive leadership program.

Michael Pierce '15 has signed a contract extension with the Baltimore Ravens as a starting defensive tackle.

Chloe Wilson '15 has been named extension coordinator for Limestone County Extension office in Athens, Alabama.

Tyler Hood '15, '18 has been inducted into Lenoir City High School Sports Hall of Fame in Lenoir City, Tennessee.

Ethan Howard '15 has joined FirstBank as relationship manager in the Birmingham market.

Lindsey Cochran '16 has been named partner at Burr & Forman in Birmingham, Alabama.

Collin Hatcher '16 has been named partner at King, Yaklin and Wilkins in Marietta, Georgia.

John McGraw Jr. '16 has been appointed assistant principal at Carbon Hill Elementary-Junior High in Carbon Hill, Alabama.

Mattie Gardner '17' has been named Starnes Media All-South Metro Coach of the Year in Mountain Brook, Alabama.

Jonathan Griffith '17 has joined Wallace Jordan Ratliff & Brandt, LLC as a member in Birmingham, Alabama.

Dulce Rivera '17 has been named in the 2023-24 class of the Alabama Leadership Initiative.

Gregory "Greg" Buszka '18, '19 has been named in *Birmingham Business Journal's*NextGen Accounting honorees.

2020s

Mary Anna Brand '20 has joined Maynard Nexsen as an associate in Mobile, Alabama.

Rachel Cochran '20 has been named brand content manager for Bham Now in Birmingham, Alabama.

Marie Feagins '20 has been named superintendent of Memphis-Shelby County Schools in Tennessee.

Arthur Fisher Jr. '20 has been selected to join the Chelsea City Council in Chelsea, Alabama. He has also been named in the 2023-24 class of the Alabama Leadership Initiative.

Jessica Williams '20 has been named principal at Northridge High School in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Rashad Grimes '21 has launched a tech startup, FurGo, that allows pet owners to request rides for their pet's appointments in Birmingham, Alabama.

Gregory "Greg" Moore '21 has been named 2024 Alabama High School Principal of the Year in Springville, Alabama.

Terry Pittman Jr. '21 has been named on the Top Attorney List for *SB Magazine* in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Ghada Abouhaidar '22 has joined Butler Snow in Birmingham, Alabama.

Lacey Spear '22 has been named content manager for Hville Blast in Huntsville, Alabama.

Hannah Warren '22 has been named clinic director for Encore Rehabilitation in Priceville, Alabama.

Emmanuel "Manny" Boston '23 has been initiated into Phi Kappa Phi.

James "Jamie" Cory '23 has joined Cory Watson as an associate in Birmingham, Alabama.

Let us hear from you • 205-726-4808 • sualumni@samford.edu

FUTURE BULLDOGS



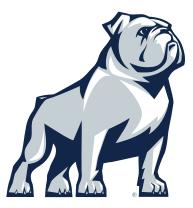
Lilla Bea Granger McMullan '18 and **Reed McMullan '18** welcomed their daughter, Beatrice Myrle. 1

Kirtland Purdy Roach '18 and **Dalton Roach '18** welcomed their son, Parker Davis. 2

Katherine Collier O'Neal '20 and Chandler O'Neal welcomed their son, James Asher. 3

Catelyn Ezell Ozburn '21 and **Thomas Ozburn '21** welcomed their son, Thomas Harwell "Wells" III. 4

Show Your Samford Pride!



Samford license plates available in Alabama and (coming soon) Georgia

Showcase your love for the Samford Bulldogs by purchasing a Samford license plate from your local DMV office in Alabama—and coming in 2025—Georgia.

If purchased in Alabama, \$48.50 of the \$50 cost goes directly to student scholarships.

Let us know if you support Samford in this way by contacting University Advancement at suadvancement@samford.edu.



