

THE MAGAZINE OF SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

# seasons

WINTER 2018





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**Cover:** An early December snowfall blankets the Samford campus. Photo by Xing Zeng (Stanley), a senior psychology student at Samford

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Students, from left, Katie Munson, Sarah Harbaugh and Madison Merkel perform in the Samford Opera production of *Hansel and Gretel*.





# *From the President*



## **Fifty Years Forward**

**As Samford University completes its 175th anniversary celebration this year,** we mark another important milestone—a golden anniversary.

In 1967, Audrey Lattimore Gaston Howard became the first African-American to enroll at Samford. As a student in Cumberland School of Law, she stepped across an historic barrier that had wrongly existed in our university and in institutions across the South.

In 1969, Elizabeth Sloan became the first African-American undergraduate to live on campus. That same year, Samford became the first major university in Alabama to integrate its sports teams when we added three African-American junior college transfers—Sherman Hogan, Otha Mitchell and Billy Williams—to our basketball team.

Even as Samford celebrates the golden anniversary of full integration—as always—we remember that we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. We sit in the shade of trees we did not plant. We humbly recognize that African-Americans have always been a part of the Samford story, from the very beginning, even in moments when their efforts were invisible or barely acknowledged.

Fifty years ago, African-Americans joined the classrooms for the first time as students. Since then, almost 2,000 have earned Samford degrees and have gone on to achieve success in medicine and science, business, ministry, education, the arts and politics.

Fifty years ago, the Samford University family grew more diverse, larger and stronger . . . and the world was better for it. We invite everyone in the Samford University family to celebrate this progress in the special events and commemorations during the spring semester.

As always, please keep Samford in your prayers.

Andrew Westmoreland  
President



# Samford One of Top 10 Giving Merit-based Financial Aid

**Samford University is one of the top schools in the United States ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* for granting merit-based financial aid to the most students. Samford is the only college or university in Alabama recognized in the national ranking.**

"It is gratifying to be recognized nationally for the academic and extracurricular achievements of our students," said Betsy Bugg Holloway, Samford's vice president for marketing and communication. "Of course, merit-based aid reflects only one of the many ways that we seek to offer financial assistance to our students."

For 2016-17, the year on which the rankings are based, 47.5 percent of Samford's undergraduate students received merit-based financial aid. This placed Samford sixth among the 10 schools highlighted in the national ranking.

According to *U.S. News & World Report*, merit aid, sometimes referred to as non-need-based aid, comes into play when colleges use funds to attract desirable students. Typically, these students have a stronger academic profile or a specific talent, such as standing out with a particular extracurricular activity.

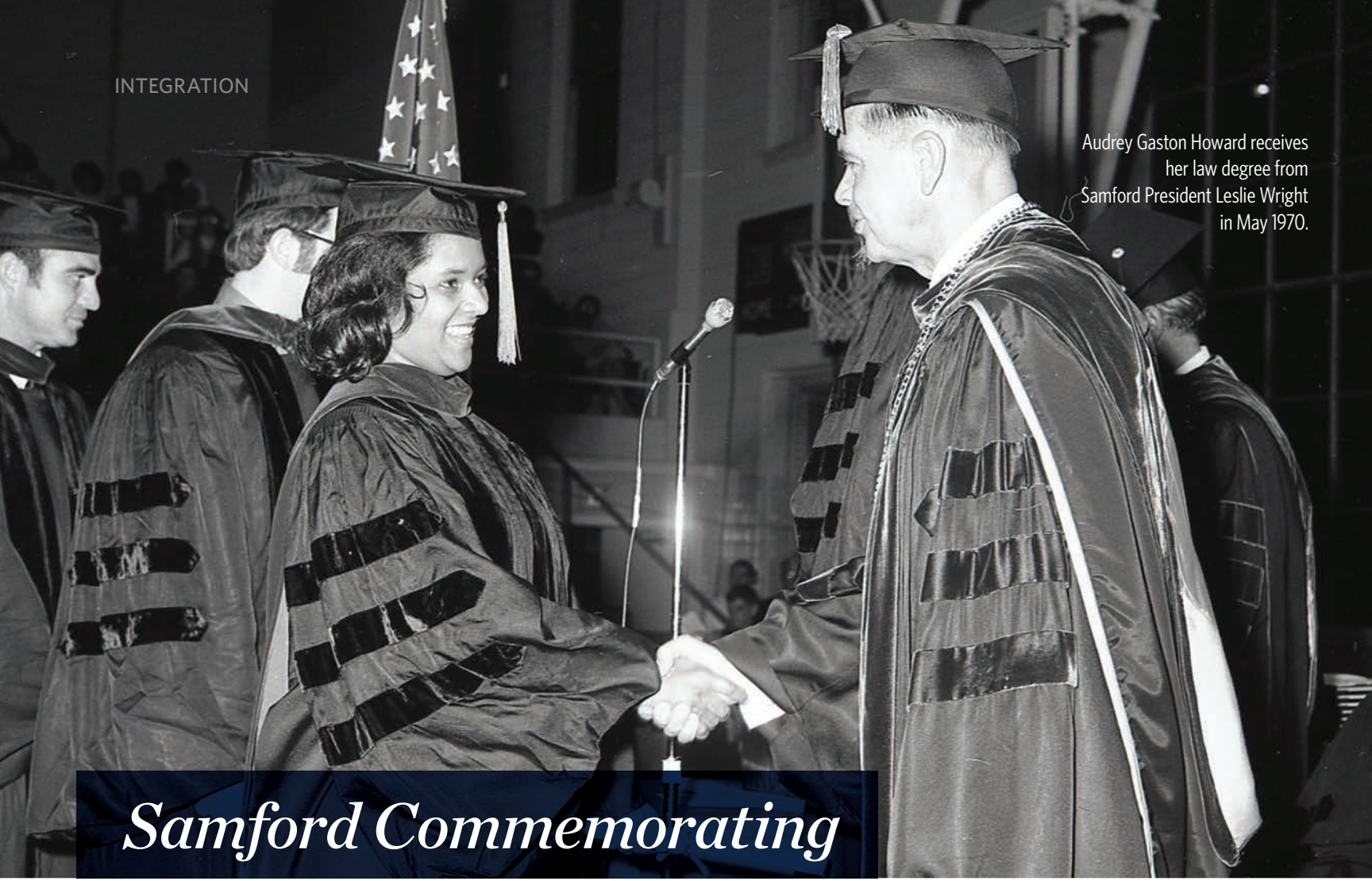
Samford is continually recognized nationally for value and affordability and was ranked 40th nationally for value by *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* this year. Samford is regularly recognized as the top-ranked university in Alabama, most recently by Forbes Inc., *The Economist* and *The Wall Street Journal*, and as one of the premier Christian universities in the country. In its 2018 rankings of the best colleges and universities in the country, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Samford third among regional universities in the South.

At each of the 10 institutions recognized in this latest ranking from *U.S. News & World Report*, more than 43 percent of full-time students in fall 2016 received merit awards. These colleges and universities gave merit aid at the highest levels, much higher than the average award of 14.5 percent given across the 1,111 colleges and universities that are included in the annual higher education rankings published by *U.S. News & World Report*. ▀

**To keep up with Samford news, go to [samford.edu/news](http://samford.edu/news).**







Audrey Gaston Howard receives her law degree from Samford President Leslie Wright in May 1970.

## *Samford Commemorating*

# 50th Anniversary of Integration

with Recognitions, Events Throughout 2017-18

*by Philip Poole and William Nunnelley*

**FIFTY YEARS AGO**, in fall 1967, the late Audrey Lattimore Gaston Howard became the first African-American to enroll full time at Samford University, as a student in Cumberland School of Law. According to Denise Gregory, Samford's assistant provost for diversity and intercultural initiatives, Gaston ushered in a new era for Samford—an era the university is proud to celebrate.

Samford is commemorating the 50th anniversary of integration with a series of programs and recognitions during the 2017-18 academic year. A special highlight will be the recognition of African-American Samford alumni with Audrey Gaston Howard Awards.

Nominees for this recognition must have distinguished themselves through exemplary professional achievement and civic and community service. Nominations were accepted through Nov. 27 from any member of the Samford community. A representative committee including alumni, faculty, staff and students reviewed the nominations and selected 29 individuals to be recognized for

this distinction throughout February in timing with Black History Month.

In 1969, the late Elizabeth Sloan became the first African-American undergraduate to live on campus. That same year Samford became the first major university in Alabama to integrate its sports teams when three African-American junior college transfers—Sherman Hogan, Otha Mitchell and Billy Williams—joined the basketball team.

The year-long commemoration kicked off during recent homecoming weekend at the Leadership Forum for members of Samford's board of trustees, board of overseers, advisory boards



and other leadership groups.

"This year, even as Samford celebrates the golden anniversary of full integration—as always—we remember that we stand on the shoulders of those who came before. We sit in the shade of trees we did not plant," Samford President Andrew Westmoreland told the audience of about 250 university leaders.

"We humbly recognize that African-Americans have always been part of the Samford story, from the very beginning, even in moments when their efforts were invisible or barely acknowledged."

Westmoreland noted that almost 2,000 African-Americans have earned Samford degrees over the past 50 years and have gone on to achieve success in medicine and science, business, ministry, education, the arts and politics.

"Fifty years ago, the Samford University family grew more diverse, larger and stronger . . . and the world was better for it," Westmoreland added. "We continue to celebrate that progress with special events and commemorations this year."

**AUDREY GASTON HOWARD** was a trailblazer in other respects as well. In May 1970 she became the first African-American to graduate from Samford and its law school. In August 1970, after passing the bar exam, she became the first woman appointed to the U. S. Attorney's office in the Southeast. She had clerked in the office of the U.S. Attorney in Birmingham for six months prior to graduation.

She hailed from Plainfield, New Jersey, where her father was a minister. He encouraged his eight children to attend college, and Howard did so, graduating from Howard University in Washington, D.C. After her marriage to Arthur Gaston, the couple moved to Birmingham, Arthur's hometown. He was the grandson of one of the city's leading African-American citizens, businessman A. G. Gaston.

As graduation from Cumberland drew near in 1970, Howard talked to a reporter from *The Birmingham News*. "I would like to make a contribution to the community as a whole, not just the black community," she said. "I feel I have a debt to society, particularly in the Birmingham community, and to my family and my race. I would like to be a success for them." She credited Cumberland Dean Arthur Weeks with easing her transition into the law school. When she graduated from Cumberland, six of her seven brothers and sisters along with her father, husband and grandparents-in-law were in attendance to see her receive her degree.

In 1972, she was appointed courts liaison adviser to the staff of the National Criminal Justice Commission. She remained officially a staff member of the U.S. Attorney's office in Birmingham, but spent most of her time as an adviser to the commission. She worked with four federal task forces to initiate national crime reduction standards to be implemented in each state. She noted that the commission also worked to assist and help courts run more smoothly.

She joined the staff of U. S. Representative John Buchanan of Alabama as a legislative assistant in 1975. By this time, she and Arthur Gaston had divorced. She married Charles P. Howard in 1976 and moved to Baltimore, Maryland. She died in 1989.

## 50th Anniversary Events

### INTEGRATION OF SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

#### ▶ February 2018

Daily recognition of 29 distinguished African-American graduates of Samford University

#### ▶ February 1

Annual Thurgood Marshall Symposium Series, 11 a.m., John Carroll Moot Court Room, Robinson Hall

#### ▶ February 13

Billie Jean Young '79, Cumberland School of Law graduate, One Woman Show, *Fannie Lou Hamer: This Little Light*, 6 p.m., Brock Recital Hall

#### ▶ February 27

Andrew Maraniss, speaker, author of *Strong Inside*, the story of Perry Wallace, the first African-American to play college basketball in the Southeastern Conference, 10 a.m., Wright Center

#### ▶ March 1

Eric Motley '96, author of *Madison Park: A Place of Hope*, executive vice president, Aspen Institute, speaking on the Tom and Marla Corts Distinguished Author Series, 7 p.m., Wright Center

#### ▶ April 9

Annual African-American Alumni and Friends Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., The Club, Randall Woodfin, Cumberland School of Law graduate and mayor, city of Birmingham, speaker

#### ▶ May 2018

Minority Student Achievement Banquet, home of Samford President and Mrs. Andrew Westmoreland

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**NOTE:** Anniversary events also included the Minority Faculty Luncheon Nov. 7, recognition by President Westmoreland at the Leadership Summit Nov. 10 and screening of the movie *Marshall* about the first African-American Supreme Court justice, Thurgood Marshall, Nov. 28. For more information about the golden anniversary, go to [samford.edu/go/50th](http://samford.edu/go/50th).



HOME COMING

Perfect  
Weather,

Perfect  
Weekend =

# Perfect Samford Homecoming

2 0 1 7

It was a perfect weekend to celebrate Samford University's heritage as thousands returned to campus Nov. 9-12 for 2017 homecoming festivities. The fall beauty of the campus was everywhere as people were inspired by reunions with friends, presentations by alumni and faculty, renewal of traditions and, of course, football.





Daniel Temple '07 of Hoover, Alabama, was attending his 10-year reunion. "There is just something special about Samford and the mission of the university in general," Temple said. "It makes you appreciate it more when you leave for a while and then come back. Samford does a lot of things right."

It was a full weekend of activities, with something for everyone. The celebration began on Thursday with the Bulldog Bash, a pep rally and concert on Ben Brown Plaza for students. Seniors Anna Rogers of Gainesville, Georgia, and Nelson Park of Birmingham were named homecoming queen and king. They also were presented, along with the homecoming court, at Saturday's football game.

Student organizations decorated display boards on Ben Brown Plaza to celebrate the weekend, and winners were judged by the 2017 alumni of the year honorees. First place went to Samford Crew, second place to a collaboration of Tri Delta and National Pan-Hellenic Council, and third place to a collaboration by Alpha Omicron Pi and Alpha Tau Omega.

About 250 members of the board of trustees, board of overseers, advisory boards and other leadership groups gathered on Friday for a leadership forum.



Homecoming king Nelson Park and queen Anna Rogers





Cheering the Bulldogs



Enjoying the Quad

Samford is one of a handful of universities “widely recognized for superior quality, large enough to offer a great breadth and depth of academic and student life programs, small enough to nourish rich relationships, and infused with the irrepressible hope found through Jesus Christ,” Samford President Andrew Westmoreland told the group.

There are plenty of universities with great records of the first three items, Westmoreland noted, but only a “handful with reasonable claims to all four.”

In addition to meetings of various leadership and advisory groups, several schools and departments hosted lectures and other presentations by faculty and alumni on Friday and Saturday.

An overflow crowd gathered Friday afternoon at the home of Samford President and Mrs. Westmoreland for a reunion of students and faculty who had lived and studied at Daniel House, Samford’s London Centre. The reunion was in connection with a special campaign to raise funds for renovating the facility.

“Who would I be had it not been for the Daniel House?” Stacia Sinclair Gaines ’87 asked the gathered crowd. “I realized I would be a very different person today.” Gaines was part of the first group to study at Daniel House in 1984.

Six Samford alumni were honored

Friday evening at a banquet and awards presentation with the annual alumni awards. **(See profiles beginning on page 11).**

Saturday saw alumni, friends and families scattered across the campus for open houses hosted by organizations and departments, continuing education events, special presentations, reunions and tailgating.

Tailgating on the Quad was, by far, the most popular time of the day.

“Todd on the Quad,” an annual homecoming gathering hosted by Howard College of Arts and Sciences, featured barbecue cooked overnight by classics department chair Randy

Todd. Orlean Beeson School of Education hosted a children’s story time featuring four authors—three Samford alumni and a retired faculty member—reading from their books.

Bill Nelson of Decatur, Alabama, also was at the 1992 reunion with his wife Amy Henderson Nelson ’96 and their family. “I was in the last group that lived in Crawford Johnson Hall before it became [Beeson Divinity School],” Nelson said. “Our kids don’t know the ‘Bill and Amy’ from when we were individuals. To be able to walk around campus and tell them stories is special.”

Greg Barnes ’81 of Birmingham is an active alumnus and said he has seen “tremendous change” since his time as a student. He offered special praise for one



Ready for the game





Catching up with old friends

thing that hasn't changed—Samford's commitment to liberal arts education at a time when some colleges have drifted away from that common foundation. "The greatest benefit I got at Samford was to learn critical thinking skills," Barnes said.

