

THE MAGAZINE OF SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

seasons

SUMMER 2017

For God For Learning Forever

Celebrating the 175th

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Celebrating the 175th

Samford University dedicated an original armillary sphere near the entrance to Reid Chapel during a Founders Circle convocation March 23. The metallic sculpture is symbolic of Samford's 175th anniversary. Take a quick glance back at the yearlong celebration.



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Athletics Hall of Fame

Samford chose six former Bulldog athletes as members of its inaugural Athletics Hall of Fame class: Walter Barnes, Lauren Blankenship, Bobby Bowden, Wally Burnham, Cortland Finnegan and Charlie Owens. Learn more about their impressive array of accomplishments here.



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Cover: A closeup of the armillary sphere dedicated during Samford's 175th anniversary celebration (see page 4).

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Healing Angel

Samford's Healing Angel has moved to the College of Health Sciences building along with Ida Moffett School of Nursing.



From the President



Excelling in the Classroom, on the Playing Field

A few days ago, we received the exciting news that three of our graduating seniors have been selected in a competitive field to receive postgraduate scholarships. The Southern Conference awards 10 postgraduate scholarships annually to student-athletes to pursue advanced degrees in graduate or professional school. The student-athletes are evaluated on academics, athletics and community service. Each of the 10 SoCon-member schools are invited to nominate up to three student-athletes for these awards. All three of Samford's nominees were selected!

Anna Allen is an accounting major who excels in the classroom, and as a defender and midfielder for our soccer team. She was a three-time All-Southern Conference performer and helped Samford to regular-season league titles in each of her final three seasons. After graduation, Anna will remain at Samford to pursue a master's degree in accountancy.

Haley Harrington, the only senior on our women's golf team, has posted top-25 finishes at the SoCon Women's Golf Championship in each of the last two years. She is a biology major with a 4.0 GPA and has earned many academic awards at Samford. Her goal is to become a physician, and she intends to enter medical school in the fall.

Javion Lee is a standout jumper on the Samford track and field team and a three-time SoCon champion. In the classroom, Javion has earned All-Academic honors and is a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa honor society. He is a geography major with a 3.76 GPA, with plans to pursue a master's degree in environmental informatics, a discipline that utilizes marketing, business and sociology to answer environmental concerns.

We are so very proud of these outstanding students. A university may well have many points of pride: an attractive and impressive campus; a capable and dedicated faculty; loyal and accomplished alumni; a noble and worthy mission. We are blessed that Samford possesses all of these qualities, but without students, none of the attributes would matter.

This year, more than 5,400 students have shared their intellect, talents and spirit to make Samford a remarkable and distinctive community. We give thanks and pray God's blessings upon each.

As always, please keep Samford in your prayers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Westmoreland'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Andrew Westmoreland
President

Samford Historian Writes *New Book on Jim Crow Injustice*

by Sean Flynt

Samford history department chair and University Historian S. Jonathan Bass has published his second book on the subject of the Civil Rights Movement. *He Calls Me by Lightning: The Life of Caliph Washington and the Forgotten Saga of Jim Crow, Southern Justice, and the Death Penalty* follows the Pulitzer-nominated *Blessed Are the Peacemakers: Martin Luther King, Jr., Eight White Religious Leaders, and the "Letter from Birmingham Jail"* (2001).

In the new book, from the Liveright division of W.W. Norton publishers, Bass explores the long ordeal of Caliph Washington, a black man unjustly convicted of the 1957 murder of police officer James "Cowboy" Clark amidst the reflexive racism of Civil Rights Era Alabama.

Washington endured more than a decade of prison, multiple trials, overturned convictions and repeated rescue from the electric chair. Over the course of his ordeal, Washington experienced a spiritual transformation from an angry young man

to a humble Christian evangelist who shared his Job-like faith both inside and outside prison.

Washington's story began in Bessemer, Alabama, "where an incendiary brew of vice, violence, and corruption thrived," Bass wrote in his preface to the book. Bass heard many stories about that city from his parents, both Bessemer natives, but he had not heard of Caliph Washington until Samford student David Murphy '02 gave him a copy of a pro-Washington handbill found during a

research project. Bass took an interest, but filed the handbill for "someday."

A conversation with Wilson Fallon, a pastor, historian and Bessemer native, provided more fuel to fire the project. Fallon also connected Bass with Christine Washington, the widow who "prayed for many years for someone to come along and tell Caliph Washington's tale." She immediately decided that Bass was "that someone," and Bass realized that "someday" had arrived.

Bass found many personal connections to the story of Caliph Washington—a family exodus from Pickens County to the Muscoda Mines, shared union memberships, encounters with Clark and others in orbit around Washington's case—but never lost sight of the much bigger picture. As in his first book, Bass here illuminates an entire system of injustice by shining a bright light on a single, meticulously researched story.

"The broad historical significance of Caliph Washington's life and trials serves as an avenue to explore the measures used by white Southern officials (lawmen, lawyers, judges and juries) to enforce Jim Crow 'justice' at the local level, especially through race-based jury exclusion," Bass wrote. "*He Calls Me by Lightning* forces 21st-century readers to reexamine systematic racism of the Jim Crow era and consider how the criminal justice system continues to discard the lives of young black men today." ▀



Jonathan Bass

Celebrating **175** YEARS

Liberating Students from the
'Shackles of Ignorance'

by William Nunnelley



Armillary sphere near Reid Chapel

SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

wrapped up a yearlong celebration of its 175th anniversary this spring with a Founders Circle convocation March 23 and a commemoration of the observance during commencement weekend May 12-13.

Fran Carter, left, Dorothy Westbrook and Ellen McLaughlin examine armillary sphere.



The university dedicated a distinct piece of sculpture, an original armillary sphere, during the Founders Circle program. The sphere resides on a pedestal near the entrance to Reid Chapel. It was created by renowned British artist David Harber based on a 250 A.D. design.

The sphere is engraved with the names of the university's founders, a verse from the Book of Psalms, and compass points to global destinations that reflect Samford's academic and spiritual roots. The compass points are Jerusalem, Athens, London, Providence, Rhode Island, and Marion, Alabama.

"As we dedicate this monument, let us not only remember our founding principles, but embrace them in a renewal of our commitment to the liberating arts," said history department chair and University Historian Jonathan Bass, the program speaker. He described the liberating arts as those "that delivered us from the darkness of ignorance."

Honored guests included members of Samford's Founders Circle, alumni and friends who have supported Samford with philanthropic gifts for 35 years or more. Together, these individuals have provided more than \$39,822,515 over the years to sustain Samford's mission. Students and employees also attended.

Bass traced Samford's origin to a movement sweeping the nation in the 1830s and '40s to establish colleges "to



President Andrew Westmoreland, left, board of trustees chair Tim Vines and vice president for advancement Randy Pittman chat following Founders Circle convocation.

train ministers, teach young people Western and Christian traditions, and provide moral order to the community." The school was founded in 1841 in Marion, Alabama, as Howard College, named for British prison reformer John Howard.

Bass noted that those primarily responsible for the establishment of the school were planter Edwin D. King, Reverend James H. DeVotie, businesswoman Julia Barron and educator Milo Jewett. DeVotie and Jewett hired 26-year-old educator Samuel Sterling Sherman, a Vermont native, "to provide both leadership and a guiding educational philosophy for

Howard College." Sherman drew on his background at Middlebury College to design a curriculum he believed would liberate students "from the shackles of ignorance," said Bass.

Howard College opened to a class of nine on Jan. 3, 1842.

"Today, Samford University and Howard College of Arts and Sciences embrace educational programs and an academic vision that remains rooted in the traditions of a liberating education," said Bass. It includes effective writing, critical thinking, analytical reading, persuasive speaking, innovative problem-solving, and

the intellectual foundations of Western philosophy and evangelical Christianity.

Commencement in May 2016 marked the official opening of the 175th anniversary and commencement 2017 the formal close of the observance. Other highlights included homecoming weekend and the fall semester-opening convocation.

Homecoming Events Mark 175th Celebration

"This is incredible," said alumna Margie Terp, who returned to campus from her new job in New York City to celebrate

homecoming on Nov. 10-13. She was describing the homecoming ball in Pete Hanna Center that brought together alumni from every decade from the 1940s to the 2010s.

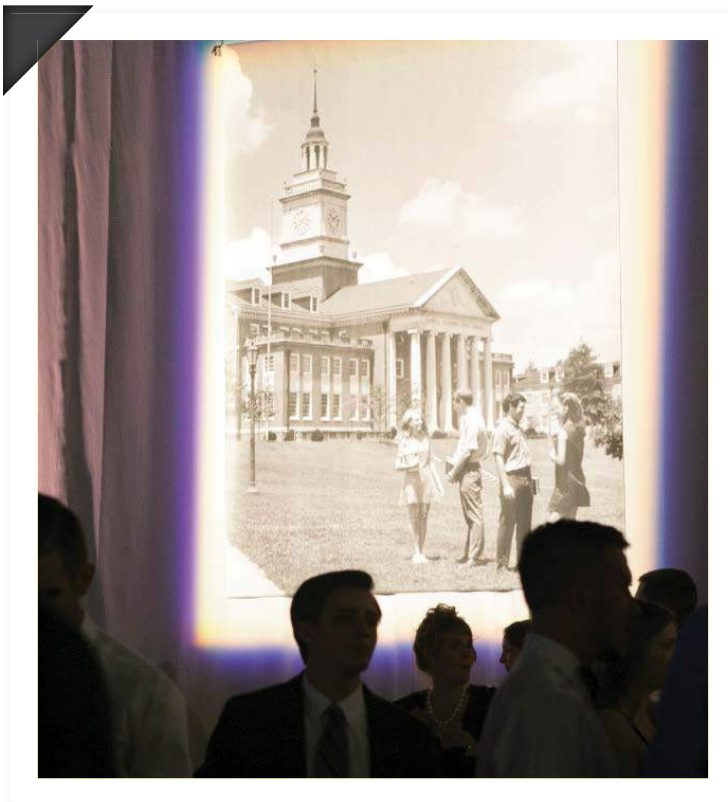
"It was a wonderful gathering of the Samford community," said Michael Morgan, executive assistant to the president. "To see the generations come together to celebrate something we all love and cherish strongly affirms what Samford has meant to individuals and to the world for these 175 years."

More than 2,200 attended on the Friday

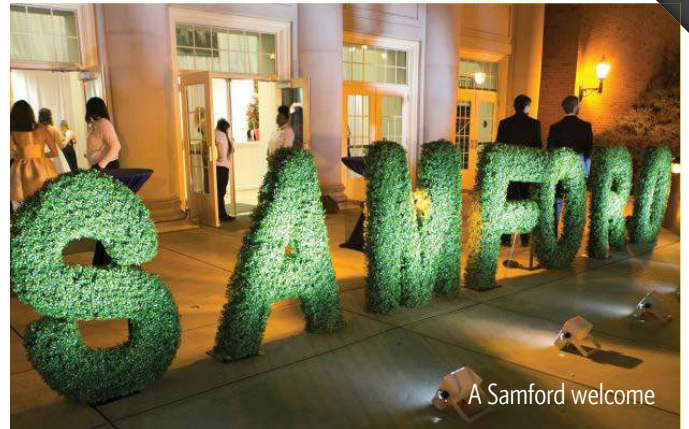
night of homecoming weekend. Thousands more celebrated reunions, tailgating, football and other events as the big weekend continued the following Saturday.

Earlier, on Friday afternoon of homecoming weekend, Samford held a formal convocation beginning with an academic procession from Harwell Goodwin Davis Library to Leslie Stephen Wright Center. Samford President Andrew Westmoreland spoke, touching on some high points in Samford history.

Photos recall early years in Homewood.



Celebrating the homecoming ball.



A football win at
homecoming.



He described the university as “a place often of meager resources and financial peril, but always with friends who stood close during times of crisis.” Westmoreland paid tribute to Harwell Davis, who served as president from 1939 until 1958 and led Samford out of the dark days of the Great Depression, and eventually to its new campus on Lakeshore Drive in Homewood. He said he was convinced that, “absent Major Davis, there might not have been a 175th anniversary of this institution.”

Convocation Opens School Year Anniversary Observance

Westmoreland cited one of his favorite lines from William Faulkner in opening remarks of the fall convocation Aug. 30, which marked the start of the academic year 175th observance.

“A monument says, ‘I got this far,’” said Westmoreland, “but a footprint says, ‘This is where I was when I moved again.’ Footprints are more significant. They indicate that we were here, but we are headed somewhere else to use what we gained here.”

He added, “We give thanks for those who built and sustained this institution,” referencing the Alabama Baptist pastors and laypeople of Marion whose ideas and actions helped form Howard College in 1841.



Homecoming procession, above,
to convocation, right.

Commencement 2017: A Moment of Reflection

And so, as the academic year and 175th anniversary observance drew to a close at commencement 2017, Samford paused briefly to reflect once again on those early leaders whose actions represented the founding spirit of Samford University. ▶





During Samford University's 175th anniversary celebration, we featured the 175 things we love about Samford in *Seasons* and on the special 175th anniversary website. **Are these some of your favorites?**

Miss Dot

Generations of students and employees have been greeted by the iconic cashier in the university's main dining hall.



Hanging of the Green

Selected senior students read passages of Scripture, the University Chorale performs hymns and Christmas-themed songs, and Reid Chapel is officially decorated for the Christmas season.

Lighting of the Way

Each year after the Hanging of the Green service, the Samford community gathers to listen to the president's wife read the Christmas Story in anticipation of the lighting of Centennial Walk and the Christmas tree.

Wright Center Concert Hall

Wright Center is a premier venue for performing arts in the Birmingham metro

area. The beautiful Wright Center seats 2,633 people, and hosts Step Sing, concerts and many other fun events.

SAMTram

For generations, students have walked across campus to get to classes and other activities, but the campus continues to expand physically. SAMTram is the new premier shuttle service Mondays through Fridays on the Gray, Red and Blue Lines.

Magic City

Samford is centrally located in Homewood, a suburb of Birmingham. Also known as the Magic City, Birmingham is the largest city in the state, and is Alabama's industrial, business and cultural center. Students have easy access to churches, restaurants, shopping, entertainment, outdoor attractions and much more.

Bulldogs in the NFL

Samford leads the Southern Conference with five former football players on active NFL rosters. Samford has had two second-round draft picks in the past two years. Players include James Bradberry of the Carolina Panthers, Michael Pierce of the Baltimore Ravens, Jaquiski Tartt of the San Francisco 49'ers, Corey White of the Buffalo Bills and Nick Williams of the Miami Dolphins.

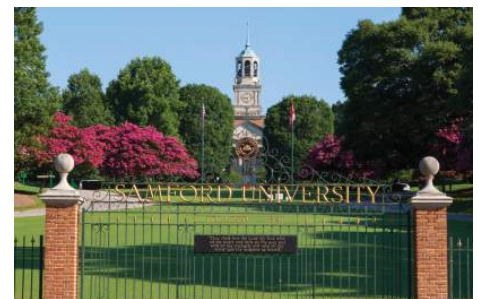
Bulldog Investment Fund

The Bulldog Investment Fund is a student-managed fund, taught as a course

in Brock School of Business. Students are accepted by application and interview to learn the science and art of investment management. The fund is among the top 3 percent of student-managed funds and is now worth about \$1.5 million.

Free Paintball

Every spring, students look forward to the free paintball event sponsored by Samford's Air Force ROTC detachment. Luckily, ROTC members mix equally on various teams to battle opposing forces.



Campus

The perfectly cut, bright-green grass is one of the first things people notice about Samford. It brightens everyone's day and adds to the unique beauty of the campus, whose landscaping is nationally recognized.

Alabama Men's Hall of Fame

The Alabama Men's Hall of Fame was established by the state in 1987 and is housed in Harwell G. Davis Library. It recognizes men

who are native to or identified closely with the state, and who have made significant contributions on a state, national or international scale. Three former Samford presidents are in the hall of fame.

