

The background is a complex abstract collage. It features several large, overlapping triangles in black, white, and light grey. The background is filled with vertical and diagonal streaks of paint in various colors, including red, pink, orange, yellow, and green. There are also some darker, more textured areas, possibly representing different materials or layers of paint.

# seasons

THE MAGAZINE OF SAMFORD UNIVERSITY *SPRING 2015*

**Special Report:  
The Value  
of Liberal Arts**

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## Valuing Liberal Arts

Some colleges have moved away from liberal arts, but Samford believes the value of such an education remains undiminished. A liberal arts education “is a necessity for those who want to compete in a global economy,” says arts and sciences dean David Chapman. It is crucial “to understanding how our world is put together,” adds president Andrew Westmoreland.



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## Mockingbird Sequel

Samford professor Mark Baggett has taught Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird* for more than 30 years. When news broke that Lee would publish a long-awaited second novel, Baggett did a Q-and-A interview with *Seasons* about the iconic writer.



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## Expanding Campus

Samford has made a dramatic addition to its campus by purchasing a 28-acre site from its neighbor, Southern Progress Corporation. Two of the three buildings on the site will house Samford’s new College of Health Sciences.

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# Seasons Magazine

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**Cover:** Student artwork by Mary Ellen Davis from the December senior art exhibit in the Samford Art Gallery.

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Faculty members Scott McGinnis, left, and Larry Davenport work on Samford's Habitat for Humanity House in December.

# From the President



Destiney Elliott, right, a member of the Samford women's basketball team, with her family, from left, Lee'Ann Hughes, Audrey Hughes and Vernarr Hughes.

## Parent Involvement Important to Samford

The Samford family. Like you, I often hear our university community described in these words. Ours is not a union born of blood, but a fellowship of individuals committed to the ideals of learning and faith through the building and sustaining of a university. The bonds of our Samford family include students, employees, alumni and many friends who share and support our mission. Among these treasured friends are the parents of our students.

All Samford parents are members of the Samford Parents Association, and many want to contribute their skills and gifts to the university. Samford's Parent Program office, with the careful guidance of Susan Doyle, is working through the Parent Leadership Council to identify ways to better engage parents in those appropriate and meaningful avenues of support.

The leadership council is a group of 46 parents charged with leading the Parents Association. They represent all four undergraduate classes and most every area of the country. Last month, these leaders organized into seven work groups, each supportive of one aspect of the university's mission: academic, business affairs, career, faith, parent association involvement, parent association marketing and service.

A few days ago, the faith work group launched its first effort by asking parents to join in the annual Collegiate Day of Prayer and pray specifically for Samford. A prayer guide was distributed, and emailed to parents and shared on the Samford Parents Facebook page. In short order, more than 3,500 individuals joined their hearts together in praying for Samford.

We encourage Samford parents (current and past) to be thinking about these areas of service and their own gifts, skills and interests to determine where they might best be used. More information is available on the Samford website at [www.samford.edu/parents/association](http://www.samford.edu/parents/association).

As always, thanks for keeping Samford in your prayers.

Andrew Westmoreland  
President

# Science at Your Fingertips: Revitalized Planetarium Involves Viewers in Latest Space Exploration

by Sean Flynt

**Samford University's Christenberry Planetarium presented a special program on the European Space Agency's recent Rosetta comet mission in February as part of the facility's ongoing expansion of programming, technical upgrades and community engagement.**

Rosetta's *Philae* lander became the first man-made object to land on a comet in November 2014, capturing the attention of many who have never found an interest in physics or space exploration. Christenberry Planetarium director David Weigel hopes his original shows will do the same. The goal, Weigel said, is "to get as large a population as possible as excited as possible about science."

Weigel debuted software and hardware upgrades in fall 2014, including a new high-definition projector that provides a dramatic improvement in image quality over the old system. Specialized new mirrors match the projected image to the curvature of the planetarium's screen.

The new technology allows Weigel to not only create an original show, but also control it in real time to create an interactive audience experience. If someone has a question, Weigel can steer the

projected image to address that interest. In effect, each original Christenberry Planetarium show is unique to its audience.

"We are coming up with new and exciting shows about space that further test the boundaries of the software," Weigel said. Even before the Rosetta showings were complete, Weigel was looking ahead to NASA's March mission to orbit Ceres, a massive asteroid or dwarf planet. Weigel hopes to complete a Ceres show based on the NASA data now that the *Dawn* spacecraft has reached its target.

While the planetarium still features seasonal Alabama Night Skies shows throughout the year as well as the popular Star of Bethlehem show, Weigel said open-source software and data freely available from space agencies have revolutionized what planetaria—and even hobbyists—can create. "Science is not unobtainable," he said. "If you love it, it's right at your fingertips."

All Christenberry Planetarium shows are free of charge and open to the public.

*For complete planetarium schedules and physics news, visit Christenberry Planetarium at Samford University on Facebook.*



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# On the Value of Liberal Arts Education

'Understanding How Our World Is Put Together' by William Nunnelley

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Teaching liberal arts and sciences has been at the center of Samford University's mission since it opened its doors in 1841.

The school's initial offerings included literary and theological studies, and scientific education. One of President Samuel Sterling Sherman's first purchases for then-Howard College was \$5,000 worth of science equipment.

So noted Howard College of Arts and Sciences Dean David Chapman in a historical introduction he wrote for the arts and sciences college strategic plan.

"The idea of a liberal arts education has taken on new meaning since Professor Sherman first advertised the opening of Howard College," Chapman wrote. "At one time such an education was seen as a luxury for those who came from a privileged class. Now a liberal education is a necessity for those who want to compete in a global economy."