IN MEMORIAM

- '43 Kathryn "Kitty" Wynn McIntosh Newell, age 102, of Vestavia Hills, Alabama, died on March 2, 2024.
- '47 Carl Thomas, age 97, of Knoxville, Tennessee, died on February 18, 2024.
- '47 Eva Elkins Wilson, age 98, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on March 22, 2024.
- '48 Charles Christmas Sr., age 97, of Memphis, Tennessee, died on March 10, 2024.
- **'51 Jack Biddle III,** age 94, of Gardendale, Alabama, died on February 18, 2024.
- **'51 Bill Lunceford,** age 94, of Dunwoody, Georgia, died on February 19, 2024.
- **'52 Charles Davis**, age 93, of Huntsville, Alabama, died on January 29, 2024.
- **'52 William Gresham,** age 97, of Sylacauga, Alabama, died on December 31, 2023.
- **'53 Bettye Burson Howell,** age 94, of Pinson, Alabama, died on March 13, 2024.
- **'53 Doris Nelson Patterson,** age 94, of Vestavia, Alabama, died on July 18, 2023.
- **'53 Hoyt Garland Harwell,** age 93, of Hoover, Alabama, died on June 12, 2024.
- **'55 Richard Dickinson,** age 91, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, died on January 22, 2024.
- '55 Gloria Tolbert Godard, age 89, of Greensboro, North Carolina, died on March 19, 2024.
- **'55 Henry "Tom" Rogers Jr.,** age 92, of Norfolk, Virginia, died on February 25, 2024.
- '56 Judith Brown Barnes, age 88, of Irmo, South Carolina, died on February 26, 2024.
- **'56 Kathleen Methvin Halteman,** age 90, of Williamsburg, Virginia, died on February 10, 2024.

- **'56 Charles King,** age 86, of Snellville, Georgia, died on February 7, 2024.
- '57 Virginia Webb Barker, age 88, of Louisville, Kentucky, died on December 29, 2023.
- '57, '92 E. Melton "Mel" Deason, age 88, of Bessemer, Alabama, died on January 8, 2024.
- **'57 Barbara Smith Beckett Gaines,** age 87, of Vestavia, Alabama, died on March 7, 2024.
- **'57 Evelyn Nelson Kernachan,** age 88, of Marietta, Georgia, died on January 10, 2024.
- '57 William Vardaman Jr., age 96, of Huntsville, Alabama, died on January 26, 2024.
- '60 Jeanette Saxon Chastain, age 84, of Albertville, Alabama, died on February 3, 2024.
- **'60 Barbara Pearson Lane,** age 85, of Elizabethton, Tennessee, died on February 1, 2024.
- **'61 Robert Gerald "Jerry" Bryant,** age 89, of Raymond, Mississippi, died on February 13, 2024.
- **'62 John "Jack" Bomar Sr.,** age 85, of Culleoka, Tennessee, died on March 15, 2024.
- **'62 Jack Hazelrig Sr.,** age 87, of Marion, Alabama, died on March 21, 2024.
- **'62 George Johnson,** age 82, of Alabaster, Alabama, died on February 10, 2024.
- '62 Sonya "June" Vinson McNamara, age 84, of Lawrence Township, New Jersey, died on February 2, 2024.
- **'62 Linda Nealy Langston,** age 83, of Mobile, Alabama, died on January 19, 2024.
- '62 Linda Fincher Wood, age 83, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on February 1, 2024.

- '63 Mary Katherine "Kay" Payne, age 86, of Mountain Brook, Alabama, died on December 21, 2023.
- **'63 Jack Webster,** age 93, of Vestavia Hills, Alabama, died on March 5, 2024.
- **'64 John "Brice" Graves Jr.,** age 82, of Demorest, Georgia, died on January 31, 2024.
- **'64 Glenda Rayburn Lowery,** age 82, of Lancaster, South Carolina, died on February 14, 2024.
- **'64 Richard Martindale,** age 83, of Thomasville, Alabama, died on February 25, 2024.
- '65 Thomas "Marshall" Collins Jr., age 82, of Mars Hill, North Carolina, died on March 4. 2024.
- '65 Hewitt "Sonny" Conwill, age 80, of Vincent, Alabama, died on March 11, 2024.
- **'66 Huey Baker Jr.,** age 88, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on December 31, 2023.
- **'66 Annanette Goff Martin,** age 79, of North Augusta, South Carolina, died on February 20, 2024.
- **'68 Mary Champion Bruce,** age 90, of Hoover, Alabama, died on March 15, 2024.
- **'68 James Conner,** age 82, of Little Mountain, South Carolina, died on January 15, 2024.
- **'70 William "Bill" Van Tassel,** age 86, of Dothan, Alabama, died on November 26, 2023.
- **'71 Paul Kaleel,** age 78, of New Port Richey, Florida, died on February 10, 2024.
- **'71 James Lucas Sr.,** age 76, of Troy, Alabama, died on February 13, 2024.
- **'72 Jacqueline "Jackie" Anderson Matte,** age 88, of Hoover, Alabama, died on February 29, 2024.