Bulldog Days

Samford's new-student orientation program for students and parents lets incoming students spend the night in a resident hall, register for classes, meet fellow classmates, play games and bond with their peers as they join the Samford family.

The Caf

Food service has changed through the years and physical updates have happened, but gathering for meals in "the Caf," the university's main dining hall, is still an important part of the day for Samford students.

Lakeshore Greenway Trail

Located across from campus and running for several miles, this paved and shaded path provides a great place for Samford students and employees to exercise, bike or enjoy a leisurely stroll along beautiful Shades Creek.

Hodges Chapel

Hodges Chapel is one of two chapels on Samford's campus. The chapel was named for Andrew Gerow Hodges in 2002 to honor the Samford alumnus and long-time trustee. The chapel includes beautiful murals by Petru Botetzatu on the walls and the ceiling.

Rex

Rex is Samford's live mascot who frequents all home football games and other events. His predecessor, Libby, was Samford's first live mascot in many years when she began representing Samford in 2008.



Family Weekend

Families pour onto campus from around the country to enjoy time with their Samford students, including a vespers service, tailgating and a football game among other activities.

Vespers

Campus worship always has been part of the Samford experience, and vespers are a newer tradition that began in fall 2011 in Hodges Chapel. The A Cappella Choir performs sacred music, Scripture is read and other liturgical worship elements are celebrated in a wonderful time of worship and reflection for all who attend.

Entre Nous

Created under the presidency of Andrew P. Montague (1902-12), *Entre Nous* is Samford's yearbook. It features coverage of traditions and events throughout the year as well as news pieces by student writers. It is student written, photographed and edited, giving students an excellent environment to learn leadership and work ethic.

Alumni

With more than 50,000 alumni, our graduates are the heartbeat of Samford's history. Among Samford's alumni are more than 60 members of U.S. Congress, eight state governors, two U.S. Supreme Court justices, one Secretary of State, four Rhodes Scholars, multiple Emmy and Grammy Award-winning artists, two national championship football coaches, and recipients of the Pulitzer and Nobel Peace prizes.

Midnight Yell

Students gather in the library on the Monday of finals week for a Midnight Yell where they release the stress and pressure of the end of the term.

Bobby Bowden Statue

The Bobby Bowden Statue stands tall outside the front gates of Seibert Stadium. Bowden was a student-athlete during 1950-53 and later was head football coach from 1959 to 1962, compiling a 31-6 record. He later was a national championship coach at Florida State University.

Beeson Ball

Every year, the Office of Residence Life puts on a free dance for all Samford students to enjoy.

Late-night Snacks During Exams

During exams, the library extends its hours until 2 a.m. Students can find a snack or a meal at Einstein Bagels. The Office of Parent Programs brings in free food, and the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management hosts a late-night pancake supper in the Caf.



Commencement

After four years of hard work, students, family and faculty gather to recognize these achievements and award diplomas. It is a special time for all in attendance as students' time at Samford comes to a close.

Cadres

Cadres are small student and faculty groups that meet to discuss a range of issues from college life to theology.

Samford

No list of favorite things about Samford would be complete without mentioning Samford itself. It's the tie that binds us all together and has for 175 years. Happy birthday, Samford! ▶

FOREVER SAMFORD

Completes Inaugural Class Campaign

by Karen Templeton

Can you love a place? If the efforts of the classes of 1967, 1972, 1987, 1992, 2002 and 2007 are any indication, you can certainly love Samford. As these classes celebrate significant reunion years, they also successfully launched the university's *Forever Samford* campaign.

Volunteer leaders from these classes stepped up to champion fundraising efforts. They recruited additional volunteers and called fellow graduates to ask for support of the university's effort to raise \$300 million through *Forever Samford*.

"Class volunteers selflessly gave of their time, talent and treasure to ensure Samford's opportunity and growth," said

Samford President Andrew Westmoreland. "A dedication and commitment like that could only come from a place of love. On behalf of our students, employees and your fellow alumni, I am grateful these volunteers cared enough to make a difference."

These volunteers contacted 2,700 classmates and secured \$193,500 in gifts and pledges. The money raised will strengthen programs, increase scholarship funds and open new doors for students, forever providing opportunity and growth. Volunteers asked classmates to support the university through recurring pledges. These monthly, annual or quarterly gifts—of any amount—serve as building blocks for the university's solid foundation, an investment in students and community.

Led by Bill Dean, Anne Glaze Stone, Rod Hovater and Claudia Wright, the Class of 1967 secured the highest percentage of classmate participation at 12 percent. The

Class of 1987, led by Sheri Boston, Kimberly Coffey, Pete Clemens and Bobby Patrick, ended with the highest amount raised, securing more than \$100,000 in alumni commitments.

This fall, the university will call upon the classes 1962, 1977, 1982, 1997, 2012 and 2016 to build teams and reach out to fellow graduates.

"Even though making telephone calls is one of my least favorite things to do, I agreed to do just that for the campaign, and I'm glad I did," said Anne Stone, a Class of 1967 leader. "I was able to reconnect with some of my classmates—that was a good thing—but I'm most grateful that I felt I was helping Samford to continue doing the first-class job of presenting excellent education in a Christian environment to the next generation and those to come. Our world needs that." ▀

For more information
on the *Forever Samford* campaign,
go to samford.edu/giving.

*Karen Templeton is director of
annual giving in Samford's Division
of University Advancement.*



2015-16 Community Engagement Report

Finds Strong Partnerships Between Samford and the Region

by Philip Poole

Samford University's undergraduate and graduate students demonstrated a 29 percent increase in the time they spent learning and working off-campus in local, regional and global communities during the 2015-16 academic year according to the latest Community Engagement and Impact Report compiled annually by the university's Frances Marlin Mann Center for Ethics and Leadership.

"Community engagement is simply part of the university's DNA," says Mann Center Director Drayton Nabers. "The experiences of students when engaged in community work will stay with them for a lifetime."

An initial annual report three years ago provided a well-rounded narrative and overview of the off-campus involvement of Samford students. While still quantifying students' cocurricular and curricular community work, the 2015-16 report contains additional information from the university's 10 schools, colleges and multiple campus units that more fully reflects the mutual benefit of community engagement for both students and communities.

"We hope this year's report will inform

a common university vision and community engagement strategy," said Allison Heidbrink Nanni, Samford's director of community engagement.

"Measuring impact can be difficult," Nanni admitted. "Our hope is that the findings drive our day-to-day decisions. We want to leverage Samford's human and financial resources to maximize benefit both for our students and for the citizens living in the broader region and around the world."

The total value of Samford students' 927,192 community engagement hours was \$21.4 million, based on the estimated value of volunteer time according to Independent Sector. Samford's overall economic impact on the region is \$335 million. The totals included 608,584 academic service hours tied directly

to classes and an additional 318,609 service hours through cocurricular activities. Neither Samford nor its students received any reimbursement for these services.

With more than 295 courses that integrated community engagement as an academic component, Nanni said the university worked with hundreds of community partners and other nongovernment organizations around the world that span initiatives in the arts, ministry, athletics, youth services, education and legal fields, environmental justice, and the health care industry, to name a few.

A few examples of community engagement initiatives during 2015-16 included the following:

Brock School of Business students assisted Birmingham's Christian Service Mission to build a house in a marginalized area of Birmingham through an economics and poverty studies course.

Interior architecture students integrated faith and scholarship to design a medical clinic in India through Design Education for World Impact.

First-year law students donated 430 service hours in several Birmingham nonprofit agencies during orientation through the Cumberland Public Interest Project.

Graduate students in the university's new Doctor of Physical Therapy program served on a medical mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

This year's report marks the third consecutive year the university has gathered and compiled institution-wide, student community engagement data. ▀



6 NAMED TO SAMFORD ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

by Joey Mullins

SIX INDIVIDUALS were named to the Samford University Department of Athletics Hall of Fame inaugural class this spring.

They are basketball coach and student-athlete Walter Barnes, track and field/cross country standout Lauren Blankenship, football coach and player Bobby Bowden, football student-athlete Wally Burnham, football standout Cortland Finnegan and tennis star Charlie Owens.

"We are pleased and proud to announce the six members of the inaugural class of our Athletics Hall of Fame," Samford Athletics Director Martin Newton said. "These six individuals are all tremendous representatives of Samford athletics and our university. We hope this hall of fame will be a source of pride for everyone connected with Samford University."

The hall of fame, which was installed by Expo Displays on the third floor of Pete Hanna Center, was dedicated April 19. The class was officially inducted May 6.

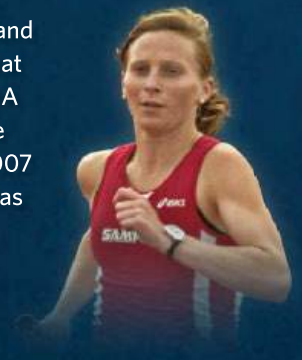
Newton called the occasion "a wonderful celebration and a significant milestone in the history of Samford athletics."

Following is biographical information on each inductee.

compiling a 61-40 record over four seasons. His 1960-61 team had the best regular season in program history, posting a record of 23-1. The high-powered team averaged 91.4 points per game that season and scored more than 100 points six times. Barnes has earned multiple honors, including the Samford Omicron Delta Kappa "Leader with Impact" Award (2001), Philanthropist of the Year (2002), Samford Alumnus of the Year (2007) and Samford Life Service Award—Howard College Bulldog Athletics (2012). He is a member of the Central Alabama Softball Association Hall of Fame.

LAUREN BLANKENSHIP

Lauren Blankenship won three Ohio Valley Conference Cross Country Championships and three OVC Runner of the Year awards while at Samford. A three-time qualifier for the NCAA Cross Country National Championships, she earned All-America honors as a senior in 2007 after finishing 24th. In track and field, she was a three-time OVC indoor champion in the 3,000- and 5,000-meter runs, a four-time OVC outdoor champion in the 5,000 and a two-time OVC Outdoor Champion in the 10,000-meter run. Blankenship qualified for the NCAA Outdoor National Championships for 5,000 meters, and won All-America honors in 2006 and 2008. She holds several Bulldog records in three sports, including the 5K in cross country, the 3,000, 5,000 and distance medley relay in indoor track and field, and in the mile, 3,000, 5,000, 10,000, 4 x 800, 4 x 1,500 and distance medley relays in outdoor track and field.



WALTER BARNES

Walter Barnes was a student-athlete in basketball and track from 1953 to 1956, and coached in various roles for the men's basketball, football, and track and field programs. He was head coach of the basketball team from 1959 to 1963,





BOBBY BOWDEN

The name Bobby Bowden is synonymous with college football. The Birmingham native won 377 games over his long career as a head coach at Samford, West Virginia and Florida State. Bowden played on the freshman team at Alabama before transferring to Samford (then Howard College), where he played from

1950 to 1953, and earning All-America honors in 1952 as a quarterback. While serving as head coach at his alma mater from 1959 to 1962, Bowden amassed a record of 31-6, posting the highest winning percentage of any coach in school history (.838). He was named head coach at West Virginia in 1970, and served in that role until 1975. In 1976, Bowden began his legendary run at Florida State. During his time with the Seminoles, Bowden won 304 games and led the program to the 1993 and 1999 national titles. Bowden was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2006.

WALLY BURNHAM



Wally Burnham played collegiately for Coach Paul Bryant at the University of Alabama during 1960-61 before transferring to Samford for the 1962 and 1963 seasons. He earned Little All-America honors as a linebacker in 1963. He has had an impressive and distinguished career in coaching, including a nine-year stint (1984-93) under Bobby Bowden at Florida State, where he helped lead the Seminoles to the 1993 national title. Burnham began his coaching career at the high school level in 1967 and joined the college ranks

at North Alabama in 1971. In addition to his Florida State tenure, he has coached at East Tennessee State (1977-78), Richmond (1979), Memphis (1980), Lamar (1981-82), the Arizona Wranglers of the USFL (1983-84), South Carolina (1994-98), South Florida (1999-2008) and Iowa State (2009-15). He also served as a defensive analyst at Arkansas.

CORTLAND FINNEGAN

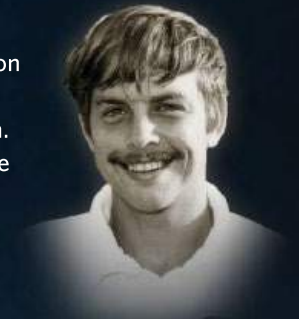
Cortland Finnegan was a three-time All-American during his four years in a Samford uniform. He was named the Ohio Valley Conference's Defensive Player of the Year as a sophomore in 2003, and he led the team in tackles from his safety position in each of his final three seasons. Finnegan was drafted in the seventh round of the 2006 National Football League draft by the Tennessee Titans. During his 10-year NFL career, he played for the Titans, St. Louis Rams, Miami Dolphins and Carolina Panthers. He was named All-Pro and was selected for the Pro Bowl with the Titans in 2009. In his final NFL season in 2015, Finnegan helped the Panthers to an appearance in the Super Bowl. He finished his NFL career with 663 tackles, 7.0 sacks and 21 interceptions, and returned for 426 yards and four touchdowns.



CHARLIE OWENS

Charlie Owens won the 1972 NCAA Division II national singles championship as a member of the Samford men's tennis team. Prior to attending Samford, Owens won the Orange Bowl International Tennis Championship in 1966 at the age of 16. He also competed in the 1970 Summer Universiade in Turin, Italy, where he won bronze medals in both the men's doubles and mixed doubles. After his time at Samford, he made the third round of the U.S.

Open in both 1973 and 1974 in singles and doubles. He also reached the third round of Wimbledon in 1975 in both singles and doubles. In doubles, he and partner Mike Estep defeated third seeds Arthur Ashe and Roscoe Tanner on the way to the third round at the 1974 U.S. Open. For his professional career, Owens won 56 singles matches and 51 doubles matches. ▶

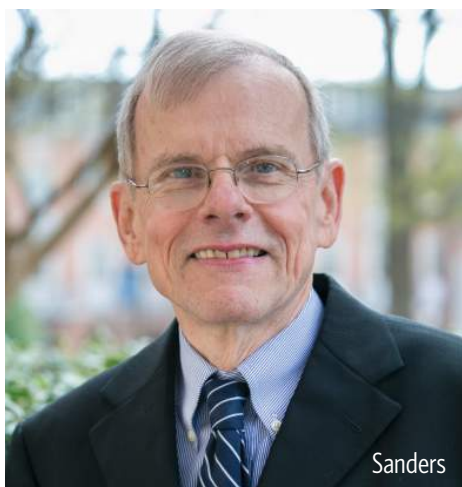


Joey Mullins is assistant athletics director for communication.

SAMFORD'S INAUGURAL CLASS

Faculty Members HEAD TO RETIREMENT

by William Nunnelley



Sanders

Donald Sanders More Writing to Come

Music professor Don Sanders, a pianist and coordinator of keyboard studies in the School of the Arts, wraps up 43 years at Samford this spring. Among the highlights of his career were teaching four Jan Term courses in Italy beginning in 2004. The travels helped inspire his book, *Music at the Gonzaga Court in Mantua*, about the city's significance in the history of both vocal and instrumental music.

"I had been to Mantua twice and knew the high points of its musical tradition," he said. "But on the 2004 trip with students, I began to realize that the city had been more

important artistically than I had believed. I knew I wanted to explore that and was lucky that no one had chosen to cover the entire era in English."

The Mantua book, which described the city as a vibrant center for visual art, theatre and music during the 15th through 17th centuries, appeared in 2012. Reviewer Linda Cummins, a musicologist, called it "a fascinating account of the city's musical life during the glory years."

While his major emphasis was on teaching and performing music, Sanders also wrote books on composers Giuseppe Verdi and Robert Schumann. He hopes to continue his writing during retirement. He also hopes to do volunteer work, "especially in the area of literacy."