## What are the liberal arts?

The Council of Independent Colleges, of which Samford is a member, defines a liberal arts education as studying broadly and building skills geared toward more than one profession. In this approach, students develop strong critical-thinking, problem-solving and communication skills. They learn to approach questions flexibly and to think across multiple disciplines.

"Many people confuse liberal arts with humanities," said Chapman. "In fact, of the seven liberal arts in the classical tradition, three were clearly in the realm of scientific education: arithmetic, geometry and astronomy. (The other four were grammar, logic, rhetoric and music.) At Samford, we have stressed that both arts and sciences are essential to a liberal education."

Some colleges have moved away from a liberal arts approach. Peter Iver Kaufman of the University of Richmond, speaking at last fall's Samford conference on "Teaching the Christian Intellectual Tradition" (*see page 20*), noted that "preprofessional programs are all the rage" at some institutions as

students shun arts and humanities. Kaufman holds the Modlin Chair of Leadership Studies at Richmond.

But Samford stands out in having a common core of courses required of all entering students, noted Chapman. "The core curriculum represents the most visible university commitment to fulfilling the ideals expressed in our mission statement," he said.

## The Future of Liberal Arts Study

Over the years, Samford President Andrew Westmoreland has read hundreds of articles and attended dozens of seminars in which the presumed demise of liberal learning has been the focus. "It does seem that the current drift of public policy toward the need to attach 'employability' to every aspect of education threatens to undermine those things that are not so easily measured," he said.

But Westmoreland believes strongly that "a well-developed array of core courses is the best means for making sense of the



ways in which the academic disciplines are put together and the extent to which they rely on important constructs from each other.” For that matter, he adds, “such an education is crucial to understanding how our world is put together.”

### How does Samford’s core liberal arts program work?

“Every entering freshman encounters the challenge of liberal arts ideas from the first day in Samford’s Core Texts program,” said Howard College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean Rosemary Fisk. “Meanwhile, in the Communication Arts class, the student has to put his or her own ideas into a persuasive argument and assume that others may disagree.”

Fisk said these requirements foster basic skills that “become arts that lead to the intellectual life, and make the person a contributing professional and citizen who values the perspective of others.”

Fisk looks in course evaluations for evidence that such a transformation has occurred. She shared the following

comment from one of her freshmen at the end of the fall class: “Through this course, I learned that my ideas could one day make a difference, but that my presentation of those ideas can make or break them. I learned that figurative language and memorable remarks, although seemingly just icing on the cake, are critical.”

Students who are successful in core curriculum classes usually are ready to benefit from a study abroad experience or an immersion into new studies that require careful thought, said Fisk. “They’re learning to be flexible with whatever knowledge or skills are expected of them, and their values will reflect balanced thinking.”

According to Samford’s Chief Marketing Officer Betsy Holloway, the core curriculum is an essential element of the undergraduate experience, and vital to Samford’s identity and overall brand in higher education. “The liberal arts core is a distinction of Samford and an important aspect of our ongoing promotional efforts. There is no doubt that our liberal arts curriculum shapes our students in powerful

ways,” Holloway said.

Research indicates that strong communication skills, critical thinking and the ability to collaborate within a team—all skills learned in Samford’s core curriculum—are critical attributes sought in the hiring process. In the past two years, 94–98 percent of Samford graduates each semester have been employed within six months of graduation.

### How do those outside liberal arts perceive their value?

Dean Howard Finch of Samford’s Brock School of Business believes the basics gained from liberal arts study are critical components for personal and professional success. “By basics, I mean the ability to speak cogently in front of an audience, to write well and effectively, and to have a solid understanding of history and culture to use as a foundation for setting contemporary opportunities and problems within a multigenerational framework,” he said.

Finch added that the contemporary world is complex, and the speed and depth

of information flow can be overwhelming. “The ability to place current societal events within historical context helps individuals deal with stress and anxiety,” he said. “Understanding that the problems and issues are not necessarily new or unique, and that history and literature provide examples of others who have dealt with similar circumstances, is a valuable coping mechanism.”

Samford education professor Betsy Rogers notes that all successful careers require critical thinking, teamwork, and sensitivity to cultural, demographic, economic, societal and political differences. “A liberal arts education provides this grounding,” she said.

Rogers said chief executive officers of technology companies, including the late Steve Jobs of Apple, agreed that liberal arts training, with its emphasis on creativity and critical thinking, is vital to business success. In her field, Rogers noted that Samford’s reputation as a rigorous liberal arts university gives its graduates an advantage when seeking employment.

“The skills that are deemed today as 21st-century skills are the very hallmarks of a liberal arts education,” said Rogers, chair

of the curriculum and instruction department of Samford’s Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education.

Dean Henry Strickland of Samford’s Cumberland School of Law majored in English, and minored in political science and economics as an undergraduate. “As a product of a liberal arts education, I may be biased, but I think a broad liberal arts education is the best preparation for law school and law practice,” he said. “Liberal arts courses require students to grapple with broad, abstract questions that do not lend themselves to definitive answers.”

Strickland notes that a good liberal arts education requires students to write, “a lot.” He said clear, precise and organized writing is critical in law school and law practice. “A liberal arts education thus provides extensive practice in writing and continuous feedback to improve one’s writing.”

Lawyers must become conversant with an infinite array of subjects that may arise in litigation or in representing clients in transactions, he added. “Having some background in subjects across the undergraduate curriculum . . . is thus hugely beneficial.”