At the Golden Bulldog luncheon for graduates of 50 years or more, the Alumnus Egregia Cum Laude Award was presented to John Bolton of Birmingham, who served for many years as a pastor in Alabama and Tennessee. Bolton, who is 101, is the university's oldest living graduate.

The David Lockmiller Awards to the male and female in attendance from the earliest graduation year went to Sigurd Bryan '46 and Margaret Ann Miller Peterson '47, both of Birmingham, who each received an elegant, engraved clock.

In a special presentation at the football game, representatives of the reunion classes presented Westmoreland with a check for \$193,500 that was raised during a special *Forever Samford* campaign by the classes with five-year reunions in 2017.

To cap the weekend, the Samford Bulldogs football team topped Southern Conference rival East Tennessee State University 42-7.

Mary Beth Temple Smith '79 of Huntsville, Alabama, summed it up best. "We've had a wonderful time at Samford today." ▀

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**For additional stories, images and video coverage of 2017 homecoming go to [samford.edu/news](http://samford.edu/news).**

"We've had a wonderful time at Samford today." —Mary Beth Temple Smith '79





# At 92, Samford's First Female SGA President Revisits Her Journey to the Office

by Rachel Sinclair

Margaret Ann Miller Peterson never imagined she would make history by serving as the first female Student Government Association president at Howard College, now Samford University.

In 1946, Peterson campaigned for vice president alongside her high school friend, J. B. Davis, who was running for president. Now 92, Peterson and Davis returned to Samford for homecoming on Nov. 11 and met together to retell their fascinating story.

Peterson and Davis competed in a lively election campaign, which the student newspaper described as "one of the hottest campaign battles ever waged at a college." Davis laughed as he recalled their creative promotion tactics, which at one point involved bringing a cow to campus to prove that their campaign was "no bull." The pair were excited when they won the election.

At that time, Davis was enrolled in the V-12 Navy College Training Program based on the college's campus, and over the summer he learned that he was being transferred to Duke University. Therefore, Peterson became the first woman to assume the prestigious role of SGA president.

"I was really shocked," Peterson said. "I hadn't planned to do anything except help him! Then I had to get busy. We had a good committee."

Peterson said she was not nervous about being the first female president. She led committee meetings once every two weeks and, under her leadership, SGA developed a new program to help high school students learn more about Howard College.

"We formed a group called the Contact Committee, and the people would go to high schools and talk to the students to tell them about Howard," Peterson said. All Howard students could volunteer even if they were not a member of SGA. Peterson said she even spoke about Howard to a high school in Florida when she was traveling with her family.

"At that time Howard was kind of small and we just needed more students," Peterson said. "It was fun."

Davis and Peterson both said that one of their favorite parts about Howard was the kind and personable faculty. "I just loved them," Peterson said. "They were all wonderful teachers. They knew you by name and they were always willing to help you with anything."

She said she is encouraged to see that friendly spirit on campus still prominent today.

While Davis did not return to Howard as a student, he eventually moved back to Birmingham and lived within walking distance to the campus. "I grew up by [Howard], and as a child I skated there at Christmastime," Davis said, "so it was kind of like home."

Davis established a career as an industrial engineer and later in life he worked in the real estate industry.

Peterson also stayed in the Birmingham area, where she and her husband raised their seven children. Several family members also attended Samford. "I've had a wonderful life, and I'm a very happy and healthy person," Peterson concluded. ▀

J. B. Davis, left, and Margaret Peterson



*Rachel Sinclair '17 is a freelance writer in Franklin, Tennessee.*





Alumni of the Year, from left with footballs, Joel Brooks, Stephen Dillard, Lauren Dunnam and Amy Jo Osborn receive applause prior to the homecoming football game, led by President Andrew Westmoreland, center, and Alumni Association President Todd Carlisle, right.

## Samford Honors Six with Alumni Awards

Six Samford University graduates were honored with the university's annual alumni awards during 2017 homecoming festivities in November. See pages 12-14 for profiles.

Honorees were nominated by members of the Samford community and selected by a committee of Samford Alumni Association representatives and university administrators. They represent an array of achievement in law, education, ministry, missions, philanthropy and community service.

**Joel Brooks** and **Stephen Dillard** were named Alumni of the Year, the highest honor the university bestows on graduates.

**Lauren Lunceford Dunnam** was named Outstanding Young Alumna, an honor established in 2009 to recognize recent graduates for professional achievement and involvement with Samford.

Three individuals, **Jade** and **Shelah Hubbard Acker** and **Amy Jo Young Osborn**, were recognized with the Humanitarian of the Year award. The Ackers, who were in Uganda during homecoming, received their awards at a special ceremony on campus in July.



## Alumnus of the Year

# Brooks Started with “about 20 People,” Built a Thriving Community Church

by Mary Wimberley

**When Beeson Divinity School** graduate Joel Brooks and his wife Lauren moved into Birmingham’s Crestwood neighborhood almost 20 years ago, it was largely unchurched with few evangelical options for worship.

Over the next few years, while working with another ministry, they began inviting neighborhood people into their home for worship.

“We had our first service with about 20 people in our house in March 2008,” Brooks recalls about what is now the thriving Redeemer Community Church in Avondale. Although that year “wasn’t exactly the best time to quit a job and try to build something from the ground up,” the couple persevered.

“We never doubted for a moment that this was what God was calling us to do,” said Brooks, who earned a Master of Divinity in 1999.

Today, the congregation has already outgrown its current building, and the RCC team recently planted Grace Fellowship in Homewood.

Former Samford students remember Brooks for his nine-year tenure with University Christian Fellowship, the college ministry he founded through Mountain Brook Community Church in the late 1990s. He began the ministry with six Samford freshmen and within a few years more than 1,000 students from various campuses were attending weekly UCF Bible studies.

The University of Georgia graduate cites the Beeson environment as a major influencer in his academic career. While classrooms offered tremendous learning opportunities, he felt equally shaped by the conversations that happened in the hallways, said Brooks, who had grown up in the Baptist tradition.

“Through our discussions and often lively debates, I learned a great appreciation for the many different evangelical theological traditions. It was iron sharpening iron,” Brooks said. “These classes and discussions played an enormous role in the formation of Redeemer Community Church.”

Brooks and his wife have three daughters, Caroline, Natalie and Georgia. His mother, Jean Hayes Brooks, is a Samford 1961 graduate.

## Alumnus of the Year

# Dillard Dropped by Samford, Fell in Love with the Place

by Mary Wimberley

**Stephen Dillard** was a teenager driving from his Nashville, Tennessee, home to visit another Alabama university when he saw the exit sign for Samford and remembered the esteem that his grandfather had for the school. Dillard pulled off the interstate, drove to the campus, and “instantly fell in love” with the school.

“It was the people, the intangible spirit, all of the things that make Samford such a special place,” Dillard recalls.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in history in 1992, and minored in journalism for the research and writing skills he wanted to learn.

“Like journalists, lawyers and judges are truth-seekers and storytellers,” said Dillard, who was sworn in as chief judge of the

Georgia Court of Appeals in June 2017.

He graduated from law school at Mississippi College and practiced in Macon, Georgia, before being appointed to the Georgia Court of Appeals in 2010 and handily winning his first statewide election in 2012.

An avid Bulldog sports fan, Dillard is a member of the Alumni Association executive council and serves as president of the Atlanta alumni chapter. He uses the social media presence he developed to educate Georgians about the Court of Appeals and to also share his enthusiasm for Samford with his many Facebook friends and 11,000 Twitter followers.

As a guest alumni speaker at homecoming 2016, he reminded Howard College of Arts and Sciences students that at Samford they can receive a world-class education at a university where faith and reason are not at odds.

“I am thankful every day that I had the good fortune to attend a college that emphasized character and faith just as much as intellectual development,” Dillard said.

He and his wife, 1993 Samford graduate Krista McDaniel Dillard, who he met at a Welcome Back dance, have three children, Jackson Armstrong, Lindley Kay and Mary Margaret.



**Young Alumna of the Year****Dunnam Says Her Students Affirm Her Choice to Teach***by Mary Wimberley*

**Lauren Lunceford Dunnam** has wanted to be a teacher since she was a kindergarten student in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"It was a dream to come to Samford and be a part of such a wonderful school of education and follow my dreams," said Dunnam, who earned a Bachelor of Science in education in 2009 and a master's degree in gifted education in 2011.

The respected educator teaches first grade at Cahaba Heights Elementary in Vestavia Hills, Alabama. She previously taught at Mountain Brook's Cherokee Bend Elementary School, where she was named Teacher of the Year in 2016.

Dunnam's students constantly affirm her career choice. "I love the opportunity to invest in students' lives and see them grow; not

only in their knowledge of content, but also to grow physically, emotionally and socially throughout the school year," Dunnam said.

Reading is one of her favorite subjects to teach. "I love exposing my students to quality literature that touches their lives in so many ways," she said.

For five years, she has spent her spring and summer breaks in Uganda working alongside teachers who are affiliated with Sozo Children, a ministry that operates homes for orphaned and neglected children.

As an undergraduate, she was a Samford ambassador and a member of the Student Recruitment Team, Kappa Delta Pi education honor society and Omicron Delta Kappa leadership honor society.

Since graduation, she has served as board president of the Samford Young Alumni Association and as a member of the education school's Centennial Plus committee, which provides networking opportunities for alumni.

Staying involved in the Samford community is important because the school had such a huge impact on her life, Dunnam said. "I want to continue to give back to the university that gave so much to me."

She and her husband, Jacob, married in November 2017.

**Humanitarian of the Year****Foundation Started by Osborn Helps Fight Pediatric Cancer***by Mary Wimberley*

**A personal tragedy** led Amy Jo Young Osborn to focus her time and work on erasing the effects of pediatric cancer on patients and their families.

In 2006, she and her husband, James, started the Austin Hatcher Foundation for Pediatric Cancer in honor of their first child, a son who lived only nine weeks due to an extremely rare and aggressive form of the disease.

The nonprofit organization has provided a variety of innovative programs and services at no cost to about 70,000 children, and their family members, in 28 states and 38 hospitals. Unlike some programs that help during treatment only, the foundation assists from the onset of a cancer diagnosis, through treatment and beyond.

Its Divisionary Therapy program has provided services to thousands of children in 90 locations and helps keep families thriving during a difficult time.

"To be able to provide a day of fun, or a moment of fun to a child with cancer, their siblings and their parents is very healing during this time of treatment," said Osborn, who earned a Bachelor of Arts in journalism in 2002.

As president of the foundation, Osborn wears many hats during the 40 volunteer hours she works each week. She may meet with potential partners, donors and volunteers, or create graphics for print pieces and social media, all while managing the daily operations of the organization.

Early in her career, she was a photojournalist for Southern Progress Corporation.

The foundation is affiliated with the International Motor Sports Association and the "SEMA Cares" charities established by the Special Equipment Marketing Association. It partners with the Samford soccer program to sponsor annual "Kickin' It for Kids with Cancer" fundraising events.

Osborn and her husband have three children who were born after Austin: Zora Lee, Anabelle Eve and James Michael II.

*Mary Wimberley is a freelance writer in Homewood, Alabama.*



**Humanitarians of the Year**

## Ackers Inspired by the Refugees They Work with in Uganda

by Mary Wimberley

**Jade and Shelah Hubbard Acker** met as students on a university ministry-sponsored mission trip to Hawaii. Both agree that the experience and involvement with other student ministry council programs helped shape a calling to missions as their life's work.

As directors of Refuge and Hope International (RHI), a faith-based, nonprofit organization they founded in 2004 to serve the urban refugee community in Kampala, Uganda, they live out their calling daily. Through RHI's programs, about 1,000 refugees from a dozen countries annually receive skills to rebuild shattered lives and realize financial independence, social empowerment and spiritual growth.

At its Center of Hope learning center, which launched in 2008, students learn Bible, English, literacy and GED preparation as well

as basic skills such as computer, sewing and cooking. The Women's Rehabilitation and Empowerment program serves as an education center and temporary shelter for young women who may be especially vulnerable to exploitation.

"The refugees we work with inspire me with their courage and resilience," Shelah said. "They are my heroes."

"Although the refugees may face an uncertain future, they are not sitting down in defeat," Jade said, "but [they] are desperately trying to gain the skills they need to not only survive, but to thrive."

The Ackers, who serve under the auspices of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, hope that RHI can grow and serve more refugees, who now number over 1,000,000 in Uganda.

"When we are able to serve God wherever he leads, we are fulfilling his purpose . . . not only in our lives, but in the lives of others," Jade said.

Jade received a Bachelor of Science in history and mathematics in 1993 and Shelah earned a Bachelor of Arts in religion in 1996. Each earned a Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

They have two daughters, Anna-Grace and Kaelah-Joy; and three adopted sons, Lino and Angelo, both from South Sudan, and Meron, from Eritrea.

## Tom and Marla Corts

### Distinguished Author Series

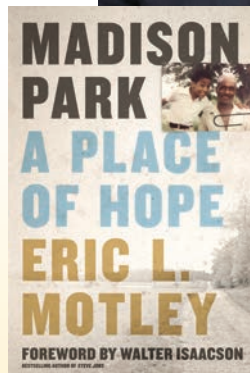
featuring

# ERIC MOTLEY

PRESENTED BY

Orlean Beeson  
School of Education

MARCH 1, 2018



Join us for an inspirational evening celebrating the transforming power of gratitude, generosity, grace and faith in God as

Samford University alumnus Eric Motley discusses his memoir *Madison Park: A Place of Hope*.

[samford.edu/education](http://samford.edu/education) 205-726-2853





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# FOREVER SAMFORD

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Estate gifts make up approximately 30 percent of all giving to Samford. We count estate plans toward your campaign contribution if we know about the designation. While we love surprises, we'd love even more to acknowledge your participation in the *Forever Samford* campaign.

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## Types of estate legacy gifts

- Will/trust
- IRA or retirement plan
- Life insurance policy
- Charitable remainder unitrust



**“In my many years of teaching I have not encountered one college that can hold a light to Samford.** In every way, I’m just delighted to totally endorse it, to say I love it and I will support it as long as I live. I grew up in Mobile and was terribly homesick when I came to Birmingham to attend Howard College, not knowing a soul. But it didn’t take long before the people around me showed me the empathy and the kindness and the goodness that I needed. If it had not been for the people at Howard and the goodness they showed me, I would never have finished college.