SAVE THE DATE

Family Weekend, Sept. 20-22

Celebrating the event's 60th anniversary

Homecoming, Nov. 1-2

Reunion classes include:

10-YEAR: Class of 2014 **25-YEAR:** Class of 1999 **50-YEAR:** Class of 1974

'74 Shirley Wren Ellison, age 70, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on July 6, 2023.

'74 John "David" Jackson, age 72, of Columbus, Georgia, died on December 29, 2023.

'74 Nina Chapman Philpot, age 72, of Camden, Alabama, died on February 27, 2024.

'74 James Willingham, age 71, of New Orleans, Louisiana, died on February 23, 2024.

'75 Robert Armstrong Jr., age 75, of Pelham, Alabama, died on February 19, 2024.

'75 Alan Blair, age 73, of Pell City, Alabama, died on March 25, 2024.

'75 Barry Foshee, age 71, of Hoover, Alabama, died on February 24, 2024.

'75 William "Bill" Garrison Jr., age 79, of Calera, Alabama, died on February 24, 2024.

'75 Randolph Kramer, age 77, of Sanford, Florida, died on December 24, 2023.

'76 Paul Ash, age 80, of Mountain Brook, Alabama, died on February 15, 2024.

'78 Henry Fowler Jr., age 84, of Wetumpka, Alabama, died on January 26, 2024.

'78 Bill Hay, age 83, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on February 11, 2024.

'78 Galen Johnson, age 69, of Austin, Texas, died on January 14, 2024.

'78 Laura Gessner Kelly, age 68, of Austin, Texas, died on March 15, 2024.

'78 Robert Minor, age 75, of Lexington, Virginia, died on February 21, 2024.

'79 O. Wyndell Jones, age 90, of Franklin, Tennessee, died on March 1, 2024.

'81 Glynn Daniel "Danny" Brown Sr., age 70, of Alexander City, Alabama, died on February 5, 2024.

'82 Thomas "Tom" Hays, age 71, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on December 22, 2023.

'83 Daniel Smith, age 71, of Harpersville, Alabama, died on February 11, 2024.

'84 Lisa Hambrick Barfoot, age 65, of Scottsboro, Alabama, died on February 19, 2024.

'84 Christian Owens, age 61, of Palmyra, Virginia, died on January 11, 2024.

'85 Richard "Rick" Stratton, age 67, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on February 17, 2024.

'92 Phillip Murray, age 55, of Lake Mary, Florida, died on January 1, 2024.

'94, '97 James "Jim" Camp, age 52, of Carrollton, Georgia, died on February 7, 2024.

'07 Jennifer Edwards, age 44, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on March 12, 2024.

'15 Dana Lardent Stewart, age 53, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on February 15, 2024.



Founded in 1841, Samford University has long benefited from the generosity of others. Formerly known as the DeVotie Society, the 1841 Society will pay tribute to our rich history while recognizing alumni and friends who have completed a planned gift to Samford.

Planned gifts, also often called estate or legacy gifts, provide a wonderful way to show support and appreciation while accommodating one's personal, financial, estate-planning and philanthropic goals. When you give a planned gift of any kind, you are impacting students you'll never meet. It's a true picture of planting seeds that will sustain Samford's future.