## Stressing problem solving

Robert Sands of Bentonville, Arkansas, is a 1996 Samford graduate who majored in English and minored in philosophy. Today, he is Walmart’s international trade lawyer. His job is to solve problems.

“A Samford liberal arts education teaches communication and problem solving,” said Sands. “The ability to communicate—verbally and in writing—is fundamental to success, and too many lack basic communication skills.”

Sands stressed that his undergraduate education paved the way for him to be able to solve problems. “My professors at Samford emphasized clarity and critical thinking. These things are essential to successful problem solving.”

He said a liberal arts education provides grounding in civilization’s great texts, traditions and ideas. “In many ways, it allows one to interact with those things and to understand the context in which one exists,” he said.

Caitlin Murphree Miller, a 2009 graduate, is assistant managing editor of *Country Living* magazine. She said having to deal with multiple disciplines in liberal arts





helped her become “an agile thinker, and an adept responder to whatever unexpected responsibilities or challenges my profession throws in my direction.”

Miller said she always enjoyed writing but found that doing so across multiple disciplines can be difficult, and that writing for a science class or history course often challenged her. “My writing improved substantially at Samford,” she said, “and I attribute this to frequent writing requirements and writing across multiple disciplines.”

She said Samford’s liberal arts curriculum taught her to effectively transition between classes and disciplines “without a hitch,” a lesson that helps her every day in the professional world. She added that studying liberal arts encouraged “openness in students” that makes them more aware of a larger range of professions and paths for their future.

Stephanie Blackmon, a 2003 Samford graduate, is an assistant professor in the college of education at the University of Oklahoma. She believes Samford’s core curriculum “helps students think across multiple disciplines” and exposes them “to

topics that they may not investigate otherwise.”

She said that, as a tenure-track assistant professor, “my liberal arts education often helps me make connections between my research topics and other areas, an element that I try to use as a way to invite a larger audience to my research and provide layered, robust discussions in my classroom.”

She believes liberal arts subjects give students an opportunity “to think critically, write extensively and explore topics broadly from a number of perspectives.”

Birmingham attorney Kitty Brown, a history major who graduated in 2001, said not only did liberal arts courses expose her to educational cornerstones such as history, English, science and mathematics, “but even within the history department, I had an interdisciplinary experience because of the way our Samford professors exposed students to a variety of humanities and social sciences in a given course.” She cited professor Jim Brown’s folklore class, which explored language, music and culture, and professor Jonathan Bass’s civil rights history course that used journalism, politics and sociology.

“The cane basket I completed during my junior year [in Brown’s class] remains a prized possession!” she said. “Dr. Bass’ oral midterms helped me learn to prepare and present material in a persuasive way, and to think on my feet,” she said.

Charles Kinnaird of Birmingham said studying literature gave him an opportunity

to grapple with the larger issues of life. “The result of grappling with questions raised by literary writers was a larger appreciation of life,” he said. He added that he was thankful for a liberal arts education “where professors were involved in more than facts to be churned out for an exam.”

Kinnaird believes those who approach higher education simply to get the best job they can set themselves up for a limited life experience, “a two-dimensional approach.” The 1977 graduate began his career in the ministry, but later shifted to teaching and health care. He faced getting further training as he moved into different fields, but found “the broader knowledge and experience from a liberal arts background is an advantageous base to work from.” Today, he is a cardiac nurse at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

## Reaffirming arts and sciences

In his introduction to the strategic plan, Dean Chapman stressed the centrality of arts and sciences to Samford’s mission: “An education in the liberal arts and sciences needs to be at the center of the Samford experience . . . as a partner to it preparing students for all the demands of life.” While some might say that the humanities no longer are relevant, Samford believes the value of a liberal arts education remains undiminished, and that the need for ethical foundations and civic engagement has never been greater. ▀



# At Last, a Sequel to *Mockingbird*

## Baggett Reacts to Blockbuster News

Samford English and law professor Mark Baggett has taught *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, since he was a graduate instructor at the University of Alabama in 1979. At Samford since 1987, he has taught the book in Law and Literature classes at the undergraduate and law school level, and in Southern Literature and American Literature classes.

Lee, from Monroeville, Alabama, is one of Baggett's favorite authors. "I probably first read the book in middle school," he said. The iconic novel was published in 1960, Lee's only work to date. When the blockbuster news broke in February that a second Lee novel, *Go Set a Watchman*, would be published by HarperCollins, Baggett did the following interview with *Seasons* editor William Nunnelley.

### What was your reaction to the news that a second Harper Lee novel would be published?

I was surprised, not so much that another manuscript existed, but that it could be prepared for publication without virtually anyone knowing anything about it.

### Have you ever had any indication that other Lee manuscripts might exist? Was there always "talk" by the Monroeville locals?

There have been indications, but never anything concrete. She talked about another novel after *To Kill a Mockingbird* was published in 1960. She even declined to write the screenplay for the movie version because she said she wanted to work on her next book. She published four essays since then and hinted at "nearing completion" on a novel, but nothing until, suddenly, now. I tend to believe what her sister Alice said about her: "I think she was just working on maybe short things with an idea of incorporating them into something." We know now that this manuscript of a sequel has long existed, but I assumed any manuscript would be far from completion. Wayne Flynt, who apparently is one of the few people with access to Harper Lee, has said he was surprised and he thought even her best friends were taken by surprise.

### Why is Lee such an icon?

Perhaps her humility and reclusiveness have contributed something to her iconic status. But I think the respect and reverence toward her are products of the book's success. Her personality and celebrity have merged with the novel, and as the novel has achieved a beloved status, she has as well.