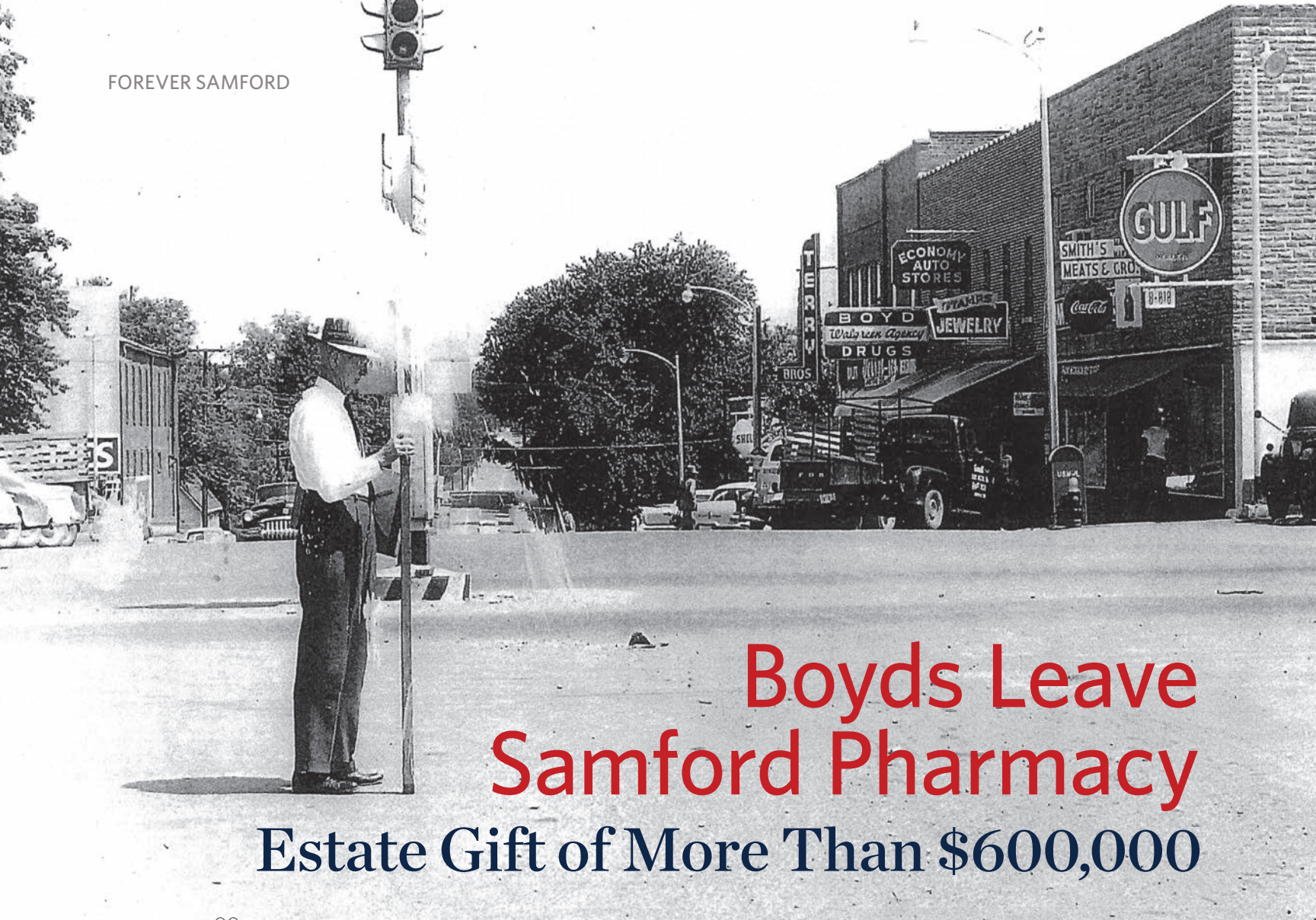


“I want to do whatever I can for Samford University. That is why I established a scholarship there in memory of my husband, Jim (left), who I met at Howard. I couldn’t think of a better place to put it. It’s carrying on the wonderful work of educating students in life and faith. My whole experience has made me appreciate Samford.”

—Jean Williams '49

Mrs. Williams is funding her scholarship through her last will and testament. Additionally, she has also discovered the “newest” way of funding her scholarship during her lifetime, by way of her Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from her IRA. This new technique increases her joy in seeing her gift benefit students today. If you wish to know more about giving through your IRA or will, please contact Gene Howard in University Advancement at 205-726-2366.





# Boyd's Leave Samford Pharmacy Estate Gift of More Than \$600,000

by William Nunnelley



Alvin Boyd  
1955 *Entre Nous*

**When Cookeville, Tennessee, pharmacist** Alvin W. Boyd and his wife, Julia, put together their estate plan, they included Boyd's alma mater, Samford University, as a beneficiary. Boyd earned his pharmacy degree from Samford more than 60 years ago, in 1955, when the school was still Howard College in East Lake. He returned home to practice as a pharmacist in his hometown, where he owned Boyd Drug Store.





Alvin Boyd owned Boyd Drugs on the square in Cookeville, Tennessee (1950s photo).



Julia Boyd and Johnny Anderson at Boyd Drugs

Photos courtesy of Cookeville History Museum

"He opened his store on the downtown square in Cookeville in 1956," said his nephew, Ernie Evans, of Cookeville. "He closed it in 1991 but continued to work several years for other drug stores in Cookeville."

Boyd was a veteran of World War II with service in France, rising to the rank of technical sergeant. He was a Rotarian and lifelong member of First Presbyterian Church in Cookeville, and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion.

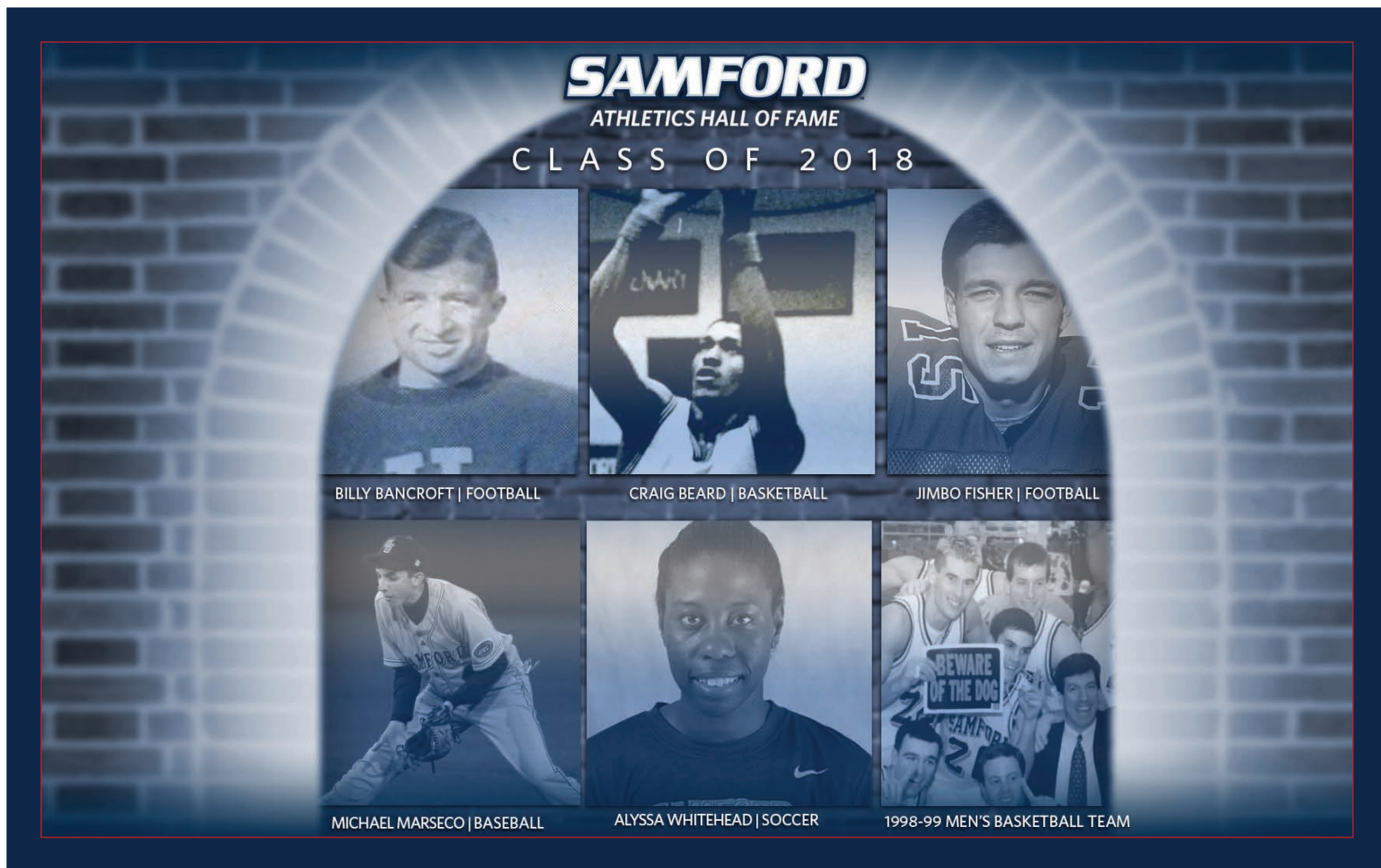
Julia Boyd was a librarian with degrees from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and George Peabody College. She retired after 40 years of service as director of Upper Cumberland Regional Library in Cookeville.

Alvin Boyd died in 1998 and Julia Boyd in 2014. After her death, Samford's McWhorter School of Pharmacy received an unrestricted bequest of \$614,000 from the Boyd estate.

"I thank Alvin and Julia Boyd for their incredible generosity," said Michael Crouch, dean of McWhorter School of Pharmacy. "This estate gift has an immediate impact and allows the school to recruit students dedicated to servant leadership through pharmacy. A portion of the gift supports immediate scholarships, and the bequest also establishes the Alvin and Julia Boyd endowment that will provide significant scholarships on an annual basis."

The gift will be part of the *Forever Samford* campaign to raise \$300 million over the next six years. Evans noted that Boyd had several ties with Samford. He was a roommate of Clayton McWhorter, the benefactor for whom Samford's pharmacy school is named, during student days. And six members of Boyd's family graduated from Samford's Cumberland School of Law during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when the law school still was located in Lebanon, Tennessee. ▀





## *Samford Athletics Hall of Fame* Adds a Top Team, Five Standouts

by Joey Mullins

**S**amford Athletics has announced the second class of the school's Athletics Hall of Fame. Included are the 1998-99 men's basketball team, the first full team to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, along with student-athlete and coach Billy Bancroft, basketball star Craig Beard, football standout Jimbo Fisher, baseball star Michael Marseco and soccer standout Alyssa Whitehead.

The 2018 class will be officially inducted on Saturday, Feb. 17. A reception will be held at the Hall of Fame at 5 p.m., followed by a dinner at 6:30 p.m. at Brock School of Business.

"We would like to congratulate each of the members of our second Hall of Fame class," Samford Athletics Director Martin Newton said. "The accomplishments of this year's inductees are impressive, and we are excited to welcome each of them into our

Hall of Fame. We look forward to welcoming them back to campus for the induction ceremony."

The Samford Athletics Hall of Fame was officially opened in spring 2017 with the inaugural class of Walter Barnes, Lauren Blankenship, Bobby Bowden, Wally Burnham, Cortland Finnegan and Charlie Owens. The Hall of Fame is located on the third floor of the Pete Hanna Center.



***Following is information about this year's inductees:***

### **1998-99 Samford Men's Basketball Team**

The 1998-99 Samford men's basketball team earned the program's first NCAA Tournament bid by winning the Trans America Athletic Conference (TAAC) Tournament title. The team also won the TAAC's regular-season crown, winning a school-record 24 games, and finishing with a 24-6 record. The team advanced to the NCAA Tournament where it fell to #3-seeded St. John's. Marc Salyers and Reed Rawlings went on to play professional basketball after finishing their Samford careers. Rawlings played professionally in Europe and with the NBA's D-League. Salyers spent over a decade playing professionally overseas.

### **Billy Bancroft**

Billy Bancroft was a star football, basketball and baseball player at Howard College in the mid-1920s. He led Howard's 9-0 win over arch-rival Birmingham-Southern College in the 1927 inaugural game of Birmingham's Legion Field, passing for a touchdown and kicking a 29-yard field goal. He went on to coach at Howard, leading the team in the most famous game in Samford football history, the 7-7 tie with defending Rose Bowl champion Alabama in 1935. He served as Howard's head football coach from 1935-39, and also served as head basketball coach from 1934-38. He played eight seasons of minor league baseball, hitting a career .276.

### **Craig Beard**

Craig Beard played basketball at Samford from 1982-85. He is the program's all-time leading scorer with 1,925 career points, playing just three seasons and without the benefit of the 3-point line. He holds career records for scoring average (21.9 ppg), field goals made (826), field goals attempted (1,625) and consecutive double-figure scoring games (84). Beard set single-season records for points (703) and scoring average (23.4 ppg), both in 1984-85. He helped lead the 1983-84 team to an impressive 22-8 record. Beard was selected by the Chicago Bulls in the fourth round of the 1985 NBA draft, the first Samford player ever drafted.

### **Jimbo Fisher**

Jimbo Fisher turned in one of the most impressive seasons in Samford history in 1987. He passed for 2,394 yards, totaled 2,631 yards of offense and threw 34 touchdown passes—all school records at the time. He also set a school record for touchdown passes in a game with six twice. Fisher was named the NCAA Division III National Player of the Year. He later served on the coaching staff at Samford from 1988 to 1992. After serving as an assistant coach at four other schools, he became head coach at Florida State in 2010. He led the Seminoles to the 2013 BCS national title. After going 83-23 at FSU, he was named head coach at Texas A&M in December.

### **Michael Marseco**

Michael Marseco played baseball at Samford from 2006-08. He was a three-time first-team All-Ohio Valley Conference selection, and he was named the 2008 OVC Co-Player of the Year. As a junior in 2008, Marseco hit a school-record .419 with a school-record 93 hits. In just three years at Samford, Marseco left school ranking third in school history in career hits (247), batting average (.353) and runs scored (132). As a sophomore in 2007, Marseco set the school record for single-season at-bats with 240. After his junior season, Marseco was drafted in the 11th round of the MLB Draft by the Milwaukee Brewers, the highest selection in program history at the time.

### **Alyssa Whitehead**

Alyssa Whitehead is the most decorated goalkeeper in Samford history. She is the school's all-time record-holder in career shutouts (34), and registered a season-high 120 saves during her senior campaign in 2011. She holds Samford's record for consecutive shutout minutes (730), and holds every single-season goalkeeping record in school history, including a nation's-best 0.31 goals-against average in 2009 and 12 shutouts in 2010. She finished her four-year career with a 0.74 goals-against average. Upon graduation in 2012, she signed to play professionally in Sweden, where she competed for three seasons with Umea Sodra.

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*Joey Mullins is assistant athletics director for communications.*



# The Center for Worship and the Arts Celebrates Fifth Anniversary, Updates Name

by Ashley Smith

After five years of successful growth and development, the Center for Worship and the Arts announced that it would remove the name *anima* from its work and ministry. Its flagship summer worship leadership program for teenagers and their adult mentors, Animate, retains its current identity. According to Eric Mathis, director of the center, "This decision comes after careful prayer, evaluation and more than twenty listening sessions with administration, faculty, staff, teenagers, college students, parents and ministers led by Ministry Architects Inc., a ministry coaching firm based in Nashville, Tennessee."



5th Anniversary Celebrations

Worship Arts Ensemble Concert  
April 3, 7:30 p.m.  
Brock Recital Hall

Animate June 25-29

The work of the center is primarily a cocurricular initiative rooted in scholarship. Evidence of the center's impact is seen in recent curriculum developments at Samford, particularly in ministry-based disciplines, including Department of Religion within Howard College of Arts and Sciences, as well as Division of Music within the School of the Arts. Together, faculty in both areas have collaborated to create an interdisciplinary minor in worship leadership, an undergraduate degree in music and worship, a graduate degree in church music, and with the support of Beeson Divinity School at Samford University, a dual graduate degree in divinity and church music.

Additionally, Samford has established infrastructure for a new undergraduate curricular program in Christian ministry, scheduled to launch in fall 2018. Mathis notes that both he and faculty fellow Emily Andrews "are enthusiastic about the opportunities and synergies between these two initiatives. As the work of the center progresses, we foresee opportunities to create additional innovative curricula to further integrate ministry studies, including the practices of worship leadership, spiritual formation, youth ministry and the arts."

Not only has curriculum expanded through the center but it also offers a unique experiential learning opportunity for Samford students through Animate and placement with Birmingham congregations. The center intentionally pairs students with local

congregations in a variety of roles.

On-campus opportunities include campus worship and the newly added Worship Arts Ensemble (WAE). This initiative integrates students across disciplines and exposes them to new worship concepts and performance experiences while providing worship leadership roles.

In the broader picture, the center is working aggressively to secure a prominent role in the conversation of worship and the arts locally, regionally and nationally. Sharing common goals with other programs, the center remains unique, developing a national platform as a bridge between youth worship ministry.

According to Mathis, the work of the Center for Worship and the Arts at Samford stands out for multiple reasons:

- *Samford University is one of a few Christian higher educational institutions in the Southeast that houses a School of the Arts whose departments are accredited by professional agencies.*
- *Its focus explores the relationship between adolescent spirituality through the lens of worship and the arts.*
- *No other Baptist or free church institution is engaging both the practice and theology of worship and the arts at a high level.*
- *The Center for Worship and the Arts has garnered a significant online presence that already houses a repository of resources for congregations, colleges, universities and other para-church organizations at [samford.edu/go/cwa](http://samford.edu/go/cwa).*

With five years of research and recent

assessments, the center has impressive plans for the future thanks to a renewed grant by the Lilly Endowment Inc. of \$1.1 million. This grant will support its work in advancing the conversation about teenage worshippers and teenage worship leaders.