Sanders said "having the privilege of performing with my colleagues, learning and being inspired by them," also highlighted his tenure. "This is especially true of [violinist] Angie and [violinist] Jeff Flaniken," with whom he teamed for more than 20 years to present chamber music recitals.

What changes has he seen in his field? "One very significant change has been the enormous impact of technology that has affected musical composition, performance, teaching and scholarship," he said. "One example is the accessibility of primary sources such as manuscripts and first editions via the internet." ▸

Sharron Schlosser Living a Mission

The shift from face-to-face teaching to an online environment was the most significant change that occurred during nursing professor Sharron Schlosser's tenure at Samford. "I have to admit that it was not something I embraced initially," she said. "I was afraid that we would lose that close relationship we had with students and that we would not be able to fulfill our mission."

Schlosser found, however, that "with administrative support to prepare for the new delivery model," she came to favor the new approach. "The increased enrollment in the graduate programs and excellent



Schlosser

outcomes of our graduates evidence the quality education in an online environment that we have been able to achieve.

“Students continuously comment on how we live our mission and the meaning of their quality education.”

Schlusser, who joined the nursing faculty in 1975, is retiring this spring. She said she would miss “the continued stimulation and challenge” of employees and students. She will continue her ties in at least one area, however.

She looks forward, she said, “to working with colleagues to submit revisions in one manuscript and two additional manuscripts reflective of a national research project on faculty ability to care and the caring characteristics in the school of nursing climate.”

She plans to continue participating in national committee activities and on-site accreditation visits for the next year.

Schlusser said her most rewarding experiences at Samford have been working with the students.

Schlusser and her husband look forward now to additional travel, beginning with an Alaskan cruise and land trip this summer. They also plan to spend more time on Logan Martin Lake and traveling to visit their grandchildren. ▸

Bob Henderson Mentoring Will Continue

Pharmacy professor Bob Henderson says his view of retirement is not to stop contributing, but to have more flexibility and control over time. “I see more camping, hiking, fishing, reading and more in my future [than] I used to enjoy when life was less complicated,” he said. He also looks forward to getting more involved with his church.

“Of course, I am still a clinical pharmacist and always will be at heart,” said



Henderson

Henderson. “The medical profession is not a vocation, but a lifelong mission that doesn’t stop at retirement.” He plans to continue to enjoy professional reading and writing on educational issues. His primary interest is “developing the pedagogy necessary to produce exceptional clinicians.”

He added, “Mentoring does not stop at retirement, and I want to continue assisting colleagues to have opportunities for growth and involvement in professional circles, but now from a different vantage point.”

At Samford since 1985, Henderson says the highlights of his tenure are too many to mention. “To provide a succinct response, working with the best faculty and teaching exceptional learners has enriched me personally and professionally.” He added, “I must also point out the importance of having the freedom to express and live out the Christian faith at Samford.”

Henderson said he would miss patient care, “and being able to demonstrate to learners the many responsibilities of a clinician in a substantial practice.” He said he would miss colleagues past and present, “and the many students that challenged me.”

Henderson retired in January, and expressed a lengthy “thanks list” for his professional journey spanning three decades. At Samford, he said, “I worked amongst the best.” ▸



Snyder

Robin Snyder The Benefits of Art

Robin Snyder has taught in the Samford art department for 32 years and served additionally as Samford Art Gallery director for the past 16. As a teacher, she led a variety of courses. In the gallery, she hosted exhibitions in media ranging from drawing, painting, photography and sculpture to glassblowing, woodworking, fiber arts, bookmaking, printmaking and graphic design.

The highlights have been many, said Snyder, heading into retirement. Among the best was teaching art appreciation courses. “I greatly enjoyed engaging students who knew little about art and bringing them into a world of art, and teaching them about the importance of art to life, history and society,” she said. “I still receive notes [saying] that course unlocked keys of understanding that has benefited them in their travels, work and world views.”

Snyder said she most enjoyed her colleagues, students and travels abroad with Samford groups. Her destinations included London, Paris, Budapest, Vienna, Salzburg, Italy, Greece and others. She taught on some trips and went as a traveler on some.



As an artist and art teacher, she described her tastes as “eclectic.” For example, she admires Leonardo da Vinci and Pablo Picasso for their constant experimentation in methods and materials, “and their willingness to fail in their efforts.” She is inspired by Vincent van Gogh for continuing to produce his art while suffering with his sanity, and by Henri Matisse for his use of “joyous color.”

She looks forward to reading nonfiction such as *Sisters in Law* (about Sandra Day O’Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg), novels such as Donna Tartt’s *The Goldfinch*, and numerous books about artists and art styles, many purchased during her travels. ▮

Ralph Gold Jr. On to the Beach

Kinesiology associate professor Ralph Gold Jr. has some very specific retirement plans. He and his wife, Carolyn, are moving to their beach house on the Gulf coast.

“Our relocation to the beach stems from our desire to be in a warmer climate in addition to my love of participating in outdoor activities,” he said. He listed golf, running, swimming, cycling, working around the yard and tinkering with old cars. He has a 1999 Corvette convertible that he



enjoys working on.

Gold has served on the faculty for 24 years. He worked for two years (1986–88) before leaving to help a local Christian school gain Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation. In 1995, retired former kinesiology chair James Angel invited him to rejoin the faculty.

“I thank Dr. Angel for giving me an opportunity to invest in the lives of students,” Gold said.

He counts two study abroad experiences at Samford’s London Daniel House as highlights of his tenure.

“My recent fall 2016 study abroad was a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” he said. “The students immersed themselves in the program, and as a result, we had rich daily conversations as to what they had experienced or where they were traveling next. We had a great group of students.”

He and his wife also enjoyed traveling some in Europe. His favorite location? Switzerland and the Swiss Alps.

Gold said technology has provided the greatest change in his field.

Gold served as president of the Alabama State Association of Health Physical Education Recreation and Dance, and was the recipient of the organization’s Honor Award, its highest recognition. ▮

Maurice Persall Letting Things Evolve

Education professor Maurice Persall says he has no specific plans as he heads into retirement this summer. “After working 55 years, I hope to take some time just to let things evolve.” He added, “I have often heard from other retirees that after a period of time, they don’t know how they found time to work. Perhaps that will happen to me.”

Persall joined Samford’s Orlean Beeson School of Education in 1993 as chair of the educational leadership department. Prior to coming to Samford, he served in a variety of roles as assistant state superintendent of education, superintendent of several boards of education, and principal and assistant principal of junior high schools in Alabama.

“The major highlight of my tenure has been the growth of the program in both new program offerings and in expanded enrollment,” he said. “I am particularly proud of our doctorate [Ed.D.] that has surpassed all of our expectations.”

He said the number of program graduates that hold “high-profile, influential positions in public and private educational institutions throughout the state is a tribute to our faculty and staff.”

Persall said he would miss the relationships and interaction with students and employees. He described the faculty and staff as “an incredible group of talented, dedicated and hard-working educators.”

Persall has been active in a variety of professional educational organizations for administrators and will continue to monitor the activity of these groups. ▮

Tommy Tarvin Sound and Music

Physics professor John “Tommy” Tarvin has taught courses ranging from general physics and mechanics to modern physics



Tarvin

and electricity/magnetism during his 24 years at Samford, plus the labs and seminars related to each.

But he also has taught a class that might represent a departure from the usual range of physics offerings. It's a Jan Term course he designed called Sound and Music.

"I developed it because I like music and thought there might be an interest among some students to know about the interaction between the scientific study of acoustics and the musician's study of music," Tarvin said.

The course grew out of Tarvin's affinity for choral music. He is an active member of the choir at Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, and sang with Colla Voce and Samford Mastersingers, community vocal groups.

Tarvin says he enjoys a variety of choral music depending on his mood. "I enjoy Brahms and the other Romantic composers, as well as Faure and other French impressionists," he said. He also likes impressionist chamber music, Schubert's lieder, piano concertos and classical music. And he enjoys '70s rock.

"Ah, I just like music in general," he summarized.

Tarvin earned his undergraduate degree at Samford in 1970 and came back to join the faculty as chair of the physics department in 1993. "Reconnecting with former teachers and making friends with new colleagues were highlights of my



Atkinson

tenure," he said.

Tarvin is retiring this spring, but he hopes to remain active academically through some ongoing research work with chemistry professor Brian Gregory.

Among the most significant changes that have occurred in his field, he says, is "the discovery that most stars seem to have planets orbiting about them." ▮

Bruce Atkinson Aligning the Numbers

When retired mathematics professor Bruce Atkinson arrived at Samford in 1995, he found an interesting assignment awaiting him.

"I was required to change all the course numbers to align better with the level of the course," he recalled. "I believe that was a major task for my first semester. I think the whole campus was charged with making most courses 4 hours instead of 3."

Atkinson said one of the highlights of his Samford tenure was "hiring the people that now make up the full-time members of the department." As department chair, he was in charge of the hiring committee for each of the current mathematics and computer science faculty. He described it as "a congenial department" that worked well as a team.

"I always enjoyed working with students



Hargrave

one-on-one," he added. "I will miss that."

Computers represent the most significant change that occurred in his field.

"The use of computers in the mathematics classroom essentially did not exist in our department, with the exception of elementary statistics," he said. "Now, by the end of the senior year, many of our students have learned to work with the computer algebra system Mathematica and have made it an integral part of their senior paper and presentation."

Atkinson and his wife, Becky, plan to travel more, "especially since our first grandson is in Nashville." He said he would also try to catch up on reading and action movies.

Atkinson taught at the University of Southern California during 1980-83, the University of Florida during 1983-85 and Palm Beach Atlantic University during 1985-95.

Atkinson retired Jan. 1. He described Samford as "a wonderful place to work," adding, "I consider it a privilege to have had the opportunity." ▮

Alan Hargrave Running into Retirement

Physics department chair Alan Hargrave is an avid runner, as those who have seen him racing about the Samford campus can



Marshall



Stoddard

continuous learning experience it provides, especially in the area of technology.

“Technology has had a large impact on the way that physics and engineering instruction takes place,” he said. “When I reflect on my own experience as an undergraduate, the electronic calculator was just coming into common use. Much of our lab work was done by hand, and that limited the time available for analysis and reflection. The technology we now use in labs allows us to spend more time learning from what we are doing.”

Hargrave believes that learning should be fun, and that’s why he particularly enjoyed working with students on special projects. He cited NASA’s Great Moon Buggy Race in which student teams designed, built and raced moon buggies, and Samford’s Rocket Day on the Quad that featured rockets created with a 3-D printer. ▶

Elaine Marshall A Far-Ranging Ministry

Elaine Marshall’s service on the faculty of Samford’s Ida Moffett School of Nursing took her from the tomato fields of St. Clair County to a medical clinic in Mexico to a nursing school in Romania to a homeless ministry in Birmingham.

“Samford gave me the opportunity not only to use my expertise and knowledge professionally, but also to follow my heart in helping those in need of health care and so much more,” she said.

Marshall retires this spring after serving full time on the faculty since 1996. She is especially proud of her work with the Chandler Mountain Project, a partnership between the nursing school, State Department of Health and Baptist Health Foundation that provided a primary health care clinic for migrant farm workers and their families in northeast Alabama.

Marshall said she was grateful for the opportunity to be involved in the daily lives of migrant workers. “Their determination to survive harsh living and work conditions,

love and commitment to family, and a strong belief in God, were both humbling and inspiring,” she said.

Also during her two decades at Samford, she worked with vulnerable populations managing a medical clinic in Mexico and working as a parish nurse with Birmingham homeless. In Romania, she taught senior nursing students about the public health system in the United States.

She has tried to live out her favorite scripture, Micah 6:8: “What does the Lord require of you, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.”

Marshall, who earned her undergraduate nursing degree at Samford, said she would miss close friendships the most in retirement, and students “excited about their future in the profession of nursing.” She looks forward to spending time with her two grandchildren.

What are the most significant changes in her field? Marshall has a one-word answer: “Technology!” ▶

Belle Howe Stoddard Stories Coming Together

Law professor Belle Stoddard’s father, Gedney Howe Jr., took part in the U.S. invasion of North Africa during World War II. After the war, he returned to his home of Charleston, South Carolina, where he became circuit solicitor and a prominent attorney. His bust sits outside the Charleston County Courthouse declaring him the pre-eminent Charleston attorney of the 20th century.

Stoddard’s mother, Marybelle Howe, founded Rural Mission, a nonprofit that served the needs of migrant workers in coastal areas near Charleston. That city’s downtown post office is named for her in honor of her work with migrants and Gullah people. Stoddard recalls driving elderly Charleston women to help with the small children of workers on Johns Island mornings at 6.

Over the years, Stoddard has written

attest. He already participates in several marathons each year, but running is an activity that he looks forward to enjoying even more during his upcoming retirement.

“I look forward to some destination races and the travel that goes with them,” he said. Some possibilities include the Big Sur Marathon and the Honolulu Marathon. He already has run such events as the Walt Disney World Marathon, the Marine Corps Marathon and the Rock ‘n’ Roll San Diego Marathon, and is a 13-time finisher of the Mercedes Marathon in Birmingham.

He also has some hobbies that have been dormant that he plans to enjoy again. He mentioned amateur radio and anything that involves electronics.

But Hargrave, at Samford since 1996, admits that he will miss teaching, and the

accounts of these and other family activities.

"I don't know how these stories will come together," she said. But heading to retirement, she hopes a book might be in the future.

Stoddard joined the Cumberland School of Law faculty in 2001 after serving in private practice and as a staff attorney for Alabama Supreme Court justices Janie Shores and Thomas Woodall. She served 10 years on the Birmingham Board of Education. She taught a variety of courses, including one on writing appellate briefs for the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals.

She is a Cumberland School of Law graduate, where she was one of 11 women in her first year of law school in 1975 and a founding member of the *American Journal of Trial Advocacy*.

Stoddard describes herself as "an accomplished seamstress, a pretty good cook, a fair piano player, an indefatigable walker and a budding fiction writer." She is, she says, "a teller of tales that are sometimes tall, but always true." ▮

Charlie Sands Far East Sojourn

Pharmacy professor and former dean Charlie Sands retired from Samford in December, but has been as busy as ever during the intervening months. Sands was appointed founding dean of the College of Pharmacy, Division of Medical Sciences, Pyongyang University of Science and Technology, in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He and his wife, Betty Kay, left for Asia Feb. 27 to begin their tenure in Pyongyang.

"I am looking forward to the opportunity to establish the college and train pharmacists to be health care professionals that provide patient care that ensures optimal medication therapy outcomes," said Sands.

The Sandeses have spent the majority of their adult lives on the mission field in Asia, and their children were raised in South Korea. Sands taught at Wallace



Sands

Memorial Hospital in Pusan, Korea, for many years and did research at the Yanbian University Medical College in Yanji, China, for several years.

He first taught at Samford in 1984-85 during a furlough from missions, and did so again in 1988-89 and through the 1990s. "Samford was a wonderful place to come back to, to regroup, and to catch up on what had changed and improved in pharmacy and health care," he said. He joined Samford full time in 2002, and served as dean of McWhorter School of Pharmacy during 2008-13.

Sands said he most enjoyed working with students. He also enjoyed establishing the relationship with Perry County Health Department and developing the Cardiovascular Risk Reduction Clinic in Marion, Alabama, as well as working with Vice Provost Nena Sanders to help create Samford's College of Health Sciences. ▮

Cherie Feenker Some Nice Memories

"There were so many times that the beauty of the campus just lifted my spirits and continued to do so over time," said retiring law librarian Cherie Feenker. "Much, including sunlight streaming in the windows, casting shadows that played with the walls of the law library, and gentle puffs of wind across the campus, continues to make



Feenker

me smile."

She said she would miss these moments but would retain them as nice memories after retirement.

Feenker has served as acquisitions librarian of the Lucille Beeson Law Library since 2003.