### Where does she rank in your list of authors?

Somewhere in the top five or so. I'm a Mark Twain fan—a Twainiac—because his style and humor reeled me in at an early age. Henry David Thoreau's *Walden* is also a favorite. Harper Lee and Flannery O'Connor would be right behind.

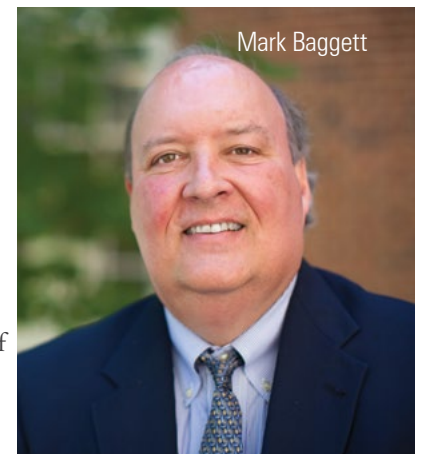
### What factors made *To Kill a Mockingbird* a classic?

You are entering such a rich, vivid world of childhood, autobiography, family and community history, and historical events. The book is authentic, and it has power. It's easy to say her novel "taps into" themes of social class, of race, of justice and injustice, of hatred and courage, but the appeal for me is twofold: Scout's voice and character, this child/adult with a consuming curiosity who is left to navigate and interpret the experience in Maycomb; and Lee's depiction of Atticus Finch and his personal heroism.

### You've taken students to Lee's hometown and plan to again. How do they react to Lee and *Mockingbird*?

I'm teaching a Law and Literature class, and taught *To Kill a Mockingbird* on the day before this announcement was made. Our class plans to go to Monroeville on a Saturday in March, and we hope to get another tour from Stephanie Rogers, the museum director, who is a Samford alumna.

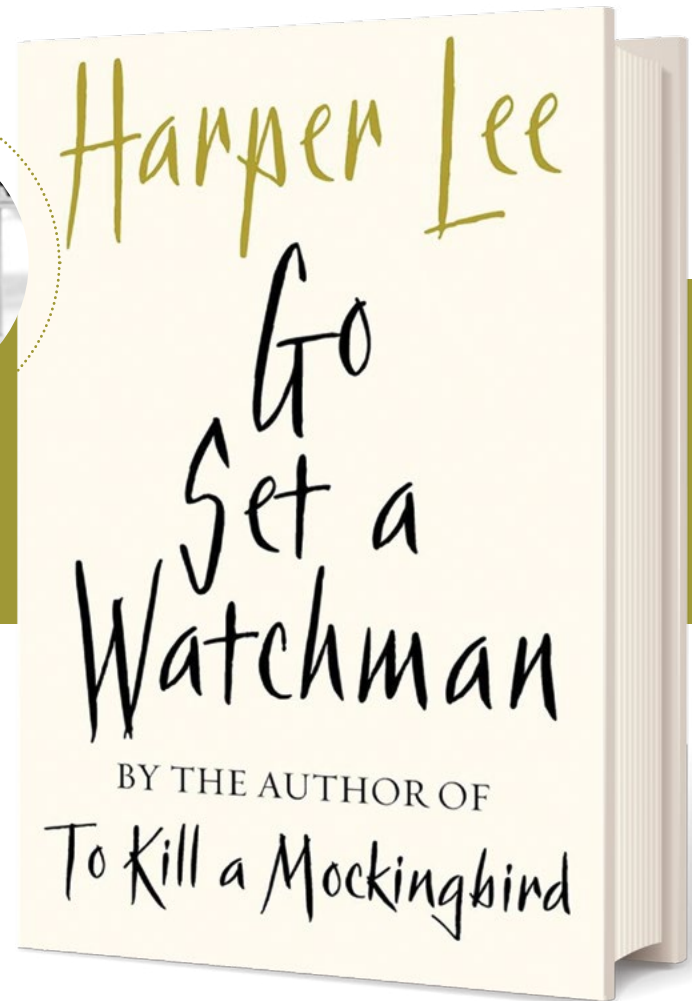
The students have a genuine appreciation and affection for the novel, even though they may not know much about Harper Lee—who does? Their reactions in class are far superior to any literary critiques I bring to the table. The students get it: the novel, the setting, the characters. It's personal to them. Most students know the novel or movie for a couple of reasons: We're in the South; and the novel is one of the most-read high school texts year after year.



Mark Baggett



Harper Lee in 1962



**Do you have any concerns/hopes about what this does to Lee's literary and cultural legacy? Any worries that there might be manipulation/mistreatment of an aging author reputedly in bad health?**

I do share some of the concerns that have surfaced. What physical condition is she in? How much ghostwriting was done to complete the book? Did she want it published? Is the huge publishing advance a factor? However, I don't think it will tarnish her legacy, and almost certainly we are going to have another 350 pages of her storytelling. If it is a forgettable novel, it will be a footnote to *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

**Has Lee ever said why she never published a second book (until now)?**

She has said in effect "I didn't have to publish another novel" on a couple of occasions. Alice Lee quoted her sister as saying, "She says you couldn't top what she had done. She told one of our cousins who asked her, 'I haven't anywhere to go but down.'" The speculation has been that she had such an aversion to fame that she didn't want to go through the experience again. Of course, the persistent speculation has been that she didn't write *To Kill a Mockingbird* in the first place, but I think we're past that now. In fact, this new novel may put an end to that speculation. My purely subjective guess is that she was never able to regain her writing momentum after the publication of *To Kill a Mockingbird* and then the movie, which followed quickly. You have to remember that she came to New York in 1948 and spent years writing before *To Kill a Mockingbird* was accepted. Then she spent two difficult years, in her words, from 1958 to 1960, revising the novel. Then she was in the celebrity spotlight for a number of years.

