


seasons

THE MAGAZINE OF SAMFORD UNIVERSITY *SUMMER 2015*



**Shaping
the Student
Experience**
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A Holistic Experience

Samford seeks to provide a holistic student experience that promotes lasting friendships and memorable out-of-classroom activities, says Renie Moss, Samford's assistant dean for campus life. Included are such programs as student government, intramurals, greek life, freshman forum, community service and campus entertainment.



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Creed Heads to Campbell

J. Bradley Creed, Samford's chief academic officer since 2002, becomes president of Campbell University in North Carolina July 1. He leaves an impressive list of academic program enhancements and transformational initiatives that unfolded during his tenure, citing Samford's teamwork as the reason.



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Former First Lady Laura Bush discussed her admiration for committed teachers. Football analyst Spencer Tillman talked about leadership. Historian George Marsden said Christians should be seen as "truly working for liberty and justice for all." These and other visitors shared insights with students during the spring.

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Cover: Samford student Sam Rogers scrapes old paint as part of a home refurbishing project for Samford Gives Back Day in April. See the story on Page 4.

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CELEBRATING CLASS REUNIONS—1965, 1990, 2005



From the President



Marcos Duarte with Andy Westmoreland after the Commencement Prayer Breakfast.

A Few Moments that Enshrine Hope

I can remember, years ago, when I thought I was a seasoned veteran of higher education, that I would occasionally begin a sentence with the words, “In my two decades of experience . . .” Years later, I found myself referencing three decades. Now, I’m approaching four. I probably know a lot less now than I thought I knew when I began this work all those years ago.

But one thing that I do know is that, regardless of the name of the college or university, without respect to the location, with no consequence of the year, there is a time, a few minutes, that enshrine for so many of us the hope of higher education. That time is the commencement ceremony.

For graduates and their family members, the peak of the experience is the calling of a name and the walk across the stage, symbolic of stepping from one era of life into another. For me, the memorable moment occurs each year as I stand at the front of the auditorium or arena, and I have the privilege of looking across the crowd as the graduates and faculty members parade into the room.

In the eyes of parents, I see the joy that comes from knowing that their sons and daughters have completed an arduous journey. The pain of sacrifice is on many of their faces, washed away in satisfaction and pride.

The students—soon to be graduates—march in with smiles as wide as their faces will allow, bending their necks to find family members and friends in the crowd, the happiness of the moment pushing anxiety aside. They know that they will never pass this way again—they feel it deeply—but they will wait to process those feelings until another time.

Finally, the members of the faculty, the guardians of learning, step forward, arrayed in the colors of their disciplines, decorous, reconciled to hear from the president the same bromides they have heard over the years. But their eyes betray their stoicism. They turn a respectful gaze toward their assembled students. They smile. A few of them wipe away tears from their eyes. Like parents, their work is done. In part, their future lies in the hands of those they have taught.

Do you understand why I love my work and why I love Samford University?

As always, please keep Samford in your prayers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Andrew Westmoreland".

Andrew Westmoreland
President

NSF Funds Samford Research Program at Oak Mountain for \$329,774

The National Science Foundation has renewed funding for a project proposed by Samford biological and environmental sciences professor Malia Fincher. Samford's Howard College of Arts and Sciences will receive approximately \$329,774 over the next three years for the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program.

The nine-week REU program, led by Fincher with coprincipal investigator Betsy Dobbins, unites students and faculty mentors from the fields of biology, chemistry, geography and pharmaceutical sciences to work collaboratively on projects in Alabama's Oak Mountain State Park. REU participants perform full-time research and participate in weekly workshops on professional skills, career opportunities and the graduate school application process.

Dobbins is Paul N. Propst Professor of Natural Sciences at Samford.

The REU program is open to U.S. citizens who are currently college sophomores or juniors. Participants are selected based on academic record, professional goals and potential for outstanding research. The program brings together outstanding undergraduate students who have limited opportunities to participate in research at their home institutions and students from under-represented minority groups for a summer of study at Samford and Oak Mountain State Park, with its unique Appalachian ridge and valley ecosystem.

Samford applied for this funding after completion of a successful REU program during 2012–14. That program enabled students from 21 colleges in 17 states to study at Samford and perform research at Oak Mountain for a summer. The experience provided “high-quality, intensive research opportunities that hopefully prepared these students to pursue higher study and careers in science,” said Fincher.

A total of 14 students from 12 colleges and universities began their summer of study and research in June. Other groups will be scheduled in 2016 and 2017. ▀



Student Paige Van De Vuurst photographs experiment by Eleonore Dupal during 2014 study.

SHAPING THE SAMFORD STUDENT EXPERIENCE

by William Nunnelley





Jane Marie Hutcheson, a 2013 Samford graduate, was heavily involved in campus as an undergraduate—serving in Student Government Association, the Student Recruitment Team, Step Sing and Samford Ambassadors.

After completing an internship at a community center in London during a semester abroad, she realized she wanted to pursue a career in education. She taught a prekindergarten class at a high-needs area school in Washington, D.C., last year. This fall, she's headed to graduate school at Columbia University's Teachers College in New York City.

"My experiences at Samford—from the on-campus activities, to studying abroad, to serving in the Birmingham community, all shaped who I am today," she said. She cited professors who taught her to examine, question and find solutions to problems.



"I'm thankful for the practical communication and administration skills I learned from serving on Student Recruitment Team and the SGA Executive Board." She chose to be on SGA "because I wanted to be involved in the process behind how things worked on campus."

Hutcheson said her love for Samford and how much it helped her to grow led her to join Samford Ambassadors and the Student Recruitment Team. "I wanted to tell others how Samford has positively influenced me and shaped me during my time there."

Hutcheson's involvement in out-of-classroom experiences reflects Samford's approach to providing a wide range of campus life opportunities, according to Renie Moss, Samford's assistant dean for campus life.

"Our vision is to provide a holistic experience that promotes lasting friendships and memorable campus experiences that are both fun and rewarding," she said.

Out-of-Classroom Experiences

Moss noted that a recent Gallup Poll identified six elements of an undergraduate experience that had a significant effect on postgraduate success. "All six are aspects authentically represented in the Samford student experience, and several bridge academic and out-of-classroom experiences," she said.



The element "most directly related to our mission is being engaged in extracurricular activities and groups." She noted that "all of our efforts are focused on [producing] a positive and valuable student experience."

That experience includes student government, intramurals, greek life, freshman forum, community engagement and service, and campus entertainment.

As Samford's campus life staff professionals seek to produce the holistic student experience described by Moss, several events and programs help to meet that goal:

Freshman Forum—The SGA first-year leadership experience guided by the Office of Student Leadership. Led by Laura Breedlove, it establishes a small, focused group to dialogue at the start of the Samford experience about life calling and leadership development.

Connections—A group of upper-class students who commit their first week to welcoming new students to campus. Paige Acker, coordinator of student activities and events, leads the program that matches first-year students and Connections leaders in small groups to learn about becoming active in the Samford student family.



Intramurals—More than 40 percent of students participate in some form of sport activity at Samford. It provides experience in building teamwork, develops healthy conflict resolution skills and teaches how to win (and lose) with grace.

Greek Leadership Summit—Executive officers from each of the 14 member organizations of the three greek governing councils—Panhellenic, Interfraternity and National Pan-Hellenic Councils—convene to discuss best practices and ways to build community through collaboration. Among undergraduates, 43 percent were involved in greek life during 2014–15.

Ted Alling, a 2000 graduate and highly successful Chattanooga, Tennessee,



businessman, believes his out-of-classroom experience was as valuable as his class time. Alling met his two best friends, Allan Davis and Barry Large, as pledge brothers at the Sigma Nu house. They became leaders of their fraternity. He also met his future wife, Kelly Schmidt, while the two of them were serving as resident assistants at the Sigma Nu and Chi Omega houses.

“We [Alling, Davis and Large] were very active as officers at Sigma Nu and cared deeply about our fraternity,” said Alling. “We have learned in the years since that running a fraternity is very similar to running a business. You have to recruit members, hold meetings, be responsible for others and have passion.”

After graduation, Alling and Large founded Access America Transport, a transportation and logistics company that worked with customers to move freight by truck and rail. Davis later joined the company.

“The leadership skills we learned at the Sigma Nu house are lessons we still teach every day,” said Alling.

Access America became one of the fastest growing companies in its field,



ranking as Forbes America’s #9 Most Promising Company in 2013. In 2014, the owners sold their company to a Chicago firm in a deal valued at hundreds of millions of dollars, according to the *Chattanooga Times/Free Press*.

Community Involvement

Community service is an area that draws heavy involvement from Samford students. Programs such as Freshman Forum help guide them to service opportunities in which they have interest.

David Osula, who graduated in May, found out about volunteering with Habitat for Humanity through Freshman Forum. That was three years ago. Since then, he has done his share of hammering, painting and drilling at Habitat for Humanity work sites in the Birmingham area. He has also recruited volunteers and served as manager on Samford Habitat for Humanity projects.



Hutcheson '13



Alling '00



Moss



Osula will head to medical school in the fall, but that won't change his commitment to Habitat for Humanity. As he puts it, "service has become a part of who I am."

"The primary value [of service activities] is being able to show the love of Christ," he said. "One of the best ways to display this love is by serving others and spending time in the community."

Osula was also heavily involved in other areas of campus life, including Omicron Delta Kappa and Howard Scholars—both service organizations—and greek life as a member of Pi Kappa Phi.

Community service has been part of the Samford ethos for decades, said Janna Pennington, director of student leadership and community engagement. "As a Christian institution, community engagement is very much a part of who we are," she said.

Samford students spent 583,198 hours

serving their community during 2013–14, according to a report compiled by Pennington and her office.

"Behind these numbers are hundreds of personal stories," noted Samford President Andrew Westmoreland. "Each illustrates Samford's enduring commitment to vital experiences in learning that go far beyond the classroom. Through serving and reflecting on the meaning and value of that experience, knowledge can become wisdom."

Service projects covered a broad spectrum, Pennington noted, including missions and ministry, sports, tutoring, legal pro bono work, homeless ministry, environmental clean-up, health clinics, art and music programs, and social justice initiatives with 80 local community partners and other service points around the world.

Typical of student involvement in community projects is the annual Samford

Gives Back day each spring. This year, almost 600 students spent a busy Saturday morning in April cleaning buildings, sorting clothes, laying straw, painting and performing a multitude of other chores at agencies and organizations in Birmingham. They tackled whatever was needed at 31 work sites.

"Volunteering with Samford Gives Back opens your eyes to what is going on in the community and allows you to develop a global perspective to better understand what is going on right around the corner," said Katie Nelson, a junior nursing student.

Margaret Mason, a sophomore English major, said Samford had given much to students and added, "we, in return, need to give back to the community . . . we need to give back to others." ▸



COMMENCEMENT 2015

'Great people plant shade trees they'll never sit under'

by William Nunnelley

Samford organist James Dorroh sounded the opening chords and mace bearers led their academic processions front and center as the university celebrated commencement six times the weekend of May 14–16.

Almost 1,000 seniors received degrees during Wright Center programs that opened to the majestic strains of Edward Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1 in D Major." The weekend marked the close of Samford's 173rd academic session.

Speakers touched on a variety of themes ranging from health care to the definition of a Cumberland lawyer, the influence of Christian educators, the making of family films and the planting of trees.

Brad Creed, Samford provost and executive vice president speaking at the Howard College of Arts and Sciences commencement, took his theme from President Andrew Westmoreland's quote, "We sit in the shade of trees we did not plant." Creed said, "We are all beneficiaries of the contributions, generosity and support of someone besides us." If grateful people sit under trees they did not plant, he said, "great people plant shade trees that they'll never sit under." He told the seniors, "It's time to do something productive that will bless others, even if you don't get credit for it or reap the benefits."

Creed will leave Samford to become president of Campbell University in North Carolina July 1.

Lucinda Maine, executive vice president and chief executive officer of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, told

McWhorter School of Pharmacy graduates that the rapidly changing health-care landscape means pharmacists today will have even more of an impact on patient care in the future. She told them to be "smart and bold and passionate and entrepreneurial" in their careers.

Nena Sanders, Samford College of Health Sciences vice provost, said health sciences graduates are uniquely prepared to combine their faith, skills and knowledge to positively impact the lives of individuals and communities. She told the graduates they would "find an amazing number of opportunities that allow you to follow your passion for caring and service."

Micheal Flaherty, president of Walden Media, commended seniors in the School of the Arts and Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education in their choices of a career. "You've chosen a career that will have more impact than any other," he said. Flaherty's company is known for the development of family films (such as *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *Charlotte's Web*) and literature.

William Stevens, retired chief executive officer of Motion Industries and chair of the Samford board of trustees, told Brock School of Business graduates that attending Samford had blessed him. "Samford was a key part of my preparation for life, not only with my degree, but the exposure to Christian educators and supporters." The graduates would do well, he said, to follow the words of Samford's motto, "For God, for learning, forever."

Woodrow Hartzog, associate professor of law at Samford's Cumberland School of

Law, told the law seniors that Cumberland lawyers are relentless, they know life outside the field of law, they take themselves "just seriously enough," they are loyal and they are in the people business. These traits "make us who we are," said Hartzog, also a Cumberland School of Law graduate. "I hope you can see them in yourself as well," he told the graduates.

Travis Coleman, senior minister at First Baptist Church of Prattville and president of the Alabama Baptist Convention, spoke to Beeson Divinity School graduates May 6. "Set an example in your public life," he urged them. "Be a pattern for your congregation."

Also as part of commencement weekend, Samford seniors, faculty and administrators gathered May 15 for a prayer breakfast that focused on faith, scholarship and friendship. President Westmoreland told the seniors, "Don't think for one minute that this is the end of anything. It is the beginning of everything. We want you to do well." He urged them to continue their association "with each other and with this place." ▀

Charles Kennedy, organist at Cathedral Church of the Advent, played for the Cumberland School of Law commencement.

Jack Brymer, Sean Flynt, Philip Poole, Katie Stripling and Mary Wimberley contributed to this story. For complete commencement coverage, go to samford.edu/news.



Ward, Cason, McPheeters Win Top Awards

Seniors Audrey Michelle Ward, Rachel Katharine Cason and Kendall Brooke McPheeters received Samford University's top senior awards during graduation exercises May 16.

Ward received the President's Cup—the valedictorian award—for having the highest grade point average across all university schools. She received the trophy from Samford President Andrew Westmoreland during the graduation ceremony for Samford's Howard College of Arts and Sciences. She is an English major from Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Cason received the Velma Wright Irons Award—the salutatorian award—for having the second highest academic average across all university schools. She received a silver

tray from President Westmoreland at the graduation ceremony for Samford's Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education and School of the Arts. She is an education major from Opelika, Alabama.

McPheeters received the John C. Pittman Spirit award as the graduating senior who has exhibited exceptional Christian character, commitment to academics and community spirit. A biology major from Owens Cross Roads, Alabama, she received her award at the Howard College of Arts and Sciences ceremony.

The Pittman award was established in 2004 to honor the longtime Birmingham insurance executive's 50th anniversary as a member of the Samford board of trustees. The 1944 Samford graduate, who served 62 years as a trustee, died in April at age 92.