She joined the faculty after serving as director of the library at Lange, Simpson, Robinson and Somerville law firm in Birmingham, and as a librarian in the Birmingham Public Library. She is a graduate of the University of Montevallo, Birmingham School of Law and the University of Alabama, where she earned the Master of Library Science. A law librarian endowed scholarship is named in her honor at the University of Alabama.

Heading into retirement, Feenker says she owes thanks to many people but particularly former sociology professor Jackie Goldstein, now retired. "She let me work with her fledgling mentoring committee," she said.

Feenker looks forward to some unstructured time in retirement, but has plenty to do: yard work, planting, deferred maintenance, travel. "I'll revisit former skills like baking," she said. "There is lots to read. I'll see more live theatre."

She experienced change in her law library post "and enjoyed the experience," she said. "I learned several financial systems, and was successful in using them and staying sane," she said. ▮

Justice Prevails in *the School of the Arts*

by Ashley Smith

Making a difference in the local and national dialogue regarding the importance of social justice has been an ongoing goal for Samford's School of the Arts. An exciting new play from Mark Castle, associate professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance, is a great example of how this goal is reaching well beyond the stages of Samford. *The Somerset Case* tackles these issues while telling the 250-year-old true story of a slave who fled captivity in England.

The play explores the story of James Somerset, a slave brought to England in 1769 by his American master, Charles Stewart of Boston. Somerset escaped in 1771 but was recaptured and put on a ship headed back to Jamaica to be resold. Granville Sharp, one of the founders of the British abolitionist movement, retrieved Somerset off the boat and stated that his term in England had given him free status. A lengthy court battle ensued, with Chief Justice Lord Mansfield ruling that Somerset was a free man, given that no laws existed to make a man a slave in England.

Castle's play brings these historical figures to life, especially William Murray, first Earl of Mansfield. Murray had no biological children but cared for his nieces, one of whom was of African descent and born into slavery. The play was inspired by Castle's visit to Lord Mansfield's home, where he saw the portraits of the two women. He said he was intrigued not only by the case, but also the family dynamic of the Murrays and the influence it might have had on the case.

Further research revealed other important figures connected to the trial, including Benjamin Franklin, who was in London representing American interests; the preacher and orator, John Wesley; and John Newton, the former slave ship captain turned minister who wrote the song "Amazing Grace" just six months after the landmark verdict.

According to Castle, "The inspiration for this play came from the realization that all great events are made up of a series of small decisions, which include the personal factors that make up an individual's moral stance, triggered in this case by seeing the picture of Dido Belle Lindsay over Lord Mansfield's mantel. I thought to myself, how did that personal relationship impact the enormous political and social decision he had to make?"

Castle recently heard from Westminster Hall in London that there will be a reading of his play Aug. 23, the UNESCO International Day of Remembrance of the Slave Trade. Neil Baverstock, yeoman usher, wrote Castle that "the three Keyholders to Westminster Hall (the Lord Great Chamberlain, the Speaker of the House of Commons and the Lord Speaker) have approved your request to conduct a reading of a section of your play about the court case of Crown vs. Knowles in Westminster Hall. . . . We might plan to display, alongside the reading, the commemorative quilt that was sewn for Parliament to mark the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade."

According to School of the Arts Dean Joe Hopkins, "To make the entire opportunity even better, Don Sandley, chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance, and Mark are working together to craft a plan whereby the play can be presented by the



Mark Castle

Samford students traveling from the Edinburgh Festival Fringe (where they will present *The Curious Savage* by John Patrick). Our students will stand in the Houses of Parliament and read a play about freedom from slavery and equal rights, written by our colleague Mark Castle."

Castle is originally from England, where he attended drama school at the Arden School in Manchester and received a degree in drama from the University of Leeds. He holds the M.F.A. in theatre from the University of Memphis. He has directed and performed in plays internationally as well as in the Southeast.

"I hope that the experience of students reading a great true story in the actual location [in which] it took place will ground for them the idea that the work we do has significance," said Castle, "not just in a fleeting, ephemeral way at the moment of performance, but that it is connected to the great stream of presentations that have influenced kings and commoners alike to moments of realization." ▀

Ashley Smith is marketing and communication coordinator for Samford's School of the Arts.

Howard College of Arts and Sciences Unveils New Strategic Plan

by Sean Flynt

Samford University's Howard College of Arts and Sciences has produced a new strategic plan to guide its development through 2021.

A team of faculty began developing the plan in spring 2016 under the interim leadership of Provost J. Michael Hardin. The arrival of new Dean Timothy D. Hall in fall 2016, along with the continued growth of the university in many other areas, contributed to what Hall described as "the widespread sense that now is the right time to bring our strategic direction into focus."

"As our new mission statement affirms, Howard College of Arts and Sciences is the heart of Samford University, and our faculty make that a reality as they touch the hearts and minds of every undergraduate student the university admits, no matter what major the student ultimately chooses," Hall said.

A New Mission Statement

"As the heart of Samford University, Howard College of Arts and Sciences inspires students to a lifetime of inquiry and service through engaged learning, faculty research and vocational discovery within the liberal arts, and the Christian ethical and intellectual traditions."

A Statement of Values

"As a community, Howard College shares the following values that guide all our activities:

- Education through experience, research and service
- Mentorship that fosters intellectual, vocational and ethical growth
- Collaboration among students, faculty and staff
- Inclusion of people from diverse backgrounds

- Commitment to civil society and Christian values that contribute to it
- Engagement with the challenges that confront communities world-wide
- Stewardship of the earth's resources

Strategic Focus Areas

"Fulfilling our mission requires a process of innovation and continuous improvement consistent with our shared values across the college's activities," said Hall.

"Accomplishing our goals requires a wide variety of strategies that, together, support four strategic focus areas: committed people, shared purpose, academic inquiry and active participation.

Hall said the strategic focus areas will help the college make smart decisions

about how to organize offices, design innovative classrooms and develop programs to prepare students for productive careers and rewarding lives in a rapidly changing world.

The new strategic plan will engage with Samford's quality enhancement plan and inform the college's *Forever Samford* campaign, which aims to increase the college's scholarship funding, support academic programs, and improve spaces for employees and students. ▶

Read the complete plan at samford.edu/arts-and-sciences.

Sean Flynt is executive director of external relations for Howard College of Arts and Sciences.



Associate professor Jennifer Rahn, right, leads geography study with students Clair Blackmon, Javion Lee, Gavin Sinclair and K'rondis Larry.

Samford Student Ashley Steiner Wins *Ninth Annual Regions New Venture Challenge*

by Kara Kennedy

Ashley Steiner's business plan for her company wowed the judges, and she was awarded the top prize in Samford University's Brock School of Business annual business plan competition.

Steiner competed in the Open Division in the ninth Regions New Venture Challenge against two other finalists and was awarded \$7,500 seed money to help expand her business, Ashley Ink & Paperie. Steiner is a sophomore prebusiness major from Birmingham.

"I am so excited and blessed to represent Samford as this year's Regions New Venture Challenge winner," Steiner said. "Brock School of Business has given me incredible opportunities to grow as a business owner in ways I never could have done on my own. This school year has been the first year for me to ever compete in business competitions.

"Presenting Ashley Ink & Paperie in a competition setting has challenged me to step out of my comfort zone to pursue my passions and take my company to the next level. I am so thankful for Samford, Brock School of Business, Regions Bank, and all of my friends and family who have encouraged me through this journey. I can't wait to see what the future will bring."

Ashley Ink & Paperie is a stationery and illustration company featuring note cards, prints, calendars, planners and other products. The company's products are sold nationally online through Etsy as well as in Birmingham at O'Henry's and the Samford bookstore. Steiner recently represented the state of Alabama in the national Entrepreneurs' Organization National Pitch Competition in Kansas City.

Regions Financial Corporation partnered with Brock School of Business in 2008 to establish a business plan competition that includes a division for first-year business students, the BUSA100 division, and the Open Division for upperclass and graduate students to gain recognition for launching their businesses. Student competitors are awarded a total of \$20,000 to help start and grow their businesses.

Finalists are selected through a semifinal round by judges within the business school to advance to the final round in the competition. They then present to a group of judges from the Birmingham business company. This year's judges were Duke Hinds, Regions Financial Corp. banking executive; Ty West, managing editor, *Birmingham Business Journal*; and Tracy True Dismukes, owner of Collage Designer Consignment and Brock School of Business M.B.A. graduate.

Since the competition's beginning, Franz Lohrke, director of the entrepreneurship program and Brock Family Endowed Chair in Entrepreneurship, has worked to establish a legacy for this competition. As a result, it has received national recognition for including first-year business students.

"Over the years, our contest has laid the foundation for many of our participants to start their business with the plan they presented in the finals," said Lohrke. "I've always been amazed and overwhelmed by the talent our students exhibit in their business plans, and I keep up with where they land and how their business flourishes after they graduate."

Five other companies that competed in the Regions New Venture Challenge also received a monetary prize for their business plan: Scribes MD, Vinylnaut, Trade-In, 1318 Consulting and Mid-Job Cleanup. ▀

Kara Kennedy is director of marketing and communication for Brock School of Business.



Beeson Divinity School to Commemorate 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation

by Kristen Padilla

On Oct. 31, 1517, an Augustinian monk and Old Testament professor by the name of Martin Luther made public his *Ninety-Five Theses*—a protest against the sale of indulgences by the medieval Catholic Church—at the door of the castle church in Wittenberg, Germany. Luther's theses mark what most historians consider to be the start of the Protestant Reformation, and thus this day has become known as Reformation Day.

For the entire 2017 year, Protestant Christians around the world are celebrating this landmark occasion with conferences, lectures and celebrations. Samford University's Beeson Divinity School, which is committed to the theological principles that defined the Protestant Reformation, is no different.

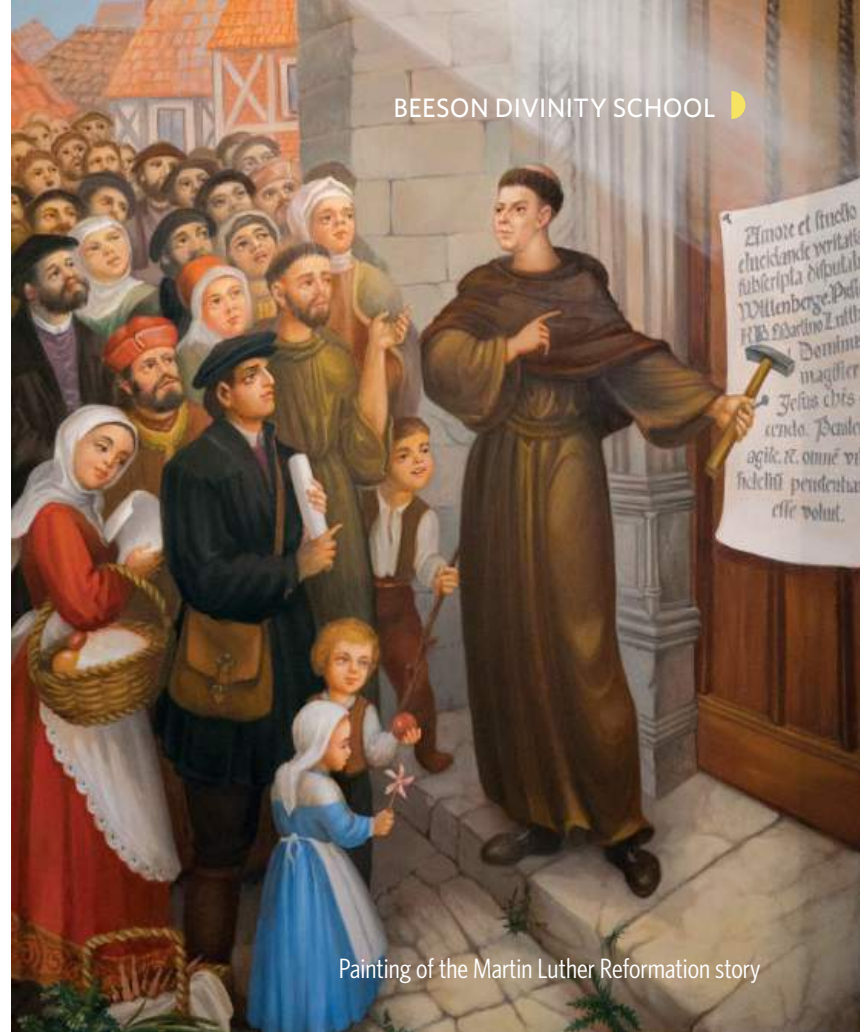
Founded in 1988, Beeson Divinity School has been a Reformational seminary since its inception. Its Reformational identity is reflected throughout Andrew Gerow Hodges Chapel, which includes a mural of Luther nailing his theses in one of the 10 chancel apses; Reformational figures such as Luther, John Calvin and Thomas Cranmer depicted in the dome mural; and the Luther rose carved onto the ceiling coffers. This identity is also reflected in worship and study. The divinity school community confesses the five Reformation solas: sola gratia (by grace alone), sola fide (by faith alone), sola scriptura (by scripture alone), solo christo (by Christ alone) and soli deo gloria (to God alone be glory).

This fall, the theme for the divinity school's chapel series will be "Reformation," an exploration of the major emphases, movements and personalities at the heart of the renewal of the church in 16th century.

On Oct. 31, the divinity school will kick off its 29th annual Reformation Heritage Lectures, featuring founding dean and world-renowned Reformation scholar Timothy George. The divinity school hopes to welcome many alumni home for an all-day retreat that will include corporate worship, prayer, lectures, shared meal and recreation for employees, students and alumni.

The annual Reformation Heritage Lectures will continue Nov. 1 and 2 at 11 a.m. in Hodges Chapel. The theme for George's lectures is "The Reformation as a Sensory Event." These lectures are free and open to the public.

George's book, *Theology of the Reformers*, is the standard textbook on Reformation theology for many schools and seminaries, and has been translated into numerous languages. He also is the author of *Reading Scripture with the Reformers* and is general editor of the *Reformation Commentary on Scripture*, a 28-volume series of



Painting of the Martin Luther Reformation story

16th-century exegetical comment.

George is lecturing on the Reformation at many schools and conferences in 2017 and the early part of 2018. Already, he has been a featured speaker at the Refo500 conference at Union University, the Gospel Coalition national conference, the Kistemaker Academic Lecture Series at Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando and Hope College in Michigan.

This fall, George will speak at Anderson, Liberty, Trinity International, Baylor and Palm Beach Atlantic universities. He also will present lectures at a number of evangelical and Catholic seminaries. In November 2017, George will be one of three plenary speakers on the Reformation for the annual meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society.

"Several years ago, I was asked to comment on a book titled, *Is the Reformation Over?* My answer, then and now, is: The Reformation is over only to the extent that it has succeeded," said George. "In some respect, it has indeed succeeded, and in certain sectors, it has succeeded even more in the Catholic Church than in mainline Protestantism. But the Reformation is an ongoing movement, and the call to a further reformation of the Church based on the Word of God is more urgent today than ever before." ▀

Join Beeson Divinity School this fall each Tuesday at 11 a.m. in Hodges Chapel to remember and give thanks to God for the gifts of the Reformation.

Kristen Padilla is coordinator of marketing and communication for Beeson Divinity School.

Education Honors **LEARNING FOR LIFE**

by *Katie Stewart*

In celebration of its 100th anniversary in 2015, Orlean Beeson School of Education established the Learning for Life Award to honor outstanding education alumni who have made a significant impact in the lives of others. Although their career paths may be different, recipients are similar in the way that they have made a notable influence in their respective fields.

The mission of the school is “to guide, develop and challenge students academically, professionally, personally and spiritually; to prepare leaders who will positively influence and shape society.” Additionally, one of the school’s core values is that learning is a lifelong commitment. The Learning for Life Award celebrates and the honorees emulate these two statements.