**Will a second book change the way you teach Lee?**

Probably not, unless the new book is such a close continuation of *To Kill a Mockingbird* that it would be necessary to complete the story.

**Are two million copies on the first printing any kind of record? What titles might rank with that?**

The seventh book in the Harry Potter series, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, which was published in 2007, had a record-breaking first print run of 12 million copies in the U.S. and sold 8.3 million copies in the first 24 hours, making it the fastest selling book in history. *Mockingjay*, published in 2010, the last installment in the Hunger Games trilogy, had a first printing of 1.2 million. John Grisham's novel *Sycamore Row* (2013) had a first print run of 1.5 million copies with Doubleday.

**Why would Lee decide to publish this book now, apart from money?**

My guess is to exert some control over the destiny of this manuscript while she is still alive.

**Can a movie be far behind?**

If *To Kill a Mockingbird* were only a novel, I would say no. But because it is one of the greatest movies of all time, who wouldn't want to reprise the roles of Atticus Finch and Scout? ▀

# Samford Completes SPC Property Purchase

## Facilities to House College of Health Sciences by Philip Poole

**Samford University has completed the purchase of property adjacent to the campus that has served as the headquarters for Southern Progress Corp. The \$58 million sale was finalized Dec. 31.**

The 28-acre tract includes nearly 400,000 square feet of space in three buildings and more than 1,000 parking spaces.

Samford will renovate two buildings to house its College of Health Sciences, which includes the schools of health professions, nursing, pharmacy and public health. Some CHS administrative offices relocated to the new space in early February, but Samford will not move full operations and classes until sometime in 2016, according to Harry B. Brock III, Samford's vice president for business and financial affairs.

Samford is developing long-term utilization needs for the space it will occupy, Brock noted. In addition to building renovations, Samford will develop access points from within the current campus to the new property. Those plans will be announced at a later date.

Under the purchase agreement, Time Inc., the parent company for Southern Progress, will have a long-term lease on one building to house its Birmingham operations, which include *Southern Living* and *Cooking Light* magazines. Time has until December 2016 to renovate that space and move its operations.

Brock said the main entrance to the College of Health Sciences will be what is now the main entrance to the Southern Progress property on Lakeshore Drive. Once relocated, the entrance to Time Inc.'s building will be on Old Montgomery Highway.

Earlier in 2014, Samford purchased an office building and acreage at 600 University Park Place across Lakeshore Drive from the main campus. Similar to the acquisition of University Park Place, the long-term lease revenue for the building to be occupied by Time Inc. fits within the university's long-term investment parameters for the endowment, Brock said. The buildings represent Class A office space and prime property in the Midtown real estate market.

Samford President Andrew Westmoreland praised Brock and the team of Samford administrators who negotiated the purchase

with representatives of Time Inc. and the Birmingham commercial real estate firm Graham and Co.

"This purchase happened because of the extraordinary talents and efforts of several people at Samford who worked extra hours, including through the holidays," Westmoreland said. "In particular, I'm grateful to Buck Brock and those who worked with him over the last several weeks and months to develop these plans."

SPC purchased the then-undeveloped property from Samford in 1987 to relocate and consolidate its operations from other Birmingham locations. Time Inc. had announced plans early in 2014 to seek a buyer for the property that would allow Southern Progress to remain in Birmingham.

In a November message to SPC employees announcing the purchase agreement, Evelyn Webster, Time Inc. executive vice president, said, "As you know, we've been working diligently to both find a way to utilize our vacant space and to create state-of-the-art facilities for the Southern Progress operation. Today's announcement accomplishes this objective and also allows us to partner with and support Samford University in its focus on delivering high-quality education to its students."

Westmoreland emphasized the importance of the purchase to Samford's long-range physical plant and academic needs.

"The moving of several programs housed in existing buildings on the current campus will enable us to address critical space requirements for many of our growing academic programs and to accommodate the addition of new areas of study," Westmoreland said. "We are now afforded a rare opportunity to develop plans that will influence Samford in ways that stretch far beyond our lifetimes, so extraordinary wisdom will be required to guide our steps."

He added that the move also ensures adequate space for the anticipated growth in the College of Health Sciences as all those academic programs are brought under "one roof." ▀

*View a video about the property at [samford.edu/news/?id=21474869299](http://samford.edu/news/?id=21474869299).*





# College of Health Sciences Continues Its Rapid Growth



by Katie Stripling

When Samford University first introduced its new College of Health Sciences in 2013, it seemed an ambitious goal. Motivated by a desire to further the Samford mission while preparing students in an inter-professional environment for some of the fastest growing careers in the country, the college would build on the strength of its existing programs, while adding two new schools and a number of majors and academic programs.

“In the College of Health Sciences, we are constantly evolving to meet the needs of our students and the community,” said Nena F. Sanders, vice provost of the college. “*U.S. News & World Report’s* 2015 ranking of the Top 100 Jobs in America confirms what we already knew—now is the time to pursue a career in health care.”

Health-care careers accounted for seven of the top 10 spots on the *U.S. News* list and comprised more than 25 percent of the top 100. Most programs within the college were included in the rankings, which were based on projected openings, rate of growth, job prospects, unemployment rates, and salary and job satisfaction.