Currently, its dedicated staff includes Eric Mathis, director; Tracy Hanrahan, director of programs; Kara Young, coordinator of promotion and engagement; and three faculty fellows: Emily Andrews, instructor of church music and worship leadership; Joe Cory, associate professor of art; and Chuck Stokes, associate professor of sociology. However, as the program expands, it anticipates adding new positions. It will continue to offer its online certificate program while introducing courses that complement its expanded goals.

New programs include a Worship Leader Boot Camp for teenagers, allowing youth ministers and worship leaders to jump start fall programming with teenage youth worship leaders; Student Worship Innovators which will engage church leaders in creating new resources for student worship; and new writing projects including a book by Mathis. ▀

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



# History Professor Alemán Chairs *Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama*

by Sean Flynt

Samford University history professor Carlos Alemán has been chosen to serve as chair of the Birmingham-based Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama (iHICA!), a nonprofit organization dedicated to the social, civic and economic integration of Hispanic families in the state.

Alemán, whose research interests include migration, labor and Latin American-U.S. relations, started working with iHICA! as a volunteer shortly after joining Samford's faculty in 2013, and joined the board of directors a year later. "It's the one organization I really wanted to work with when I moved to Birmingham because it's the largest nonprofit that serves Latinos in the state," Alemán said. "I thought it would be important for me to engage with them."

iHICA! has grown dramatically since its founding in 1999. Alemán said it provides services and referrals to thousands of people as always, but now also helps build capacity in the community—helping clients register for nationalization programs, providing educational services and even helping entrepreneurial clients secure micro-loans to start businesses. Alemán said the group was focused on helping clients renew requests for consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status this fall, and also worked to help Birmingham become a Welcoming City.

On campus, Alemán works to educate Samford students about Hispanic culture through his course offerings and his leadership of the Latin American Scholars program. He is partnering with biology professor Drew Hataway to offer an interdisciplinary study trip to Nicaragua next summer.

Alemán said he also feels a responsibility to encourage and support Samford's Latino students, some of whom are DACA recipients. Several years ago, when he met students who felt isolated or discouraged, he helped them find and support each other and establish the Latino Student Organization (LSO). "It's about reaching out to students who I felt were not talking to one another," he said.

University Fellows alumna Fernanda Herrera '17 was one of those students. She earned a prestigious internship with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus in 2016 and has become a prominent voice in the national movement to preserve DACA. She returned to campus in September to speak to the Frances Marlin Mann Center for Ethics and Leadership's cadre on faith and current events, and will serve as a panelist alongside Alemán at an Alabama Latino AIDS Coalition event at Hoover Library in October.

Alemán has created several opportunities for other Latino speakers at Samford. Last year he arranged for "DREAMer"



Carlos Alemán, right, and Fernanda Herrera

attorney and immigration reform advocate Cesar Vargas to speak on campus. In 2015, he brought to Samford a group of parents of the "Ayotzinapa 43," Mexican students who vanished after being attacked by police and army units near the town of Iguala in 2014.

When he seeks these events, he said, his focus is not only educating students but also fostering a sense of community by actively welcoming people who might not otherwise visit the campus. "I want people outside these gates to know that they can come here and talk about issues that are important to them," he said. "Bringing these two groups together helps us." ▀

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



# Marketing Student Works World Series for Houston Astros

by Rachel Sinclair

**Working for the Houston Astros during the MLB World Series was a dream come true for junior marketing major Brooke Jenkins.**

A Houston native and lifelong sports fan, Jenkins always knew she wanted to pursue a career in the sports industry. When choosing where to attend college, Jenkins said that Samford's sports marketing program was "without a doubt one of the biggest factors" that influenced her decision.

Jenkins said that Samford's faculty and staff have provided her

with excellent opportunities, such as working for the athletic department and serving on the dean's student advisory council.

"At Brock School of Business, we're held to such a high standard about how to act professionally," Jenkins said. "From freshman year, we quickly learned things we need to know in the business world, whether it's the way you dress, how to speak to people or being on time.

"Going into this [internship], I was very intimidated because of the size of the organization and how big of a deal it was, but I felt very confident when I sat in on meetings and was in rooms with tons of executives because of what I had experienced at networking events and working on the dean's advisory board."

As a summer retail merchandising intern for the Astros, Jenkins analyzed projected sales, developed buyer reviews and produced the internal company newsletter. Her favorite project involved creating ideas for an MLB investment fund.

"The MLB gives every team a retail marketing investment fund each year," Jenkins explained. "There are certain guidelines and procedures about how to use the money to market the team. My boss came to me and said, 'OK, we have ideas about what we want to do with this project, but I want you to look at it and present to me what you think would be the best way to use this money.'"

Jenkins described the project as an incredible learning opportunity. "I was not expecting that responsibility in any way, shape or form, but I was very honored to be able to do research on all the teams and specifically how to market our team, which is what I'm learning at Samford."

Jenkins also learned about the MLB authentication process for team-issued and game-used items. "I got to sit by the dugout for several games and work for the MLB authenticator and our personal authenticator to see how we preserve things for team history," Jenkins said.

When the Astros invited Jenkins to return in October to work three home games in World Series, she could not have been more eager to attend.

"After the year that Houston has had with the devastating floods . . . to see the unity and love we have for our city was such a cool experience," Jenkins said. "I get emotional talking about it because of how much I love our city and that team. It was such an honor and by far the best experience I've had in my lifetime." ▾



Brooke Jenkins at Minute Maid Park

*Rachel Sinclair '17 is a freelance writer in Franklin, Tennessee.*

# Divinity School Celebrates Reformation's *500th Anniversary on Finkenwalde Day*

by Kristen Padilla

**On Oct. 31, Samford University's Beeson Divinity School joined Protestants around the world celebrating the 500th anniversary of the symbolic beginning of the Protestant faith, when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany. The divinity school marked this momentous occasion by holding its third annual Finkenwalde Day.**

"I often say the Reformation was a 'back to the future' movement," said Timothy George, founding dean of the divinity school. "Our Beeson students study our Christian heritage, including the Reformation, in order to become more faithful shapers of the future under the lordship of Jesus Christ."

Not only is Luther an important figure to the divinity school, but so is 20th-century theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who led an underground seminary during Nazi Germany for five years. Bonhoeffer's book, *Life Together*, which he wrote one year before the Gestapo shut down the seminary, is a record of Bonhoeffer's experiment to prepare faithful ministers of the gospel to serve the church. It also presents an incarnational model of pastoral and theological formation, one that Beeson has tried to emulate.

"Dietrich Bonhoeffer was one of Luther's most fervent disciples in the 20th century. He quotes him more than anyone else except the Bible," George said. "He was aware of Luther's flaws, but despite these Bonhoeffer found the heart of the gospel in the recovery of the Bible and the doctrine of justification by faith alone."

"From the beginning of Beeson Divinity School, we have read, honored and learned much from both of these great figures, and

so it was appropriate and exciting for Finkenwalde Day and Reformation Day to come together in this way," he added.

Finkenwalde Day began in fall 2015 during the semester's emphasis on Bonhoeffer and his underground seminary at Finkenwalde. This day was set aside as a spiritual, academic and recreational retreat patterned after a day in the life of Bonhoeffer's seminary. The day was such a success that Finkenwalde Day II was held in fall 2016.

For Finkenwalde Day III, the divinity school invited alumni and friends back to campus to take part in the retreat. Guests as far away as Arkansas, South Carolina and Washington, D.C., as well as many local alumni, came for the day.

As in previous Finkenwalde days, the schedule included prayer, meditation, worship, celebration of communion, lectures, singing, recreation and fellowship at the table.

This year's special morning lecture was given by the Rev. Dr. Amy Schiffrin, president of the North American Lutheran Seminary. She lectured on "Singing the Reformation," which included congregational hymn singing. The 11 a.m. community worship service uniquely brought Finkenwalde and Reformation Day together by featuring the start of the 29th annual Reformation Heritage Lectures given by George, a leading Reformation scholar, on "Preaching Up a Storm."


"The blending of these two events on this day of retreat became particularly poignant through the recognition of how the Reformers represented the ongoing continuity of *Life Together* in the body of Christ in their articulation of the gift of the love of God through the Solas," said Victoria J. Gaston, curator of Hodges Chapel and



Celebrating Finkenwalde Day in Hodges Chapel

coordinator of Finkenwalde Day.

As the divinity community remembered and gave thanks for the Reformation, it also wrestled with the question: where is the impact of the Reformation still felt today? For George, real reformation is found every time the Word of God is faithfully preached and ministered in love to people.

"Our Beeson graduates are serving the cause of Christ in every continent on Earth, preaching, healing, serving," he said. "This is real Reformation." 

**To watch lectures by Amy Schiffrin or Timothy George, go to [www.youtube.com/beesondivinity](http://www.youtube.com/beesondivinity).**

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



# Cobia Helps Lead Turnaround Project

by Sara Roman

**In 2014, Samford University's Orlean Beeson School of Education was selected to participate in a federally funded project, Project Alabama Consortium for Turnaround (PACT). This fall, Jane Cobia, professor of educational leadership and Samford University project liaison, received notice that the project was granted an extension. Total funding exceeds \$1.9 million.**

The project is a collaboration between the Alabama State Department of Education, the University of Alabama, Auburn University and Samford University, and in conjunction with Edwards Educational Services and Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools.

Studies show that there is a diminishing number of qualified candidates compared to the growing number of administrative jobs in Alabama, particularly in rural and high-needs systems. The goal of Turnaround PACT is to attempt to implement a coordinated and sustained school leader training program that prepares candidates and then provides on-going support.

Each university developed and implemented a curriculum that focused on the identified research-based needs of the school leaders. Cobia's curriculum focused on students earning an instructional leadership certification and developing their leadership skills through mentorship and professional development opportunities.

Samford's 10 participants enrolled in Orlean Beeson School of Education's instructional leadership program and completed the traditional plan of study to earn their instructional leadership certification. Cobia also pursued high-quality mentorship opportunities and professional learning experiences for her candidates.

"I personally feel one of the most vital tools, yet a commonly overlooked resource, is mentorship," said Cobia. Cobia established partnerships with districts to design clinical experiences that reflected the real work of school principals. She feels that mentoring is an essential skill that can develop the leadership and communication skills of both the mentor and the mentee.

Mentor Frances Finney, principal of Fultondale (Alabama) Elementary School, enjoyed watching her mentee grow. "When we first met, she was hesitant to even ask a question, but as time went by, she began to open up and I was astounded by the depth of her thinking and knowledge . . . it challenged me to rethink things I had been doing for years."

Cobia's qualifications for mentor matching were simple, but strategic: all mentors must have successfully led a Turnaround school and mentor must be located in a different district, minimally 50 miles from the mentee. "I wanted the mentees to feel comfortable discussing problems and different situations," said Cobia. Through trusting, open discussion mentees were able to learn from colleagues in their field who held valuable knowledge through experience.

The mentorship pairings were so successful that Cobia is collaborating with fellow instructional leadership professor Julie Hannah to replicate the aspects in a mentorship program called *Aspire*. The pair believes that mentoring is the bridge from preparation to practice.

In addition to the mentorship pairings, participants had other professional development opportunities.

"Our goal was to take untapped teachers with leadership potential and build their capacity to be effective leaders," said Cobia. Thanks to the additional grant and program extension, three of the initial 10 candidates have been recruited and enrolled in Samford's instructional leadership program, the first step in earning a doctorate in educational leadership.

A three-part series of books is being published about the national Turnaround School Leaders Program and Alabama is the first book in the series, which will be released in spring 2018. Because of the incredible results from Cobia's mentorship structure, she contributed a chapter on mentoring and coaching.

"This project solidified the importance," said Cobia. "Mentoring is a critical component to a successful program and it is now part of all master-level programs of study at Samford's education school." ▀



**To read the complete story on this program, go to [samford.edu/education/news](http://samford.edu/education/news).**

*Sara Roman is coordinator of marketing and communication for Orlean Beeson School of Education.*

# Cumberland National Trial Teams Win Championships

by Maryellen Newton

**Throughout the fall, five national trial teams from Samford's Cumberland School of Law participated in national competitions. Three of the five teams won national championships and the other two won various honors.**

On Oct. 21-22, the team of Stephanie Gushlaw '19, Jennifer Jayjohn '19, Craig Shirley '19, Andrew York '19 and Denzell Moton '19 won first place in the National Civil Trial Competition championship in Los Angeles, California. En route to the finals, the team defeated four teams whose trial advocacy programs are ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* in the top 10. Jim Roberts '94 and Sara Williams '06 coached the team.

"These students not only continued the Cumberland tradition of excellence, but our tradition of professionalism," said Roberts.

On the same weekend, at the National Trial Advocacy Competition in Pontiac, Michigan, the team of Keith Stephens '18, Candace Towns '18, Kameron Buckner '19 and J.B. Brown '19 went undefeated, winning the tournament with a 5-0 record. Setara Foster '12 and Matt Woodham '15 coached the team. "It is incredible what they have accomplished, especially with three of our advocates never having been to a competition before," said Woodham.

The third championship-winning team took first place at the Florida National Trial Advocacy Tournament Nov. 4-5 in Gainesville, Florida. That team, consisting of Allison Bendall '19, Brooke DiSalvo '19, Dylan Sutherland '18 and Carmen Weite '18, earned Samford's first championship at this prestigious competition. The team was assisted by Justice Neloms '19 and coached by Jeremy Hazelton '02 and Blake Milner '14.

"Blake and I are incredibly proud of the amount of work and dedication each team member put into our championship effort," Hazelton said.

A team of second-year and third-year students competed at the Lone Star Classic National Trial Team Tournament in San Antonio, Texas, on Oct. 21-22. The team, Callie Brister '19, Ashley Feltman '18, Morgan Hoggle '19 and Kingsley Okpara '18, faced SUNY Buffalo Law School, University of South Carolina School of Law and University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, the eventual tournament winner. A total of 16 teams and 64 advocates competed in the event. Okpara won the award for best opening statement. Spenser Templeton '15 and Stewart Alvis '17 coached this team.

Finally, the team consisting of Amanda Wineman '18, Krista Tribble '18, Denzel Okinedo '19, and Walt Cobb '19 competed in the National Board of Trial Advocacy Tournament of Champions in Los

Angeles, California, on Nov. 4-5. Paige West '19, a member of the 2017-18 trial team, accompanied the team and aided in preparing them for the competition. The team was coached by Mike Rasmussen '76 and Mike Eldridge '12. An invitation to this prestigious tournament is based on the cumulative trial team performance over the previous three years. Cumberland went 3-1 in the preliminary rounds, beating California Western, University of Missouri (Kansas City), and Georgetown (who ultimately advanced to the finals). The Cumberland team came in fifth. ▶

*Maryellen Newton is a journalism and mass communication major and news and feature writer in the Division of Marketing and Communication.*



Cumberland Law School sculpture of Justice and Mercy



# Alumna Yarbro Named Living Legend by American Academy of Nursing

by Rachel Sinclair

The American Academy of Nursing presented Samford University alumna Connie Yarbro with the prestigious Living Legends honor during the opening night of the academy's 2017 policy conference in Washington, D.C., in October.

Yarbro was one of five recipients of the Living Legends honor, which "recognizes academy fellows who have made unique, outstanding and long-lasting contributions to both the nursing profession and to society."

Yarbro, who graduated from Samford's Ida Moffett School of Nursing in 1979, is an internationally acclaimed leader and speaker in the field of oncology nursing. The academy described Yarbro's accomplishments in a recent news release:

"She pioneered the role of the oncology nurse at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 1972 and cofounded the Oncology Nursing Society in 1975. She led the development of practice standards and chemotherapy guidelines, and has authored countless oncology publications, including the field's 'bible' textbook. A past board member and president of the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care, Yarbro has co-lead breast cancer training programs for nurses in 20 countries."

Yarbro said she was extremely humbled to receive the honor. "When I first started in Birmingham, we didn't know what to do or how to take care of the symptoms for patients . . ." Yarbro said, reflecting upon her early career. "The medical oncologists and nurses were learning together how to provide the best care. It's memorable to see the progress that's been made in patient care and oncology nurses. I'm proud to be a part of it."

Yarbro said she was grateful for the opportunity to earn her B.S.N. at Samford while working during weekdays. "Samford was a blessing because they had a program where I could do clinicals on the weekend and take evening classes, which was very unique at that time," Yarbro said. "It was very forward-thinking from their perspective."



Yarbro was involved with establishing Samford's Gamma Eta chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, an international honors organization for nursing. The chapter is still active on Samford's campus today.