“The Learning for Life Award is a wonderful opportunity for us to highlight graduates who have made a significant impact in the field of education and their communities,” said Jeanie Box, education dean.

The 2017 Learning for Life honorees are Kathy Jones Acton, Lewis Brooks, Argie Campbell, Marisa Sterling Dempsey, Sherri Foyt, Emily Freeland, Dana Mungenast, Erin Cheek Robbins, Felicia Allen Smith and Shelly Vail-Smith.

Honorees were invited to a scholarship celebration dinner where they received medals and certificates. “The dinner is special because it allows us to honor alumni and their contributions to education, but it also gives us an opportunity to reconnect with alumni and their families,” said Box.

Two of this year’s honorees are current school employees, and one serves on Samford’s board of trustees.

“Whether serving within the school, donating or attending events like this, it is encouraging to know alumni are coming back because they believe in what we are doing here,” said Box.

The dinner helps provide scholarships for many current education students, such as junior Jessica Ray from Alpharetta, Georgia. Ray is in the elementary/special education/early childhood program and was a speaker at this year’s dinner.

“I knew attending Samford University would be a stretch, but my community rallied behind me in prayer and encouraged me to apply anyway,” said Ray.

However, when the financial package came, it was not enough to allow her to commit to Samford. But Ray remembered meeting Randy Pittman, vice president of university advancement, at a recruitment event near Atlanta.



“Mr. Pittman had given me his card and told me to call him if I needed anything,” said Ray. “He worked with others to help me get here today. . . . God moved mountains for me to be at Samford.”

Assistant Professor for Instructional Leadership Julie Hannah shared multiple ways honorees change lives by going beyond the call of their daily duties.

“I am so grateful for people like you who are not only smart in your field, but truly go over and beyond to show genuine care for others,” she said.

Hannah shared stories of ways the honorees and their cohorts have gone above and beyond in their fields. An instructor provided a student with baseball cleats when his didn’t fit. When a principal asked why a student was missing so many days of school and found that her mother’s car broke down, “every day of that young lady’s junior year, her principal went to the hotel to pick her up for school and took her home in the evening,” said Hannah.

In addition to ticket sales for the dinner, tribute gifts honoring those who have been influential in one’s educational experience help support the school.

“As we work to provide faithful annual support for our education students pursuing their calling, tribute gifts are a distinct opportunity to invest in the future of these students,” said Sheri Ransome, advancement officer for Orlean Beeson School of Education. “These gifts are investing in the future by honoring the past.”

Katie Stewart is assistant director of creative services.

LAW STUDENTS BAND TOGETHER

To Serve Homeless Connect Event

by Polly Manuel

More than 40 Cumberland School of Law students participated in this year's 10th annual Project Homeless Connect event in Birmingham's Boutwell Auditorium March 4. The annual day of service was established to break down barriers to safe, decent, affordable housing for the homeless population in the greater Birmingham area. This year, more than 60 agencies partnered to sponsor the event, including the city of Birmingham, United Way of Central Alabama, Hands On Birmingham and the Birmingham Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Program.

About 650 homeless clients were served throughout the day by more than 1,000 volunteers. That number included over 100 volunteer attorneys, judges and law students from Samford's Cumberland School of Law, Thomas Goode Jones School of Law and the University of Alabama School of Law. Homeless clients were provided with immediate access to services such as medical and dental care, grooming services, housing assistance, state IDs and legal aid at no cost.

Depri Hale, a third-year Cumberland School of Law student from Lakeland, Florida, participated in Project Homeless Connect for the first time this year. She was moved by the number of volunteers who gave up their Saturday to help those in need, particularly the number of young people from surrounding colleges and universities.

Hale was paired with an attorney from the Birmingham Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Program and was responsible for "intake," which involved initially speaking with clients, assessing their needs and figuring out which legal area to send them to. Hale recalls one particular situation in which a man was unable to speak. She used her cell phone to pull up a map so he could identify where he was born in order to look him up in the system, and eventually issue him an ID and security card.

"It was incredible to see what a profound effect the services we offered had on the clients," Hale said. "They were able to have issues handled in a few hours that had been plaguing many of them for years and that they otherwise might not have been able to have resolved at all for whatever reason. There were judges present who were able to rule on or recall pending charges on their records so



Law students participating in Homeless Connect include, from left, front, Constantine Post, Depri Hale, Tyerra Henderson, Courtney Crampton, Catherine Henderson, Sarah Walsh, and back, Adam LeRoy, Paige West, Kameron Buckner, Jamilla Pritchett, Derienne Busby and Kate Furek.

that clients could then be issued IDs, and in many cases, be able to apply for jobs. It was just awesome to see how appreciative they were. It was very fulfilling."

Project Homeless Connect is one of the many public service opportunities available to students at Cumberland School of Law through its Public Interest Program, which is run by Cassandra W. Adams, assistant dean of the Public Interest Program and director of the school's Community Mediation Center. According to Adams, opportunities range from legally related programs, such as researching legal issues for residents in local homeless shelters and lobbying for criminal justice reform, to non-legally related community service events, such as hosting an Easter egg hunt for children or building Habitat for Humanity homes.

"Project Homeless Connect is a great opportunity for our students to get practical experience with those in need," said Adams. "They work alongside judges and lawyers who have volunteered their time to assist with the legal issues presented. This is an example of practicing law in the spirit of the Alabama Bar Motto, 'Lawyers Render Service.'" ▀

Polly Manuel is coordinator of marketing and communication for Cumberland School of Law.

NURSING ALUMNA HONORS HER FATHER by Establishing a Scholarship for Missions

by Sarah Waller

Stephanie Edwards, a 2016 Samford University graduate nursing alumna, established the Kevin Myers Memorial Scholarship for Missions in honor of her father. In her words, below, this is why she believes in *Forever Samford*:

It was not a convenient time for me to return to school. My father was battling renal cell carcinoma, and a week before orientation, he passed away.

In the days leading up to his death, my father made me promise that I would fulfill my dream of being a family nurse practitioner. He would always say, "Your education is one thing no one can take away from you."

You see, at the age of 36, my dad chose to further his education and earn a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. For six years, he worked full-time night shifts, napping in the college parking lot before attending class for more than six hours a day. He would drive home, take a one-hour nap, only to leave again for work. He excelled as a student, graduating with honors, while still managing to raise his family and be a strong, spiritual leader for his household.

I was only able to attend the first day of nursing orientation, and that was when I first heard about Samford's mission trip to Honduras. I felt God speak to me in that moment, and I knew even in my time of grief, God had a bigger plan and a greater purpose for my life.

My dad wrote a letter to his family entitled, "God has a Plan." He reminded us that even through sickness, heartache and yes, even death, God's plan is perfect. At the time, I was unable to fathom the comfort and peace he found in this, knowing his time on earth was ending soon, but dad was right.

At first, school was a day-by-day battle for me. The program felt endless, and I allowed anger and bitterness to enter my heart. Then, I went to Honduras.

The trip to Honduras confirmed God's plan for my life. God not only restored peace and joy within my soul, but he also filled the void of loneliness I had felt for almost two years. I was humbled to serve the people. Their joyful spirits were contagious. Despite their troubles, each person was still able to find something for which to thank God.

Yes, serving the people was a gratifying experience; however, that is not what changed me. God had a plan from the very beginning. He knew who was going on the trip and whom I could comfort with my story and testimony. Our group connected immediately,

and we quickly developed a sense of family, a feeling and connection I felt I had lost after losing my dad.

Throughout the week, those seeds continued to grow and blossom into beautiful relationships. I no longer felt angry, bitter or lonely. I was happy. ▮

The Kevin Myers Memorial Scholarship for Missions is in memory of Kevin Myers, a devoted father, minister and lifelong student, who died Jan. 24, 2014, at the age of 52.

"I found keeping my dad's vision and passion for life alive provide me the most healing," Edwards said. "I believe sharing his story of how he persevered despite his illness can provide hope for others who question if pursuing school is the right choice for them."

The scholarship will be awarded to a graduate student in Samford's Ida Moffett School of Nursing to help subsidize expenses related to an overseas mission trip.

"Regardless of the circumstance, furthering your education and surrounding yourself with those who immediately take you in as family will always be the right choice. This type of experience is guaranteed at Samford University," Edwards said.

Edwards and her husband, Ricky, a 2013 Samford nursing alumnus, will travel to Honduras with Samford again in July. Edwards will serve as preceptor on the trip for current family nurse practitioner students. ▮

Sarah Waller is coordinator of marketing and communication for the College of Health Sciences.



Honduras 2016 missions group included from left, Will Hammonds, Scott Smith, assistant professor Andrea Collins, Ashley Nelson, Sarah Williams, Whitney Sharp '08, Krystle Deal, Stephanie Edwards and Josh Elledge. At right, Kevin Myers.



Alumna Partners with McWhorter School of Pharmacy *to Create First Community Pharmacy Residency with CVS Health*

by Sarah Waller

Christy Garmon, an alumna of Samford University's McWhorter School of Pharmacy, has been involved with her alma mater since graduating in 2009. She serves on the school's advisory board and admission committee, which is where she met Jake Galdo, assistant professor and director of Samford's community pharmacy resident programs.

"I introduced myself and told him who I was: a pharmacy supervisor with CVS Health," Garmon said. "Jake was like, 'Oh great! Do you want to start a residency?'"

Her initial reaction: laughter. Never had the idea crossed her mind, yet the conversation planted a seed that began to grow.

"The market that I'm in—Mobile and Baldwin County—has traditionally been an underserved market, and I had been thinking of ways to improve staffing, making pharmacists more readily available. I asked myself, 'What can I do differently? How can we go a different route to develop our future leaders in pharmacy?' I just kept coming back to that conversation with Jake," Garmon said.

Now, almost two years later, Samford's McWhorter School of Pharmacy and CVS Health are official partners in the establishment of CVS's first postgraduate year one (PGY1) community pharmacy residency program, and Garmon and Galdo eagerly anticipate the program's first resident to begin this July.

The program is designed for residents to practice through experience in patient care, practice management, teaching, research, dispensing and public health. What makes this inaugural program unique is each resident will be able to practice these skills and community pharmacy objectives in the environment of a well-established chain pharmacy.

"The main difference of this residency is its opportunity to get a multidimensional outlook," Garmon said. "Not only will residents gain on how to manage and lead a pharmacy—well, lead several pharmacies, because we have 26 stores in our district—but they'll also get experience working with regional directors and managers as well as those on the national level."

Residencies are not required in the profession of pharmacy, but as Galdo explains, residencies provide the benefit of advanced, structured training for pharmacists in a specialty site such as



Christy Garmon

community pharmacies, hospitals and public health departments.

"We challenge our residents to pursue a project and innovate something new during their 12-month program," Galdo said. "Through these projects, they try something out with the intent that they will take this new knowledge and skill base, and apply it in their future career."

The community pharmacy residency program with CVS Health will take place in Mobile and Baldwin County in south Alabama, and Garmon will serve as the on-site supervisor.

"While the mission and vision of the program is cast by Samford, Christy has been a champion of this program since day one. We are thankful for all the work she has done—and will continue to do—for this program," Galdo said. ▀

Samford's McWhorter School of Pharmacy offers two other PGY1 community pharmacy residencies at Chad's Payless Pharmacy in Florence, Alabama, and Christ Health Center in Birmingham, Alabama.

Communication Sciences and Disorders Opens *Sensory Trail with Special Equestrians*

by Sarah Waller

The partnership between the School of Health Professions' Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and Special Equestrians, a hippotherapy barn in Indian Springs, Alabama, provides a new dimension to the role of team-based health care.

"We are not the only therapist in this situation," said Charlotte Rogers, a Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology student from Mobile, Alabama. "The horses are providing therapy, too."

During the spring semester, communication sciences and disorders faculty and students worked with Special Equestrians to develop, build and install a new sensory trail on the barn's property. While this project began as an assignment for first-year graduate students, it quickly became a service project that included students throughout the department.

At the sensory trail's grand opening, both graduate and undergraduate students worked together to demonstrate the trail's individual stations and train the organization's volunteers in how they should be used. They also had the opportunity to interact with the children in which this project serves, and see firsthand the joy the trail brings to the children and their families.

"I love seeing our graduate and undergraduate students working side by side to serve these children," said Laura Sheedy Promer, instructor and director of undergraduate studies. "Our younger students are learning so much as our graduate students show them how a topic they learned during their freshman year is being applied to what they are doing as a first-year graduate student."

Students developed each station to address communication, motor and sensory skills. Although they studied and developed these stations for months—compiling their knowledge into a training manual for Special Equestrians—the practical experience of actually walking a child and horse through the trail proved to be an additional learning opportunity.

"You can really tell there is so much learning going on because they are having to think on their feet," Promer said. "They don't know



Students in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders work with children in hippotherapy program.

who is coming to their station next. It may be a rider who is visually impaired, and they'll have to think, 'How can I change this project to make it work for him?'"

"I'm learning you have to feel out the situation, and I think with each rider that came through, I felt a little more comfortable," said Katherine Devine, a Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology student from Bowling Green, Kentucky. "It was really cool to see how different riders were able to utilize the stations in different ways. But regardless of how they were utilizing the station, it brought all of them joy. That was the common denominator."

Samford's partnership with Special Equestrians is a testament to the university's commitment to helping others by meeting diverse needs and leading societal improvement. While this project started as a class assignment, the students went above and beyond in their service to others, living out the School of Health Professions' mission of promoting health, wellness and quality of life through excellence in professionalism, scholarship and service. ▀

Sarah Waller is coordinator of marketing and communication for the College of Health Sciences.

Public Health Creates Toolkit to Help LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS FIGHT FOOD WASTE

by Olivia Odom

Studies estimate that 13.1 million children in the United States live in households that lack secure access to nutritionally adequate and safe foods; at the same time, 62 million metric tons of food are wasted each year in the United States. In light of this, students and faculty in Samford University's School of Public Health partnered with the United Way of Central Alabama and Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham to create a toolkit that could equip local organizations to evaluate their summer feeding programs and reduce waste.

Dietetic interns Danielle Russell and April Punko worked under the supervision of public health faculty Rachel Casiday and Kim Davey, and Department of Nutrition and Dietetics assistant professor Katie Coate to conduct an evaluation and plate waste study at three summer feeding programs in the Birmingham area.

They evaluated programs at Blount County Schools, Alabaster City Schools and Greater Birmingham Ministries during the summer of 2016, and plan to continue the study at New Rising Star and Community Food Bank of Central Alabama during the summer of 2017. Each of the summer feeding programs offered meals to children under the age of 18 who typically receive subsidized meals during the school year.

One component of their evaluation of the summer feeding programs was a plate waste study, designed to determine how much food is being wasted versus how much food is being eaten.

While the study did gather quantitative data, its main purpose was to establish a methodology that organizations could use to better evaluate their summer feeding programs. At the study's completion, Casiday hopes to present the United Way of Central Alabama, Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham and their partnering organizations with a toolkit they can use as a reference to reduce food waste while not compromising the quality of the food they serve.

Several elements are taken into consideration. For example, the toolkit will provide alternative ways to measure food waste that do not require expensive equipment, which is helpful to new or nonprofit organizations.

To gather information, Russell, Punko, Casiday, Davey and Coate collected data, interviewed program participants, weighed plates and assisted with the analysis. Russell focused on analyzing the Food Research and Action Center standards for summer food programs, and developed worksheets that included prompts, questions, rubrics and metrics for organizations to use in measuring plate waste. She then tested the worksheets by using them to

gather data at the program sites. Punko ran all the mathematical and statistics results gathered in Russell's worksheets.

Following the evaluations last summer, the team was impressed with the summer feeding programs available in the Birmingham community.

"My favorite part of the project was getting to see each of the program sites," said Russell. "Each one was unique, and they were all doing their best to serve the kids and families in their communities."

Russell explained that some sites offered cold sandwiches and craft projects each day. Others served hot lunches with varying vegetables and entrees along with nutritional education classes. Each site varied as far as food and services based on its available staff and funding.