His son, David Pittman, daughter, Carol Mitchell, and nephew, W. Randall Pittman, Samford vice president for advancement, presented this year's award to McPheeters. ▀



Ward



Cason



McPheeters



Quinn



Smolin

Quinn, Smolin Win Prestigious Fulbright, Lilly Fellows Awards

Two members of the Samford Class of 2015 will pursue graduate study with prestigious awards from the Fulbright and Lilly Fellows programs.

Adam Quinn, an English major and University Fellows honor student, will work toward a master's degree in Anglo-Irish literature and drama at University College Dublin in Ireland with the help of an Academic Fulbright Award. The Fulbright is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government. It is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the U.S. and other countries.

Nathan Smolin, a classics major and University Fellows honor student, will pursue a Ph.D. in classics at the University of North Carolina in the Lilly Graduate

Fellows Program. The program supports three years of graduate education for exceptionally well-qualified young graduates of Lilly Networks Schools to become teacher-scholars at church-related colleges and universities in the U.S. He will focus on the intersection between early Christian and Roman ideas of religion, philosophy and culture.

Quinn and Smolin graduated from Samford in May.

The Fulbright Award is Quinn's second. In 2012, he was one of six U.S. students chosen to participate in the Fulbright Commission Summer Institute at Queen's

University in Belfast, Ireland. Quinn said he first developed an interest in Irish literature during his earlier Fulbright experience.

Smolin is the second Samford graduate to be chosen for the Lilly Fellows program. Current music faculty member Joel Scott Davis was part of an earlier Lilly Fellows cohort. ▶

Faculty Members Head to Retirement

by William Nunnelley



Goldstein



Angel



Hunsinger

Taking the Open Door Jackie Goldstein

“Never in my wildest dreams, as a young woman from Dowagiac, Michigan, could I have imagined that I would spend 24 years of my life as a college professor,” said Jackie Goldstein.

She retires this summer after teaching psychology at Samford since 1991. Among the highlights, she said, was “the sheer joy of spending my days in an academic environment.”

It was a career she got into “almost by accident.”

Goldstein began college as a piano major at Western Michigan University in the 1960s. But family finances grew tight

after two years, and she dropped out. She worked as a claims adjuster for an insurance company, then as a flight attendant for Delta Air Lines before moving south to her husband’s hometown of Birmingham in 1966.

In 1976, with children 8 and 4 years old, Goldstein began taking classes at Samford. She took them one at a time so she could be at home when the children were there.

“My neighbor was Samford English professor Polly Powell,” said Goldstein. “She encouraged me.”

Goldstein earned her bachelor’s degree in English literature in 1982 and began graduate work at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, completing a Ph.D. in behavioral neuroscience (“the brain”) in

1991.

In addition to teaching a variety of psychology courses over the years, Goldstein rendered great service to the department, said chair Stephen Chew. She accompanied the first Samford undergraduate to present research at a national conference, and established Samford’s mentoring program for new faculty, its chapters of Active Minds and Psi Chi, and the department’s study abroad course in London.

She said she would miss colleagues and students in retirement, but looks forward to reading, writing, traveling, volunteer work and more time with four grandsons.

“I have always loved good-quality fiction,” said Goldstein. She has a stack of signed first editions from The Alabama Booksmith awaiting her. “One of them, *All*

the Light We Cannot See, won this year's Pulitzer Prize for fiction. That will be my first read."

Once, when a friend was praising her accomplishments, Goldstein noted that she "always just got in the back door." Her friend said, "Back door, side door—what's the difference? You saw an open door and you walked through it."

Sometimes, when she leaves her office in the evening and looks across the quad, she finds herself thinking about that conversation and Samford. "I feel so fortunate to have noticed those doors."

Hitting the Road James Angel

Kinesiology professor Jim Angel plans to learn more about Alabama and the nurturing of flowers and vegetables as he heads into retirement. His wife, Linda, recently purchased a book entitled *100 Alabama Road Trips* to help put the plan in motion. "I also enjoy working in my yard and will try to develop more of a green thumb," he said. The Angels also will start a new ministry in their church that focuses on regularly providing meals to members who are ill, recovering from illness "or just in need." Further down the road, he is looking forward to attending the 50th anniversary reunion of his class at the U.S. Naval Academy in October 2016.

Over the past 36 years, Angel has seen a shift to a more science-based approach to learning in his field. "When I arrived at Samford in 1984, we had 25 students in our department—physical education and church recreation," he said. "To increase our numbers, [we] decided a growing job and professional school market was in athletic training, and the preparation of students for medical, dental and physical therapy schools." The department added courses to provide students with training in exercise science and nutrition. Over the years, the department has grown to about 270 students. "There is a strong emphasis on faculty and student research," he said.

Angel said highlights of his career were

trips to Cuba with colleague Pat Terry and eight students to teach a course in Concepts of Fitness, and to China twice with Charles, Chuck and Elizabeth Sands to work on a research project at Yanbian University. "The things I've enjoyed the most are being able to work with quality, dedicated Christian faculty, and being able to openly share my faith in Jesus Christ with my students and to pray in my classes."

The professor said he was fortunate to teach his two daughters, Holly Angel Dymond '92 and Heather Angel Gassner '96, and two sons-in-law, Lee Dymond '92 and Scott Gassner '01. Last fall, he taught his oldest granddaughter, sophomore Allie Gassner. His wife was also a student of his at Liberty University, where Angel taught before joining Samford. They had been married 15 years at the time.

In retirement, Angel will continue his strength training, fitness walking and swimming to rehab from recent surgery. He does not plan "to lie on the couch, eat donuts and watch reruns of *Magnum, P.I.*," he assured.

Enjoying Sunsets Ron Hunsinger

After finishing his Ph.D. in pharmacology/toxicology at the University of Mississippi in the early 1980s, Ron Hunsinger came to Birmingham to take a postdoctoral fellowship in clinical biochemistry at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. One day, as he traveled down Lakeshore Drive, a traffic light caught him. Waiting for it to change, he glanced up the hill and discovered one of the most beautiful campuses he had ever seen. "Wow! What is that?" he recalled thinking. It was Samford University, where not too long afterward, he would begin a 31-year tenure on the faculty.

Hunsinger retires this summer, and he's looking forward to the experience. But he'll take with him fond memories of working with colleagues and students as professor and chair of the department of biological and environmental sciences. "I have enjoyed the high caliber of my faculty colleagues in biology," he said. "And there has been the

greatest joy of working through the years with thousands of students who have gone on to become doctors, dentists, nurses, pharmacists and Ph.D. scientists."

He taught classes in medical physiology, gross anatomy, histology and basic pathology. His goal was "to challenge students to leave Samford prepared to be successful in their careers and make contributions to society."

Hunsinger counts as particular milestones the establishment of the Vulcan Materials Center for Environmental Stewardship and Education, and the Master of Science in Environmental Management program.

He and his wife, Lillian, reside in a mountainside home in Leeds, and he won't miss the 20-mile one-way trip to campus each day. Even so, he'll continue to spend some time at Samford doing research, "dabbling around in an isolated corner in the biology department," and enjoying some adjunct teaching. He's working on a *Textbook of Toxicology for Attorneys* and several research manuscripts.

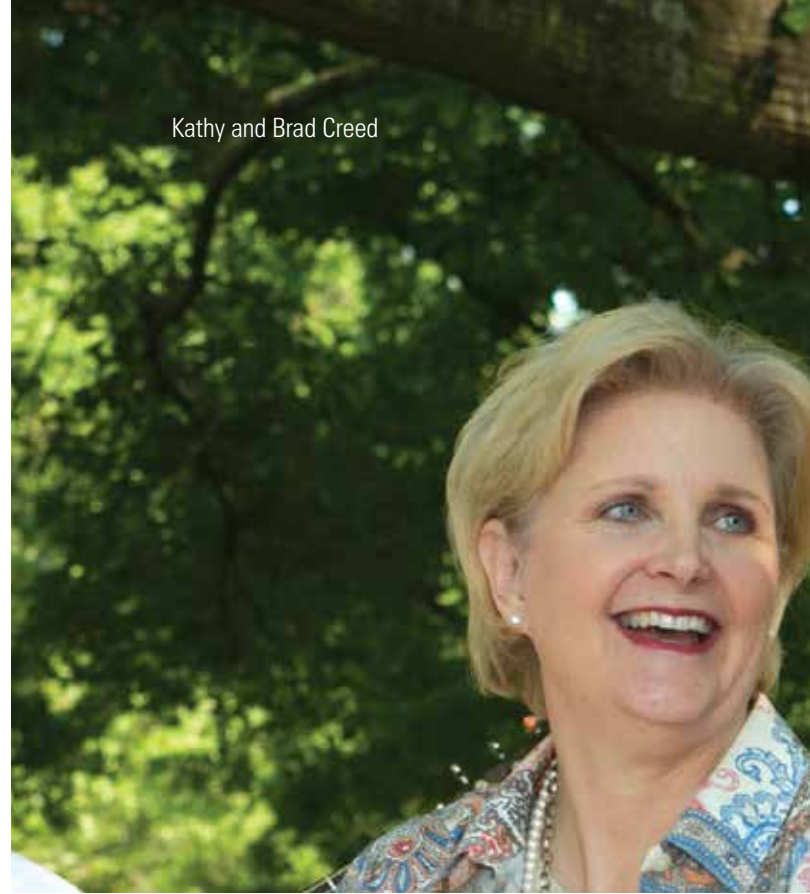
Lillian retired recently as director of curriculum and instruction for the Jefferson County Board of Education, so both will have additional time for "enjoying sunsets" and visiting with their daughter, Ivy, son-in-law, Richard—both Samford graduates—and grandsons Tripp, Jackson and Miles.

"I will devote time for my love of singing as a member of the Leeds Presbyterian Church choir and as director of the Leeds Community Chorus," said Hunsinger. He also plans to work on his golf game. And finally, he noted, "there are some beautiful lakes out our way that are calling my name to fish." ■

Four other Samford faculty members who were featured in the spring 2015 issue of Seasons are retiring this summer. They are Moya Nordlund of the School of the Arts, and Sharon Jackson, Dennis Price and John Venable of Brock School of Business. For more information on these retirees, go to samford.edu/news/seasons.

Creed Moves to Campbell as President

by Mary Wimberley



On July 1, Samford University Provost and Executive Vice President J. Bradley Creed will become president of Campbell University in Buies Creek, North Carolina. Samford's chief academic officer since 2002, Creed will be the fifth president in Campbell's 128-year history.

As his final spring semester at Samford wound down with the usual year-end programs and commencement events, Creed said he will miss the university's people more than anything.

"Samford is a great place because of its people. I have worked with bright, dedicated people who have given their best for this place," said Creed. "And I've worked with two great presidents, Thomas Corts and Andrew Westmoreland."

The Texas native leaves Samford with an impressive list of academic program enhancements and transformational initiatives that unfolded during his tenure, including the 2013 launch of the College of Health Sciences. Strategic enrollment efforts increased the size, retention and academic quality of the undergraduate student body, and Samford achieved the highest graduation rate of any college or university in Alabama. The average ACT score of incoming Samford students increased by a

full point.

Creed refuses to count the advances as personal achievements, but gives credit to the teamwork of Samford's outstanding teachers and others he helped lead in the process.

He counts his many faculty hires as his greatest achievement.

"The thing I am especially proud of is the faculty that we've hired here," said Creed, who considers faculty "the heart and soul of a university." He calculates that 65 to 70 percent of Samford's current teaching roster was hired under his watch.

"Hiring, retention, development and support of the faculty is the most important job that a provost can do," said Creed, underscoring the importance of providing funding, programs and resources that enable them to perform their best.

He personally interviewed almost all new hires, a process that increased dramatically with the creation of the College of Health Sciences and its need for dozens of fresh faculty faces.

The launch of several new programs and expansion of the existing health science platform that includes pharmacy and nursing, "is huge," said Creed, comparing its potential institutional impact to that of Samford's adding Cumberland School of

Law in the 1960s or the relocation of the campus from East Lake in the 1950s.

The initiative is very consistent with the service component of Samford's mission, he said.

"Health science is another avenue of being of service to people. Samford attracts students with high ideals and a real desire to serve. Our professional programs allow that kind of service."

His Samford legacy includes the University Fellows program, which was one of his early efforts to undergird the academic quality of undergraduate students. The initiative sprang from an academic quality enhancement plan that was part of a Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation process.

Surveys and listening groups sought input from faculty and administrators on how to improve the quality of learning.

"We felt that we needed something more for those students who were filled with intellectual curiosity and who wanted academic rigor. They needed an alternative path that spanned across the university and was not tied to any one academic area," said Creed.

The resulting University Fellows honors experience crosses disciplines and is open to students from all undergraduate majors.



Since its inception, the program has attracted a roster of stellar students—average ACT score 32—who have graduated to achieve success in elite graduate programs, international study and other pursuits.

Creed has taught in the program's four-semester Western Intellectual Tradition sequence and helped develop a course on the American Founding, an interdisciplinary Great Books course that concludes with a week in Washington, D.C.

At Campbell, Creed will lead an institution that enrolls some 6,000 students, including 4,000 undergraduate and graduate students on its main campus and another 2,000 at campuses in North Carolina's Research Triangle Park, area military bases and in nearby Raleigh, where its Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law is located. Academic offerings include a school of osteopathic medicine and other health degree programs. The former junior college with historic ties to North Carolina Baptists gained university status in 1979.

"It has been an opportunity school for many first-generation college students, and has created academic offerings that lead to employment and service," said Creed, who believes that because of the quality and commitment of the school's trustees, faculty and administration, the school is poised for

growth and accomplishments.

Creed says he hesitated at first about pursuing the Campbell post, but his interview visit quickly changed his mind.

"Campbell is a good opportunity. During the interview process, I felt a sense of calling, and I believe the search committee felt that about me. I hope to be a good leader of the people there," said Creed. He will succeed veteran Campbell administrator Jerry M. Wallace, who will step down after 12 years as president.

Creed knows that he and his wife, Kathy, will miss more about Samford than the people.

"We love the Birmingham area, and have learned to love Alabama and its natural beauty," said Creed, an avid marathon runner, outdoor activities enthusiast and NASCAR fan who attends races at Talladega Superspeedway each year.

The couple has welcomed Samford faculty and students into their home, and have hosted weekly student-led Bible study and discussion groups sponsored by Samford's Office of Spiritual Life. They have engaged in many ministries at Dawson Memorial Baptist Church.

Kathy served as president of the former Samford Faculty Women's Club and has been an active leader in Samford's Legacy

League. The couple established the Legacy League's Caitlin Creed Scholarship in memory of their eldest daughter, who died at age 19 in 2007. They are also the parents of Charles Vernon and Carrie Grace, who will be a freshman at Samford this fall.

Prior to Samford, Creed was professor of Christian history, associate dean and dean at Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary in Waco, Texas. He also served as a scholar-in-residence at the Baptist Joint Committee on Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C.

Before that, he was pastor, youth pastor and church planter in Texas and Louisiana. "That experience was invaluable," he said of the ministerial positions, which provided important lessons in administrative leadership.

His calling to ministry came during his junior year of college at Baylor University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in religion.

"I always knew that it would involve additional study and preparation," said Creed, who earned master of divinity and Ph.D. degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

"I've always felt a tie to both church and the academy, and I've served both." ▀

Michael Hardin Named New Samford Provost

by Philip Poole

J. Michael Hardin has been appointed as Samford University's new provost, effective July 1. The announcement was made May 1 by Samford President Andrew Westmoreland.