Nena Sanders, vice provost for Samford's College of Health Sciences, described Yarbro as a "trailblazer" within the field of oncology nursing. She noted that Yarbro was recognized by Ida Moffett School of Nursing as a Moffett Living Legacy in 2012.

"She embodies every quality associated with Mrs. Moffett's legacy—caring, compassion and servant leadership," Sanders said. "Because of her accomplishments in oncology nursing, she has made an everlasting impact on the mental, physical and spiritual well-being of oncology patients and humanity."

Yarbro hopes her legacy will continue through the many oncology nurses who continuously further the profession through research and education. "Oncology nurses make a difference," she said. "They always have and always will continue to, whether it's patient care or support for nurses in the profession." ▀

*Rachel Sinclair '17 is a freelance writer in Franklin, Tennessee.*

# 90 *for* 90

## Dean Crouch Leads Surprising Tour of Alumni Pharmacies

by Jean McLean

**By the time Michael Crouch, dean of Samford University's McWhorter School of Pharmacy, walked into Trinity Drugs in Trinity, Alabama, he was expecting to be surprised. A quarter of the way into his 90 for 90 campaign, visiting 90 alumni-run pharmacies in celebration of the school's 90th anniversary, he had already learned that each visit would teach him something new.**

"But the biggest surprise so far was when I visited Trinity Drugs to see Ben Moultrie," Crouch said.

Moultrie, a 2012 pharmacy alumnus, is the owner of Trinity Drugs, a pharmacy established in 1978.

"When I walked in to meet Ben, retired pharmacists Larry Martin, a former owner of Trinity Drugs, and Willard Burt were also there to share their story," Crouch said. "All three men are Samford graduates, but each represents a different era in the university's history—Howard College, Samford University and Samford University's McWhorter School of Pharmacy."

Moultrie says he felt privileged to not only host the dean, but two retired pharmacists who, in his opinion, exemplified how independent owners can serve their communities.

"I grew up near here. As a child, we were so far from a 24-hour pharmacy that my mother had to call my pharmacist in the middle of the night. That's the sort of service Larry and Willard provided, and I'm trying to do the same."

Crouch says this tour has also underscored the importance of Samford's personalized Pharm.D.

"Wherever a student feels called to practice pharmacy, our program offers a variety of ways to personalize their experience. It's been so rewarding to meet these graduates and hear that they felt well-prepared to make a difference," he said.

Moultrie is one of those alumni who enjoy telling their only-at-Samford career story. "I don't think there's another school that could have prepared me for this," he says. "Samford helped me fulfill my dream."

Moultrie cites his personalized program electives and rotation with then-preceptor Kenny Sanders as opportunities unique to Samford.

"Although I always wanted to own an independent pharmacy, before my rotation, I didn't think I could take an ownership step. Before graduation I worked seven years in a chain. But it was one of those God-things that was meant to work out, and did work out, because of my Samford preceptors and teachers.

"I was not at the top of my class, because I worked 40 hours a week. But rather than fostering a competitive approach, Samford

encourages their pharmacy students to look out for people. I was treated just like I was the best student in the class. You don't get that anywhere else."

Crouch's 90 for 90 tour not only reconnects alumni, but offers an opportunity for professionals like Moultrie to share their stories with the school as Samford prepares to meet next-generation needs.

"I wake up every day and can't believe I get to do this," Moultrie said. "I am trying to carry on the work Larry did here at Trinity. I'm doing my best to do it justice. And I want others to know that Samford is just the complete package, not just educating people, but helping students become the people God created them to be." ▶

*Jean McLean is a freelance writer in Montevallo, Alabama.*



Clockwise, from top right, Ben Moultrie, Larry Martin, Willard Burt, Patricia Naro, Michael Crouch



# *New Master of Athletic Training* OFFERS IMMERSIVE INTERNSHIPS

by Jean McLean

As a former Samford basketball player, Lydia McGee, a second-year Master of Athletic Training student, understands the important role of an athletic trainer. Her interactions with Samford's sports medicine staff helped her decide to enroll in the School of Health Professions' inaugural cohort for a Master of Athletic Training last year. She had only a semester left until graduation, and the program's eight-week internship offered a clearer understanding of her future career.

McGee interned with Samford's football program, and she said her experience illustrates the many benefits of what the school calls an immersive internship.

"Working full time with the football program allowed me to see how much time an athletic trainer puts in with each patient," McGee said. "But I was also surprised by how rewarding the work is.

"There is a joy you feel when seeing an athlete at their lowest return to their highest. You go with them through the entire process of rehab and treatment, and there's a sense of fulfillment not only seeing them overcome their injuries, but knowing you played a part."

While Samford has long offered an athletic training undergraduate degree, the School of Health Professions only recently added graduate-level instruction, now deemed the profession's entry point.

"We are in our second year with the graduate program," said Robert Hensarling, associate professor in the Department of Kinesiology. "And we've found that these eight-week internships—where students work solely in the setting of their choice—allow them to be fully immersed in all aspects of the setting. Due to the length of time they spend there, they can do much more than observe."

Since athletic trainers can be employed by medical clinics, schools, professional sports organizations and other emerging areas—from military to performing arts venues—students experience varied clinical experiences during their two years in the program. "We hope our students will explore different areas and get a lot of hands-on experience at different sites, so they can find their true calling," Hensarling said.

With many opportunities available, the decision ultimately lies with the student, but once a student is able to identify an area they are interested in, School of Health Professions faculty get busy making connections with a matching venue. While McGee worked with Samford athletics, other students pursued different opportunities. For example, one Master of Athletic Training student interned with a National Football League team.

"The varied experiences help as we hone in on what we'd like to do, and what population we'd like to work with," McGee said. "My ultimate goal is to earn a Ph.D. in kinesiology, and to hopefully be able to do research and teach. But before then, I know I



Lydia McGee

want to practice as an athletic trainer with college athletes, so I'm grateful for my professors who were willing to help me get placed in this setting."

Although McGee appreciates all of her clinical exposure and classroom instruction, she says her primary takeaway from her Samford experience is gratitude for how the Master of Athletic Training program prepares her to fulfill her calling.

"While the School of Health Professions is preparing us professionally, the professors and dean are also challenging us to use the skills and gifts God has given us to impact other people. At Samford we're encouraged to use our gifts for a purpose bigger than ourselves." ▀

*Jean McLean is a freelance writer in Montevallo, Alabama.*



Students learn about some problems of poverty in simulation.

# To Serve the Underserved

## *The School of Public Health Hosts Poverty Simulation for Students*

by Sarah Waller

**As the only Christian public health school in Southeast, Samford University's School of Public Health prepares graduates who are competent and compassionate, ready to address the challenges that face the world today.**

Earlier this fall, the school hosted an interprofessional poverty simulation with the purpose of providing students a glimpse at a perspective they don't normally see.

"Regardless of the role you play in health care, we all interact with patients who have limited resources," said Ahinee Amamoo, associate professor in the Department of Public Health. "The best way to serve these individuals is with empathy, understanding the challenges they are going through."

Before the simulation began, students were randomly assigned to a family and given a specific role within it—roles such as a child, parent or grandparent. Each 15-minute increment represented one week, and over the course of an hour, or one month, students were faced with challenging scenarios.

"What happens is, each role has a task they have to complete," said Rachel Casiday, associate professor for the School of Public Health. "Children have to go to school.

Adults have to go to work, or if they are unemployed, they have to search for a job. Then in the remaining time, they have to complete certain needs, like buying groceries and paying bills. If these tasks cannot be completed, consequences occur."

As the simulation progressed, the limited time began to feel more pressing, as students ran around the room, working to accomplish each task. Once the simulation was complete, students divided into groups to debrief.

In these conversations, a theme of understanding emerged. "I felt helpless," said one student. "There is an assumption that people in poverty are lazy, but I was running around this room and I just couldn't get everything accomplished."

"I felt the desperation sink in," said another. "It came down to, do what you need to do, because we had to survive."

The simulation involved more than 150 students and faculty members from the

College of Health Sciences' four schools, establishing an interprofessional experience that the School of Public Health hopes will make a lasting impact as students prepare for careers in health care.

"The simulation provided insight into why so many health disparities exist in impoverished areas as there is so little access or time for preventative measures like healthy foods and exercising," said Sarah Waller, a senior public health major.

"As a future health professional, this encourages me to want to address these issues and build relationships with these communities in order to better meet their needs and help alleviate and break the cycle of poverty." ▶

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



**FACEBOOK CHATTER**



**WHAT A TREAT!**

Thank you for your service (literally!) Dr. Westmoreland and Mr. Brock!

#icecream #SU2021 #samford #leadership



**This family of 5 = 3 alumni + 2 current Samford Bulldogs! Who's ready for Family Weekend?**

Samford has been such a blessing to each of us for many reasons, and I am thankful to be able to share such a wonderful place with my family. We have had different experiences individually, but we can come together at Samford, a community we all share. And that is one of my favorite parts of my Samford story!

-Caroline Carlisle, senior



🎵 **Bulldog Bucks, better than cash. Too bad they can't pay for gas.** 🎵 This Family Weekend jingle will be stuck in your head all the way through Sunday!

#Samford #SUFamily #familyweekend #ToriandKylie #SamfordJingle

pollybheath: **As a SU alum and hopeful SU parent one day, I love this!!! Too cute. Y'all are adorable . . . And seriously talented! Amazing skills!**

samfordu: **Thanks for the awesome comments and support for @kt.cline & @toristipton—we think they are pretty awesome too. If you want to see the FULL song (yes there's more!) check it out on our Facebook page!**

janeannestone1: **Love this!!! We LOVE SAMFORD!!!!**

In Dr. Westmoreland's opening convocation address, he asked the students, **'Who is the person who has made an impact on your time at Samford so far?'** Well students . . . who is it? Alumni . . . who was it?



ewgunter: @elmathis, **Dr. Kenning and Dr. Lawhon**

aglendye: **Some of my favorite people are @lewright3 @weeullane @mrmattfrancisco @anfickbohm @revjbrooks professors Dr. Robin Roberts Dr. Hugh Floyd (who encouraged me to become a professional counselor)**

k\_flinn: @kaceyc Cole @thelucasfam @grantmillsaps **#ResLifeBestLife**

tam540: **Professor Mike Floyd of @cumberlandschooloflaw for introducing me to the invaluable experience that is studying abroad.**

**An important message from President Andy Westmoreland.**

mize.debbie: **No other University President like him! This is awesome!**

morganchampionn: **I can not wait for fall 2018 and being a bulldog at Samford!** @samfordjmc

meredithstone1: **HE IS LITERALLY ONE OF THE BEST THINGS ABOUT SAMFORD**

jaybarr13: **I love this. Samford is not Samford without Dr. Westmoreland!!**





# Experience the Arts



**Jan. 22–Feb 21**  
**From Sketch to Stage:**  
 A Retrospective of Theatre Design  
 by Eric Olson  
 Art Gallery

**Jan. 25**  
 Tonight at the Wright presents  
**Hard Travelin' with Woody**  
 7 p.m., Wright Center  
 Free Admission

**April 5**  
**Sozo Children's Choir**  
 7 p.m., Wright Center  
 Free Admission



**Davis Architects Guest Artist Series presents**

**Feb. 2**  
**Jamie Barton**  
 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall  
 Sponsored by Dr. Chandler and Jane Paris Smith  
 and copresented with Birmingham Chamber Music Society and Opera Birmingham

**Feb. 22**  
**Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center**  
 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall  
 copresented with Birmingham Chamber Music Society

**March 20**  
**Sō Percussion**  
 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall  
 copresented with Birmingham Chamber Music Society



**Michael J. and Mary Anne Freeman Theatre and Dance Series presents**

**Feb. 1–4**  
**It's Complicated: A Cabaret**  
 Bolding Studio

**Feb. 23–24**  
**Dance Concert**  
 7:30 p.m., Harrison Theatre

**March 22–25**  
**Caucasian Chalk Circle**  
 Harrison Theatre

**April 26–29**  
**Children of Eden**  
 starring David Phelps  
 Wright Center  
 Performance in underwritten by John and Marsha Floyd



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 School of the Arts

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# 5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT

## LYNN SMITH



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

Dr. Jim Brown was a new history professor when I came as a freshman. It was probably a chemistry thing more than anything else. I just really liked him as a professor and later even more as a friend after I graduated.

Dr. Vernon Davison was a sage of a religion professor and tossed out many gems in his classes, one which stuck with me was to “always keep an open mind.” Elizabeth Forman taught psychology and often talked about “peoples’ peculiar adjustment to life” and to not take life too seriously.

**Why did you choose Samford?** I was always active in my hometown church. I always felt a calling to try and make a difference. It was easy at that age to think it is a “calling” into full-time church work. Following that “calling” I choose to attend Samford as a ministerial student. [Later] I realized that a calling to make a difference can be lived out in so many different fields of work, including engineering which is where I ended up as a career.

### How did your Samford degree prepare you for what you are doing now?

I feel a liberal arts degree prepares a person for life—to think, to feel, to relate to people. Being a religion/psychology major from Samford and also having an engineering degree I was a bit of an enigma. My educational background gave me the foundation to work with the those helped by nonprofits: to build houses, to install water purification systems in remote villages, to teach people how to repair hand pumps for water wells, to show

**Degree/Year:** B.A., Religion and Psychology, 1976, M.B.A., 1999

**Hometown:** Birmingham

**Current:** Disaster Relief and Community Volunteer

**Bonus fact:** After retiring from his full-time career, Smith worked with fellow Samford graduates Allan Burton '92 and Todd Heifner '91 in Hope Manifest, a ministry with nonprofit organizations.

people how to build septic systems for outhouses from used oil drums and to bring systems that provide disinfectant and safe water to disaster areas. While doing this work I find I am also relating to people on a personal level and building all important personal relationships.

### Describe some of the work you did recently with hurricane relief.

A nonprofit I work with has developed two systems, one to make contaminated water safe to drink and another to make bleach. Each system uses only table salt and a 12-volt power source to perform these lifesaving tasks. I was invited to go with a small group to Puerto Rico shortly after

Hurricane Maria. We took 22 kits that contained a water purification system that is capable of providing more than 10,000 gallons of safe water per day, a bleach maker that will make five liters of medical grade bleach per hour, a solar panel that will run the two systems and a 500-gallon water tank.

### How did you become involved with the woodworkers ministry to children’s hospitals?

About the time I retired a friend and fellow coworker invited me to attend a meeting of the Alabama Woodworkers Guild. The guild promotes the art and craft of woodworking in Alabama. Shortly after that I joined the guild and also became a regular part of a subgroup within the guild called the Toy Group. We meet once a week at the guild’s workshop in Maylene, just a bit south of Birmingham. There we use the scraps we receive from Habitat for Humanity to make simple wooden toys to donate to different organizations. ▀



## KRISTEN KENNING and BRIAN VILIUNAS

**Why do you teach?** We both thought that we would remain full-time performers, but having the opportunity to teach in graduate school led us down a wonderful new path. We had great admiration for our own teachers, and it was satisfying to be able to inspire young musicians in a similar way. We are spirited, invested teachers and enjoy the challenge and reward of training students. We were drawn to Samford's mission and to job descriptions that seemed to be describing us.

**You both maintain active performing careers. How does that support your teaching roles?**

Maintaining performing careers while teaching can only help to keep us up-to-date on new music, world-class performers and expectations our students will face upon graduating. Remaining challenged and fulfilled as artists ourselves helps us have the energy to encourage that in others and helps us guide students as they begin their careers.

**What advice do you have for students who eventually will also need to manage active performing careers and family?**

If possible, delay having kids until you've established yourself professionally. We both agree that we wouldn't have been nearly as ambitious if we'd started our family earlier. We also agree that if we'd met a decade ago, we'd probably have four kids by now. We had no idea how awesome being parents was! Something we tell our students: "You will never have more free time than you do right now."

**Positions:**

Kenning is associate professor of voice and director of Samford opera; Viliunas is assistant professor of clarinet and Samford orchestra conductor

**Teaching at Samford since:** 2011

**Bonus Fact:** Kenning and Viliunas met when they joined the Samford faculty and married in 2015.

**How did your backgrounds prepare you for your current roles?** We were lucky to both grow up in families that highly valued music education. Our parents drove us to hundreds upon hundreds of lessons, recitals, competitions, and auditions. We are highly committed to our craft and have trained across the United States and Europe. We grew into our roles as orchestra conductor and opera director as a natural progression from being soloists and ensemble members—at some point, after watching so many others lead rehearsals and performances, we had ideas of our own that we were ready to share.