"I am so impressed by the work and dedication of the people who have set up these programs," Casiday said. "There is a desire to do something that is important for the community and the children of the community. We all want to make sure the kids in our community get fed in a way that is healthy for them." ▸

Olivia Odom is a journalism and mass communication major and news and feature writer in the Division of Marketing and Communication.



Discussing Public Health toolkit program are, from left, Katie Coate, Kim Davey and Rachel Casiday.

5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT

ALLEN BRANSTETTER



What Samford faculty member had the most influence on you and why?

Coming from the School of the Arts, I had close relationships with many professors and faculty members. Donald Sanders and Joel Davis taught me how to listen to music, Grant Dalton taught me how to feel music, and (former faculty member) Chip Crofts taught me how to play music. Dr. Davis is also the reason I was able to graduate on time, so I'm forever grateful to him for his help during my last semester.

How did you become involved with St. Paul and the Broken Bones?

The summer before my senior year, my friend and former Samford bandmate Ben Griner invited me to come record some horn parts for his friends' band. That band was St. Paul and the Broken Bones, and I've been here ever since.

What is the best advice you were ever given and by whom?

I read a book called *Zen Golf* by Joseph Parent. Golf and playing the trumpet are very similar from both the mental and physical sides. Learning how to control my mind and completely disengage from negative thoughts while playing was a revelation. I have a stutter, and it occasionally affects my trumpet playing. Learning how to relax and get rid of the stutter in my playing ended up being a very similar process to golfers learning how to eliminate their "big miss." Using a sports psychology approach was the key for me.

What advice would you give to students interested in pursuing music careers like you have done?

If you want to have success in the music industry, you have to give it

.....
Degree/Year: B.A. Music, 2013

Current: Trumpet player,
St. Paul and the Broken Bones

Bonus Fact: As part of the band, he has played for The Rolling Stones, Sir Elton John and David Letterman.
.....

absolutely everything you've got from day one. It's one of the most competitive industries in the world. We went in with the attitude that we had no other option than to succeed. We dedicated our lives to our craft, holding ourselves to extremely high standards even to this day. As far as the actual music goes, it's not necessarily what you play, it's how you play it. The cream will rise to the top no matter what style or genre of music you play. If your goal is to be the best and your work reflects that, you can be successful no matter what niche you fall into.

What was it like opening for The Rolling Stones?

It was the most surreal experience you could ever imagine. There's nothing I can possibly compare rolling up to the Buffalo Bills' football stadium in your beat-up little white van to play a rock show with the biggest band in the world. Some of our idols list opening for The Rolling Stones among their greatest achievements, and we got to do it twice. We got to take a single photo with them, and it felt like meeting the president (not Westmoreland!). Gigantic men in suits wearing sunglasses. A guy on a radio saying "We're ready to receive the principals." It was nuts. We honestly had to sign a nondisclosure statement saying that we could not post the photo ANYWHERE online in order to receive the photo. I have the photo hanging in my house above my piano, and it's definitely among my most prized possessions. ▸

.....
Branstetter's responses have been edited for length. To read his complete profile, go to samford.edu/spotlight.



NATHAN KIRKPATRICK

Why do you teach? I teach because I am passionate about working with college students. I think someone's time in college is incredibly impactful, and I want to be used by the Lord to point college students to Jesus, and train them to be excellent and proficient professionals in the sport industry. I teach at Samford because I want to use my teaching and mentoring as vehicles to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and Samford not only supports this heart intention, but embodies it as an institution that wants to be centered on Jesus Christ.

What is one thing you want your students to know when they graduate from Samford? I pray that they would know Jesus came to save sinners (like me/like them), and that the Good News of the Gospel is that if we know Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we are now free in him to use our callings in the sport industry (and other industries) to simply love, serve and be used by the Lord as the aroma of Christ in people's lives.

How did your background prepare you for your current role at Samford?

I was blessed by God to be a college basketball player, which helped me understand the sides of college athletics that fans do not get to see. I then started my professional career working in college athletics as a men's basketball coach and athletics administrator. These leadership roles in the sport industry taught me necessary people skills and knowledge that now I can impart to my students. God has also graciously allowed my background in the sport industry to be used as a connecting point with students on campus, prospective students and sport industry professionals.

Position:

Assistant professor of kinesiology and coordinator of the Sport Administration Program

Teaching at Samford since: 2013

Bonus Fact: Kirkpatrick's wife, Emily Hart Kirkpatrick, is a 2011 Samford journalism and mass communication graduate.

What has it been like helping to develop the new sport administration program at Samford? It has truly been an honor and blessing to have been able to help build and now coordinate the new sport administration program. God's gracious hand has been all over this process, as in everything, and we are excited to see both current and prospective students interested in the program. We want the heartbeat of this program to be rooted in Scripture, and to look at all angles of the sport industry through the lens of the Gospel, thus molding students to go and be incredibly sharp and proficient professionals in the industry, all while pointing people to Jesus.

What is some of the interesting research you have done or are doing in your field? A recent research project is titled "What Effects Will the NCAA Academic Redshirt Policy Have on NCAA Division I Intercollegiate Athletics at the 'Power 5' Conference Level?" The NCAA Academic Redshirt is a new policy that allows student-athletes to receive an athletics scholarship their first year of school and practice during their first academic semester. If a student-athlete is academically eligible after the first semester, they can then practice the rest of the school year. I am studying the effects this policy will have on athletics departments within the "Power 5" conferences.

Kirkpatrick's responses have been edited for length. To read his complete profile and profiles of other featured employees and alumni, go to samford.edu/spotlight.

Allings Forge a Journey To Create Chattanooga Prep

by William Nunnelley

Samford alumni Ted and Kelly Alling and their children took a yearlong sabbatical in London during 2015, a trip made possible by the 2014 sale of Alling's highly successful company, Access America Transport. In addition to enjoying the environs of the British capital, the Allings found time to tutor some Samford students at the university's center, Daniel House. But a primary reason for the trip, said Alling, was to consider a long-term use for the proceeds from the sale.

"We did some soul searching for what sort of impact we wanted to have," he said.

The Allings were 2000 graduates of Samford, Ted in business and Kelly in education. Ted was named one of the university's Young Alumni of the Year in 2010, and Kelly was recognized with a Learning for Life Award from the education school in 2015.

They are dedicated to their home city of Chattanooga, Tennessee, where they moved in 2002. Kelly had worked with Habitat for Humanity there, and Ted had taken time away from his business to serve as a mentor at a low-performing high school. They had seen the problems that poverty and low-performing schools could have on education. They decided to do something to alleviate such problems.

"We came back from London and visited an all-girls charter school, the Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy (CGLA) led by a dynamic educator, Dr. Elaine Swafford," said Ted Alling. "The school is electric. Ninety-seven percent of the students are living below the poverty level, and 90 percent are now college-ready leaving the school.

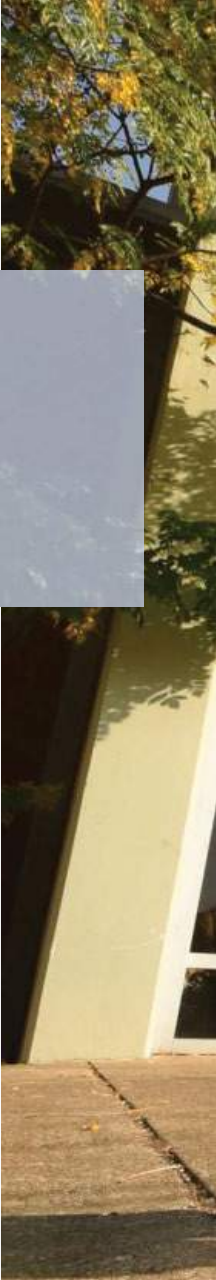
"After visiting the school, we knew God had put it on our hearts to start a brother school to CGLA."

The Allings began to work in that direction in fall 2015. They imagined an all-boys public charter school that encourages leadership and innovation through a STEM-based curriculum—science, technology, engineering and math—for grades 6–12 in an area where many reside at the poverty level. Alling likened it to providing "advantaged education to disadvantaged children." The school would be known as Chattanooga Prep.

To make the school a reality, the Allings have given and raised money (more than \$8 million so far), enlisted a board dedicated to helping the students of the community, written a 370-page charter and filed it with the Hamilton County Board of Education, hosted neighborhood meetings, mapped a plan to hire faculty, and acquired property.

"We want to give the kids the best chance possible," said Alling. "People in the community are ecstatic. We are doing a nationwide search for a principal."

Alling purchased property adjacent to the CGLA, including three buildings used by the former Tennessee Temple University, now closed. He copurchased with CGLA an abandoned field that



Ted and Kelly Alling visit a newly purchased building for Chattanooga Prep.
Photo by Tim Barber, courtesy of the Chattanooga Times Free Press.



had been scheduled to become a housing development but will instead be used as an athletics facility for the two schools.

"We have to do some renovation work on the buildings, but they are already perfectly situated to be classrooms," he said.

Chattanooga Prep will share some newly constructed space with CGLA in one of the buildings, including a cafeteria, auditorium, library and arts area. Newly redone state-of-the-art classrooms will be located in the other buildings.

All of the activity is pointing toward an August 2018 opening for 60 sixth-grade boys. The principal will greet the students with a daily handshake at the door as they arrive and leave.

"This sets the tone for the day, and teaches the boys that they are important and welcomed," said Alling.

What has been the best moment so far for the Allings in their journey to create Chattanooga Prep?

"Walking out of the closings on our buildings, we had an inner peace and told each other that this was the happiest purchase of our life," said Alling. "We feel God is directing our steps." ▸

"We want to give the kids the best chance possible."

TED ALLING

NEW ARRIVALS



'92 **James Scott Moreland** and Elise McDaniel Moreland of Riverside, Alabama, a daughter, Harris Virginia, born July 20, 2016. **1**

'04 **John** and **Tanya Humphries Rogers** '06 of Madison, Alabama, a son, William John IV, born Sept. 10, 2016. **2**

'05 **Joanna Robinson Piris** and C. Ramón Garcia Piris of Tallahassee, Florida, a daughter, Victoria Louise, born Jan. 14, 2017. She joins older siblings Helen and Luca. **3**

'06 **Josh** and **Cassie Applegate Jacobs** '09 of Birmingham, a son, Hudson Lee, born Oct. 7, 2016. **4**

'07 **Kristen Straw Barredo** and Jim Barredo of Washington, D.C., a son, Jude Carisma, born Sept. 28, 2016. **5**

'07 **Amanda Reynolds Grimes, Pharm. D.,** and **Tyler Grimes, Pharm. D.,** of Carrollton, Kentucky, a son, Colton Presley, born Aug. 16, 2016. **6**

'07 **Megan Hodges Kaal** and **J.P. Kaal** '08 of Vestavia Hills, Alabama, a daughter Caroline Meline, born Feb. 11, 2017. **7**

'08 **Jason Bobo, J.D.,** and **Jessica Parmenter Bobo** '09 of Hoover, Alabama, a daughter, Caroline Rankin, born Oct. 11, 2016. **8**

'08 **Robin Bishop Cardwell** and Logan Cardwell of Huntsville, Alabama, a daughter, Finley Kate, born May 26, 2016. **9**

'08 **Jason Morales** and **Jessica Sansom Morales** '11 of Birmingham adopted a daughter, Brighten Storie, born Sept. 22, 2016. **10**

'10 **Christine Taylor Boatwright** and **Lucas Boatwright** '11 of Gainesville, Florida, a daughter, Cora Ellen, born Nov. 8, 2016. **11**

'10 **Taylor Kardoes Hardy** and Brint Hardy of Homewood, a son, William Henry, born Nov. 17, 2016. **12**

'10 **Ashley Oliver Short** and Stephen Short of Richland, Mississippi, a son, Ethan Oliver, born Dec. 20, 2016. **13**

'10 **Ciera Stoyer de Garcia** and Martin Garcia of Perry, Florida, a son, Jaith Zorion Garcia Stoyer, born March 5, 2016. **14**

'11 **Madison Hall Perekotiy** and Yuriy Perekotiy of Foley, Alabama, a daughter, Mila Glory, born Nov. 29, 2016. **15**

'12 **Courtney Rogers Patrick** and Jered Patrick of Russellville, Kentucky, a son, Ezra Tyler, born Sept. 19, 2016. **16**

'14 **Caitlin Plath Shults** and Sutton Shults of Birmingham, a son, Malachi Walker, born Dec. 6, 2016. **17**

Compiled by the Office of Alumni Programs and Annual Giving with information submitted by April 1, 2017.

CLASS NOTES

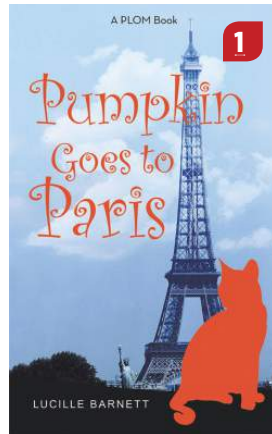
Compiled by the Office of Alumni Programs and Annual Giving with information submitted by April 1, 2017.

1950s

'53 **Hoyt Harwell** was recognized for 30 years of service to the board of advisers at Judson College by Judson's president, David E. Potts.

1960s

'66 **Lucille Barnett, M.A. '70**, published her book, *Pumpkin Goes to Paris*, an adventurous tale about a cat that travels to the City of Lights while incorporating French language and culture. **1**



1970s

'76 **Tom King, J.D.**, circuit judge and retired brigadier general, was honored by the University of Alabama for his 32 years of military service with a presentation of the U.S. flag. He is a 1971 Distinguished Military Graduate of Alabama's ROTC program. **2**

'77 **Jay Aiken** earned a Doctor of Musical Arts in choral conducting from the University of South Carolina in December 2016.

1980s

'82 **Leah Taylor Kirk** is owner and managing editor for Southern Unlimited, LLC., a digital fishing and lifestyle sports magazine publisher. Their titles include *Southern Trout*, *Southern Kayak Fishing*, *Southern Salt Water Fly Fishing*, *Southern Trout Ozark Edition* and *North American Bear Hunter*.

'83 **B. Davis Campbell** published his third book, *Bullet Points: Absolute Essentials for Facing a Fallen World*. The book explores Romans 12:9-21 and aims to help readers to live a Christian life through sharing personal experiences and life lessons. He is a bladder cancer survivor and has written two other books about his journey through illness,

including *A Place I Didn't Want To Go: My Victory Over Cancer and Glorified Sickness: Honoring God Through Illness*.

'83 **Leslie Powers** earned a Doctor of Ministry from Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina in December 2016.

'85 **John Lathram** joined Pond & Company as program manager for the oil and gas division's fuel construction sector. He served as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army and Army Reserves, and has integrated his military experience into his 30-year career in environmental remediation, fuel system inspection and repair, and general construction management. **3**

'89 **Brenda Walker** was elected as a board member at the Jane B. Holmes Library in Helena, Alabama. **4**

1990s

'90 **Curtis B. Hunter, J.D.**, joined the corporate and securities practice group of Becker & Poliakoff in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He and will be based in the firm's Miami and Fort Lauderdale offices. **5**

'92 **Stephen Louis A. Dillard** will be sworn in as the 30th chief judge on the Court of Appeals of Georgia June 21.



'92 **Lisa Carter Traffanstedt**, known professionally as Lisa Mason, won Best in Broadcasting 2017—Large Market Morning Show by the Alabama Broadcasters Association for the *Lisa Mason Morning Show*, which airs on WBPT-FM, 106.9 Birmingham's Eagle. **6**

'92 **Jason R. Pierce** was sworn in Jan. 17 as district attorney for the 38th Judicial Circuit, Jackson County, Alabama.