Hardin was dean of Culverhouse College of Commerce at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. He will replace J. Bradley Creed, Samford's provost since 2002. Creed will become president of Campbell University in North Carolina on July 1.

In addition to his administrative duties as chief academic officer, Hardin will be professor of quantitative analysis in Samford's Brock School of Business. At Alabama, he serves as Russell Professor of Business and a professor of statistics, and he also is an adjunct professor of biostatistics in the School of Public Health at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Hardin's appointment follows a national search that yielded more than 100 candidates. He was involved in several interviews with a 19-member, university-wide search committee and two days of on-campus visits with university leadership and representatives of various constituency groups.

"The Provost Search Committee is impressed with Dr. Hardin's wide range of intellectual interests, his academic credentials and his administrative experience," said search committee chair Dennis Sansom. Sansom is chair of Samford's philosophy department.

"His degrees in philosophy, mathematics and theology, coupled with his experience working in a school of public health and a school of business, have framed an understanding of the importance of a strong liberal arts foundation, and its role in shaping the academic and intellectual goals of the overall university. Furthermore, it is clear to us that Dr. Hardin is a longtime admirer of the academic purpose and Christian mission of Samford University. He believes—and we agree—that at this point

in his career and life, he can make significant contributions here. We are happy that Dr. Hardin has agreed to join us."

Hardin said, "I count myself extraordinarily fortunate to receive and accept the invitation to become Samford University provost, a position enabling me to integrate my faith with my lifelong dedication to learning. I am grateful to share Dr. Westmoreland's vision for Samford's future, and I look forward to working alongside this man of high character and intellect at such a key point in Samford's history. I am honored to be asked to carry on the great work of Dr. Brad Creed."

Hardin brings a diversity of experience to Samford, Westmoreland noted, in addition to his academic administrative experience. He often serves as a consultant to health-care organizations in data analysis, sampling and program integrity. He is a prolific writer and guest speaker in the areas of database design and decision support systems, and he is an ordained Baptist minister.

Hardin has been Culverhouse dean since 2011 and was an associate dean from 2007 to 2011. He oversees a college with a \$50 million annual budget, more than 8,000 undergraduate and graduate students, and a 135-member faculty. Earlier, he was a faculty member in several areas at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and was a visiting professor at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland.

He earned his doctorate in 1985 from the University of Alabama, where he also completed a master of arts degree in mathematics. Additionally, he has bachelor's degrees in mathematics and philosophy from the University of West Florida in Pensacola, a master's degree in research design and statistics from Florida State University, and a master of divinity degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.



Michael Hardin

"In accepting this assignment, Dr. Hardin brings to Samford a wealth of experience in higher education, an innate appreciation for our mission, genuine affection for the time-honored role of faculty, and an understanding that we are all here to shape and provide a superior education for our students," Westmoreland added. "I am eager to welcome Dr. Hardin to the campus. I also offer my thanks to Dr. Sansom and all who worked with him throughout this process."

Hardin announced his retirement from the University of Alabama system and the deanship at Culverhouse May 1.

"To assume this once-in-my-lifetime opportunity [at Samford], I will retire as dean of Culverhouse College of Commerce at the University of Alabama effective July 1," Hardin said. "My difficult decision to leave that beloved position is made a bit easier by my absolute confidence in Culverhouse's exceptional leadership team." ▀

Spring Semester Speaker Update

A former U.S. First Lady, a sports commentator, a political activist, theologians and an entrepreneur were just a few of the many special speakers on the Samford University campus during the spring semester. Here are excerpts from several presentations.

Laura Bush

Former First Lady Laura Bush told an appreciative Samford audience about life in the White House, current family initiatives and her admiration for those who commit their lives to education.

The former teacher and librarian spoke as part of the annual Tom and Marla Corts Distinguished Author Series presented by Samford's Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education. The teacher education program celebrates its 100th anniversary this year.

Bush said she appreciated Corts' belief "that every child everywhere should have access to basic education."

She told stories, both amusing and poignant, about her White House years, and life before and after the eight-year span, including the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001. She also updated the audience on current projects, including initiatives at the George W. Bush Presidential Center.

Bush told charming family anecdotes and shared that the elder Bush family members, George and Barbara, are doing well. "They are showing us how to age with grace," she said.

Several comments were especially popular with the Samford audience, including one noting that she was at "Sam not Stan," a popular campus phrase that differentiates it from a school with a similar name on the west coast.

Spencer Tillman

Former college and professional football star Spencer Tillman spoke as part of the new Samford Strong Leadership Series.

"My message is simply understand the principles that make for success," Tillman said. "And understand that you have a finite amount of time to execute those principles to get the desired outcomes you want."

Tillman said leadership is one of the most important attributes a person can have. He added that society today needs more leaders.

"Leadership is the attribute in greatest demand, yet shortest supply," he said. "That's the difficult truth. We need more leaders in this nation."

Tillman serves as lead analyst for *College Football Today* on CBS. He has served in that capacity since 1999.

Barbara Gottschalk

Changing centuries of political and cultural discord in the Middle East is not easy, but today's generation has an opportunity to help make a difference, according to Seeds of Peace cofounder Barbara Gottschalk. Gottschalk was the 2015 Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow and spoke in several classes and during a public lecture.

Explaining the purpose of Seeds of Peace, Gottschalk said, "When we invite young people from conflict areas of the world to our camps, they come with argument and full of reasons why the other side is wrong and their side is right. We invite them away from where they live so they can get a new perspective."

Gottschalk noted that "parents are brave" to let their children go to a camp, in another country, where they are "sleeping and interacting with people who are the 'enemy.'"

Gottschalk encouraged Samford students to be brave like the students who participate in Seeds of Peace camps. "Be empowered to make ideas on your own, to decide who you are and to take the message of peace in whatever you do. Don't be shy."

Elizabeth Hughes

Both the challenges and mistakes of being an entrepreneur in Africa were shared with students of Samford's Brock School of Business during an April presentation by Elizabeth Hughes, national award-winning cofounder and CEO of Akilah Institute in Rwanda.

Hughes moved to Rwanda a few days after graduating from Vanderbilt University in 2006. Two years later, she and her husband, Dave, whom she met in Rwanda, developed the idea for Akilah Institute after witnessing the lack of opportunities for young women in higher education, and the disconnect between the education system and employment needs of the private sector.

Hughes said she was deeply inspired by the resilience and reconciliation witnessed in Rwanda since the 1994 genocide, when more than one million people were killed in 100 days. "Today," she said, "Rwandans have a vision of a knowledge-based economy. This future could mean jobs, investment and poverty alleviation for subsistence farmers."

"All of us in social entrepreneurship need to hold ourselves true to the ethics of our endeavor," she said. "We must balance our faith with our enterprise and realize it is a lifetime commitment. How can I be open to God's love?"



Marsden



Bush

Hughes said the name Akilah was chosen because it means wisdom in Swahili.

“To our team, Akilah means confidence in oneself as a leader,” Hughes explained. “Wisdom is the ability to see opportunity, to have the entrepreneurial skills to create and innovate. Wisdom is the conviction to stand up for what is right and make a positive impact in one’s community. Wisdom is the knowledge that Rwanda has a very bright future.”

George Marsden

Christians should be “gracious reconcilers.” And, as “principled pluralists,” they should recognize that Christians constitute one minority among others in society, historian and author George Marsden said at Samford as this year’s Andrew Gerow Hodges Lecturer in Ethics and Leadership.

“Rather than simply looking to protect our own interests, we should be seen as those who, on the basis of our Christian commitments, are truly working for liberty and justice for all,” said Marsden, professor emeritus of history at the University of Notre Dame.

Marsden said that while the United States has a strong tradition of freedom of religion and religious tolerance, it does not have a clear tradition of promoting religious pluralism as a principle.

“When Protestantism fades as the dominant religion, as it has in most of the country, we are left with no strong tradition of protecting religious minorities. That’s the problem,” he said.

His solution is based on a set of ideals known as “principled pluralism,” drawn from 19th-century Dutch theologian and educator Abraham Kuyper, a Protestant opponent of both state religion and secular liberalism.

“We conservative Christians should be speaking graciously as reconcilers, as one minority voice among many. Our goal should be the equitable treatment of as many legitimate subgroups in society as possible,” said Marsden.

The case for a more inclusive pluralism as a matter of principle is a matter of justice, he said. “Religious communities should not be discriminated against just because of the peculiarity of their religious views.” And, he said, because such principles are consistent with the Constitutional heritage of religious liberty.

While religion is a major source of conflict, in the past and today, the best way to defuse conflict is to be as open and tolerant of difference as possible. That openness is a first step toward encouraging dialogue and fostering understanding, he said.

Peter Harrison

The Center for Science and Religion welcomed historian Peter Harrison for a minister’s workshop and public lecture on “The Religious Origins of Science.” Harrison is an Australian Laureate Fellow and director of the Centre for the History of European Discourses at the University of Queensland.

“Although we often tend to think of science and religion as warring powers in the history of the West, that story is false,” Harrison said. “Religion turns out to be—if not completely sufficient for the appearance of science in the West—a crucially necessary ingredient for the appearance of science in the culture.”

The tie that bound science and religion was sometimes strained, of course. Harrison said that although Darwin’s theory of natural selection enjoyed support among many prominent Christians, some scientists seized on the work as a way to challenge the power of the church.

That “unintended consequence” of Darwin’s research continues to feed the popular perception that science and religion are incompatible, but a recent study by Rice University sociologist Elaine Howard Ecklund revealed that 70 percent of evangelical American Christians have no difficulty reconciling science and faith. At Samford, Harrison made clear that this isn’t a modern accommodation or a surrender to secularism. Instead, it seems to be an



echo of the unique religious culture that created, consolidated and sustained modern science in the West.

David Bebbington

Tiny starts can lead to big ventures in advancing the kingdom of God, preacher and theologian David W. Bebbington said at this year's William E. Conger, Jr., Lectures on Biblical Preaching.

Bebbington used the example of the tiny mustard seed as referenced in Luke 13:18–19 to illustrate how Jesus taught.

“The Bible gives us questions to consider, not just pat answers,” said Bebbington, adding that the kingdom of God is wherever God rules. “When Jesus Christ reigns in the heart, that is when the kingdom of God is realized. It is something we need to enter into ourselves.”

Jesus says the kingdom is like a tiny seed with potential, and under the rule of God, tiny things can have great potential, he said.

“Even a poor servant can plant a seed in someone’s mind that can result in a great idea or action,” said Bebbington, adding that a small gesture like a smile can have a great impact on someone’s day. “Christians should be sowing that type of seed constantly.”

Just as a seed must be planted with intention in order to grow strong, Christians need to be prepared to sacrifice and engage with the world if the kingdom is to grow. “We ought to be holy and be in the world, and be intentional about both,” he said.

The outcome is that a tiny mustard seed can produce a tree strong enough to support birds perched in its branches. Likewise, different peoples find shelter in the kingdom of God, which embraces all nations.

Caravana 43

The songbirds and cherry blossoms of Samford’s quad provided a strangely peaceful setting for a discussion of a human rights tragedy

as the families of disappeared students called for justice in their native Mexico.

In September 2014, 43 students from Mexico’s Raúl Isidro Burgos Rural Teachers’ College of Ayotzinapa vanished after being attacked by police and army units near the town of Iguala and delivered to a local crime cartel. Although only one of the “Ayotzinapa 43” has been identified among the remains in a mass grave, Mexico has officially closed the case.

Anayeli Guerrero de La Cruz, sister of student Jhosivani Guerrero de La Cruz, noted the absence of song in her home since the disappearance of her music-loving brother. The promise of her brother’s education became tragedy as he and other students tried to raise funds for their studies in the nearby town of Iguala last fall. She said the students had the bad luck to visit on a day when the mayor’s wife was hosting an event. Fearful of disruption, local authorities directed violence against the students before they reached the town. The subsequent arrests of Iguala authorities and discovery of a mass grave did little to quiet suspicions of an official cover-up.

“They thought that they could fool us,” Guerrero de La Cruz said of the Mexican government’s investigation. She also said that the Caravana 43 activists had been offered bribes to end their campaign. “It’s like we would be selling our own children,” she said of that idea.

Clemente Rodriguez-Moreno also alluded to offers of bribes but vowed that the Caravana 43 activists “will never be quiet” in their quest for answers and justice. Mostly, though, he spoke of his missing son. The father recalled the boots that still hang in a local dance hall, ready for the son’s return. He recalled the lost harvest of flowers the students had planned to sell, and a lost harvest of young people who sought to lead their country out of violent oppression. ▀

For complete coverage of these and other speakers, go to samford.edu/news.



Sports Marketing Students Pitch Fan Engagement Strategy to the NBA in New York City

by Kara Kennedy

The sports marketing program at Samford's Brock School of Business made a national impression on the world of sports as a team of seniors recently returned from New York City, where they pitched their strategic marketing plan aimed at increasing fan engagement within the millennial generation to Jason Kaufman, vice president, market research and analytics, for the National Basketball Association.

Led by seniors Will Cavanaugh, Brent Hansen, Matt Johnson, Damon Waller and Daniel White as part of the final capstone course in the program, the students worked during the spring semester to develop strategies to foster fan engagement from the millennial generation.

"From Nike to the National Football League to ESPN, every major sports brand is trying to figure out how to reach this technology-enriched generation: what motivates them, and what drives their attitudes and behaviors," said Darin White, sports marketing program coordinator.

Representing more than 75 million Americans, millennials are the most diverse generation in U.S. history, Cavanaugh explained. The millennial lifestyle is all about constant connection via social media, multitasking, accelerated communication and immediate gratification. "Millennials present marketers with highly unique challenges," he said.

"It was a pleasure meeting with the Brock School of Business students," said Kaufman. "I was very impressed with their professionalism, and the students' presentation was well thought out and offered unique insight on millennial fan engagement."

The team presented a dry run of the presentation to the Brock School of Business sports marketing advisory board a few days before leaving for New York. According to White, "This once-in-a-lifetime experience would not have been possible had it not been for the partnership we have with the executives who serve on the advisory board as well as the support of the Samford athletics department. The board opened the door for us at the NBA, helped prepare the students prior to our departure and funded the trip."

But the trip was not all business. "We celebrated the successful completion of the project by attending a New York FC soccer game at Yankee Stadium and a New York Islanders [hockey] game. We were also able to tour the Major League Baseball headquarters with a Samford alumnus [Giovanni Hernandez] who works there," said Johnson.

"Students all across Brock School of Business are fortunate to have the opportunity to hone their business skills in real-world settings. It is one of the great strengths of our school as it gives our students a huge competitive edge when they enter the marketplace," said faculty adviser White.

"Over the course of my time in the sports marketing program, I have had the opportunity to work with the SEC, NBA, World Soccer Shop, ESPN, MLS and others. These experiences have already opened doors for me in the sports industry that I would have never dreamed possible four years ago," said Daniel White.

"Our goal is to place 100% of our graduates in excellent jobs in the sports industry upon graduation, and we are very close to achieving that goal a month prior to graduation this year," said Darin White. ▀

Student Grace Mintz works with participants at the Young Authors Conference



ORLEAN BULLARD
BEESON
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Dean Jeanie Box, right, meets with Dean's Student Council members, from left, Aaron Conner, Nicole Smith, Brandi Travis, Tabitha Whiteacre and Daphne Carr, administrative assistant to the dean.