“A wonderful thing about the college is that it offers students new and expanded opportunities to pursue their calling to care for others, while also filling obvious needs in the health-care workforce,” said Sanders. For example, the U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor and Statistics anticipates that physical therapist jobs will grow by 36 percent between 2012 and 2022 as the baby boomer population continues to age. In addition, they predict that more than 525,000 nursing positions will be created during the same period. Faster than average job growth is also expected for family nurse practitioners, pharmacists, dietitians and nutritionists, speech language pathologists, social workers, athletic trainers and many other health-care professions.

So far, the college has added nine majors or academic programs and plans to introduce an additional 5–7 in 2015–16. Current programs in nursing, pharmacy, kinesiology and nutrition continue to flourish, with national licensure examination pass rates consistently exceeding the national average and graduates earning highly sought positions in their chosen field upon graduation.

### School of Health Professions

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is growing rapidly. Thirty-five students are pursuing a bachelor of science or a minor in communication sciences and disorders. The department continues to make progress in achieving candidacy status from the national Council

on Academic Accreditation (CAA) for the Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology program. A January 2015 site visit from CAA yielded a favorable report for the program, and a final decision on candidacy status is anticipated soon. The department is interviewing applicants for the master’s program and expects to admit 20 students in its 2015 cohort.

New majors and degree programs have also been added in the Department of Kinesiology. At the undergraduate level, there are a number of paths to post-graduation success. Personalized plans of study prepare students for the graduate or professional school of their choice, including options for premedicine, prephysical therapy, pre-occupational therapy, pre-optometry and more. The department recently announced a new graduate degree offering, the master of athletic training (M.A.T.). Applications are being accepted for this full-time program that offers students access to some of the most recognized athletic training facilities in the country. Samford’s M.A.T. is the only graduate program of its kind in Alabama.

The inaugural cohort of 35 doctor of physical therapy students is expected to begin in summer 2015. The program has completed its Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) Application for Candidacy, and a final decision on the program’s candidacy status is expected in spring 2015.

### School of Public Health

In January 2015, the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics welcomed its inaugural class of 17 dietetic interns. The 12-month postbaccalaureate program is a critical piece of a student’s path to becoming a registered dietitian. Upon completion of the program, students are eligible to take the national Registration Examination for Dietitians offered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). Thirteen of the 17 dietetic interns are also enrolled in Samford’s Master of Public Health program.

The first group of students in the Master of Public Health program began in fall 2014, and applications are being accepted for the August 2015 class. Plans are

underway to introduce a bachelor of science in public health degree in the near future, and joint/coordinated programs are being developed with the school of pharmacy, dietetic internship, school of nursing and others.

The Department of Social Work is accepting applications for the new Master of Social Work program. Unique to Samford, the program offers concentrations in clinical social work and global community development with full- and part-time study options. The program is in the precandidacy stage of development with the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). The first CSWE site visit occurred in January 2015, and the program was found to be in compliance with all accreditation standards. The CSWE Commission on Accreditation will review the program for candidacy status in June 2015, and the first cohort of students will begin classes in fall 2015.

### A New Approach to Health-care Education

In addition to offering new academic programs, the college is embracing an innovative approach to health-care education. Interprofessional education is at the heart of all programs within the college. Graduates will be prepared to work in collaboration with professionals across disciplines to improve patient outcomes. “Health care is increasingly delivered by teams of individuals, and our graduates will leave here ready to actively participate in and confidently lead these teams,” said Sanders. Students and faculty within the college learn alongside one another through coordinated classroom, simulation and community experiences.

Throughout the days, months and years ahead, the College of Health Sciences will continue to add programs at the baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral levels. ▮

*To stay current with the latest news in the College of Health Sciences, please go to [samford.edu/healthsciences](http://samford.edu/healthsciences).*

STEP SING

# Sigma Chi

SWEEPS TO STEP SING

# Victory

by Philip Poole







Step Sing images can be found at [samford.edu/go/photos](http://samford.edu/go/photos) in the Student Life section. Group posters are available by emailing [csummers@samford.edu](mailto:csummers@samford.edu).

### **Sigma Chi fraternity swept to victory Feb. 14 in Samford's University 2015 Step Sing.**

In addition to the coveted Sweepstakes Trophy in the annual student-produced talent show, Sigma Chi received all three Judges' Awards for excellence in music, choreography and creative. They also received the Participants Choice Award, as voted by all Step Sing participants, for favorite choreography.

Their show, "Alley Cats," was set in a bowling alley, and included human pins and bowling balls.

Show directors were Chris Colee, a sophomore chemistry major from Montgomery, Alabama; Steadman Bethea, sophomore human development and family science major from Montgomery, Alabama; and Richard Barnes, sophomore prebusiness major from Franklin, Tennessee.

Pi Kappa Phi fraternity was first runner-up with "Trashin' the Camp."

Dudes-a-Plenty, a group that comes together each year just to perform in Step Sing, was second runner-up with their show, "Unleashed." They also received Participants Choice Awards for costume, music and most entertaining.

FreshMix, a freshman coed show, received the other Participants Choice Award for favorite emcee.

Alpha Omicron Pi sorority continued its multiyear streak as the participating group to raise the most money—nearly \$3,000—for the Step Sing philanthropy.

Participants collected \$10,863 for Morning Star Foundation, which works primarily caring for orphaned, abandoned

and needy children with severe heart disease in China. Meredith Toering, a 2013 Samford graduate, works with Morning Star and was on stage to present the award to AOPi. Toering told the audience that she would be returning to China the next morning and had enough to provide a much-needed surgery for one of the children at Morning Star.

More than 900 students representing 16 groups performed four shows in the 65th production of Step Sing. The show is totally student-produced and professionally judged. It is considered one of Samford's most cherished traditions.