'93 **Christopher W. Deering, J.D. '97**, is listed in the 2017 edition of Best Lawyers in America in the area of labor and employment law, and was selected for inclusion in the 2016 Mid-South Super Lawyers list in the employment litigation (defense) practice area. He is a shareholder in Ogletree Deakins international labor and employment law firm and resident in the firm's Birmingham office. **7**

'93 **D. Edward Wise Jr., J.D.**, was appointed deputy commissioner and administrative law judge with the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission in August 2016. He will serve in the regional office in Bristol, Virginia. **8**

'94 **Toni Baggiano-Wilson** earned her Ed.D. in educational leadership from Louisiana Tech University in February. **9**

'96 **Leslie Sorrell** has written a book, *From Clients to Crooks—An Insider Reveals the Real Washington D.C.*, which will be released in August 2017. The

book offers a peek inside the world of power brokers and their culture. **10**

'96 Jeff Swords joined United Data Technologies as regional sales director for Tennessee. He will manage client services, and the hiring of sales and engineering talent, as well as oversee the company's expansion into new service lines and industries.

'97 Don W. Thompson, J.D., was appointed to the Superior Court Bench in the Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit Nov. 3, 2016. He, his wife, Erica, and daughter, Emily, reside in Summerville, Georgia, where he has practiced law for the past 18 years. **11**

'98 Kerry P. McInerney was selected for the 2016-17 Leadership Birmingham class. He is a shareholder at Sirote & Permutt PC. **12**

2000s

'01 Daniel Ausbun began his ministry as pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Lexington, Kentucky, Jan 1. Formerly, he served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Moreland, Georgia. He and his wife, **Sherri Coleman Ausbun '99**, have four children: Daniel Jr., Elizabeth, Benjamin and Esther.

'03 Celeste Williams Coffman completed state requirements to become a licensed professional counselor. She owns a women's-only private

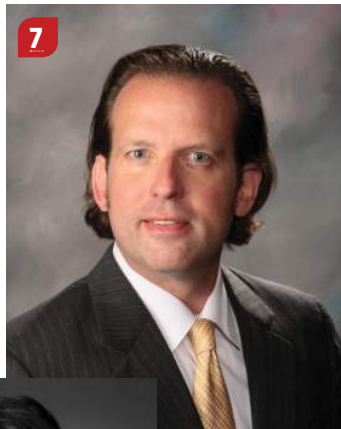
counseling practice in Florence, Alabama, and recently expanded this business to teach online courses for people with anxiety.

'04 Jon L. Mills, M.Acc. '05, J.D. '14, joined Maynard Cooper & Gale as an associate in the firm's corporate securities and tax practice group. He was a member of the varsity basketball team at Samford. **13**

'06 David Hayes was promoted to Partner at Owen, Gleaton, Egan, Jones & Sweeney LLP in Atlanta. His practice includes litigation and corporate law. He resides in Atlanta with his wife, **Elizabeth Hajek Hayes '07**, and son George, 2.



6



7



8



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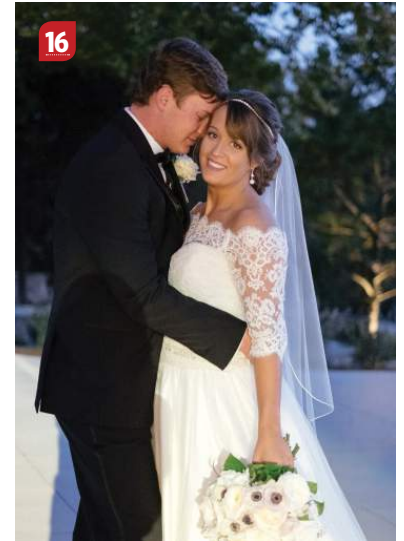
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11



12



2010s

'11 **Leanna Cannafax** married Taylor Miller of Duncan, Mississippi, in December. They live in the Mississippi Delta with their golden retriever, Rose. **14**

'12 **Trevor McHardy** married **Sophie Willis, Pharm.D. '15**, in September. They live in St. Louis, Missouri, where he is attending the physician assistant program at St. Louis University and she works as a specialty pharmacist. **15**

'13 **Laura Lundy Wheale, J.D.**, was cast in the Ang Lee's film *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk*, an American-British war drama released in November 2016. She played the role of Billy Lynn's older sister, Patty.

'13 **Cameron James Yaw** married **Madison Riley Williams '15** at Graystone Quarry in Franklin, Tennessee, in October. They live in Trussville, Alabama. **16**

'14 **James Graham** was named one of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors "Top Advisors Under 40" in the Birmingham market. He is a managing associate and financial adviser at Pittman Financial Partners. He also serves on Samford's Young Alumni Board.

'14 **Tony Thompson** published his debut novel, *Why Wait?* He is founder and CEO of Tony Thompson Inc., and teaches others to "live life with urgency and intentionality" through his workshops, writing and motivational speaking. **17**

'16 **Rebecca Jane McWhorter** teaches gifted children in the Birmingham area. Her sister **Rachel Joyce McWhorter '04** is a college professor in Missouri. Their father, **Douglas L. McWhorter, J.D. '73**, is a lawyer in Birmingham and a former adjunct professor at Samford. **16**

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IN MEMORIAM

'37 Rosalie Thornton Harrison, age 100, of Washington, D.C., died Feb. 21, 2017. She earned her master's degree from the University of Alabama. She taught in public schools in Washington, D.C.

'39 Laura Young Monroe, age 95, of Birmingham died Feb. 10, 2017. She and her husband, James, served churches in Kentucky, Alabama and Florida, where she taught young married couples and held leadership positions. She wrote a popular advice column for ministers' wives called "Letters to Laura."

'41 Ovia "Doodle" Grantham Sandifer, age 96, of Brookhaven, died Jan. 1, 2017. After receiving her nursing degree, she joined the Red Cross and enlisted in the Nurses Army Corps. She reached the rank of first lieutenant and received the Bronze Star from Gen. George Patton.

'45 Leon Albert Blackmon, age 92, of Center Point, Alabama, died Jan. 25, 2017. He was a retired U.S. Air Force officer with 27 years of active military service. He attained the rank of lieutenant colonel and served as field maintenance squadron commander at Blytheville Air Force Base in Arkansas.

'45 Bettye Jeanne Chambers Loftis, age 92, of Prattville, Alabama, died Nov. 30, 2016. She worked for the Veterans Administration Hospital for thirty years, primarily as a head nurse.

'47 Robert Norman Smith, age 92, of Birmingham died March 2, 2017. He taught chemistry at Howard College and built a long career as a chemist with ACIPCO. He received various awards and certificates of merit, including the Lundell Bright Memorial Award for his work on chemical analysis of metals.

'47 Frances Walker Williamson, age 89, of Indian Springs, Alabama, died Jan. 11, 2017. She obtained her undergraduate degree in education from Howard College and her master's degree in education from the University of Alabama in Birmingham. She taught for 18 years and was a lifetime member of Samford's Legacy League.

'49 Eloise Thomason Kirk, age 90, of Troy, Alabama, died Dec. 22, 2016. After completing her undergraduate degree at Howard College, she earned a Master of Library Science and Doctorate

of Education from Auburn University. She served in public education for 44 years and created funding for the first Teacher's Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama.

'49 Margaret Keelen Newman, of Talladega, Alabama, died Dec. 28, 2016. She was a veteran of the U.S. Navy with service during World War II. Later, she served as a teacher. She also earned a degree from the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

'49 Robert "Bob" V. Sanders Jr., age 89, of Birmingham died Dec. 26, 2016. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was elected president of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Council twice and was president of the National Association of Private Psychiatric Hospitals.

'50 Joe T. Dickinson, age 91, of Houston, Texas, died Feb. 11, 2017. He was a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force. During his service, he received the Silver Star, four Distinguished Flying Crosses and 14 Air Medals while logging 970 combat flying hours. He also commanded the largest aircraft maintenance squadron in Air Force history. After retirement, he received a B.S. in industrial engineering from the University of North Dakota and pursued a second career at Standco Industries.

'50 Allie "Cookie" Claire Cooper Dorough, age 88, of Birmingham died Feb. 17, 2017. She and her late husband, Jack, owned Jack Dorough Apothecary.

'50 Robert Allen Wheeler, age 92, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, died Jan. 12, 2017. He was a U.S. Marine and served during World War II at Midway. He worked as a pharmacist for more than 40 years. He was also a member of the Alhambra Shrine and the Legion of Honor.

'51 Grady Preston Fuller, age 94, of Russellville, Alabama, died Feb. 7, 2017. He was a history and political science professor at Cumberland University in Williamsburg, Kentucky, and Martin College in Pulaski, Tennessee. He also taught at Northwest Community College.

'52 Helen Bradford Wier, age 86, of Signal Mountain, Tennessee, died Feb. 21, 2017. She was a charter member of Huffman Presbyterian Church, now Cahaba Springs Presbyterian Church. Through

the years, she served her church family as a deacon, elder and president of the women of the church.

'53 Rev. Jerry L. Holloway, age 84, of Richmond, Virginia, died Feb. 12, 2017. He earned a master's degree in theology from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and was an active Baptist minister for more than 20 years.

'54 Mary C. D'Annucci, age 92, of Southamton, New Jersey, died Jan. 29, 2017. She owned a pharmacy in Roebling, New Jersey, for seven years before working as a pharmacist at the Trenton Psychiatric Hospital, Vineland State School and New Lisbon State School.

'54 Robert Earl Holley, age 83, of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, died Nov. 30, 2016. After graduating from Howard College, he attended the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and served as a minister for 14 years. He later joined the Arkansas Baptist State Convention staff, serving there for 29 years.

'55 Jon Appleton, age 82, of Athens, Georgia, died Nov. 27, 2016. After completing his undergraduate degree, he attended the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and served at churches in Kentucky, Alabama and Georgia.

'55 Rev. Alton Houston Harpe Jr., age 89, of Phenix City, Alabama, died Jan. 28, 2017. He served in World War II and the Korean War, and later graduated from seminary with a master's degree in theology. He was a campus minister at the University of Miami and Florida State University. He later served as chaplain at the United States Military Academy.

'56 Donald Roy Boyd, age 85, of Covington, Louisiana, died Jan. 17, 2017. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and served during the Korean War as a sonar operator. He worked for Perelli Wire and Cable until his retirement.

'56 Wilson C. Wilhite Jr., age 81, of Birmingham died Jan. 2, 2017. He completed his M.D. at the University of Alabama. He worked in several hospitals, a private practice, and served as a professor at various universities.

'57 Rev. William Thomas Carter, age 81, of Mobile, Alabama, died Dec. 21. After completing his

undergraduate degree, he obtained his master's degree in divinity and religion from Southern Baptist Seminary. He served Spring Hill Baptist Church for 40 years.

'57 Joseph Charles Castleberry Sr., age 88, of Anniston, Alabama, died Dec. 11, 2016. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and served during the Korean War, reaching the rank of staff sergeant. He worked at Alabama Power Company and patented a hydraulic booster for repairing tension wire.

'57 Rev. Moody Faulk, age 82, of Hartford, Alabama, died Feb. 9, 2017. He graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and pastored eight churches during his ministry. He was also a middle school English teacher.

'58 William E. Wisener, age 82, of Birmingham died Dec. 10, 2016. He was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. He then had a career in real estate with Cornerstone Properties and ReMax Legends.

'59 Mallie Gayle Colley-Calderwood, age 78, of Centreville, Alabama, died Dec. 3, 2016. She was the first woman appointed as executive director of the Arizona School Administrators Association.

'59 Charles "Chuck" Benjamin Collins Sr., age 94, of Chicago, Illinois, died Dec. 13, 2016. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corps, serving during World War II. He worked for Southern Bell Company.

'59 Sonny Raley, age 79, of Ozark, Alabama, died Nov. 24, 2016. He played baseball and basketball at Howard College. He was a coach and educator for many years, and was inducted into the Wiregrass Sports Hall of Fame in 2015.

'60 Robert Edgar "Ed" Ohnich, age 78, of Birmingham died Jan. 6, 2017. He was named Outstanding Accounting Student while studying at Samford. He worked in public accounting for more than 50 years.

'62 Cherrell C. Burkett, age 88, of Warrior, Alabama, died Feb. 10, 2017. She earned her Master of Library Science at the University of Alabama, and worked for Jefferson County Schools as a teacher and librarian for 26 years. After retirement, she volunteered for the Daughters of the American Revolution and served in her church.

'62 Cecil Franklin Dozier, age 77, of Anniston, Alabama, died Dec. 6, 2016. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He taught and served in the

Anniston City School system for 20 years.

'64 Emily Stockard Zimmet, age 73, of Burleson, Texas, died Jan. 5, 2017. She taught for several years and then worked as an employment counselor, supervisor, office manager, regional director and deputy director at Operational Services at Texas Workforce Commission.

'65 Elizabeth "Betty" W. Norris, age 73, of Bangor, Maine, died Jan. 28, 2017. She was a missionary for two years in Rhodesia, South Africa, where she worked as a nurse and taught women to quilt. Upon returning to the United States, she taught for 25 years at Montclair/Samford University, Walker College, Auburn University and the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

'65 Mary Davis-Smith of Huntsville, Alabama, died Dec. 28, 2016. She taught fifth grade for several years. Her art was featured in galleries in Texas and Santa Fe. She also taught art classes at Hobby Lobby and other locations.

'65 Thomas "Tom" Andrew Marler, age 75, of Watkinsville, Alabama, died Dec. 9, 2016. He played football and baseball at Samford. He worked at St. Mary's Healthcare until retirement in 2004, after which he worked part time for First Baptist Church of Winder.

'66 Janis Langley Cox, age 74, of Hoover, Alabama, died Nov. 18, 2016.

'66 Larry Heamon Hill, age 72, of Auburn, Alabama, died Nov. 29, 2016. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, serving in the Vietnam War and rising to the rank of captain. He co-owned Hill Dental Company and was chairman of the board of the American Dental Co-op.

'67 Donald Maurice Ball, age 75, of Wetumpka, Alabama, died Dec. 15, 2016. He was president and CEO of Jackson Hospital for 23 years. He served on the board of directors for various organizations in the health care field and received the Gold Medal of Excellence from the Alabama Healthcare Hall of Fame.

'68 Ronald Derrick Cope, age 72, of Huntsville, Alabama, died Feb. 24, 2017. He served as president of the Huntsville-Madison County Pharmaceutical Society for many years. The U.S. Department of the Army awarded him multiple Commanders' Awards for Civilian Service.

'69 Milton Irving "M.I." Culpepper, J.D., age 87, of Chelsea, Alabama, died Nov. 27, 2016. He

served in the U.S. Navy Reserve. After attending Cumberland School of Law, he was legal counsel assistant to the chairman for the Department of Surgery at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, and later the legal counsel assistant to the president of UAB Health Services Foundation.

'70 Ronald Paul Thompson, J.D., age 77, of Albertville, Alabama, died Feb. 19, 2017. He established a career as an attorney in Albertville. He served as municipal judge for the city and as Marshall County district attorney. Recently, he was elected a deacon emeritus at First Baptist Church of Albertville.

'71 Dana Ray Arnold, age 67, of Columbia, South Carolina, died Dec. 7, 2016. He worked for Bombardier Learjet for more than 20 years, working his way up to vice president of sales.

'71 Ronald Clyde Summers, age 67, of Vestavia Hills, Alabama, died Dec. 29, 2016. After receiving his undergraduate degree in history and religion from Samford, he earned a Master of Divinity from Southern Seminary. He served at Meadow Brook Baptist Church for 19 years.

'73 Marilyn Faye Shivers Powe, M.S.Ed., age 76, of Birmingham died Dec. 8, 2016. She taught in the Jefferson County school system.

'73 Jimmy "Jim" Wright, M.B.A., age 75, of Hoover, Alabama, died Feb. 16, 2017. He served six years in the Alabama Legislature. He had a 40-year career in real estate, in which he was a broker, real estate school owner and teacher. He taught Sunday school at Midway United Methodist Church for more than 40 years.