"The 1841 Society will recognize and celebrate members of a special group of alumni and friends who share a common bond of philanthropy, a love of Samford and the vision to provide for future generations of Samford students," said Bo Kerr, assistant vice president for university advancement.

As a recent example, Chris Blackerby '88 and his wife, Barbara, have committed to making a planned gift to Samford. Chris graduated from Brock School of Business and has been an involved alumnus ever since. And while Barbara is not an alumna, she considers herself an honorary bulldog. When their

daughter, Rachel, enrolled in 2016, they became Samford parents. They enjoy attending campus events and serving as volunteers, and in addition to giving of their time, they give back to Samford through their finances.

"It's one way that we show our gratitude for this place," shared Chris. "It all stems from our love for Christ. I had a great experience at Samford, and so did my daughter. Knowing we're giving to the next generation of students speaks volumes."

The foundational verse for the 1841 Society is Proverbs 16:3, which says "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans."

Scan the QR code to learn more samford.giftlegacy.com



A FAMILY LEGACY SPANNING 70 YEARS

by Diamond Nunnally

When Harper Harwell '24 applied to be editor-in-chief of the Samford Crimson, she had no idea she would be continuing the legacy set by a beloved family member. It wasn't until she expressed her interest in the position to her 93-year-old grandfather, Hoyt Harwell '53, that she discovered he also served as editor-in-chief of the student-led publication 70 years prior.

During their conversation, Hoyt shared with Harper for the first time a collection of old *Samford Crimson* issues he had overseen as editor-in-chief. "It was really special to see that and then know that when I applied to be editor-in-chief, I would be following in his footsteps," she said.

Hoyt is a journalism icon in Birmingham. While at Samford, he started as a teletype operator with the Associated

Press (AP), leading to a 40-year career with the media company. After graduating, he reported in Mobile, Atlanta and then led the AP Birmingham station from 1966 until his retirement in 1992.

Throughout his tenure, he covered pivotal moments in history, from the Civil Rights Movement and the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing to the tumultuous events of the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago. A better half of his career was also devoted to covering major sports, solidifying his status as one of the Alabama Sports Writers Association's 50 legends, named in 2022.

"You never knew what was going to happen," Hoyt said in response to a question about



dedicating his life to journalism. "In most jobs, it's routine. But I'd go to work in the morning and not have any idea what kind of story might develop."

"Knowing all of the amazing journalistic work he did in his career is impressive and

breathtaking," Harper said. "He inspires me. I hope I'm half the journalist he was at my age."

After graduating from Samford in April, Harper accepted a job as a tech, innovation and start-ups reporter with the *Birmingham Business Journal*.

"I'm so proud of her," Hoyt said. "I did not try to influence her in that direction except give her my old typewriter, but it's good to see somebody else who appreciates language and words—and the Samford Crimson."

In Memoriam: In June, after this story was written, Hoyt Harwell died at the age of 93 years old.





This historic project is close to completion with plans to open this fall. These world-class facilities will provide students and employees with expanded opportunities to improve physical fitness and mental wellness as well as new spaces for recreation, events and community gatherings.

OPENING THIS FALL

Seibert Hall has been completely redesigned to include multiuse courts, studios for fitness, esports and dance studies, state-of-the-art weight room and a multipurpose workout area. The space will also include common space for students to gather with lounge areas, a coffeehouse and convenience store.

A **newly constructed building** adjacent to Seibert Hall will also open. Spanning 30,000 square feet, the new facility will include a suspended indoor track, multiuse courts, additional fitness space and sound and staging to host campus events.

Attached to the newly constructed building, a new **pedestrian bridge** will create a pathway to connect central and west campus, providing an outstanding view of Bobby Bowden Field.



Glass walkways connect
Siebert to the newly
constructed building

Later this fall, a covered pavilion with a turf practice and training area will open along with the renovated Bashinsky Field House, providing additional practice and training spaces for the university's Division I athletic teams. Additionally, the complex's health and wellness facilities, located across the street from Seibert Hall, have been open since the spring of 2023, providing renovated space for Samford's health care services, counseling offices and CARE team.

Scan the QR code to read the latest updates, including a live view of the progress.





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