Since our founding in 1915, we have been preparing students for service. Our mission is to guide, develop and challenge students academically, professionally, personally and spiritually to prepare leaders who will positively influence and shape society. This is achieved through our dedicated faculty and staff, committed to service and student success.

In the following pages, you will read stories highlighting this service—service with others and for others—in the community and around the world by our employees, students and alumni.

While you peruse, you might think of Samford education graduates who have made a significant impact through their own acts of service. Please consider nominating them for our Learning for Life Award.

There is much to celebrate this centennial year, and we hope you will join us not only in celebration, but in service to others.

Sincerely,

Jeanie A. Box
Dean and Ralph W. Beeson Professor

Samford University Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education

— Centennial Celebration Dinner —

Scholarship Benefit | Learning for Life Award Recognition
Saturday, November 7 at 7 p.m. • The Club

Learning for Life Awards will be given to 100 outstanding school of education alumni or teacher certification recipients. Nominations may include graduates who pursued a number of career paths.
Please make nominations and dinner reservations at samford.edu/education.

Questions? Contact Kathy Acton at 205-726-4224 or kacton@samford.edu



Campbell Foundation Grant to Assist Samford Reading Program for At-Risk Students



A \$20,000 grant from the Charles Talbot Campbell Foundation will help fund a 2015 summer reading program at Samford University that will serve at-risk students in grades 5–7. The program, moving to its fourth year, is a collaborative partnership between Samford, the Jefferson County School District, and the Jefferson, Blount, St. Clair (JBS) Department of Mental Health.

The program has served more than 75 students from Jefferson County and Birmingham City School districts over the past three summers. Teachers nominate students for the program, which is called Pathway to Graduation. It is directed by Mandy Hilsmier, associate professor of education at Samford; Susan Wirt, special education director for Jefferson County Schools; and Becky Milstead, a licensed professional counselor with the JBS Department of Mental Health and a Samford graduate.

“Testing indicated that 72 percent of the students evidenced growth in sight-word reading during the summers of 2012 and

2013, and that 84 percent grew in reading fluency and comprehension,” said Dr. Hilsmier. “Anecdotal reports from parents and teachers indicated improved reading motivation and behavioral performance.”

The summer 2015 program will bring 40 at-risk students to campus for six weeks of age-appropriate reading instruction, said Hilsmier. Ten Samford undergraduate/graduate students will be hired to work in small groups of three or four students each to impact learning.

“Studies indicate that, as students move to the upper elementary and middle school grades, the distance between struggling readers and successful readers widens,” said Hilsmier. “Most experts agree that the last opportunity to impact struggling readers is at this point.” ▸

See page 27 for a complete list of recently received grants.

Samford Hosts School of Education Centennial Events

Highlighted by the visit of former First Lady Laura Bush for the Corts Author Series (see page 17), the school of education hosted several events in honor of its centennial year of 2015.

In November, more than 100 second-grade students from Trace Crossings Elementary School in Hoover, Alabama, visited Samford. As part of the celebration, retired education professor Frances Carter entertained the students with stories of the history of education in the United States.

In April, alumna Jennifer Carroll, 1978 graduate and founder of Elizabeth Project International, discussed her time at Samford and her missionary work of over 30 years in Africa. She encouraged the audience to join her in living life on the edge with purpose and satisfaction.

Also in April, Samford students gathered on campus for a birthday celebration in honor of the centennial year. More than 350 students enjoyed dessert and fellowship. The event revived a moonlight picnic first hosted by the school of education in 1915, the year the school was created.

Beeson Divinity School joined in the celebration by honoring Eloise P. Litz, Dr. Timothy George's junior high school music teacher. George, dean of Beeson Divinity School, and Dr. Jeanie Box, dean of the school of education, recognized Litz and declared April 28 as "Eloise P. Litz Day."

The education school's 100th anniversary celebration will continue this year with a centennial celebration dinner Nov. 7 benefiting scholarship funds and recognizing Learning for Life Award recipients. ▶



Ashley Lyon



Timothy George,
Eloise Litz,
Jeanie Box



Jennifer
Carroll



Celebrating
education school
milestone



Laura Bush speaks at Samford.



Career and Continuing Studies Serves Nontraditional Students



The Division of Career and Continuing Studies within Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education brings together a number of programs across the university to serve nontraditional students and lifelong learners. Whether you want to learn how to paint, complete your bachelor's degree or earn a certificate in a variety of subject matters, the Division of Career and Continuing Studies has something for everyone.

The Evening Studies program is specifically designed for working adults who want to earn a bachelor's degree at times convenient to their busy lifestyles. With engaging majors in organizational leadership, liberal studies, criminal justice, youth studies and a number of online courses, the dream of a Samford degree has never been closer.

Patrons will also find numerous opportunities, many of which are online, to complete professional continuing education requirements in law, nursing and pharmacy. In addition, the program offers a number of certificates for those looking for an edge in their career or desiring to learn a new skill. For instance, the Ministry Training Institute offers lifelong learners the opportunity to deepen their theological and biblical understanding with three certificate tracks. Also, the Academy of the Arts has numerous courses available for those who desire to enhance their artistic and musical talents.▶

For more information, please go to samford.edu or call 205-726-4054.



School of Education Receives Grants Offering New Opportunities

The school of education has received several grants providing new opportunities for education, growth and service to the community. Here is a brief overview of the exciting opportunities these grants provide.

Grant to Provide Training, Support in Teacher Education

A \$15,000 grant from the Alabama State Department of Education's Office of Teaching and Leading will help fund a pilot program providing education and support to Samford University faculty and students to prepare students for Education Teacher Performance Assessment (EdTPA) submission in 2018.

The funding will help Samford establish a program that will provide training for the upcoming EdTPA for teacher candidates. Betsy Rogers, department chair of curriculum and instruction at Samford, will oversee the program.

Samford Receives Grant to Prepare School Administrators

A \$1.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Turnaround School Leaders program will help fund implementation of a customized and innovative principal leadership development model that will address rural Alabama school districts' critical need for highly qualified school administrators.

The program is a collaborative effort between Samford University, Alabama State Department of Education, University of Alabama, Auburn University, CLAS and Edwards Educational Services. Samford's Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education will receive approximately \$150,000 over three years for supporting its portion of the shared project.

Grant to Support Summer Reading Initiative

A \$25,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education will help fund Gear Up, a summer reading initiative targeting students who need academic enrichment.

The grant is part of a larger \$19 million initiative awarded to Birmingham City Schools, UAB, Auburn and Stillman, which is designed to increase graduation rates, prepare students for college, and provide support and resources necessary for success.

Samford's portion of the program is directed by Tarsha Bluiett, associate professor of education, and Monique Witherspoon, assistant professor of education, and will include work with 20 seventh-grade students from Putnam Middle School of Birmingham.

Samford Partners with Alabama Board of Education to Enhance Middle Schools

The Middle Grades Leadership Academy (MGLA) was established through a partnership between Samford and the Alabama State Board of Education to collaboratively design professional development for middle grade leaders that will positively influence students' academic achievement.

Jeanie Box, dean, and Peggy Connell, assistant professor in the educational leadership department, lead the academy.

The MGLA draws from a national team of experts to equip educational leaders with the knowledge, skills and strategies to activate students' interest and desire to learn.

Grant Provides Educational Opportunity to School Administrators

A \$210,000 donation from the Anderson Family Foundation is helping fund the education of 10 Florence, Alabama, school system administrators in Samford's doctorate program in educational leadership.

Jane Cobia, director of the doctoral program, says this is a great opportunity for administrators who qualify for the program to further their education, and for the Florence school district, which will require participants to commit to an additional three years of service after program completion.

Grant to Provide Funding for Transformational Leadership Academy

The Transformational Leadership Academy is a partnership between Samford, School Superintendents Association of Alabama, the Schlechty Center and Education Solutions to collaboratively design professional development and support for Alabama superintendents. The Daniel Foundation, through School Superintendents of Alabama, provides support for the initiative.

"We are thrilled for the opportunity to encourage and assist superintendents as they meet their goals as transformational leaders in Alabama," said Jeanie Box.

According to Box, the academy will offer sessions to participating superintendents focusing on understanding and embracing transformational leadership. The program includes learning how to attract and recruit talent, building the capacity of leaders to transform schools, developing shared leadership and empowering teachers as leaders. ▮

Alumni Spotlight

Our programs prepare students for a variety of professions and passions. Here are a few examples of graduates using their knowledge and skills to serve others, here and abroad.



Lindy Williamson '14, human development family life education graduate, is executive director of Unless U, a Birmingham-based, nonprofit, adult day program serving adults with development disabilities and their families.

Williamson credits her professors at Samford for preparing her for this role as they required projects and assignments that enlightened and challenged her.

"The human development and family life education department provided opportunities to customize my educational experience and practical classroom application to prepare me for opening my own nonprofit organization," she said.

Students in the program are required to complete an internship component as part of the curriculum. Williamson explains her passion has always been to open an adult day program of this kind, and the internship experience helped prepare for her current role as founder and director of Unless U.

"Through the internship, I was fortunate to work with seasoned professionals who have many years of experience in working in nonprofit management, and particularly the special needs community."

Rachel Gregory '14, elementary education graduate, serves among the Malagasy people as a homeschool teacher for missionary children in Ft. Dauphin, Madagascar.

Gregory explains her Samford education has prepared her well for the challenges and joys she has experienced in the first year of teaching.

"One of the most valuable lessons that has proved to be the most applicable here in Madagascar is that of a 'teachable moment,'" she said.

"In other words, I've learned to teach moment by moment, usually following a lesson plan, but always open to unexpected lessons that life brings each day."

"Sometimes, I wonder if teachable moments are God's way of reminding us that all plans are sovereignly in his hands, and we are blessed as we walk beside him, and he teaches us," Gregory added.

Jimmy Shaw '14, doctoral graduate, is assistant superintendent of instruction for the Florence City School System. Prior to his current role, he served as classroom teacher, high school assistant principal, director of federal programs, and director of instruction and assessment.

Despite his 15 years of experience in various educational roles, Shaw says his time at Samford was one of the most pivotal experiences in his educational life.

"Samford provided me with a true paradigm shift in regard to education. This was truly big-vision, high-impact, life-changing instruction for me as an administrator," he said. "Samford taught me to dream big, but dream big with a very practical, real-world focus on students and student achievement."

Shaw says his professors provided thorough instruction, but also devoted time for personal development through in-depth discussion, real-world experience and applicable reading selections, most of which were not educational ones, but paradigm-shifting leadership books.

"Samford instilled in us that we can have high expectations and huge impact on students, teachers and the community," he said. "Samford was life changing for me as a leader, particularly as an educational leader." ▀

Help for an AGING Population

by Mary Wimberley



The world is aging, and along with a population that is living longer comes a greater need for nurses to provide care to geriatric patients. But there is a problem: Nurses don't always like caring for this fast-growing demographic.

“Nursing students as well as practicing nurses rank caring for older adults last when asked about their preference of patient populations,” says Rebecca J. Warr, a professor in Samford’s Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing. An older adult is defined as age 65-plus.

“Students often come into nursing interested in caring for babies in neonatal intensive care or doing pediatrics,” said Warr, adding that students often don’t consider that they will most likely care for older adults if they work on a medical or surgical floor, or in home health care.

Several years ago, Warr set about helping Samford nursing students better understand conditions such as hearing loss, glaucoma, cataracts, stroke and arthritis—all very common to geriatric patients. The outcome, she hoped, would be for students to examine their feelings about caring for a patient with disability, to develop empathy and use that knowledge in the clinical setting.

Using special kits that Warr purchased with a \$3,000 Faculty Development Grant, students were able to experience common sensory losses and challenges that geriatric patients often face on a daily basis.

In one exercise, sounds on a CD

simulated audio conversations as would be heard by someone with moderate to severe hearing impairment.

In another, students put on eye glasses that simulated yellowing vision, which plagues everyone as they age, and had to choose a certain color tablet from a multi-colored assortment of pills.

To simulate decreased sense of touch, students donned gloves before performing fine motor movements such as opening a medicine bottle, getting money from a purse or wallet, and threading a needle.

“Older adults lose the ability to move their hands as nimbly as they used to,” said Warr, explaining that the bulky rubberized gloves simulated decreased sensation and difficulty moving joints.

To further enhance the simulation experience, students wore the gloves AND the yellow vision glasses to open a prescription bottle and sort pills into white, yellow, blue, green and purple piles.

The vision-related exercises, such as the one depicting macular degeneration, particularly fascinated student Samantha Reedy.

“The glasses were very blurry, making it hard to read a morning newspaper or a book. Even though that may not seem like such a big obstacle, Mrs. Warr made us think about what if they could not see the directions on their medication bottles and how this would affect their overall health,” said Reedy, a senior from Hoover, Alabama. “Would they read the directions wrong? Or take more or less than prescribed to them?”

“This experience has helped give me a better view and understanding of the care that we as future nurses should and will provide to our older patients,” said Reedy, adding that it has helped her interact with older adults as a whole.

Reedy’s reaction is what Warr hoped for when she applied for the grant to procure the Secure Aging Sensitivity Training Simulation Kit.

In post-simulation assessments, Warr said, most students responded that the activities would change how they approach older adults. “Many commented that when they interact with older adults, they will understand why they are slower and allow them more time.”

The exercise is a regular component in a required Foundations of Nursing Practice course, which enrolls about 100 students each year, and in Warr’s elective Nursing Care of the Older Adult course. Warr believes it can be useful in other health-care disciplines such as pharmacy, exercise science, and nutrition and dietetics.

Warr’s passion for older adults began with family members who she saw as “Godly, caring, wise and always finding ways to invest in others.” Later, in nursing school, she heard an instructor advise students to treat older patients as they would want a grandparent treated.

“That really hit home with me,” said Warr. “We need nurses and other health-care providers who really get the importance of compassionate care for the older adult.”

5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT

LARRY KLOESS



How did your Samford degree/experience prepare you for your current work in the music industry?

My Samford experience taught me that if you really want anything in life, you have to work extremely hard to achieve it, and that relationships really, really matter. Samford is where I first encountered true community, and being around amazing people in the dorms, classrooms and across the Quad spurred me on to create places for community to exist through music. My degree in psychology taught me to ask difficult questions of myself and others, not to be afraid to take risks, and to pay close attention to the unique characteristics of individuals. My degree taught me how to better understand the complexities of people, which helps me in the music industry, which is largely built on relationships.

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

Without [psychology professor Stephen] Chew's influence on my life, my story would be dramatically different. I went into Samford as a biochemistry/pre-dentistry major. By the Lord's providence or sheer luck, I registered for an elective course—Psychology 101 with Dr. Chew. When I was really struggling academically and figuring out what direction to go in, I was reminded of how refreshing, yet challenging, Dr. Chew's teaching was and how he made the world of psychology come alive. I realized that a change in my major was needed. Without Dr. Chew's influence, I wouldn't be taking bold risks and chasing after dreams today.

What would you say is the key to success in today's world?

The key is defining what success actually looks like to you. If success looks like a newer car or a nicer house, or an extra zero or two in front of the decimal in our bank accounts, we've missed the point entirely. Cause A Scene has not been hugely successful from a financial standpoint, but I hope that it's had enormous success impacting the lives of others in a positive way and making the world just a bit better. To me, success is utilizing my God-given gifts and passions to improve the lives of others, and growing more into the likeness of Christ every day.