**What is a favorite project you have worked on recently?**

Brian just finished recording a CD of Brahms clarinet sonatas with fellow faculty member Ron Shinn and recently returned from playing *Hercules and Vampires* with the Arizona Opera. Kristin is currently working on a new opera that Samford commissioned entitled *The Ghosts of Gatsby* with composer Evan Mack and librettist Joshua McGuire. The story shines a light into the relationship that Alabama native Zelda Fitzgerald had with her famous husband F. Scott. The first draft of the vocal score is ready for Samford singers to workshop in the spring, and the orchestral score will be ready for Brian to conduct at the premiere next year. *The Ghosts of Gatsby* is very exciting for our students and Samford community. ▮

*The responses of Smith, Kenning and Viliunas have been edited for length. The complete profile on them and other featured faculty and alumni can be found at [samford.edu/spotlight](http://samford.edu/spotlight).*



# New Cook's President Learned Leadership Skills at Samford

by William Nunnolley

Brian Cook well recalls a lesson he learned in Samford University business professor Bill Service's Strategic Management class one day during his final semester. Service began class by saying that whether or not students had plans to continue in graduate school, they should all think and operate at a higher level than their current role.

"Knowing that I was accepted to an M.B.A. program, he then surprised us all by calling on me to teach the class for the entire hour," Cook said. "Thankfully I was prepared and it was a very positive experience."

Cook, a 2006 graduate of Samford's Brock School of Business, said the episode underscored the following: "Whether you're the leader or not, always be prepared to step up and serve."

Cook recently was named president and chief executive officer of Cook's Pest Control Inc., the seventh largest pest control company in the U.S. with more than 1,750 employees and 36 offices in five states. He said his undergraduate experience at Samford provided him the opportunity to develop both academically with knowledge and relationally with numerous group projects and presentations.

"At Cook's, we're in the people business, so Samford's challenging and social culture was a good fit for me."

He said Samford marketing professor Betsy Holloway "was a great source of encouragement and helped strengthen my strategic planning and critical thinking skills." (Holloway now serves as Samford's vice

president for marketing and communication.)

Cook's great-grandfather, John L. Cook, founded Cook's Pest Control in 1928 as North Alabama Termite Company in Decatur, Alabama. Cook's grandfather, John R. Cook Sr., took over the company's leadership when the elder Cook died in 1950. He added pest control to the company's mission and changed the name to Cook's Pest Control. Brian Cook's father served as the company leader after John R. Cook Sr. and Brian took over in 2017. The company has been headquartered in Decatur since its inception.

As the fourth-generation Cook's leader, Brian grew up learning about and working in the family business. After working in the pest and termite departments, he served as customer care center manager, director of business development and finally as chief administrative officer before becoming president and CEO.

Each of the Cooks maintained a customer-oriented approach. "Customers





Brian Cook

want peace of mind that their property, whether residential, commercial or industrial, is protected," said Brian. "As my great grandfather taught my grandfather, 'Son, do the job right the first time. Do what you've promised plus a little more. Satisfy each customer.'"

Cook's is about "having the right people in the right position," Brian said. "Our business philosophy is to hire character and teach the competency. If we can recruit and retain people with honesty, integrity, a diligent work ethic and a positive attitude, we can teach them the business."

Over the years the Cook family has operated the company based on Biblical values and principles that support civic causes. Among the causes is the new Cook Museum of Natural Science in Decatur, an educational and tourism destination that will provide interactive learning experiences for school and family groups to enjoy. Brian serves as chairman of the board of directors for the museum. For more information, go to [cookmuseum.org](http://cookmuseum.org).

Cook's also supports the Cook's Pest Control Scholarship in Brock School of Business. "Samford's values align with Cook's," said Brian, explaining why he feels it important to support his alma mater. "We believe in the university's mission and are impressed with the excellence in which it fulfills that mission."

Cook's has been a loyal supporter of business education at Samford over many years, said Brock School of Business Dean Howard Finch. "They provide critical financial resources for Brock students through faithful scholarship funding and sponsored a teaching seminar room in the new Cooney Hall," said Finch.

Brian is also vice president and a board member of Not Forgotten Inc., a nonprofit ministry that has a comprehensive home for former street boys near Iquitos, Peru. Brian also serves on the board for the Decatur Downtown Redevelopment Authority and the Neighborhood Christian Center community outreach organization. He holds an M.B.A. from the University of Alabama.

Brian and his wife Leslie are parents of three children, Davis, Nora and Kate. ■



# Cumberland Grad Jimmy Rane Shares His Story of Building Great Southern Wood Preserving

by William Nunnelley

Jimmy Rane, president and chief executive officer of Great Southern Wood Preserving Inc., said he knew “zero” about the wood business when he started his company in 1970. “I didn’t know the difference in a 2x4 and a 2x6,” he said at Samford University’s Cumberland School of Law on Oct. 11. But he learned from his mistakes “and kept at it.”

Rane delivered the inaugural presentation of the Dean’s Lecture Series in Business Law, a new program that will bring prominent alumni to campus to interact with students and share from their life experiences.

The 1971 Cumberland graduate traced the story of how his business, “a small operation in Southeast Alabama, became the biggest at what it does—and also how a budding lawyer took a different and unexpected path into business,” he said in remarks prepared for the event.

*Building Products Digest* has recognized Great Southern Wood as the largest producer of pressure treated wood in the U. S.

Rane’s company now serves customers in 28 states, District of Columbia, Latin America, the Caribbean and China. It has company plant operations in 11 states and sales of \$1 billion.

“And I assure you, although I did not continue my original plan to become a lawyer, my legal education has been very valuable in my experiences leading a growing business while facing a never-ending array of legal details,” Rane told his Cumberland audience.

He cited such courses as torts, contracts, civil procedure, real property, business organizations and

secured transactions as having great value applying to business life.

“I am grateful for my time at Cumberland and the very valuable legal education I took into the business world,” he said.

Rane took over the struggling wood preservation operation—land and equipment—from his late father-in-law in his hometown of Abbeville, Alabama, in 1970. His plan was to sell the operation and practice law in Birmingham. But when his plant manager quit, Rane was left with no choice.

“I had to go back to Abbeville where I opened a little law office,” Rane recalled. “I’d get up every morning at 4:30 a.m., go out to the plant and start treating posts with my one remaining employee. Then at 8:30 a.m. I’d come back, take a shower and go to that law office.”

He had two telephones, Rane said, one he answered “Jimmy Rane law office” and the other “Great Southern Wood.”

“The first year we lost over \$90,000,” he said. “By August 1971, I’m hanging on by a thread, basically bankrupt.” But Rane was able to get a \$5,000 loan from the Bank of Abbeville, and used it to buy wood he





# CLASS NOTES

*Class Notes, New Arrivals and In Memoriam compiled by the Office of Alumni Programs and Annual Giving with information submitted by Nov. 10.*

## 1940s

'46 **Ivan Charles Dowdey** met Benna Jean Jones at Howard College after returning from serving in the Navy during World War II. She was a beauty and a Lamda Chi Alpha dreamgirl. They married August 22, 1947, at Huffman Methodist Church, and are celebrating their 70th year of marriage. They currently live in Leeds, Alabama, and Ivan celebrated his 91st birthday in November 2017. **1**

## 1970s

'70 **Irwin Ray** was appointed emeritus professor of music at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta upon his recent retirement after 31 years as director of the Department of Music and resident conductor. Previous faculty appointments included Southern Theological Seminary, Samford University, Belmont University and Emory University. Ray was simultaneously awarded the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Foundation Award for outstanding service to others and to metropolitan Atlanta. **2**

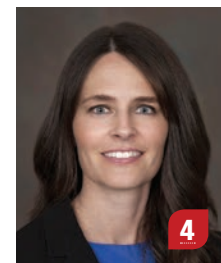
'71 **Joseph Benton Howell** is the author of *Becoming Conscious* and founder of the Institute for Conscious Being. A graduate of Samford University, Yale Divinity School, The University of Virginia, and a fellow in psychology at Harvard Medical School, Howell is in private practice in Anniston, Alabama. He is married to Lark Dill Howell. They are the parents of two children.

'77 **Richard W. Moore** was voted by the full senate to be the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Alabama.

## 1980s

'80 **Martin Freeman**, while a lawyer at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, became a massage therapist. He has been a massage therapist for the MaccabiUSA Team for the last four Pan Am Maccabi Games, and served the team at the World Games in Israel this past summer.

'81 **Greg Powell** shared 36 years of financial planning advice and experience in his debut book, *Better, Richer, Fuller*, which was released on Amazon in March 2017.



'85 **Vaughn Bell** is now the chief marketing officer for InnovaTel Telepsychiatry, a leading provider of telepsychiatry services for adolescents and adults. She spent more than 30 years in the behavioral health industry as a clinician and business executive. After receiving her master's degree in pastoral counseling, she practiced in an inpatient chemical dependency unit.

'87 **Beth Hallmark**, director of simulation in the Belmont University College of Health Sciences, achieved her certification as a healthcare simulation educator from the Society for Simulation in Healthcare in June 2016. On November 2, 2017, she received the Nurse Educator of Year Award from the March of Dimes.

'87 **Christopher O'Rear** opened a new pastoral counseling center at Belle Meade United Methodist Church in Nashville, Tennessee. It is called (cleverly, by him) The Counseling Center at Belle Meade United Methodist Church.

'89 **Teri Weide** passed the Registered Dietitian exam in January 2017. She is a clinical dietitian at Florida Hospital Zephyrills since March 2017. She is currently enrolled in Samford University's Master of Public Health program.

## 1990s

'91 **Susan Neville Blazer** has been named the new program manager with the English Language Programs/INTO at UAB. She lives in Cahaba Heights, Alabama, with husband **Chris Blazer '91** and their three children.

'94 **Kevin Newsom** was confirmed by the Senate as judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit Aug. 1, 2017. He was nominated by President Donald Trump on May 8, 2017 to the seat vacated by **Judge Joel Dubina L '73**. Newsom is a 1997 graduate of Harvard Law School and has served in private practice, as solicitor general for the state of Alabama (2003-07) and as an adjunct law professor at Georgetown University, Vanderbilt University and Samford University.

'98 **CDR Timothy Crider** completed his tour of duty at Yokosuka, Japan, and was presented a Letter of Commendation from the commander in chief of Japan's Self-Defense Fleet for his contribution "to the strengthening of mutual cooperation between the U.S. Navy Seventh Fleet and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force." He was also recognized for contributing to enhancing shipboard medical capability through the bilateral working group. Tim is married to Jenni Harvey Crider '98. **3**

'98 **Christy Crisp** has been appointed to an endowed position within the Georgia Historical Society (GHS) and will serve as the first Marilyn Memory McMullan director of programs. She joined the staff of the GHS in 2003 as program coordinator and was named director of programs in 2007.

'99 **Jennifer Douglass Hartzog** and **Woodrow Neal Hartzog '00** live in Boston, Massachusetts, where he is professor of law and computer science at the Northeastern University School of Law and College of Computer and Information Science and she is associate director of undergraduate admissions at Northeastern University.

'99 **Lucy Lane Insko** married Joel Wiggins in August 2017. Lucy is a family care coordinator with Lifelink of Georgia. Joel is a governmental relations associate with Georgia Municipal Association. They live in Atlanta, Georgia.

'99 **Bethany Usry** has been named to *Georgia Trend's* 2017 40 Under 40 List. She is among a wide variety of Georgians who are represented in the magazine's 21st installment of its list. The honorees named to the 40 Under 40 list not only excel in their 9-to-5 professions "but also have a commitment to community involvement that goes well beyond what they are paid to do." She is married to **Stephen Usry '00**, and they live in Georgia. **4**

## 2000s

**'01 Brad Wood** has been selected as a recipient of The M&A Advisor's 2017 Emerging Leaders Awards. He is one of only two legal advisors selected from Alabama for this national distinction. The annual award recognizes young professionals throughout the U.S. who have achieved notable accomplishments in the mergers and acquisitions field and in service to their community. Brad is a shareholder in Maynard Cooper & Gale's Corporate Securities and Tax Group and serves as chair of the firm's M&A/Private Equity and Venture Capital Practice. He was introduced at an awards gala at the New York Athletic Club in Manhattan in September.

**'03 Ashley Stidham Seligson** is the executive director of Little Hands Serving Hearts, a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating and providing service opportunities primarily focused for children ages 12 and under, though any age is welcomed to volunteer. She lives in Mountain Brook, Alabama, with her husband, Alex, and two children, Braxton and Brooklyn.

**'03 Dave Thompson** was recently appointed to the Internal Revenue Service Advisory Council. He stated, "Samford University prepared me very well for my career as an accountant, associate professor at ASU and tax professional."

**'04 Jeff Stephens** is the new senior director of ecommerce at Ramsey Solutions in Nashville, Tennessee.

**'05 Ben Burnett** was recently elected to the city council in Alpharetta, Georgia, where he lives with wife, Lindsey Ann Burnett '08, and their three children.

**'05 Patrick Devereux** was awarded the 2017 Excellence in Innovation Award from the Alabama Pharmacy Association. He is the president/CEO of Family Medical Services Inc., which owns three retail pharmacies in the Birmingham area. He lives in Helena with his wife, Maggie, and three children, Joseph, Colin and Lorelei.

**'06 Nick Barnes** has joined UTA's Nashville office as a digital strategy agent and will help to build and execute digital and direct-to-audience strategies for clients, with an emphasis on music artists and the agency's growing Nashville presence. **5**

**'06 Dylan Reeves** practices litigation at McGlinchey Stafford, and the firm is pleased to announce the inclusion of him in the 2017 edition of Mid-South Super Lawyers and Mid-South Super Lawyers "Rising Stars."

**'07 Kathryn Hern** and Christopher Smith were married in Birmingham, Alabama, on September 3, 2016. They now live in Dothan, Alabama.

**'09 Lauri Self** has a new position at the University of Alabama as an instructor in the College of Human and Environmental Science teaching interior design, with a focus in residential design and design fundamentals.

**'09, '13 Cameron Campbell** is now the athletics business manager for Southern Methodist University.

## 2010s

**'10 Stephen Moss** graduated from Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, in December 2016 with a Master of Divinity. He started a new job in July 2017 as sexual minority ministry coordinator with FirstLight Ministries in St. Louis, Missouri. **6**

**'10 Ali Wilburn** has founded her own boutique real estate company, Urban Realty, in Birmingham, Alabama.

**'11 Daniel T. Lentz** was selected as a community leader by Leadership Atlanta to join the LEAD Atlanta Class of 2018. The class had an 18% acceptance rate and over 700 nominations. He is director of corporate relations at the Technology Association of Georgia (TAG). **7**

**'11 Dr. Autumn Bagwell** married Dr. Scott Zuckerman in August 2017 in Franklin, Tennessee. They both work at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and live in Nashville, Tennessee.

**'12 Aaron and Leanna Coyle-Carr** have relocated to Dallas, Texas, where Aaron is beginning a pastoral residency at Wilshire Baptist Church and Leanna is completing an M.Div. with a concentration in environmental theology at Wake Forest University School of Divinity.

**'12 Thomas Fellows'** book, *Forget Self-Help: Re-examining the Golden Rule*, is a best seller on Amazon.

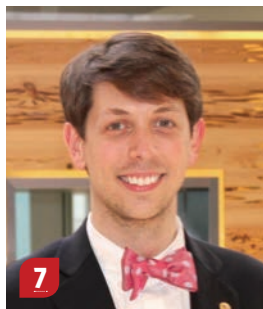
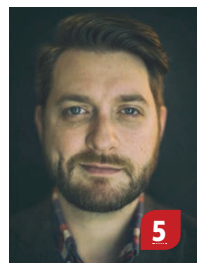
**'13 Brittany Tedford** is a military attorney and participated in a forum examining sexual assault in the military and improving the military victims' counsel programs. This forum was part of the Defense Advisory Committee.