Show directors were Scottie Lenning, a senior graphic design major from Birmingham, and Claire Tolbert, a senior nursing major from Marietta, Georgia.

Former show directors, choreographers and arrangers were invited to a special reception on Friday evening hosted by Samford's Office of Annual Giving and Alumni Programs. One of those attending the reception was 1994 graduate Craig Hyde, who designed the Sweepstakes Trophy that is still in use.

Hyde said the trophy was designed to reflect Samford and includes much symbolism.

"We wanted to design something that tied in the traditional steps of the library," he explained. "The four columns on the trophy represent the four pillars of the library, which rise up the platform that holds the crystal—the pinnacle of the trophy. We also matched the wood on the trophy to the wood in Wright Center."

Hyde said he enjoys bringing his family

to Step Sing so his daughters can experience Samford. "It is surreal now to see the trophy. In my mind, I saw it when it was pristine, and now I get to see it worn and in the hands of all of the winners."

Former Dudes-a-Plenty director Robbie Stone also attended the reception. He directed the group's 2007 Sweepstakes-winning show.

"As directors, our goal was never to do a revolutionary show," Stone said. "It was just to have a good time and to create the most fun show we could. The fact that we won sweepstakes and had the time of our lives was just icing on the cake."

This was the 43rd anniversary for the Sweepstakes Award.

More than 2,000 live-stream connections in 19 countries on six continents were made during the three evening performances, including 108 alumni and parent "watch parties" in at least 17 states. Students at Samford's London Center were among several international groups who stayed awake into the early morning hours local time to view the Saturday evening performance.

The company with whom the university works provided a special high-definition production truck for this year's performance, the 20th consecutive show where video production has been used. The truck's assignment just prior to Samford's Step Sing was Super Bowl XLIX. Ed Landers, director of Samford's Media Center, has led the production crew each year. ▀

*For more Step Sing coverage, go to [samford.edu/news](http://samford.edu/news).*



A view of Pailón del Diablo waterfall in Baños, Ecuador, during a visit to natural attractions near the students' work site at Camp Chacauco.

# Samford Students Learn Much from Jan Term Experiences

by Mary Wimberley

Students who studied in Samford University's Jan Term began 2015 with a vast collection of new experiences and insights gleaned from all over the globe.

Nathalie Roeling could not have foreseen the value of visiting a camp in Ecuador in order to form the basis for her senior design project.

"It was easily one of the most meaningful experiences of my life," Roeling said of the trip to the Andean region of the South American country. "I learned more than the classroom could teach."

Students in the course taught by interior architecture professor Preston Hite took in the region's Latin and native architectural heritage—from the crowded urbanity of Quito to small towns and a small Quichua village with thatch huts.

They marveled at an active volcano and a 500-year-old hacienda while enjoying the captivating natural splendor.

Beyond all that, they applied their earlier training in interior design to complete a detailed survey of an existing structure for which they will create a renovation design during the spring semester.

The multipurpose auditorium at Camp Chacaucó will be used by Ecuadorian Christians for varied needs and gatherings.

"I have never tackled anything like this before," Roeling said. "This is the first real project I have ever done, and I feel very privileged to do it under the supervision of my professors instead of a first-time employer."

The opportunity allowed her to learn aspects of the design process that cannot be mimicked in the classroom, she said.

The Samford group also learned from a local design consultant at a project site and provided basic consultation for a church in Latacunga. But, said Hite, the students were most moved by the experience of getting to know the Ecuadorians with whom they worked and worshipped.

"The personal stories that the students learned about each of the Ecuadorians whom they befriended, and the conversations they shared, were extremely motivational for the students," he said. "They expressed near-shock that their Ecuadorian friends thanked them repeatedly for their visit, as the students felt that they were the ones blessed by the experience."

Roeling, a senior interior design major from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, agrees that the trip helped her clarify how she will use her vocation.

"I learned, more clearly than ever, that God has called me to give my profession and gifts to glorify him," said Roeling, who is thrilled to see God shape the way she works in the field of design.

The design course in Ecuador was one of two Jan Term study

abroad opportunities offered this year for the first time.

In Rwanda, a partnership between Samford's Brock School of Business and the Mann Center for Ethics and Leadership resulted in a Jan Term offering that gave new dimension to a development economics course (*see page 25*).

The students in Rwanda and Ecuador, where a second group of Samford students studied in the Amazon Rain Forest, were among 198 Samford students who studied abroad during January. Many were based at Daniel House, Samford's residential study center in London, England, to pursue study in arts, culture, political science, geography, nursing, history, pharmacy, religion, and fitness and health.

Other groups studied education and family life in Indonesia; medical missions in the Dominican Republic; language, food, culture and society in Costa Rica; coastal geography of the Caribbean island of Saba; and history and culture in Rome, Italy.

The three-week trip to the Eternal City allowed 33 University Fellows to wander the medieval streets past Renaissance palaces on their way to savor the joy of gelato.

Led by professors Shannon Flynt, Bryan Johnson and Chris Metress, the students visited world-class museums and famous archaeological sites such as the almost 2,000-year-old Colosseum.

University Fellow Marley Davis returned with memories both academic and nonacademic.

One unforgettable high point was the presentation she made on Italian sculptor Antonio Canova's famous 19th-century work, Pauline Bonaparte, which the group viewed in the Borghese Gallery.

"I enjoyed sharing information with my classmates about a powerful piece of art," said Davis, a junior political science major from Mount Olive, Alabama. She had earlier written a paper about the white marble portrait sculpture, and modified it for the presentation "to make it more personal and interesting . . . and bring the piece to life and make it relevant to Fellows."