Do you have a favorite genre of music?

I tend to be fairly eclectic with my taste. The biggest appeal to me is the discovery process, so I'm constantly searching for something new while being inspired and informed by the classics. I've been really influenced by folk and Americana music, jazz, hip-hop, and electronic music and singer-songwriters who can thrive in a variety of genres.

Why is giving back to the community important to you?

For me, giving back to the community is practicing gratefulness every day. Giving back to the community, and more than that, creating opportunities for community to exist and thrive, are necessary for us to find out who we are and be refined by those around us. We are blessed in life most when we bless others and when we allow things to flow freely through our hands into the lives of others. ▀

Kloess' responses have been edited for length. The complete profile on Kloess and other featured faculty and alumni can be found at samford.edu/spotlight.

Degree/Year
B.A. in psychology, 2007

Hometown
Nashville, Tennessee

Current
Owner/Principal, Cause A Scene, a music booking and events agency

Bonus Fact
Larry was featured in the February 2015 issue of *Native Nashville* magazine.



JESSICA SKELLEY

Why do you teach?

I teach because I love to learn, to be challenged and to have a career where it's necessary for me to stay informed and up-to-date on drug therapies and practice guidelines. Also, I teach because some of the people who have had the greatest impact on me, personally and professionally, have been the teachers and professors that I had during the course of my education. There is nothing like seeing a student connect on a personal level with a profession or with a concept. The ability to be the person that helps make those connections possible is exceptionally rewarding.

What is one thing you want your students to know when they graduate from Samford?

There are so many areas of practice within pharmacy. We can practice in places like hospitals, community pharmacies, family medicine clinics or specialty clinics. It is important that students find an area that they are passionate and excited about, and that best utilizes their unique set of skills to help transform the lives of their patients.

Why is encouraging current pharmacy students so important to you?

I had some exceptional professors who taught me as a student and who showed me the importance of student mentorship. Because of the impact that they had on me and my development as a pharmacist, I know the opportunities that I have as a faculty member to be a role model and source of encouragement to our students. Students need positive role models that remind them of

the importance of what they are doing and why they fell in love with the practice of pharmacy in the first place.

Why are pharmacists so important in today's health-care environment?

We see patients more regularly than any other provider due to their monthly prescription refills. There is such a significant potential for pharmacists to have an impact on patient health in every setting.

We as pharmacists have a unique set of skills to assist in the management and supervision of complex drug therapies as part of a medical team, and that is an attribute being highly sought after in today's health-care environment that is so focused on patient-centered, quality-driven care.

What's one thing that most students do not know about you?

I was an abysmal student in general chemistry, to the point that I had to seek out another Samford student to tutor me in order to be successful in the course. It worked out in the end, though.

I passed the course and two years later married my tutor. Our first date actually resulted from a thank you dinner I was supposedly treating him to for helping me pass the course with a B, except I didn't realize it was a date until the end when he wouldn't let me pay for the meal. ▀

Dr. Skelley's responses have been edited for length. The complete profile on Dr. Skelley and other featured faculty and alumni can be found at samford.edu/spotlight.

Position

Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice

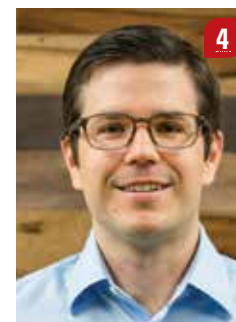
Teaching at Samford since

2011

Bonus Fact

Dr. Skelley and her husband, Jason, are both from Jacksonville, Florida, but did not meet until they were undergraduates at Samford.

CLASS NOTES



1950s

'53 **Hoyt G. Harwell** retired in 1993 after 42 years reporting, writing, editing and directing news coverage for The Associated Press, but continued to write and edit for many years for local and state publications. He currently writes on various topics of interest to his email list and readers of daily newspapers where his columns often appear. He notes that the work keeps his “fingers nimble” and his 84-year-old mind “in gear.” He and his wife, Elizabeth, live in Hoover, Alabama.

'56 **Walter G. Barnes** qualified for his 50th consecutive year as a member of the Million Dollar Round Table, a designation by the National Association for Insurance and Financial Advisors that puts him in the top 1 percent of advisers in the nation. The former Samford basketball player and coach whose 1960–61 team set an as-yet unmatched 23-1 record was a 2007 Samford Alumnus of the Year. He and his wife, Kay, live in Birmingham, where he is chief executive officer of Insurance and Investment Consultants Inc. **1**

1960s

'60 **John C. Bush** of Decatur, Alabama, wrote his first book of fiction, *Patriots and Rebels*, a historical novel of the Civil War. A retired Presbyterian minister, he is the author or editor of four nonfiction books in the field of religion. He and his wife, Sara, have two children, six grandchildren and one great grandchild.

'69 **Elaine Hobson Miller** of Ashville, Alabama, won two first place awards in the 2015 Alabama Media Professionals communications contest.

The freelance journalist won top honors in the personality profile and specialty articles-homes categories. She is the author of two books, *Myths, Mysteries & Legends of Alabama* and *Nat King Cole: Unforgettable Musician*. She blogs about life with horses, llamas and a goat and life in general at countrylife-elaine.blogspot.com.

1970s

'71 **Larry Stovall** received the Kentucky Pharmacists Association's 2015 Bowl of Hygeia award in recognition of an outstanding record of civic leadership in his community. He owns Stovall's Prescription Shop in Scottsville, Kentucky.

'74 **Steve Donaldson** was chosen by the Scholarship & Christianity in Oxford organization to participate in its “Bridging the Two Cultures of Science and the Humanities” project in Oxford, England, in the summers of 2015 and 2016. He will join 25 other participants from universities around the world for the month-long seminars that will include work on an original research project, lectures by eminent scholars in science and religion, and other scholarly activities. A mathematics and computer sciences professor at Samford, Donaldson is a cofounder and senior fellow of Samford's Center for Science and Religion.

'76 **Mitsy Collier Wilbourne** received a Ph.D. in early childhood education from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in December. A veteran of 31 years in the classroom, she teaches a child abuse and bullying curriculum in Cullman, Alabama, city and county schools. She has three grown daughters. **2**

'77 **Kenny Gannon** is the new director of Samford's Leslie Stephen Wright Fine Arts Center. Previously head of the theatre department at William Peace University in Raleigh, North Carolina, for 18 years, he spent 20 seasons performing in shows produced by the Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre in Mars Hill, North Carolina. He holds a Ph.D. in theatre from Louisiana State University.

1980s

'80 **Charles A. Grice, J.D.**, is public finance attorney with Bass, Berry & Sims PLC in Nashville, Tennessee.

'86 **Alan Register** is the new chief executive officer of BBVA Compass's five-county Birmingham market.

1990s

'92 **Jason Sasser** was named Sales-Truck Pre Startup Safety Review director for Thompson Power Systems. He and his wife, Leslie Henry Sasser '92, live in Hoover, Alabama, with their four children.

'92 **Jana Reeves Wiggins** and **Ben Wiggins** '93 live in Watkinsville, Georgia. He is principal of Oconee County High School and vice president of the Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals. Jana is director of marketing and communications for the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. They have two children, Blake, 22, and Leah Grace, 16.

'93 **John Carter** of Owenton, Kentucky, is enrolled in the Ph.D. program in theological ethics at Boston College, where he earned a master of theology degree in May. An ordained

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Baptist minister, he holds a juris doctor degree from Duke University and a master of divinity degree from Wake Forest University.

'93 **Charles D. "Chuck" Sands** is the new provost and vice president for academic affairs at California Baptist University in Riverside, California, where he has served as founding dean of the school's College of Allied Health and professor of public health since 2010. He previously served on the exercise science and sports medicine faculty at Samford. **3**

'94 **Laurie Rowe Brooks** was named 2014–15 Teacher of the Year at John A. Holmes High School in Edenton, North Carolina. The English teacher and department chair was cited for her leadership, mastery of the 1:1 learning initiative and integration of the iPad in the classroom. Her husband, **David Brooks '94**, is pastor of Edenton Baptist Church.

'94 **Craig A. Hyde** is creative director for Books-A-Million Inc. He is a longtime member of the board of directors of AIGA Birmingham. He and his wife, **Alisa Stokes Hyde '93**, live in Hoover, Alabama. She is publication designer for Briarwood Presbyterian Church. They have three daughters, Cassidy, Ali and Ella Jayne.

'96 **Carlton Golden** was named director of the Publix account for Snyders-Lance Inc. snack foods in the Jacksonville, Florida, area.

'97 **Jason Varnell** is a senior associate, advanced planning group, with New York Life Insurance Company. He lives in McKinney, Texas.

'98 **Thomas Hiley, J.D.**, is a partner in the Birmingham law firm of Spain & Gillon. He recently married Devina Bhasin.

'99 **Jeff Lipscomb** joined ADT security systems as a small-business sales representative for the Athens, Georgia, market.

'99 **Jennifer Phillips** wrote *Bringing Lucy Home: A Story of Hope, Heartache and Happiness*

(CrossBooks). The book recounts the journey she and her husband, **Brian Phillips '99**, made to adopt their daughter from China. They live with Lucy and their three other children, Joshua, Andrew and Sarah Kate, in Brisbane, Australia, where they serve with Campus Outreach.

2000s

'04 **Brent Duncan**, a family practice physician at Shawnee Christian Health Center in Louisville, Kentucky, was named to *Louisville Magazine's* list of 80 top doctors from a field of 2,300. He is the only physician at the center, which serves physical, mental, social and spiritual needs of patients with a variety of health issues.

'04 **Mike Giles** opened Dynamic Capabilities Group LLC, an e-commerce business based in Nashville, Tennessee. He is a former Samford Student Government Association president.

'04 **Seth Hammonds** is an architectural designer with Stantec design and consulting company's buildings group in Austin, Texas. He will help deliver K–12 and higher education projects throughout Texas and the Gulf region. He holds a master's degree in building construction from Auburn University and a master's in architecture from the University of Oregon. **4**

'04 **Kyle** and **Charley Turk Harold '06** live in Wilmore, Kentucky, where he is a mental health counselor for Bluegrass Comprehensive Services, and she is a construction and design consultant for Ball Homes. They have a daughter, Ellie Rose, born in February.

'04 **Matt O'Hern** is social media manager with Celebrity Branding Agency in Orlando, Florida.

'05 **Courtney Worley Carlisle** and **William "Nick" Carlisle '06 Pharm.D.**, live in Wetumpka, Alabama. She is a psychologist and program coordinator for the posttraumatic stress disorder clinical team with Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System in Montgomery, Alabama. He is emergency department pharmacist with Baptist Medical Center East in Montgomery.

They have a daughter, Poppy Athena, born in April.

'05 **Andrew Kuruk** earned a master's degree in occupational therapy from Tennessee State University in December 2014. He is an occupational therapist with Intelligent Therapy Staffing in Springfield, Tennessee.

'05 **Matthew McKinney** is special assistant, office of appointments, for Maryland Governor Larry Hogan. He lives in Annapolis, Maryland.

'06 **Katrina Moore** is communications coordinator for Edible Schoolyard NYC, a nonprofit that fosters sound nutritional practices and environmental stewardship. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.

'07 **Mallory Beaton Earley, J.D. '10**, is a risk resource adviser with ProAssurance in Birmingham.

'08 **Erin Basinger** received the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences 2015 Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching for Graduate Teaching Assistants at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where she is completing a doctoral degree in communication. She holds a master's degree in speech communication from the University of Georgia.

'08 **Matt Butler** is national account manager—construction at Comdata, a financial services company in Nashville, Tennessee.

'08 **Gavin Mayo** is senior recruiter for key hires with Nissan North America in Nashville, Tennessee.

'08 **Mallory Siler** is a digital campaign specialist with Cox Media Group in Houston, Texas.

'09 **Lauri Self** of Birmingham was chosen as a designer for the 2015 Alabama Symphony Orchestra's Decorators ShowHouse. Her space featured small storage solutions for the home office and was accented with landscape paintings

by local artists, including one by Samford art professor Richard Dendy.

2010s

'10 **Angela Fister, M.Acc.**, is team accountant, event productions, for talk show host and author Dave Ramsey.

'10 **Marianne Carlson** married Taylor Pearce in February. They live in Dallas, Texas. **5**

'10 **Meredith Shaw** married Julius Forssman in August. They live in Munich, Germany, where she works in youth ministry with the German Baptist Union in Bavaria and is editor of d365.org, a ministry of Passport Inc. She received a master of divinity degree from Emory University's Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, Georgia, and was ordained to the gospel ministry in 2014 by Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington, Kentucky. **6**

'11 **Chelsea Byrd** was chosen to attend the 2015 Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, New Jersey. The weeklong program on math and science will be held in July. She teaches fourth grade at T. R. Simmons Elementary School in Jasper, Alabama.

'11 **O. Z. Hall III, J.D.**, married Lydia Grace Davis in February. They live in Birmingham. **7**

'12 **Kaitlin DeFoor** is a content curator with

TechTown Foundation in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

'12 **Katelyn George** is a recruiting director with MassMutual Alabama. She lives in Homewood.

'12 **Elizabeth Gettys** is pursuing a master of marketing research degree at the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business in Athens, Georgia. She also has a graduate assistantship as a social media strategist in the university's college of education. She was most recently Samford's assistant director of alumni programs.

'12 **Megan Long Mitchell** is a program coordinator at a nonprofit organization serving the homeless population in Birmingham.

'12 **Ryan Shidler** and **Kelsey Bussell '14** married in November. He is a financial analyst at Regions Financial Corporation. She is an account executive at WIAT 42 in Birmingham.

'12 **Mark Zylstra** is a geographic field analyst with TomTom navigation and mapping company. He lives in Newport, New Hampshire.

'13 **George Allers** is a budget and forecasting analyst with EdR Collegiate Housing in the Memphis, Tennessee, area.

'13 **Lauren Bates** is a research analyst and portfolio manager/capital markets with Highland Associates in Birmingham.

'13 **Lauren Brown** and **Kristian Taylor** married in March. They live in Birmingham.

'13 **Austin Dages** and **Laura Beth Allen '14** married in Reid Chapel in March. They live in Birmingham.

'13 **Jay Gilmer** is a client representative with IBM in Birmingham.

'13 **Hilliary Hallman** is social media coordinator with Cayenne Creative advertising, design and strategic branding agency in Birmingham.

'14 **Sarah Norville Elmore** is a graphics communications specialist with Mercy Ministries in Nashville, Tennessee.

'14 **Phillip Ketcham** is a business analyst with AEGIS Foundry in Birmingham.

'14 **Danielle Lavett** is a programmer analyst with Regions Financial Corporation in Birmingham.

'14 **Josh Tolman** married **Sarah Jane Walker** in Reid Chapel in March. They live in Rome, Georgia. **8**

Graffiti Gang Celebrates 40th Reunion

At the time, little did the 19 Samford University students and one director of religious activities know or suspect that a Jan Term trip in 1975 would be so long lasting and effective. Even though they had prepared well, including a series of lectures on the biblical basis for missions by the late religion professor W. T. "Dub" Edwards, they continue to be inspired by what is happening.