'74 Charles Allen Greene Jr., age 67, of Knoxville, Tennessee, died Dec. 30, 2016. He was a pharmacist for more than 40 years and served as president of the Southeastern Society of Hospital Pharmacists.

'74 Melba Diane Wood Tumlin, age 65, of Florence, Alabama, died Nov. 18, 2016. She worked as the office manager of the pathology lab at McLeod Regional Medical Center. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Florence.

'75 Connie Christopher Scollin, age 62, of Hoover, Alabama, died Feb. 13, 2017. She earned her nursing degree from Samford and served at Children's Hospital for 38 years.

'75 Perry Don Vickers, age 71, of Jasper, Alabama, died Feb. 14, 2017. He owned Vickers

ALUMNI

Pharmacy in his hometown of Carbon Hill, Alabama. He served as a district board member of the Alabama Independent Pharmacy Association and was chosen in 2006 as the Alabama Independent Pharmacist of the Year. At Samford, he was president of the Student American Pharmaceutical Association.

'76 Frank Mims Clark, M.B.A., age 73, of Upper St. Clair, Pennsylvania, died Jan. 4. Before completing his M.B.A. at Samford, he obtained a Bachelor of Science in industrial engineering from Auburn University. He worked at U.S. Steel Company for more than 30 years.

'77 Leo King Cooper Jr., J.D., age 68, of Gadsden, Alabama, died Jan. 6, 2017. He graduated cum laude from Cumberland School of Law, and served as an attorney in the Department of Labor and administrative law judge for the Social Security Administration. He received the Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service in the Army and later retired from the National Guard as a lieutenant colonel.

'77 David Gadd, age 63, of Knoxville, Tennessee, died Jan. 22, 2017. He was a pharmacist for 40 years, and was a choir member and deacon at Arlington Baptist Church.

'77 James Anthony "Tony" McLain, J.D., age 65, of Montgomery, Alabama, died Jan. 1, 2017. He practiced law for nine years before joining the Alabama State Bar as assistant general counsel. He also served as president of Cumberland School of Law's Alumni Association and received a Distinguished Alumnus Award.

'82 Steven "Reb" Aldridge, J.D., age 64, died Jan. 12, 2017. He served as captain in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corp, as well as in government and private practice in Madison and Colbert counties. He also served the National Children's Advocacy Center.

'84 Timothy Edmond Hoyle, age 56, of Marion, Alabama, died Nov. 16, 2016. He was a worship leader for several years.

'84 Steve Noles, J.D., age 57, of Fort Payne, Alabama, died Nov. 7, 2016. He served as a member of the Alabama and Tennessee Bar Associations, and the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States.

'84 Daniel Keith Wylie, age 56, of Miamisburg, Ohio, died Nov. 28, 2016. He worked as a printer

for Office Depot in its regional production facility. He also served as a Stephen minister at his church in Springboro, Ohio.

'87 Michele Lynn Atchley, age 52, of Grant, Alabama, died Jan. 5, 2017. She worked as a pharmacist at Grant Pharmacy and served as a pharmacy consultant for Barfield Healthcare.

'87 Larry Christopher "Chris" Daily, age 54, of Trussville, Alabama, died Feb. 26, 2017. He was a pharmacist at St. Vincent Hospital of Acension Health. He was a member of First Methodist Church of Trussville.

'88 Rita M. Graham, age 73, of Birmingham died Dec. 18, 2016. She worked as a paralegal at Zarzaur & Schwartz P.C.

'92 Joseph Norton Bacon, age 67, of Morristown, Tennessee, died Aug. 10, 2016. He served as a surgical technician in the U.S. Army in South Korea.

'97 Jeffrey Wayne Taylor, age 43, of Tullahoma, Tennessee, died Dec. 12, 2016. He was head coach for the Franklin County Rebels basketball team.

'00 Derek A. Johnson, M.Div., age 52, of West Blocton, Alabama, died Feb. 19, 2017. He served as pastor of Grace Baptist Church in West Blocton for 17 years.

OTHER SAMFORD FAMILY

Jeanne DeJarnette Barrow, age 89, of Birmingham died Dec. 11, 2016. She worked in the Samford University Library for several years, and was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and other groups.

Albert P. Brewer, age 88, of Homewood died Jan. 2, 2017. He was the former governor of Alabama who forged a later career as a Samford University law professor and founder of the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama (PARCA). As governor from 1968 until 1971, Brewer is recognized for achieving much-needed reforms and new programs for Alabama. He joined Samford in 1987 as distinguished professor of law and government, and helped Samford establish PARCA as a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that studies issues of public interest affecting state and local government in Alabama. Brewer served as PARCA's first executive director and later as its chairman of the board, retiring in 2013. He also taught at Samford's Cumberland School of Law for

more than two decades. The law school named its newly designed plaza for Brewer and his late wife, Martha, in 2008. Over the years, he was also a champion of state constitutional reform.

Memorials may be made to the Albert P. Brewer Scholarship Fund at Cumberland School of Law, 800 Lakeshore Drive, Birmingham, AL 35229.

H. Lindy Martin, age 85, of Mountain Brook, Alabama, died Jan. 9, 2017. He served in the Samford University division of student services for 27 years, joining the staff in 1957 at the time of the school's move from East Lake to Homewood. Martin was dean of student services for 13 years (1970-83). He was also an assistant professor of education and psychology, taught courses in American Indian history and culture, and served as Samford's golf coach. The H. Lindy Martin Endowed Scholarship at Samford was established in his honor in 2016 to help undergraduate junior and senior students of need who are studying to enter the full-time ministry.

Betty H. Murray, age 75, died Dec. 9, 2016. She was an administrative assistant at Samford for 20 years and a member of Moody First Baptist Church.

Robert Rubin, age 76, of Birmingham died Jan. 12, 2017. He was an adjunct professor for Cumberland School of Law. He was recognized by Chambers USA as a "leader in the field," and was listed in Best Lawyers in America for 26 years, Alabama Super Lawyer for 17 years and as a Mid-South Super Lawyer.

Avery Joseph White, age 21, of Birmingham died Jan. 30, 2017. He was a senior at Brock School of Business, pursuing a triple major in finance, accounting and computer science. A scholarship has been established at Samford University in his memory. It will provide financial support for a current student in Brock School of Business, where his father, Darin, is a professor. Contributions to the scholarship can be made online or via mail to University Advancement, Samford University, 800 Lakeshore Drive, Birmingham, AL 35229. ▀

*Compiled by the Office of Alumni Programs and
Annual Giving with information submitted
by April 1, 2017*

GRAFFITI GANG, *Samford Surprise Burroughs for Her 80th Birthday*

In January 1975, campus ministries director Esther Burroughs led a mission trip for Samford University students to the Lower East Side of New York City. Burroughs and the students spent 10 days renovating a small storefront, transforming it into a community center that grew into the East Seventh Street Baptist Church.

“We painted, cleaned, reworked it, built a puppet stage and prepared it for a weekday ministry,” recalled Lynn Smith, one of 19 students on the trip. They named it Graffiti because that’s what was on the walls of the surrounding neighborhood. Later, the church took the name Graffiti Ministries, and the students came to be known as the Graffiti Gang.

On Feb. 4, some of the former students honored Burroughs for her years of service. The group surprised their former campus ministries director with a tree-planting on the Samford quad and a luncheon in her honor on the eve of her 80th birthday. The tree is a Canadian sugar maple, “an appropriate choice to honor Esther since she was born in Alberta, Canada,” said group member Paul Garrard.

“I recall our traveling on the subway to the work site with our saws and hammers, singing,” said Burroughs. “People must have thought we were crazy.”

“Esther touched so many lives of students while she was here, not just the Graffiti Gang,” said Dick Bodenhamer, another group member. Eight members of the group joined Burroughs friends and family at the luncheon.

“You are certainly family to me,” said Burroughs at the tree-planting. “You changed my life. You helped me grow in my walk with the Lord and helped my faith to expand.”



Esther and Bob Burroughs visit tree planted in her honor. At right, Esther and Bob with grandchildren Walker, left, and Milligan.



Taylor Field, pastor of the New York City church, telephoned during the luncheon to wish Burroughs well. He reported that the church has started 14 satellite churches, 57 start-up churches and has baptized more than 900 people since the building was renovated by the Samford group.

Esther Burroughs served as Samford’s campus ministries director from 1971 until 1980. Her husband, Bob, a composer and church musician, was a member of Samford’s music school faculty at the same time. They have resided in Greer, South Carolina, since 2006. ▀



Karisa Nelson

Samford's Nelson Wins National Title for the Women's Indoor Mile

Samford University track and field standout Karisa Nelson won the national championship in the women's mile at the 2017 NCAA Indoor National Championships March 11 in College Station, Texas. The junior from Brewton, Alabama, ran the distance in 4:31.24, which bested her career mark by more than four seconds.

Nelson hung back in the second tier of runners for the first couple of laps before making her move on the final lap. Down the stretch, she used her long stride and daring outside-lane tactic to surpass both Penn State's Danae Rivers and New Hampshire's

Elinor Purrier for the championship title.

In the final 50 yards, Nelson pulled away from the competition and coasted to the national championship.

Nelson's historic title was the first NCAA championship in school history and capped off a brilliant performance from the Samford women's track and field teams in the indoor season. Nelson's finish enabled the women's squad to finish the competition ranked No. 21 in the nation. Earlier this year, Samford earned its second straight Southern Conference championship. ▀

Samford Women Win Second Straight SoCon Indoor Track and Field Title

The Samford University women's track and field team won its second consecutive Southern Conference Indoor Championship title Feb. 25-26. The Bulldogs blew away their competition, totaling 208 points as compared to second-place Western Carolina's 151.5 at the meet hosted by East Tennessee State.

The Samford men's team finished second for the second straight year, earning 155 points to Western Carolina's 170.

Samford Coach Rod Tiffin was named women's Coach of the Year.

Karisa Nelson won the women's mile run in 4:43.96, a record for the championship meet. Bulldog Presley Weems won the 800 meters in 2:13.91 to earn women's Freshman of the Year honors for the meet.

Selena Popp claimed the women's high jump, clearing 1.75 meters. She and teammate Courtney Pregelman tied, but Popp won the tiebreaker. She also was

named Most Outstanding Field Performer.

Megan Meadow placed first in the women's triple jump at 12.42 meters.

Other high finishers for the Samford women were Emma Garner, second, 3,000-meter run and third, mile run; Abigail Cutcliffe, second, and Victoria Wicks, third, 400-meter run; Tonia McKinley, third, 200-meter dash; Shian Mallory, third, 800-meter run; Lindsey Kessler, second and Emily Eustace third, pole vault; Aerial Horton, second, weight throw; and Tiana Pisoni, third, triple jump.

For the men's team, Emmanuel Tait won the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8.23 and finished second in the

60-meter dash. He earned men's Freshman of the Year honors.

Arsene Guillourel won the men's 5,000 meters in 14:21.39.

Keyth Fightmaster claimed the men's high jump at 2:16 meters.

Javion Lee won the men's triple jump at 14.95 meters.

Also finishing high for the Samford men were Jay Vines, second, heptathlon; and Dominic Smith Jr., second, 200-meter dash. ▀



Selena Popp



Emmanuel Tait

Men's Basketball Wins 20, Takes 'Huge Step Forward'

The Samford men's basketball team won 20 games, set a school record for points scored and won its first postseason game in history this season. The Bulldogs posted a 20-16 record that represented the most victories in 11 years and their first winning campaign since 2005-06. They scored 2,834 points to average 78.7 a game.

The Bulldogs beat Canisius in the first round of the postseason College Insiders Tournament before losing to Liberty in round two. They defeated VMI and Furman in the first two rounds of the Southern Conference Tournament before losing to eventual champion East Tennessee State.

"Our program took a huge step forward this year," said Coach Scott Padgett. "Twenty wins is something that hasn't been done here in a long time and hasn't been done very often. It was only the fifth time in the school's Division I history that we've won 20 games."

Padgett said he thought the team also took small steps forward in shooting and assists.

"Obviously, our shooting was a lot better for the year. We also had more assists and

more points. The 3-point line was good for us."

Four Samford players averaged scoring in double figures: Demetrius Denzel-Dyson (16.1), Wyatt Walker (12.9), Alex Thompson (11.7) and Chris Cunningham (11.4). Walker also averaged 9.7 rebounds a game to lead the SoCon and recorded 17 double doubles (points and rebounds in a game).

Cunningham set a school record for assists (225).

"Defensively, we made strides, but we still have a long way to go," said Padgett.

"This year, our team realized that we are capable of playing with anybody and beating anybody, so now we need to get to that next step where we play with more consistency."

All five starters and 12 of the 13 team members are eligible to return next season.

Starters included the four double-digit scorers and freshman Triston Chambers. Senior Terry Brutus was the lone Bulldog to complete eligibility.

Among the nonstarter returnees is Josh Sharkey, who set a freshman record for assists (151) and established the school record for steals (71). ▀



Demetrius Denzel-Dyson with ball

Football Offense Should Roll Again

Samford was one of the nation's best offensive football teams in 2016, ranking third nationally in passing yards per game (349.4). With Southern Conference Offensive Player of the Year Devlin Hodges returning at quarterback, the Bulldogs should move the ball well again this fall. Hodges passed for 4,088 yards and 36 touchdowns last season, both school records. Samford went 7-5, its sixth-straight winning season (the longest streak in school history).

Coach Chris Hatcher called Hodges "an extremely hard worker with great talent." He said he expects Hodges to have an even better year in 2017. "Whether that means that his stats are better than last year, I don't

know, but in leading this team, I see him being more of a focal point this season."

Hatcher has five starters returning on offense and seven on defense. All-America receiver Karel Hamilton finished eligibility, but receiver Kelvin McKnight, who caught 70 passes for 896 yards, is back. Other returning offensive starters are running back Justin Curry, and tackles Nick Nixon and Antwan Johnson. Starters back on defense are linemen Ahmad Gooden and Xavier Forrest, linebackers Deion Pierre and Shaheed Salmon, corner backs Omari Williams and Marcus McCullum, and strong safety Carter McManes ▀

2017 Samford Football Schedule

Aug. 31	Kennesaw State
Sept. 7	West Alabama
Sept. 16	at Georgia
Sept. 23	at Western Carolina
Sept. 30	The Citadel
Oct. 7	at VMI
Oct. 21	at Wofford
Oct. 28	Chattanooga
Nov. 4	at Mercer
Nov. 11	ETSU
Nov. 18	Furman

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in memory of Mrs. Mary Mims

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in memory of Mr. John Turnbow

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in memory of Johnnie & Zelpha Simmons

Dr. John W. Simmons II, Memphis, Tennessee

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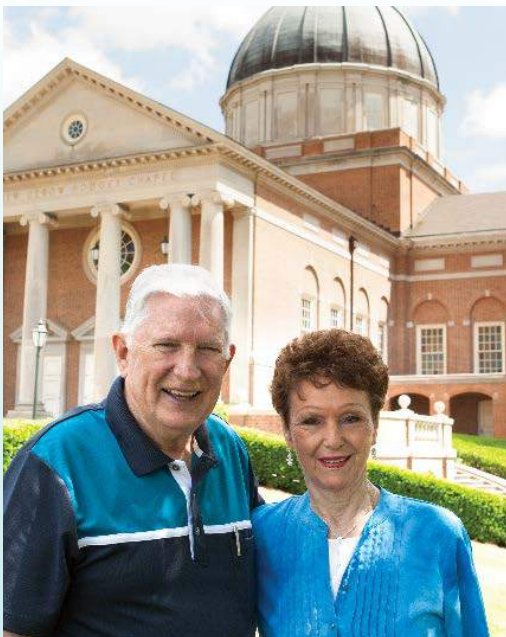
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Pi Kappa Phi members celebrate their 2017 Step Sing Sweepstakes victory. For details, go to samford.edu/news for February.