**'14 Hannah McGee** joined Maynard Cooper & Gale as a real estate associate in their Birmingham, Alabama, office.

**'14 Charles Terry** married **Shea Summerlin Terry '15** in May 2017. They live in Birmingham, Alabama, where he attends UAB School of Medicine and she attends McWhorter School of Pharmacy. **8**

**'15 Anna Bethea** earned her Master of Music in clarinet performance from The University of Southern Mississippi in May 2017. She is now teaching elementary music at Bell Fork Elementary School in Jacksonville, North Carolina.

**'17 Nathan Graham** married Jenna McCoy in June 2017. They live in Vestavia, Alabama, where he is a pastor and she dances with the Alabama Ballet.





# NEW ARRIVALS

**Editor's note:** We love to know about big events happening in the lives of our Samford families so we can celebrate with you. Please share your big moments like weddings and new additions to your family on social media. Use #MarriedSamford, #SamfordBaby and/or #SamfordAddition so we can be sure to see them. We no longer will be publishing weddings and births in *Seasons* magazine.



'89 **Doug Turnure** and **Janet Evans Turnure '91** of Cumming, Georgia, a son, Zachariah Reed Turnure, adopted June 14, 2016 and a daughter, Alleya Katherine Turnure, adopted March 24, 2017. They join older siblings DJ, Stephen and Martha Ann. **1**

'01 **Matthew Bunt** and **Belinda Bunt '05** of Irondale, Alabama, a daughter, Haley Grace Bunt, born July 17, 2017. **2**

'04 **Dorothy Thetford Bradshaw** and Jere Scott Bradshaw of Auburn, Alabama, a son, Robert Thomas Bradshaw, born May 6, 2017. **3**

'04 **Mary Margaret Evens Pendleton** and Chris Pendleton of Lexington, Kentucky, a daughter, Blythe Caroline Pendleton, born September 14, 2017. **4**

'04 **Ryan Torti** and **Sarah Moorad Torti** of Franklin, Tennessee, a son, Jude Ryan Torti, born August 16, 2017. **5**

'05 **Ben Burnett** and **Lindsey Ann Burnett '08** of Alpharetta, Georgia, a son, James Whit Jun Burnett, adopted September 11, 2017. **6**

'06 **Patrick Denton** and Krista Denton of Eagle, Idaho, a son, Andrew "Andy" Lee Denton, born July 25, 2017. **7**

'06 **Sommer Hawthorne Vaughn** and **Joshua Vaughn '06** of Pike Road, Alabama, a son, Cavender Guy Vaughn, born May 31, 2017. **8**

'07, '13 **Ashley Finley Cavender** and Josh Cavender of Alabaster, Alabama, a daughter, Finley June Cavender, born September 18, 2017. **9**

'08 **Brittany Heathcock Hickerson** and Michael Hickerson of Laredo, Texas, a daughter, Eliana Grace Hickerson, born October 9, 2017. **10**

'08 **Calli Davis Hydrick** and Brad Hydrick of Birmingham, Alabama, a son, Jackson Robert Hydrick, born March 21, 2016. **11**

'08 **Branden Lower** and **Lindsey Fine Lower '09** of Birmingham, Alabama, a daughter, Olivia Mae Lower, born July 8, 2017. **12**

'08 **Rachel Walley Woodard** and John Woodard of Southaven, Mississippi, a son, Shepherd Clayton Woodard, born May 25, 2017. **13**

'09 **Jen Vinson Craft** and **Lee Craft '09** of Alpharetta, Georgia, a daughter, Mia Craft, born June 16, 2017. **14**

'09 **Heather Allen Rice** and Jonathan Rice of Pelham, Alabama, a son, Micah Dylan Rice, born August 20, 2017. **15**



'10 **Kaitlin Masterson Hoffman** and Justin Hoffman of Aberdeen, South Dakota, a son, Colton Curtis Hoffman, born July 18, 2017. **16**

'10 **John Thomas Morgan III** and **Lindsay Heinz Morgan '11** of Hoover, Alabama, a son, Cade Andrew Morgan, born October 2, 2017. **17**

'10 **Adam Murphy** and **Tiffany Lowery Murphy '11** of Montgomery, Alabama, a son, Pierce William Murphy, born August 4, 2017. **18**

'11 **Emily Wiles Keener** and Robert Keener of Snoqualmie, Washington, a daughter, Sumner McMullen Keener, born August 10, 2017. **19**

'11 **Jane Cunningham Wilson** and Todd Wilson of Birmingham, Alabama, a daughter Ella Faye Wilson, born October 5, 2015. **20**

'12 **Brittany Ripberger Corey** and **John Corey '12** of Indianapolis, Indiana, a daughter, Madeline Mae Corey, born July 3, 2017. **21**

'12 **Courtney Phillips Hester** and **Matt Hester '12** of Central, South Carolina, a daughter, Ellie Blake Hester, born October 10, 2017. **22**

'13 **Jazmine Martin Mack** and Jonathan Mack of Birmingham, Alabama, a daughter, Jordyn Elyse Mack, born April 17, 2017. **23** She joins older brother, Jase Breland Mack, born March 2, 2015. **24**

## New Samford License Plates

*If you have a vehicle licensed in Alabama,* please consider purchasing a Samford license plate at your local DMV office. A Samford license plate purchase of \$50 equals \$48.50 in support of student scholarships. It's an easy and effective way to help current and future students.



*Let us know if you support Samford in this way so we can thank you personally. Once your tag is purchased, contact Karen Templeton, director of annual giving, at [ktemplet@samford.edu](mailto:ktemplet@samford.edu) or 205-726-4580.*



# IN MEMORIAM

**'43 Curtis J. Walden**, age 96, of Charlotte, North Carolina, died November 9, 2017. He left Howard College to attend flight school during World War II and also served during the Korean War. One of his passions was tennis, which he played until his 90th year.

**'46 William "Bill" Gamble**, age 92, of Trussville, Alabama, died November 5, 2017. He graduated from Howard College where he earned the nickname of "Attaboy" due to his athletic ability. After graduation from Howard, he attended Louisville Theological Seminary. He was a longtime member of Huffman Baptist Church. For over 60 years, he worked in property rental management and sales.

**'46 Mary Wood Montgomery**, age, 93, of Fairhope, Alabama, died October 6, 2017. After graduation from Howard College, she became a social worker for the Department of Public Welfare.

**'47 Helen Elizabeth Judy Czachurski**, age 92, of Huntsville, Alabama, died October 1, 2017. She was baptized and married at Ruhama Baptist Church. She enjoyed working with children in her churches for 50 years and served as an Alabama Baptist State Convention special children's worker for over 35 years. She taught sixth grade in the Huntsville public schools.

**'49 Claude Lee Alsbrooks**, age 91, of Cullman, Alabama, died September 7, 2017. Before attending Howard College, he enlisted in the Army Air Force and served in Okinawa during World War II. He began his career as a warehouse employee at Cosby-Hodges Milling Company in Birmingham. He was a highly respected and successful salesman and business executive and earned his way to CEO and president of Cosby-Hodges Milling Co. After retiring, he worked diligently as a board member and fundraising chairman for Cullman Regional Medical Center.

**'49 Norma Jean Somerset Welch Johnson**, age 92, of Montgomery, Alabama, died October 17, 2017. She was a charter member of Heritage Baptist Church. An accomplished artist, she thrilled churchgoers with her famous chalk talks. She taught, and then was a guidance counselor, at Robert E Lee High School for 23 years. She was elected to the Lee High School Hall of Fame in recognition of her service.

**'49 John C. Mayo Jr.**, age 90, of Trussville, Alabama, died September 2017. After a brief stint playing football at Auburn University, he joined the navy and served in the Philippines during World War II. He graduated from Howard College. He worked for the B.F. Goodrich Company for several years before establishing his own business, Mayo Tire Company. He was a member of South Roebuck Baptist Church.

**'49 Betty Jean Whitehead**, of Birmingham, Alabama, died September 11, 2017. Serving in the WAVES during World War II and Korea, she graduated from Howard College and was a member of Phi Mu. She was an accountant with Mountain Brook Flower Shop and was a member of Mountain Brook Baptist Church.

**'50 Winston "Wink" Chapman Sr.**, age 90, of Birmingham, Alabama, died September 4, 2017. He joined the U.S. Navy during World War II. He was awarded the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal and the American Campaign Medal. He graduated from Howard College, then went to work with Southern Bell until retirement. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Center Point.

**'50 Col. Joseph Lloyd Jones**, age 94, of Asheboro, North Carolina, died October 24, 2017. He was a World War II B-17 navigator and was shot down, after which he spent nearly a year as a prisoner of war. His career was as an officer in the U.S. Air Force, serving in World War II, the Korean conflict and the Vietnam War, before retiring as a full colonel. In addition to his flying career, he also served with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and NATO in the Pentagon and was part of the initial faculty at the U.S. Air Force Academy. He was honored with 18 military medals, including a Purple Heart and three Legion of Merits, the highest non-combat award. He was an ordained deacon, a Sunday School teacher for 60 years, a lay witness revival leader for two decades and minister of music at Tokyo Baptist Church. He also helped start churches in four different cities.

**'50 Roy Franklin Stipe**, age 96, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, died August 18, 2017. A proud World War II veteran, he practiced pharmacy for many years in Kentucky and Tennessee. He and his family returned to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where he practiced pharmacy until he was age 90, touching the lives of thousands of people with his dedication to taking care of his friends and customers.

**'50 James William Watson**, age 88, of Vestavia Hills, Alabama, died August 25, 2017. He served in the Air Force Reserves and retired from Tom Williams (Drennen) Cadillac after more than 35 years of diligent service. He was a member of Shades Mountain Baptist Church.

**'51 Nelson E. Bullard**, age 93, of Decatur, Alabama, died August 8, 2017. He was a retired Baptist minister, serving many churches in Alabama.

**'51 James W. Underwood**, age 96, of Whitewater, Wisconsin, died September 6, 2017. A survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor, he served on the hospital ship USS Solace and later the USS Bountiful. He was awarded the following campaign ribbons: Asiatic Pacific with three bronze stars; American Theatre; and Philippine Liberation. He helped to organize and attended yearly reunions with his hospital ship-mates. He was a well-respected community member and leader in Whitewater as the owner and pharmacist of the Underwood Drug Store. He served as president of the Whitewater Chamber of Commerce and Whitewater Country Club and was involved in other community organizations.

**'52 Dr. Harold Lee Anderson**, age 87, of Montgomery, Alabama, died September 12, 2017. After graduating from Howard College, he earned his Master of Divinity from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and earned his Doctor of Ministries from Luther Rice Seminary. He served as pastor for churches in Alabama, Kentucky and Tennessee, until joining the Alabama Baptist Convention State Board of Missions. He remained with the State Board of Missions in various leadership ministries until his retirement. He was a member of Ridgecrest Baptist Church and First Baptist Church.

**'52 Augustus Payton "AP" Mosley**, age 97, of Birmingham, Alabama, died November 3, 2017. He joined the Army Air Force and served in the South Pacific during World War II. He retired from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and spent his retirement life traveling, hunting, fishing and spending time with family. He was a member of Shades Mountain Baptist Church.

**'53 Anne Fadely Anderson**, age 89, of Birmingham, Alabama, died September 14, 2017. She was one of the first women to graduate from Howard College School of Pharmacy. She was a Phi Mu and a member of Lambda Kappa Sigma, Women's Club of Birmingham and the DAR. She worked part time at numerous Birmingham pharmacies, but her first and favorite vocation was wife, homemaker and mother to three daughters. She was a longtime member of South Roebuck Baptist Church.

**'55 Patricia Anne Stuckey Mosier**, age 82, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, died August 7, 2017. She received her RN from Birmingham Baptist Hospital School of Nursing. Pat practiced nursing in Arizona and Tennessee, she also served in the Tennessee Air National Guard and earned the rank of first lieutenant. She was a very active member of First Presbyterian Church of Chattanooga. She was also an active member of the Chattanooga Area Dental Alliance and the Alliance of the Tennessee Dental Association.

**'56 Dr. James "Jim" Bruton**, age 83, of Birmingham, Alabama, died August 15, 2017. After graduating from Howard College, he earned his Master and Doctor of Divinity from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as pastor for churches in Alabama, Kentucky and Tennessee. He also moved Woodlawn Baptist Church from downtown Birmingham to Liberty Park.

**'56 William "Billy" Nutt**, age 83, of Montgomery, Alabama, died November 1, 2017. He was a longtime member of Southlawn Baptist Church. He graduated from Howard College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky. He was a retired minister of Goshen Baptist Church and Millry Baptist Church. He was also retired from the Alabama Baptist Convention. During his lifetime, he touched and influenced many lives from all walks of life through his unique and quiet and unassuming manners.

**'56 Henri-Ann Taylor**, age 83, of Elba, Alabama, died August 19, 2017. Earning her undergraduate degree from Howard College and graduate degree from the University of Alabama, she was an educator in Florida for over 45 years. While at Howard College, she was a cheerleader, a member of Hypatia Honor Society and Miss Howard 1953.

**'57 Joseph E. "Joe" Roberson Jr.**, age 85, of McCalla, Alabama, died October 25, 2017. He was a former deacon and men's Sunday school teacher at Grant Street Baptist Church. He graduated from Howard College and was a retired fire chief of Bessemer, Alabama.

**'57 Anthony Michael Tortomase**, age 82, of Hoover, Alabama, died October 30, 2017. He became a school counselor for the Opportunity Center School (OCS). He received his AA teacher certification in special education and also received his AO1 superintendent/principal endorsement. He served as OCS principal. He later went to work for the Birmingham city schools as coordinator of transportation for special education.

**'58 Margaret Ann "Peggy" Strickland Blanchard**, age 79, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, died August 13, 2017. She was an active member of Alpha Delta Pi as well as the Baptist Student Union. She worked at the First Baptist Church of Dania, Florida.

**'59 Dr. James L. "Doc" Caldwell**, age 82, of Columbia, South Carolina, died August 26, 2017. He graduated from Howard College and from there he entered the army. He served with distinction on a rifle team and as a "computer" for a Howitzer unit. He attended New Orleans Baptist Seminary and he received his Master of Music. He completed his education at Florida State University with a Ph.D. in music. He chaired the music department of Columbia College and served as the first minister of music at Riverland Hills Baptist Church.

**'60 William "Bill" Turner**, age 78, of Lexington, Kentucky, died April 22, 2017. Obtaining his degrees from Howard College, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Lexington Theological Seminary, he served churches in Alabama, Kentucky and Texas. He was an author and enjoyed contributing to organizations focused on social justice, ecumenical involvement, pastoral ministry and ministry to those in need.

**'61 Virginia Biddle Chism**, age 77, of Arrington, Tennessee, died November 6, 2017. While at Samford University, she participated in competitive diving and synchronized swimming. She was a school teacher for many years, a Sunday school teacher, a 45-year survivor of breast cancer and served on various boards and committees in her church. She was elected to the board of directors of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association.

**'62 Glenn Cleo Brooks**, age 80, of Nashville, Tennessee, died September 8, 2017. After graduating from Howard College, he joined his father as a pharmacist at Brooks Pharmacy in Nashville for the next 40 years. He enjoyed spending time with his family in Nashville and Florida. His favorite hobbies were traveling, golf and searching for great restaurants.

**'63 Ted Wesley Butler**, age 77, of Cahaba Heights, Alabama, died October 25, 2017. While at Howard College, he was in the A Cappella Choir. He worked as a sales representative for Republic Steel and finished his 40-year steel sales career with New Process Steel.

**'63 Richard F. Fendley Sr.**, age 77, of Warner Robins, Georgia, died November 12, 2017. He attended South Georgia College and played football under Coach Bobby Bowden. He received his master's degree in education from Samford University. He was a teacher, head coach and athletic director of Cherokee County High School in Canton and Baldwin County High School in Milledgeville. Warner Robins High School was his last school for teaching and coaching football, track and tennis.

**'63 Charles Douglas Killough**, age 77, of Lewisville, Texas, died September 8, 2017. A beloved educator, football coach, principal and assistant superintendent of student services, he was involved in numerous civic and community endeavors. He was a member of Northview Baptist Church.

**'64 Mary Elizabeth Tharpe "Betty" Lawler**, age 87, of Birmingham, Alabama, died October 30, 2017. She was a faithful member of Shades Valley Lutheran Church for 50 years. She taught home economics at Berry High School until she retired in 1985.