The "Graffiti Gang," as the group became known, met on Samford's campus recently for a 40th reunion. On the 30th anniversary, the group met at the original site in New York.

"We were each humbled during our time in New York, and we continue to be humbled when we read about the growth of the Graffiti Ministries," said Paul Garrard of West Virginia, one of the original mission members who attended the recent reunion at Samford.

"The lives that have been and continue to be so positively impacted by Graffiti are clear evidence that God was with us then, and that he continues his presence now, not only in New York

where it all started, but in other cities as well," he said.

"Forty years ago, it was not even a church," Lynn Smith recalled. "It was a hellhole on the Lower East Side. We painted, cleaned, reworked it, built a puppet stage and prepared it for a weekday ministry."

What has happened at Graffiti as a result of that mission trip can only be described as miraculous. Now a church, Graffiti Church is led by Taylor Field, who has been pastor since 1986.

"How many ways can you say 'thank you?'" Field said of the students who came from Samford 40 years ago to begin the ministry. "See how God can use you in just 10 days to change a city."

Thirteen of the original group of students attended the 40th anniversary event. "The weekend was wonderful and incredibly meaningful," Smith said. **▶**

For a more detailed story about Graffiti Ministries and the 40th reunion, go to samford.edu/news.

Noland Gets \$50,000 Rotary Grant

by Jack Brymer



A social entrepreneurship major from Boiling Springs, South Carolina, Caroline Noland was in the inaugural class of University Fellows to graduate from Samford University in 2012.

Being a University Fellow, she related, meant an opportunity to grow, be challenged, to discuss and to listen in a small class setting. As a result, Noland has dedicated her life to international development and education for marginalized people.

Within weeks of graduation, she was off to Sindh, Pakistan, to serve as a development and monitoring officer, and to teach young girls for Primary Education Project, an international nongovernment agency. It was the first time she had worked specifically with girls' education and women's empowerment and education.

"I had no idea what an energizing opportunity it would become," she said. "I fully recognize that other areas of development are crucial and vital for holistic development in communities, but my time in Pakistan taught me that, for now, my role

is to pour out myself toward the goal of creative, effective education for women and girls."

Thanks to Rotary International, and the Birmingham Chapter in particular, Noland's passion for education will be advanced. She is to receive a Global Grant from Rotary that focuses on basic education and literacy. This will enable her to pursue a master in science in international development and humanitarian emergencies at the London School of Economics (LSE), beginning in September 2015. It is a 12-month program.

"I chose this largely based on my experience in Pakistan, recognizing not only the importance of education, but my ability to contribute toward that goal," she said. Her international sponsor will be the Birmingham Rotary Club, and her primary host in London will be the Leytonstone and

Woolford Rotary Club.

Gregory Jeane, former professor of geography at Samford and coordinator of the Rotary Distract 6860 Foundation (2010–14), noted that the scholarship exceeds \$50,000. The funds come from dividends of the Leslie S. Wright Endowed Scholarship Fund. Wright, who died in 1997, was a former president of Rotary International and Samford. According to Jeane, Noland is the first person to be selected as District 6860's endowed scholar from this fund.

"LSE will provide me the possibility to engage with both material and leaders who also seek, as do I, to formulate imaginative responses to perceived roadblocks for female education in developing countries," Noland said. ■

NEW ARRIVALS



'87 **Leonard Charles Tillman, J.D.**, and **Jennifer Ashley Tillman '97** of Homewood, a daughter, Sarah Ashley, born Oct. 8, 2014. **1**

'98 **Amy Coe Pattillo** and **Jim Pattillo, J.D. '02**, of Vestavia Hills, Alabama, a son, Andrew Forrest, born April 2, 2015. **2**

'03 **Nathan** and **Allison Reid Lumbatis '03, J.D. '06**, of Dothan, Alabama, a son, Daniel Reid, born Feb. 3, 2015. **3**

'03 **Jim** and **Cheryl Janes Patten** of Cooleemee, North Carolina, a son, Luke, born Sept. 29, 2014. **4**

'03 **Bill** and **Pam Yau Smith, M.S.E. '08**, of Homewood, a daughter, Amelia Pearl, born Jan. 9, 2015. **5**

'03 **Ashley Ray Spann** and **Matthew Spann '04** of Franklin, Tennessee, a son, Wheeler Drake, born Aug. 15, 2014. **6**

'04 **Kyle** and **Charley Turk Harold '06** of Wilmore, Kentucky, a daughter, Ellie Rose, born Feb. 12, 2015. **7**

'04 **John** and **Rebecca Lee Orton**, of Alpharetta, Georgia, a son, Ryan Lee, born Jan. 30, 2015. **8**

'05 **Bryan** and **Stephanie Hoover Boerjan** of Pensacola, Florida, a daughter, Leila Madeleine, born July 22, 2014. **9**

'05 **Courtney Worley Carlisle** and **William "Nick" Carlisle, Pharm.D. '06**, of Wetumpka, Alabama, a daughter, Poppy Athena, born April 7, 2015. **10**

'05 **Brent** and **Katie Horrell Jacobs '07** of Franklin, Tennessee, a daughter, Emmaline Kathleen, born Jan. 22, 2015. **11**

'06 **Blake** and **Devon Scroggins Davidson** of Birmingham, a son, William Brooks, born Jan. 16, 2015. **12**

'06 **Paul** and **Natalie Patterson Muchnick '07**, of Kennesaw, Georgia, triplets, Caleb Timothy, Hope Elizabeth, and William Shepherd, born Sept. 5, 2014. **13**

'07 **Bo** and **Sharon Young Abney** of Acworth, Georgia, a daughter, Madison Claire, born Feb. 17, 2015. **14**

'07 **Todd** and **Laura Houston Johnson** of Liberty Township, Ohio, a son, Jack Alan, born Oct. 22, 2014. **15**

'07 **Jason** and **Jessica Whalen Skelley Pharm.D. '10**, of Hoover, Alabama, a daughter, Ashlyn Grace, born Feb. 11, 2015. **16**



'07 **Daniel** and **Ali Whyte Temple '08** of Birmingham, a daughter, Julianna Kate, born Feb. 16, 2015. **17**

'07 Matt and **Aubrey Naish West** of Nashville, Tennessee, a son, Matthew Brooks, born April 7, 2015. **18**

'08 **Jonathan** and **Jane Deeter Loudermilk** of Braselton, Georgia, a daughter, Olivia Jewel, born June 21, 2014. **19**

'09 Alan and **Allison Stewart Cease** of Madison, Mississippi, a daughter, Caroline Catherine, born March 4, 2015. **20**

'09 Kevin and **Natalie Jayne Houston, J.D. '12**, of Birmingham, a daughter, Nora Jayne, born Oct. 1, 2014. **21**

'10 **Ben, Pharm.D.**, and **Emily Price Evans, Pharm.D.**, of Homewood, a son, Barrett Asher, born Dec. 14, 2014. **22**

'10 Jeff and **Aileen Parker Pierson** of Raleigh, North Carolina, a daughter, Charlotte Helen, born Feb. 27, 2105. **23**

'10 Adam and **Beth Redmill Richardson, Pharm.D.**, of Jasper, Alabama, a son, Reid Thomas, born May 11, 2015. **24**

'11 Kimberly and **Thad Lee Key** of Rock Spring, Georgia, a daughter, Elizabeth Leigh, born June 13, 2014. **25**

'12 **Steven** and **Sara Smith Lyles '13, M.Acc. '14**, of Franklin, Tennessee, a son, Micah Job, born Aug. 7, 2014. **26**

'13 Lucy and **Josh Sellers, M.B.A.**, of Hoover, Alabama, a son, James Hester, born Nov. 14, 2014. **27**

IN MEMORIAM

'40 Mary Ruth Burks Moore, age 96, of Bessemer, Alabama, died Feb. 9, 2015. She was a registered nurse who served in the U.S. Army in the European theater during World War II.

'42 Grace Ezell Weeks Marquez, age 92, of Birmingham died May 3, 2015. She taught Spanish at Samford from 1955 to 1970 and again in the late 1980s, and helped found Samford's first language lab in the 1960s. She also taught at Birmingham-Southern College and at schools in Mexico. Samford's Department of World Languages and Cultures dedicated its Grace Marquez Language Technology Forum in 2013. She was a Samford Alumna of the Year in 1989.

'42 Ruth Harris Peet, age 92, of Scottsboro, Alabama, died May 3, 2015. The only woman in her class at Wake Forest University's Bowman Gray School of Medicine, she was a family physician for 53 years. She worked in Peru, Alabama and New Mexico.

'43 Mabel G. Lovell, age 94, of Murray, Kentucky, died March 8, 2015. She was a registered nurse who served in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in World War II.

'44 Ruby Miriam Bissett, age 92, of Sarasota, Florida, died April 25, 2015. She was a missionary in Mexico, a high school Spanish teacher and travel agent.

'44 John C. Pittman, age 92, of Birmingham, a member of the Samford board of trustees for 62 years, died April 25, 2015. He enjoyed a 32-year career as a producer, general agent and managing partner with New England Mutual life insurance company. As a member of the Samford board, he served on many committees and was its chairman twice. Samford awarded him an honorary doctor of humane letters degree in 1993, and in 2004 established the John C. Pittman Spirit Award to annually recognize an outstanding graduating senior. He met his wife, the late Marjorie Holcomb Pittman '42, while a Samford student. He was a U.S. Marine on Okinawa during World War II. Memorials may be made to the John C. Pittman Scholarship Fund, Office of Advancement, Samford University, 800 Lakeshore Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35229.

'47 James Swann Baird, J.D., age 94, of Lebanon, Tennessee, died Feb. 21, 2015. He was an insurance adjuster and furniture salesman before retiring from Wackenhut Services Inc. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II.

'49 William A. Boone, Jr., age 91, of Nashville, Tennessee, died May 13, 2015. He was a special agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. A U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, he also served in the U.S. Army Reserve.

'49 John Craig Butler, Sr., age 95, of Decatur, Alabama, died Feb. 8, 2015. He owned Professional Pharmacy. He was a member of Kiwanis, a Gideon and a Sunday school teacher at the Morgan County Jail. He completed 30 combat missions as navigator of a B-24 bomber with the Eighth Air Force in Europe during World War II.

'49 Arthur Gillman, age 87, of Miami, Florida, died March 11, 2015. He was an ophthalmologist in private practice. He served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps prior to attending Samford.

'50 Lucile Cunningham, age 84, of Montgomery, Alabama, died Sept. 25, 2014. A laboratory technologist who retired from Baptist Health Systems, she served several years on the Alabama Board of Laboratory Technologists. At Samford, she was a member of Beta Sigma Omicron sorority (now Zeta Tau Alpha).

'51 E. A. Casey Jones, age 90, of Birmingham died Jan. 28, 2015. He was manager of the Ritz and Alabama theatres and Birmingham Municipal Auditorium, and was the first executive director of the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

'52 Gene Austin Hannah, age 84, of Montgomery, Alabama, died Feb. 26, 2015. A pastor and church staff member at Alabama Baptist churches, he spent 24 years in community relations and medical staff recruitment for Baptist Medical Center. He was known for the curveball and knuckleball he used as a pitcher on the Samford varsity baseball team.

'52 Elliott Clayton Herrin, Jr., age 85, of Birmingham died April 9, 2015. He was a

practicing attorney and municipal judge, and a member of the Kiwanis and Lions clubs. At Samford, he was a member of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity, and Alpha Kappa Psi and Sigma Delta Kappa academic societies. He served the U.S. Navy aboard the aircraft carrier USS Boxer CV21.

'53 George Bark, age 95, of Madison, Alabama, died April 10, 2015. An Alabama Baptist church pastor until age 65, he continued as an associate pastor until he was 85. He served overseas in the military during World War II.

'54 T. A. "Buck" Duke, age 84, of Muscle Shoals, Alabama, died April 18, 2015. He was a Baptist minister at churches throughout Alabama and in retirement at several nursing homes.

'54 Joe D. Harris, age 81, of Jacksonville, Alabama, died in March 2015. He was a retired minister and educator.

'56 James D. Knight, age 84, of Birmingham died March 1, 2015. He was a member of the Optimist Club and a past president of the Young Men's Christian Association. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of the Korean War.

'57 John K. Tcherneshoff, Sr., age 80, of Fort Payne, Alabama, died April 10, 2015. He was founder of DeSoto Hosiery Mills, director of the Fort Payne Chamber of Commerce and active in many civic groups. He served 13 years as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army artillery.

'58 Thomas Arlin Dean, Sr., age 86, of Athens, Alabama, died March 18, 2015. He was a pharmacist and owner of Limestone Drug. During 1953-54, he served with the U.S. Army's military police in Korea, where his company was responsible for the exchange of many prisoners at the 38th parallel.

'59 Charles G. Hurst, Jr., age 91, of Birmingham died March 29, 2015. He retired from South Central Bell. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

'59 Josie Elizabeth "Bettye" Jolley, age 77, of Albertville, Alabama, died April 23, 2015. She was a longtime pharmacist at the family drug store, P & J Pharmacy, and a founding member

of the Marshall County Arc.

'59 Robert M. Roberson, age 76, of Birmingham died May 1, 2015. At Samford, he played football and was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha.

'60 Susan Kennedy Porter, age 76, of Norcross, Georgia, died April 25, 2015. She was a personnel and human resources manager at several companies.

'61 Jerry Conrad Frady, age 76, of Montgomery, Alabama, died Feb. 21, 2015. He was a pastor of churches in Alabama, Florida and Tennessee, a guidance counselor and high school principal, and an adjunct professor at Samford. He also was editor of *The Gazette* in Montgomery.

'63 Aubrie Lamar Duncan, age 73, of Lancaster, Kentucky, died April 12, 2015. He was a clinical pharmacist for Lake Cumberland Hospital and a retired commander of the Public Health Service. He was a former flight instructor for the U.S. Air Force and a member of the Civil Air Patrol.

'64 Barney O. Trammell, Jr., age 76, of Gardendale, Alabama, died March 26, 2015. He retired from Novartis Pharmaceuticals. At Samford, he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

'65 Ralph Albert Butler, age 77, of Jacksonville, Alabama, died April 12, 2015. A pharmacist at several stores, he also served with Mercy Ships Inc. in the Dominican Republic and Ghana, and with Ojebwa Indian pharmacy in Minnesota. While in the U.S. Army, he volunteered at Seoul Severance Hospital in South Korea.

'66 Linda Phillips Carroll, age 70, of Jacksonville, Alabama, died April 3, 2015. She taught in the Calhoun County school system for 32 years and at Gadsden State Community College.

'66 Clarence Edward Elkins, Jr., J.D., age 76, of Smyrna, Tennessee, died March 31, 2015. He was director of the Tennessee Department of Transportation's Equal Employment Opportunity section and director of the Governor's Highway Safety Program.

'67 Herman Howard Murdock III, age 73, of Birmingham died Oct. 14, 2014. He was an educator and bivocational minister of music for

40 years. At Samford, he was a tenor soloist with the A Cappella Choir. His widow, Georgia Weaver Murdock, is also a 1967 graduate. His daughters, Melodie Murdock McDill '90 and Meredith Murdock Burns '95 are both graduates.

'67 Maria Callava Pares, M.A., age 83, of Ocala, Florida, died March 28, 2015. Born in Havana, Cuba, she taught English at Miles College in Birmingham, and worked at Antioch College in Denver, Colorado, and with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Miami, Florida.

'67 Fay Frances Jones Wyatt, age 69, of Childersburg, Alabama, died Nov. 18, 2014. She was a retired educator and counselor.

'68 William M. Lammons, M.B.A., age 77, of Birmingham died April 11, 2015. A longtime employee of U.S. Pipe, he retired from Jim Walter Computer Services as a vice president. In retirement, he was an adjunct accounting professor at Jefferson State Community College and Birmingham-Southern College. He served in the U.S. Army in Orleans, France.

'69 Mary Elizabeth "Betty" Baker, age 68, of Lakemont, Georgia, died March 4, 2015. She was an educator in Tallapoosa County, Alabama, and Macon County, North Carolina.

'69 Lucile Cook Orr, age 68, of Birmingham died March 12, 2015. At Samford, she was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

'70 Nadine Davis Gillenwaters, age 66, of Lilburn, Georgia, died March 22, 2015, of ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). Most of her professional life was spent providing activities for senior citizens. She met her husband, Lee Gillenwaters '71, while at Samford. She was a member of Chi Omega and was active in student government.

'70 Marian Roberts Hicks, age 66, of Braselton, Georgia, died March 4, 2015 of cancer. She was an elementary school teacher and principal in Gwinnett and Forsythe counties. At Samford, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

'72 Jane Hogue Bruckmeier, M.A., age 87, of Meridian, Mississippi, died April 11, 2015. She taught in Meridian schools for 20 years and was head of the English department at Meridian High School.

'75 Maxine Burnett Murphree Baker, age 90, of Birmingham died Feb. 21, 2015. She was a longtime registered nurse at Montclair Hospital.

'76 Richard Buford Austin, age 62, of Madison, Alabama, died April 20, 2015. He was a pharmacist in Mississippi and Alabama.

'80 Steve Croomes, J.D., age 59, of Athens, Alabama, died May 11, 2015. He was an attorney in Athens and president of the Madison, Alabama, Rotary Club.

'82 Virginia Lee Albritton Payne, age 55, of Cartersville, Georgia, died March 18, 2015. A pharmacist in Georgia and Virginia, she was named 1997 Kroger Pharmacist of the Year for the Atlanta region. She used her pharmacy skills in varied volunteer efforts. At Samford, she was a member of Rho Chi pharmacy honor society.

'84 Tommie Jean Wilson, J.D., age 56, of Pell City, Alabama, died March 6, 2015. She was an assistant attorney in the Alabama Attorney General's office before entering private practice in Pell City.

'86 Edna Gill, age 95, of Birmingham, died April 7, 2015. She was a charge nurse and nurse epidemiologist at Carraway Hospital. She was elected to several honor societies while earning her bachelor's degree in nursing at age 68.

'93 Roger Lee Bonn, M.B.A., age 53, of Napierville, Illinois, died Feb. 15, 2015. He was employed at Brown-Forman Corporation for 31 years.

'98 Brenton Dean, J.D., age 43, of Auburn, Alabama, died March 13, 2015. He was in practice with Dean and Carlton law firm in LaFayette, Alabama.

'00 Mabry Morris Spence, age 37, of Albany, Georgia, died March 29, 2015. She most recently worked at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Albany.

'02 Meredith LeAnn Maddox, age 37, of Birmingham died March 31, 2015. A track and field coach at Hoover High School, she also started a handmade jewelry company, Designs by LIFE. At Samford, she was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority and the track team. ■



Denzel Williams

Hatch Attack Gearing Up

by William Nunnelley

Samford first-year football coach Chris Hatcher spent spring practice installing his vaunted Hatch Attack. The team responded well to implementation of the new high-powered system.

“Our quarterback play has gotten a lot better,” Hatcher said near the end of spring practice. “We’ve been running the ball well.” He said while the team was not where it needed to be, “We have made some significant progress in a lot of areas. We had a good spring. Our enthusiasm level has risen, and we’re getting better fundamentally.”

Samford returns some key players from last year’s team that went 7-4 and finished second in the Southern Conference under retired head coach Pat Sullivan.

Offensive leaders back include quarterback Michael Eubank (2,136 yards passing), running back Denzel Williams (918 yards rushing and 16 touchdowns) and receiver Karel Hamilton (55 receptions for 877 yards). Defensively, leading tackler Justin Cooper returns at linebacker along with secondary standouts Josh Killett and Jamerson Blount.

Hatcher put together some of the most productive offenses in the nation at his previous coaching stops—Murray State, Georgia Southern and Valdosta State. His overall record is 121-57 in 15 years as a head coach.

Samford President Andrew Westmoreland noted that Hatcher sees himself “fundamentally, as a teacher.” That’s what he spent the spring doing, teaching Samford players new ways to move the football. He’ll add some additional pointers during preseason practice in August.

Fans can see how well the Bulldogs absorbed their lessons as the team plays an 11-game schedule this fall, seven against SoCon foes and nonconference battles versus Central Arkansas, Florida A&M, FBS foe Louisville and homecoming opponent Clark Atlanta. ▶

Samford 2015 Football Schedule

Sept. 3—Central Arkansas

Sept. 12—Florida A&M

Sept. 19—Chattanooga (Family Weekend)

Sept. 26—at Louisville

Oct. 10—at VMI

Oct. 17—The Citadel

Oct. 24—at Western Carolina

Oct. 31—Furman

Nov. 7—Clark Atlanta (Homecoming)

Nov. 14—at Wofford

Nov. 21—at Mercer

Ticket info: 205-726-3647

Samford Wins Germann Cup as Top SoCon Women's Program

Samford University was named the winner of the Southern Conference's Germann Cup, which goes to the top overall women's athletics program in the league, when the conference released its all-sports awards May 27. Samford also finished third in the Commissioner's Cup standings, awarded to the top men's program in the SoCon.

"The Germann Cup and Commissioner's Cup standings conclude another successful year for Samford's athletic teams," Samford Director of Athletics Martin Newton said. "These scores are indicative of the hard work our student-athletes and coaches put in every day. I couldn't be prouder of the way our teams competed throughout this school year."

To win the Germann Cup, Samford won the regular-season women's soccer title as well as the tennis regular-season and tournament titles. The Bulldogs were runner-up in volleyball, indoor and outdoor track and field, and softball, and won the volleyball tournament. The Bulldogs finished no worse than third in any of their seven sports that count in the competition.

It was the second Germann Cup for Samford since joining the SoCon in the summer of 2008. The Bulldogs also won during the 2009-10 school year.

On the men's side, Samford placed third in the Commissioner's Cup standings by winning the outdoor track and field and finishing second in football, baseball, and indoor track and field. ▀

Women's Tennis Wins SoCon Championship

The Samford University women's tennis team captured the 2015 Southern Conference Women's Tennis Championship with a 4-1 win over East Tennessee State April 26. The victory marked Samford's first women's tennis title since joining the league in 2008.

The Bulldogs, who also won the league's regular-season championship, finished the 2015 season with a 16-8 record. They lost to Alabama in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

Coach David Vest commended his team, saying, "It took a lot of hard work to reach this point, but it's such an honor to coach at Samford. We are blessed with a lot of players who enjoy competing and winning."

Samford's Jessica Northcutt was named the SoCon tournament's Most Outstanding Player, finishing with three singles wins and three victories as part of the No. 2 doubles team.

Northcutt and Yasmeen Ebada finished the season with an 18-3 record at No. 2 doubles. Stephanie N'tcha and Carita Moolman posted a 17-6 at No. 1 doubles. N'tcha was 14-8 at No. 1 singles and Ebada 13-10 at No. 2 singles. Ebada and N'tcha were seniors, while Northcutt and Moolman were juniors.

The Bulldogs were victorious in 11 of their last 12 matches and compiled a 10-0 record against league opponents during the 2015 season. ▀



Northcutt

Men's Track and Field Takes Second Consecutive SoCon Title

The Samford men's track and field team won its second consecutive Southern Conference Outdoor Championship this spring, totaling a school-record 244 points in competition held at the Samford Soccer and Track and Field Stadium April 25-26. The Samford women's team finished with a strong showing as well, taking second place.

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

"The last 45 minutes of today's meet was just phenomenal; we won the high jump, the triple jump, we went one-two-three in the discus, won the 5K, got second in the 4 x 400," said Tiffin.

A trio of Bulldogs swept the individual awards.

Senior Sidney Jordan earned the SoCon's Most Outstanding Athlete Award and Most Outstanding Field Performer Award after taking home three individual championships: men's discus, men's shot put and the men's hammer throw.

"Sidney's our heart and soul," said Tiffin.

Two other Bulldogs won some of the SoCon's top accolades. Middle-distance runner Brandon Hazouri was named the SoCon's Most Outstanding Track Performer, and sprinter Carson Howe was selected SoCon Freshman of the Year.

Freshman Sarah Sanford won the 100-meter hurdles and 400-meter hurdles in women's competition. "What can you say about Sarah Sanford?" said Tiffin. "What she did this weekend as a freshman was just remarkable." ▀



Jordan

CAMPUS NEWSCOPE

News from Each of Samford's Schools and Colleges

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

The Department of Theatre and Dance has received full accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST). The designation puts the Samford program in an elite national group of 182 fully accredited institutional members that rank among the finest theatre training programs in the country.

For department chair Donald Sandley, accreditation represents the culmination of an intensive four-year effort.

"This recognition is the result of years of work and support," said Sandley.

Full accreditation with no conditions or deferments is the highest level awarded by NAST, which establishes national standards for undergraduate and graduate degrees and other credentials. The designation means a 10-year approval for Samford.

The quest involved self-study, accreditation reports, curriculum design and redesign, student record management, facility renovation, fundraising, consultations, site visits and conference representation.

Sandley said that the NAST site evaluators were highly complimentary of the teaching, artistic and spiritual mission, and curriculum.

"The thing that stood out to them about Samford was how much the students and faculty genuinely cared for and about each other," Sandley said.

HOWARD COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Samford's Center for Science and Religion will host a conference on "Transhumanism

and the Church: Theological Reflections on Technology and Human Enhancement" Sept. 24–26.

Transhumanism is the movement that embraces the opportunity to transcend physical and mental limits through new technology. Its most optimistic advocates predict a future in which death has been defeated through the power to reverse biological processes or offload mental states onto computers.

The Samford conference, funded by a grant from the John Templeton Foundation, will consider the ways the church might respond to transhumanism and the technologies that could revolutionize our understanding of human nature.

Learn more at samford.edu/science-and-religion.

BROCK SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

The Professional Selling course was recognized by the Sales Education Foundation (SEF) as a notable program in its 2015 *Annual* magazine. University sales programs are recognized for building sales curricula that prepare students for careers in professional selling and help elevate the sales profession.

Beginning with the fall 2015 semester, Brock School of Business will offer a sales concentration to all business students for the first time. The Professional Selling course is the foundation course of the new curriculum, and is complemented by Customer Relationship Management, Entrepreneurship and other business courses that round out a comprehensive sales education. All professional sales students are required to complete a 150-hour sales internship in which they gain real-world selling experience.

"We are excited to formally kick off our professional sales concentration this fall," said Clif Eason, assistant professor of marketing. "More than ever, employers are seeking students, regardless of major, with good sales skills. Our program will help students develop those skills as well as learn to use tools and technologies that are essential in today's business world. We appreciate the SEF's recognition of our emerging program."



BEESON DIVINITY SCHOOL

Robert Smith, Jr., has been named the new Charles T. Carter Baptist Chair of Divinity.

"Robert Smith has been a beloved professor at Beeson Divinity School since 1997 and is one of the most consequential preachers in American religious life today," said Timothy George, dean. "He is the perfect choice to serve as the inaugural incumbent in the Charles T. Carter Baptist Chair of Divinity. Through his love for the gospel and his passion for preaching, Dr. Smith has had a shaping influence on several generations of faithful proclaimers of God's Word."

The chair is named for a longtime Samford trustee and Baptist pastor. Carter began preaching at the age of 16 and served Alabama Baptist congregations, culminating in a 26-year ministry at Birmingham's Shades Mountain Baptist Church.

Gerald McDermott has been named to



SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

The Department of Kinesiology will begin accepting applications July 1 for its inaugural class in the Master of Athletic Training program. Accepted students will begin courses in summer 2016.

In just five semesters, students master every aspect of athletic training, including injury prevention, injury evaluation and diagnosis, emergency care, treatment rehabilitation, and organizational administration. Metro Birmingham affords students a number of diverse clinical opportunities in major athletic training and health-care facilities as well as high schools, sports medicine clinics and more.

The Master of Athletic Training program is designed for individuals who possess a bachelor's degree in a field other than athletic training. Upon completion of the program, graduates meet the requirements to become a certified athletic trainer.

"Samford's Master of Athletic Training program is the only master's program of its kind in the state," said Robb Hensarling, associate professor and director of athletic training. "We offer both an innovative curriculum and extensive clinical experiences, all led by faculty who are committed to student success," he added.

Admission to the Master of Athletic Training program is competitive. To learn more about the program, go to samford.edu/go/masterofathletictraining.

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL OF LAW

The Alabama State Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program Committee recently recognized Samford's Public Interest and Community Service Organization (CPICS) with the 2015 Alabama State Bar Pro Bono Award in the Law Firm/Group Category.

CPICS members include third-year

student Sam Boukli-Hacene of Decatur, Georgia; second-year students Rae Bolton, Jacksonville, Florida; Jessica Catlin, Sylvan Springs, Alabama; Amanda Herren, Mobile, Alabama; Emily Irvin, Eufaula, Alabama; and Elise McFall, Bluff City, Tennessee; and first-year students Depri Hale of Lakeland, Florida; and Lee McLean of Vestavia Hills, Alabama.

CPICS delivered more than 1,000 hours of community service to Jefferson County residents. The annual 1L Service Project, in which 90 percent of the incoming class served at five locations throughout Jefferson County, donated more than 500 hours of service. In October 2014, the CPICS participated in Alabama's 2014 Pro Bono Month, hosting five local events at the law school. The CPICS also participated in Alternative Spring Break activities at four homeless shelters in Jefferson County. The CPICS hosted CASA Christmas, a fundraising drive for children in the care of the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program, and hosted a kickball tournament benefiting CASA children and their caregivers. The year culminated with Project Homeless Connect in which students, alongside volunteer attorneys, provided free legal assistance to more than 300 people.

IDA V. MOFFETT SCHOOL OF NURSING

A simulated community incident in April helped prepare future nurses and other health-care providers to respond in the event of a campus or community emergency. In partnership with Homewood Fire Department, Regional Paramedic Service and Samford's Office of Public Safety, the nursing school created a severe weather situation involving injuries ranging from psychological impact to fatalities. In addition to nursing students, students from the departments of nurse anesthesia, communication sciences and disorders, and kinesiology also participated.

"Health-care professionals from a variety of disciplines are often called upon



the Anglican Chair of Divinity. McDermott comes from Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia, where he was the Jordan-Trexler Professor of Religion since 2008 and on faculty since 1989.

"I am delighted to welcome Professor McDermott," said George. "He has written wisely and deeply about many matters related to the Christian faith, and is highly regarded as a world-class Jonathan Edwards scholar, with five volumes published by Oxford University Press. Dr. McDermott is also an experienced Anglican pastor and will help us to prepare a new generation of God-called men and women for the service of the Lord's church."

to respond in a time of crisis, and it is our hope that this drill will help students be more adequately prepared to respond quickly and effectively in emergency situations,” said Jill Pence, assistant professor of nursing and coordinator of undergraduate simulation.