**'65 Kenneth S. "Sam" Glover**, age 76, of Sumiton, Alabama, died August 18, 2017. He was the founder of Glover Drugs and held Sunday services at Shadescrest Health Care in Jasper.

**'65 Harry Crymes Hitchcock**, age 75, of Santa Rosa Beach, Florida, died on July 23, 2017. Graduating from Howard College, he played football for Coach Bobby Bowden. He received his master's degree from University of West Alabama, where he was a graduate assistant. He taught and coached football in Carrollton, Thomasville, Atmore, Huntsville, Niceville and Clanton where he coached with Joe Nettles, a lifelong friend.

**'65 Larry J. Mullins**, age 73, of Mobile, Alabama, died April 24, 2017. Upon graduating from Howard College, he did post-graduate studies at New Orleans Baptist Seminary, Harvard University Medical School and the University of South Alabama. During 56 years of ministry, he pastored and worked in the Mobile county school system and Alabama State Vocational Rehabilitation. He devoted his time to medical and educational philanthropy. He also was a consultant and counselor at the Mission of Hope.

**'65 Ann Salter Spangler**, age 74, of Nashville, Tennessee, died October 24, 2017. A member of Chi Omega while attending Howard College, she was an educator in West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina. She enjoyed spending time with her family.

**'65 Robert "Bobby" Weaver**, age 78, of Talladega, Alabama, died September 19, 2017. A graduate of Cumberland School of Law, he was a lifelong member of the Talladega First Baptist Church and the McDonald's men's coffee group.

**'66 Robert L. Bertram**, age 76, of Jamestown, Kentucky, died August 7, 2017.

**'66 James "Jamie" Griffin**, age 87, of Birmingham, Alabama, died September 28, 2017. After serving in the Korean War, he graduated from Samford University. He was a member of Powderly Baptist Church.

**'66 Donald Gene Robison**, age 73, of Chapel Hill, Tennessee, died September 2, 2017. After graduating from Samford University where he sang in the BSU choir, he earned his Master of Divinity from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was an ordained minister, educator, coach and career counselor. He also worked at GM and Saturn.



**'66 James C. Wayne**, age 73, of Clemmons, North Carolina, died May 2, 2017. He received his Doctor of Ministry from Southern Baptist Theology Seminary, then served churches in Kentucky, Indiana, North Carolina, Georgia and Alabama. In addition to his pastorates, he served on several boards Alabama Baptist Executive Board, Georgia Baptist Executive Board and Truitt McConnell College. He had a passion for missions and worked four times in the Ukraine, Mexico, Nigeria and Costa Rica.

**'67 Carol Cooley Sheppard**, age 72, of Birmingham, Alabama, died September 9, 2017. She taught French in the Mountain Brook school system and at Highlands Day School. After her teaching career, she sold real estate at Altamont Properties and then worked for Parisian, Belk and Saks.

**'70 John C. Calhoun**, age 73, of Trussville, Alabama, died November 25, 2017. He was a graduate of Samford University and Cumberland School of Law. He served as an Alabama Circuit Judge in Jefferson County. He served in Vietnam and was a long-term member of Huffman United Methodist Church, supporting the community ministries.

**'70 Charles O. Hon III**, age 73, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, died September 28, 2017. A graduate of Cumberland School of Law, he was named by the Tennessee commissioner of insurance to serve on a Blue Ribbon Committee to rewrite the title insurance law for the state of Tennessee. His work with the American Land Title Association (ALTA) resulted being nominated to the board and later as an officer in line for the presidency. He was elected and served as president, only the second Tennessean to serve in that capacity and was the youngest ALTA president to date.

**'72 Hazel Musgrove Massey**, age 82, of Attalla, Alabama, died September 15, 2017. Before retirement, she worked at Cooper Green and other pharmacies, including her own in Gadsden. She was an avid horse lover and gardener. She loved reading and (most importantly) her children.

**'73 James L. "Jamie" Odom Jr.**, age 66, of Gulf Breeze, Florida, died August 19, 2017. He owned and operated his business, JO Services, after many years working for the city of Gulf Breeze.

**'74 Teresa Carol Johnson Bell**, age 65, of Birmingham, Alabama, died October 29, 2017. At Samford University, she was a member of Alpha Delta Pi and a cheerleader. For many years, she attended Church of the Highlands.

**'74 Jane Binzel Smith**, age 65, of Cookeville, Tennessee, died August 21, 2017. She was a real estate broker and also supported many churches and ministries.

**'76 Elden Quentin "Ken" Faust Jr.**, age 85, of Birmingham, Alabama, died August 24, 2017. Ken graduated from West Point in 1953, and graduated with an M.B.A. from Samford University.

**'78 David Timothy Johnson**, age 61, of Neptune Beach, Florida, died October 1, 2017. Shortly after receiving a pharmacy degree from Samford University, he moved to Jacksonville, Florida, to begin his calling as a pharmacist. Employers in the greater Jacksonville area included St. Vincent's Medical Center, Baptist Medical Center, The Mayo Clinic and his most recent work-family, Smart Pharmacy.

**'80 Jimmy Max Youngblood**, age 82, from Birmingham, Alabama, died August 26, 2017. He attended New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as pastor of churches in Alabama for over 50 years and was owner of Master's Shoppe Christian Bookstore in Bessemer, Alabama.

**'82 Marla Rae Cleghorn Wilson**, age 70, of Birmingham, Alabama, died October 13, 2017. She earned a Master of Music Education from Samford University. She was a retired educator and choral teacher for Jefferson county schools and served in various choral director capacities at Kimberly Church of God, McDuffie Street (Anderson, South Carolina), Pinson United Methodist and Metropolitan Church. She also worked in administrative assistant roles for multiple levels of both church and university organizations.

**'85 Cherie Ellison Chaney**, age 65, of Birmingham, Alabama, died July 31, 2017. She served as an RN in the U.S. Air Force and at Brookwood Hospital. She also was a nanny and an animal lover.

**'85 Mark C. Dabold**, age 61, of Orlando, Florida, died August 15, 2017. He was a graduate of Cumberland School of Law.

**'87 Edward Singleton Ervin IV**, age 63, of Sumter, South Carolina, died Tuesday, November 7, 2017. He was a graduate of Wilson Hall School, the University of South Carolina, Samford University and received a Juris Doctor from Cumberland University. He retired from the Ervin Law Firm.

**'92 Jane Russell Cain**, age 63, of Harpersville, Alabama, died August 16, 2017. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Harpersville where she played the piano and organ for many years.

**'92 Timothy Mark Chambers**, age 48, of Suffolk, Virginia, died on November 1, 2017. He was a former minister of music in area churches and was an award winning composer, conductor and performer.

**'95 Stacey Allison Creekmore Paulsen**, age 47, of Lexington, Kentucky, died October 8, 2017. She was a member of Centenary United Methodist Church and a graduate of Samford University, where she received a pharmacy degree.

**'03 Scott T. Foster**, age 41, of Science Hill, Kentucky, died November 12, 2017. A graduate of Cumberland School of Law, he had his own practice. He was a member of Beacon Hill Baptist Church and was an avid hunter with a love for family, flying, resorting cars and travel.

**'08 Dr. James Frederic Ervin**, age 56, of Powder Springs, Georgia, died August 14, 2017. He was an accomplished and well respected longtime educator in multiple local counties and as an adjunct professor for West Georgia College and Kennesaw State University. He was an active and passionate member of Zion Baptist Church. He served his community and passion by mentoring youth in athletics around Cobb County.

## OTHER SAMFORD FAMILY

**Maj. Robert Eugene Gray**, age 78, of Birmingham, Alabama, died August 21, 2017. He attended Howard College and graduated from Troy State University. After an air force career, he was the head of the JROTC at Homewood High School.

**Robert Gaudin Greene**, age 92, of Rockville, Maryland, died September 27, 2016. Attending Howard College, he enlisted in the navy in World War II and retired from the army in 1980. He attended Gaithersburg Community Bible Study and enjoyed traveling and being with his family.

**Francis "Ben" Jackson**, age 93, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, died September 13, 2017. He served in the U.S. Navy as a navigator aboard the USS Solace, a hospital ship stationed in the South Pacific during World War II. He witnessed the raising of the American flag on Mount Suribachi, Japan, at the Battle of Iwo Jima. An academic at heart, Ben attended many universities in his youth, including Princeton University, University of South Carolina, Samford University and his alma mater, Auburn University.

**Darryl Eugene Marsh**, age 49, of Wilmington, North Carolina, died August 17, 2017. He attended Samford University where he studied engineering and played college level football as a defensive tackle. He worked for a few years in a steel plant in Birmingham before becoming an entrepreneur with his own contracting business, Marsh Painting.

**Rex E. Moore**, age 81, of Columbia, South Carolina, died September 14, 2017. He attended classes at Howard College and was a faithful servant of Christ at North Highlands Baptist Church in Hueytown, Alabama, where he served as deacon, Bible study teacher, and surrendered his life to God's call into the ministry.

**Margaret O'Neil Vance Naugle**, age 70, of West Point, Mississippi, died Oct. 22, 2017. She was a graduate of West Point High School, Mississippi State College for Women, Mississippi State

University and Cumberland School of Law. She was previously employed with Mississippi University for Women, Mississippi State University and with the Environmental Training Corporation in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Virginia Priola Otto**, age 98, of Birmingham, Alabama, died October 22, 2017. She graduated from Ursuline Academy in Springfield, Illinois, and later attended Howard College. She retired from Lloyd Noland after many years of service. She was a member of St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church.

**Sara Thrower Eddings**, age 88, of Hoover, Alabama, died November 4, 2017. She was a longtime member of Shades Crest Baptist Church, where at one time, she served on the finance committee and as a deacon. She was retired from Samford University where she was the personnel director for many years.

**Barbara Cade Hunt**, age 83, of Birmingham, Alabama, died November 5, 2017. She graduated with honors from Huntingdon College with majors in French and speech. During her senior year at Huntingdon, she served as senior class president

and was elected May queen. She furthered her education at the University of Alabama as a scholarship student of rhetoric and public address. Professionally, she taught at Samford University, Southeastern Bible College and Birmingham Southern College. She concluded her career as a private communication consultant for various companies and individuals.

**Dr. Dorothea Augusta Bueno Klip**, age 95, of The Hague, Netherlands, and Birmingham, Alabama, died September 6, 2017. She was recruited by Drs. Tinsley Harrison and Joseph Volker to accept a position in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at UAB. She was integral in developing the computer center. She also did research, published in her field and was invited as a speaker to national and international scientific conferences until she retired from UAB in 1989 as professor emeritus.

**Barbara Buchanan Lewis**, age 79, of Louisville, Kentucky, died November 7, 2017. Prior to embarking on a career in legal education, she worked as an attorney for the U.S. Corps of

Engineers, as a probation officer for the Jefferson County Juvenile Court and as a teacher in Honduras and Guatemala. Her true passion was the law and education and following her graduation from William and Mary, she taught at Cumberland School of Law and the University of Oklahoma College of Law, where she also served as chair of the faculty senate and as interim dean.

**Brenda Culp Maryanow** died July 31, 2017. She graduated from Banks High School in 1963 and attended Samford University. She was a longtime member of Birmingham Duplicate Bridge Club where she made many long lasting friendships.

**Kerry “Mike” McClure**, age 65, from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, died August 9, 2017. From 1986–96, he helped his father, Bill McClure, coach cross country and track and field at Samford University. He was a member of Goodwood Blvd. Church of Christ.

**Floyd Dewitt McCoy Jr.**, age 93, of Greenville, South Carolina, died August 28, 2017. He served as the band director for Howard College, Louisiana College and Hannibal LaGrange University.

## TRIBUTES

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## Football Goes 8-4; Hodges, Gooden Players of Year

**Samford's football team** won eight games this fall and went to the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) playoffs a second straight year for the first time since 1992. The Bulldogs finished 8-4 overall and placed second in Southern Conference play with a 6-2 mark.

Head Coach Chris Hatcher said 2017 was an exciting year despite Samford's 28-17 loss to Kennesaw State in the playoffs. Making the playoffs "is exciting for this particular team and for our program in general," said Hatcher. "This is only the fifth time we've made the playoffs in Samford football history, and we've made it in back-to-back years."

Samford also made the FCS playoffs in 2016, 2013, 1992 and 1991. The Bulldogs' last previous eight-win season was 2013, when they went 8-5.

Samford junior quarterback Devlin Hodges and junior defensive lineman Ahmad Gooden were named the SoCon Offensive and Defensive Players of the Year respectively. Hodges passed for 3,983 yards and 31 touchdowns. Gooden made 101 total tackles, 15.5 tackles for loss and 11 quarterback hurries.

In addition to the Player of the Year awards, Samford had several players named to the All-SoCon teams by both the coaches and media.

On the coaches first team, Hodges and Gooden were joined by wide receiver Kelvin McKnight, linebacker Shaheed Salmon and defensive back Omari Williams. Offensive lineman Nick Nixon, wide receiver Chris Shelling, defensive back Darius Harvey and punter Austin Barnard were named to the coaches second team.

The media named Hodges, Gooden, McKnight, Salmon and Williams to its first team. The second team members from the media were Shelling, Barnard and Harvey as a return specialist.

Wide receiver Montrell Washington, offensive lineman Mike Williams, defensive back Koi Freeman and defensive lineman Brett Granger were named to the All-Freshman team by the coaches. ▀



Devlin Hodges



Ahmad Gooden

## Boesing Earns Volleyball Honors

**Samford's youthful volleyball team** put together an 8-8 Southern Conference record to earn the fifth seed in the 2017 conference tournament. Coach Keylor Chan's team went ahead early in its opening round match against fourth-seeded Wofford, but wound up dropping a hard-fought 3-2 decision at the Ramsey Center in Cullowhee, North Carolina. Sophomore outside hitter Kelsi Hobbs led Samford with 23 kills. The Bulldogs ended the season with a 13-18 overall record.

Samford's Krista Boesing, a junior outside hitter, was named to the All-SoCon

Second Team for 2017. Boesing finished the regular season ranked second in the SoCon in both kills (481) and kills per set (4.11). She added 20 kills in the conference tournament outing to finish with 501. She ranked No. 10 in the nation going into the tournament.

Earlier in the season, Boesing earned all-tournament honors in the 2017 Courtyard by Marriott Invitational hosted by Samford. She was also named to the All-Tournament Team of the 2017 Rambler Challenge hosted by Loyola-Chicago. ▀



Krista Boesing

## Soccer Wins Fourth Straight Regular Season Crown

**The Samford University women's soccer team** won the Southern Conference regular season championship for the fourth consecutive year in 2017, but lost a 2-1 decision to UNC Greensboro (UNCG) in the semifinal round of the conference tournament. Coach Todd Yelton's team finished 13-6-2 overall and 8-0-1 in regular season conference play.

The Nov. 3 loss to UNCG snapped a

14-match undefeated streak for Samford in 2017 and was the Bulldogs' first loss to a conference foe since Sept. 25, 2016, a string of 20 straight outings.

Samford's talent-laden senior class consisting of Abriella Argueta, Anna Maddox, Virginia McNeill, Kaitlyn Orman and Jermaine Seoposenwe closed out their illustrious Bulldog careers with a 56-23-5 overall record and a 31-4-1 mark in SoCon

play. The Bulldogs' senior class owns the highest winning percentage of any class in school history.

Seoposenwe was named SoCon Player of the Year for the second consecutive year and completed her Samford career with a school record 39 goals. Allie Lourie was named Defensive Player of the Year. ▀

## Women Second, Men Third in SoCon Cross Country

**The Samford women's cross country team** finished second and the men's team finished third in the Southern Conference 2017 Championships Oct. 28 in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Senior Karisa Nelson finished second in the women's 5K race, followed by senior Anna Long in fifth place and sophomore Mary Grace Strozier in 10th.

Senior Arsene Guillorel finished sixth in the men's 8K event, followed by junior Ben Bryant in 12th place and junior Owen Bailey in 16th.

Nelson finished second and Long sixth in the women's NCAA South Regional meet and Guillorel finished ninth in the men's South Regional. These performances enabled Samford to send three runners to

the NCAA Division I Cross Country Championships for the first time in history.

Nelson finished 56th and Long 89th in a field of more than 250 at the women's championship run. Guillorel was 79th among more than 250 in the men's championship. ▀





Samford's new mascot, Sam, enjoys a Homecoming moment.