In addition to providing the opportunity to participate in the triage process, the simulation offered students a realistic look at interprofessional communication and practice. Students and professionals from a variety of disciplines worked together to meet the needs of victims. Community agencies interacted with students as they would in an actual emergency further increasing the interprofessional experience.



McWHORTER SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Recent graduates are celebrating residency matches at a number of prestigious institutions throughout the country. Seventy-two percent of McWhorter students who applied for postgraduate year one (PGY1) residencies matched, exceeding the national average by nearly 10 percent.

PGY1 residencies are highly competitive, with more than 4,300 students entering the national match but only 2,811 receiving a position. The 30 students from McWhorter School of Pharmacy’s Class of 2015 who matched with a PGY1 residency will be practicing at some of the leading health-care institutions in the country, including the University of North Carolina, University of Southern California and Wake Forest University.

In addition, three graduates from the Class of 2014 matched with postgraduate year two (PGY2) residencies.

“We’re proud that residency programs across the country recognize the quality of McWhorter graduates,” said pharmacy dean Michael A. Crouch. “In order to be

competitive in the match process, students need more than high GPAs, strong letters of support and evidence of service and research. Where you get your Pharm.D. matters, and our graduates consistently show that they are among the best in the nation.”

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The Department of Nutrition and Dietetics earned high honors at the annual Alabama Dietetic Association meeting. For seven of the last nine years, Samford’s Student Dietetic Association (SDA) won Outstanding SDA in the state, edging out competitors from many larger state schools.

“Alabama Dietetic Association is proud to award Samford Outstanding Student Dietetic Association based on accomplishments and contributions in community outreach, member involvement and visibility,” said Alabama Dietetic Association president Laura Watson.

“Samford SDA exemplifies a cohesive and dedicated group of students whose skills, talents and resources set them apart from other student dietetic associations. This year’s conference theme, ‘Together Toward Tomorrow,’ relates the importance we put on students stepping up, being involved and becoming future leaders. This award says that Samford SDA members are doing just that,” she added.

In addition, Samford’s student research poster entitled “The Effects of Protein Powder on the Physical and Sensory Characteristics of Coffee” by students Yesenia Hernandez and Haley Bishop, along with Professor Patricia Terry and Rebecca Little, placed third of 17 research entries. Samford was one of only two undergraduate programs represented in the competition, with all other posters representing master’s and doctoral research. ▀

News from Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education can be found beginning on page 21.

Additional information on these stories and other news from Samford’s 10 academic units can be found at samford.edu/news.

TRIBUTES

Samford University expresses gratitude for these gifts in honor or memory of friends, classmates and others that were received Feb. 1–April 30, 2015. For further information, contact the Samford University Gift Office at 205-726-2807.

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NTN Bearing Corporation of America, Mount Prospect, Illinois
Regal Beloit Charitable Foundation, Beloit, Wisconsin
SKF USA Inc., Lansdale, Pennsylvania
Ms. Kelley Stacy, Noblesville, Indiana
Mr. Joe Paul Taylor, Jr., Fort Worth, Texas

The Jere F. White, Jr., Fellows Program

in honor of Mr. Julius Shaw
Mr. & Mrs. John W. McRoberts, Panama City Beach, Florida

G. Allan Yeomans Scholarship Fund

in honor of Monty Hogewood
Mr. & Mrs. David W. Geyer, Chattanooga, Tennessee

MEMORIALS

2015 Legacy League Scholarship

in memory of Mrs. June Baggett and Mrs. Joyce Wheeler
Mr. & Mrs. E. Erle Smith, Birmingham

in memory of Dr. L. Gene Black

Dr. & Mrs. Robert B. Hatfield, Birmingham

in memory of Dr. Thomas E. Corts

Dr. & Mrs. James H. Isobe, Birmingham

in memory of Dr. Vernon Davison

Dr. & Mrs. Frank W. Donaldson, Birmingham

in memory of Ms. Marie Persons Gottfridson

Mr. & Mrs. Ken McElhaney, Hoover, Alabama

in memory of Mrs. Wynelle Jacks

Mr. & Mrs. James M. Landreth, Birmingham

in memory of Ernest Kimrey and Mrs. Gaie Pittman

Dr. & Mrs. Phil Kimrey, Birmingham

in memory of Mrs. Ostelle Redman

Ms. Amanda J. Redman, Gardendale, Alabama

in memory of Dr. Ray Frank Robbins

Rev. & Mrs. Clinton M. Wood, Birmingham

in memory of Mrs. Rosemary Sharp Smitherman

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth L. Sanders, Birmingham

in memory of Mr. John Thomas Strain

Mrs. Juanelle Strain, Mountain Brook, Alabama

in memory of Hazel Newman Strickland

Dr. Betsy Rogers, Birmingham

in memory of Dora Wisham

Mrs. Mary Sue McClurkin, Indian Springs, Alabama

Alabama Governor's School

in memory of Mr. Glenn Ireland II, Mr. James A. Livingston, Jr., and Mrs. Bobbie Jo Parsons
Dr. Carolyn G. & Mr. William Satterfield, Birmingham

Alumni Association Scholarship

in memory of Dr. William Mabry Lunceford
Mr. & Mrs. James E. King, Decatur, Alabama

Auchmuty Congregational Leadership Fund

in memory of Virginia Ann Smith
Family of Virginia Ann Smith, Birmingham

Abe Berkowitz Endowed Scholarship
in memory of the mother of Dr. Walter Evans
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard E. Berkowitz, Birmingham

Brock School of Business Excellence Fund
in memory of Mr. Rupert Courington
 Mrs. Doris Courington Carney, Manchester, Tennessee

Trevelyn Grace Campbell Endowed Art Scholarship
in memory of Trevelyn G. Campbell
 Briarwood Presbyterian Church, Birmingham
 Mr. Stetson Pevear, Birmingham

Robyn Bari Cohen Children's Book Fund
in memory of Ms. Robyn Bari Cohen
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Goldstein, Mountain Brook, Alabama

Colonial Dames History Award
in memory of Mrs. Martin M. Baldwin and Mrs. Frances B. Whitaker
 Mr. & Mrs. Meade Whitaker, Jr., Mountain Brook, Alabama

in memory of Ms. Elizabeth Cade Palmer and Ms. Natalie Palmer Reynolds
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles M. Miller, Birmingham

Marla Haas Corts Samford Auxiliary Scholarship
in memory of Dr. Thomas E. Corts
 Dr. Alireza Farrokhrro, Los Angeles, California

Thomas E. and Marla Haas Corts Fund
in memory of Paul & Marion Fisher and Dr. Thomas E. Corts
 Mark & Lauretta Fisher and family, Greenville, Pennsylvania

Cox Scholarship Fund
in memory of Mrs. Marian Roberts Hicks
 Mr. & Mrs. Phillip E. Williams, Sr., Hoschton, Georgia

Caitlin Creed Samford Auxiliary Scholarship
in memory of Ms. Caitlin Creed
 Dr. Nancy & Mr. Joseph Biggio, Birmingham
 Dr. Jeanie A. Box, Mountain Brook, Alabama
 Mrs. Marla Corts, Vestavia Hills, Alabama
 Dr. & Mrs. J. Bradley Creed, Homewood
 Mr. & Mrs. H. Hobart Grooms, Jr., Birmingham
 Ms. Libby Hamby, Center Point, Alabama
 Dr. & Mrs. David C. Little, Helena, Alabama
 Dr. David R. Tucker, Jr., Vestavia Hills, Alabama

The Cumberland Fund
in memory of Chuck Stewart
 Mr. F. Keith Cofington, Birmingham

J. B. & Nancy Davis Endowed Scholarship
in memory of Willodean Davis Graves
 Mrs. Hilary L. Cabaniss, Birmingham

Faculty String Quartet Endowed Fund
in memory of Mrs. Joanne Flaniken
 Dr. & Mrs. Donald C. Sanders, Birmingham

David Foreman Scholarship Fund
in memory of Dr. David Foreman
 Ms. Bridget D. Mann, Alabaster, Alabama

Friends of Music
in memory of Dr. L. Gene Black
 Ms. Lela Anne Brewer, Birmingham

in memory of David Meadows, Bob Hinds, Bill Mason and Isabella Tombrello
 Patty McDonald, Birmingham

Jimmy Griffin Memorial Endowed Scholarship
in memory of Jimmy Griffin
 Jimmy Griffin Legacy Foundation, Chicago, Illinois

History Department Fund
in memory of Mrs. Christina Mosley Furr
 Mr. & Mrs. Ronnie Mosley, Fort Worth, Texas
 Ms. Cynthia Ware, Bedford, Texas

Howard College Class of 1961 Legacy Scholarship
in memory of Mr. Charles G. Hurst, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Neil S. Nation, Rockvale, Tennessee

Legacy League
in memory of Kenneth R. Floyd
 Mr. & Mrs. John M. Floyd, Birmingham

The Mothers Fund Scholarship
in memory of Belva Dozier Owen
 Hon. Karon O. Bowdre & Mr. Birch Bowdre, Jr., Birmingham

John C. and Marjorie H. Pittman Fund
in memory of Dr. John C. Pittman
 Mr. & Mrs. John H. Beeler, Jr., Birmingham
 Dr. & Mrs. Harry B. Brock, Jr., Birmingham
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry B. Brock III, Birmingham
 Mr. & Mrs. Ehney A. Camp III, Birmingham
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas R. Cherry, Vestavia Hills, Alabama
 Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Dekich, Indian Springs, Alabama
 Mr. & Mrs. H. Hobart Grooms, Jr., Birmingham
 Mr. & Mrs. Monty Hogewood, Birmingham
 John 3:16, Hoover, Alabama
 Mr. & Mrs. William T. Mayfield III, Mountain Brook, Alabama
 Mr. & Mrs. William S. Pritchard III, Mountain Brook, Alabama
 Mr. & Mrs. James C. Stivender, Jr., Gadsden, Alabama

Dr. & Mrs. K. Bryant Strain, Mountain Brook, Alabama
 Ms. Mary L. Wimberley, Birmingham

Samford Fund
in memory of Dr. Austin C. Dobbins
 Dr. P. Joe Whitt, Northport, Alabama

in memory of Kenneth R. Floyd
 Mr. & Mrs. John M. Floyd, Birmingham

Katherine Victoria "Kavi" Vance Scholarship
in memory of Ms. Kavi Vance
 Scott Denaberg, Germantown, Tennessee

The Jere F. White, Jr., Fellows Program
in memory of Jere F. White
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen W. Still, Birmingham
 Mr. & Mrs. Samuel E. Upchurch, Jr., Mountain Brook, Alabama

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B-2 gets refueled high above the Mississippi River.

*Not Your
Everyday
Class*
Assignment:
**Refueling a
B-2 . . .
at 20,000
Feet**

Twelve Samford Air Force ROTC cadets found out what it takes to refuel a B-2 stealth bomber in midair recently: teamwork, skill and attention to detail. The students boarded a KC-135 tanker aircraft at Birmingham's airport and flew northwest to rendezvous with the thermonuclear bomber.

"It's not every day that college students get to refuel a B-2 in flight," said Lt. Col. Travis Dixon, commander of Samford's AFROTC Detachment 012. "To put it in perspective," said cadet Devin Buenger, "the pilot flying the KC-135—a colonel with 15-plus years of service—had never seen the B-2 Spirit on this type mission before."

The air tanker, part of the Air National Guard 117th Air Refueling Wing based in Birmingham, took off May 1 and headed to a point near Memphis, Tennessee, for the rendezvous. It then traveled south over Mississippi to hook up with the B-2.

The bomber can carry 167,000 pounds of fuel. In aerial refueling, the receiving aircraft takes on fuel through a boom that extends out and down from the rear of the tanker. The tanker crew, which includes a boom operator, and the pilot of the receiving aircraft work closely to position the two aircraft and connect the boom.

"What impressed me most was the

skill and attention to detail paid by both aircrews not only to communicate and meet, but to connect for refueling at 20,000 feet in the air while moving at hundreds of miles per hour," said Buenger.

The cadet said he was surprised at how close the aircraft were able to fly to each other during the 45-minute refueling, "within 30 to 50 feet."

Cadet Elizabeth Snyder, who hopes to become an Air Force pilot, was surprised "at the amount of communication that was required for the operation to run smoothly between the pilots of both planes and the boom operator."

She noted that during the three-hour flight, the cadets were able to observe the boom operator directly connect the two planes for refueling, and they could rotate positions wearing headsets to hear the communication between the members of the two aircrews. They could also spend time in the KC-135 cockpit.

"The cadets were fortunate that they were able to participate in a critical mission that highlighted the importance of teamwork, discipline and precision skills," said Col. Dixon. "[These are] aspects that all of the cadets have been developing during their time in AFROTC and will put to use once they graduate and enter active duty."

Samford AFROTC cadets ready for refueling trip.



Calendar

July 3

Independence Day holiday. University closed.

July 7

Summer II session classes begin

Aug. 7

Summer II session ends

Aug. 17

Fall semester first day of classes

Aug. 18

Opening convocation, 10 a.m., Wright Center

Aug. 24–Sept. 29

Exhibit: Reflections of Generosity—Reflection of the Soul, Samford Art Gallery

Sept. 1

School of the Arts Faculty Gala, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall

Sept. 3

Football vs. University of Central Arkansas

Sept. 4

Grand opening, new Brock School of Business, 1 p.m.

Sept. 4-5

Samford Volleyball Tournament, Pete Hanna Center

Sept. 7

Labor Day holiday. University closed.

Sept. 18–20

Family Weekend

Sept. 18

Beeson Divinity School Preview Day, beesondivinity.com

Wright Center Signature Series presents “RAISIN’ CANE: A Harlem Renaissance Odyssey,” 7 p.m.

Sept. 19

Preview Day, samford.edu/admission

Sept. 20

Annual Samford Hymn Sing, 2 p.m., Reid Chapel

Sept. 25

A Cappella Choir Fall Concert, 7:30 p.m., Reid Chapel

Alabama Symphony Orchestra presents “Birmingham Does Broadway,” 8 p.m., Wright Center

For complete information on these and other events at Samford, including academic, arts, athletics, summer camps and contained learning programs, go to samford.edu/events.

FAMILY WEEKEND 2015

September 18-20

HOME IS HERE

Plan to bring the entire family to Samford September 18-20. Join us as we celebrate family during a weekend of fun!

Weekend Highlights:

- Attend classes taught by Samford’s faculty just for parents on Friday afternoon
- Tour the new Brock School of Business building
- Reconnect with Samford friends during a welcome reception hosted by President Westmoreland
- Visit with other families during special events held by the Samford Parents Association
- Grab a blanket and watch a late-night movie on the Quad
- Swing a hammer alongside others in a Home is Here service project on campus
- Scramble to win the big prize in the Itty Bitty photo scavenger hunt
- Party on the Quad during the Saturday pre-game tailgate
- Cheer on the Bulldogs as they take on University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
- Explore Birmingham, the “Magic City”

Registration begins late summer at samford.edu/parents.



Students enjoy a few minutes of informal exercise on campus.