In addition to examining many centuries' worth of Roman history and culture, the students became a part of the current daily life in Italy's capital city.

"Many of us had life-changing experiences when we saw musicians on the street," Davis said, recalling a particularly compelling cellist who touched many of the Samford Fellows with his beautiful music.

They attended the annual Epiphany Festival, which celebrated the end of Christmas.

"There were street performers and artists and musicians, and we felt like true Roman citizens enjoying January," said Davis. ▀

**Macon Award Winner****Nordlund Tries to Discover How Each Student Learns**

by Mary Wimberley



Moya Nordlund

**Growing up in Hong Kong, the young Moya Nordlund—gifted in piano and mathematics—was torn between music and architecture as a career choice.**

Fortunately for the many students she has taught, counseled and mentored during her 20-plus years at Samford University, Nordlund listened to her civil engineer father's advice.

Based on his difficulties restarting a career after leaving China when the Communists took over in 1949, he felt that if his daughter took time off for a family, she would find it difficult to re-enter the architectural world.

So, she studied performance and teaching at the Royal Schools of Music in London. "I wanted to be a piano teacher in Hong Kong, which was and still is a prestigious career because Chinese value the arts and music," said Nordlund, who came to the U.S. to study at the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music.

Nordlund's value to Samford and her students was underscored in January when she received the 2015 George Macon Memorial Award as an outstanding teacher, counselor and friend who inspires greatness in students.

Samford provost and executive vice president J. Bradley Creed noted that Nordlund fulfills all criteria for the award,

which celebrates the enduring influence that a teacher can have on students.

"She demonstrates extraordinary commitment to her students as she sets rigorous standards, and expects that the students will be able to meet and exceed these standards," Creed said. As chair of academic studies in the School of the Arts Division of Music, Nordlund oversees the division's academic curriculum, and teaches and advises music education students.

Nordlund's struggles as a student who found memorization of facts difficult, and often felt "dumb," may have informed her success as an educator. The award-winning pianist was at Eastman, where she earned bachelor's and master's degrees, before she devised a way to remember things by making relationships out of everything, a process now known as webbing.

"I realized that I wasn't dumb; I just learned differently. That's why I believe everyone can learn in their own way. As a teacher, it is my job to figure out how each student learns," said Nordlund, who values assessment as a tool to identify what students are having trouble with. "I can adjust my teaching to address those needs."

Nordlund also holds the doctor of education degree from the University of Alabama.

Known for sending forth well-prepared graduates, Nordlund has a near 100 percent placement of music education alumni in

teaching positions for the past 10 years.

As they go into classrooms and studios, she encourages them to believe in themselves and to "go to the edge" instead of staying in their comfort zones.

At Samford, she said, "They can explore the edges with confidence because we are their safety nets. We will catch them when they fall. After a while, these boundaries will expand because they know how to trust their instincts."

"I want my students to do the right thing and not the easy thing," said Nordlund, who encourages them to learn to depend on God for wisdom.

She also urges them to follow current events to better understand "the ills of society" and the home lives of the students they will teach.

"Knowing the conditions under which some students exist will give us empathy and desire to help them," said Nordlund, who began her teaching career in the public schools of Rochester, New York.

Nordlund and her husband, Tom, a physicist at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, have three children—Samuel James, Sarah Nordlund Dennis and Annika Elise Nordlund-Swenson—and two grandchildren. ▀

## Marshall Award Winner

# Epley Teaches English Literature and Shows Students Its Relevance

by William Nunnolley



**Steven Epley says his goal as an English professor at Samford is to help students develop skills to become lifelong learners and perceptive readers, thoughtful writers, effective public speakers and critical thinkers.**

“Since most of my students won’t become literary critics or English teachers,” he said, “I try to show them the relevance of literary studies for every aspect of their lives—personal, spiritual, professional and relational.”

Epley, who joined the Samford faculty in 1992, teaches British Literature, Cultural Perspectives, Senior Thesis and Medieval Literature.

“Literature allows us to enter into the imaginative experience of people very different from us,” he said. “I encourage that identification among my students, although in academic settings they need to go beyond that to analyze traditional literary elements such as plot, character development, irony and so on.”

Epley also is known for his service and leadership on campus. He has served the Faculty Senate as chair, vice chair and secretary, and has been chair of faculty committees on academic technology and academic affairs. He was also a member of the strategic planning committee.

It was for his significant and sustained service contributions, Samford Provost Brad

Creed noted, that he was awarded the annual Jennings B. Marshall Service Award during the opening convocation of the spring semester.

Epley earned his undergraduate degree in English at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, but when he graduated, his advisers suggested that he defer graduate school because of the depressed job market. He had worked part-time at the *Chattanooga News-Free Press* while in college and, heeding his advisers’ counsel, he accepted a full-time job with the paper.

“I did that for seven years, covering lots of court trials, religious news, business and my favorite, politics,” he said. “I interviewed Al Gore, Howard Baker, Alexander Haig, Pat Robertson, the Osmond brothers (minus Donnie and Marie), and two leading civil rights leaders, Rev. Ralph David Abernathy and Rev. Jesse Jackson.”

Epley then pursued graduate studies at Columbia University, where he earned master’s and Ph.D. degrees in English.

The professor said the biggest change in his teaching over the years involves the relationship between lecture and discussion in class. “I try now to lecture less and engage the students more in the learning process through discussion and small-group activities,” he said.

Jane Austen is by far the most popular British author among his students, he said, and his favorite works to teach are two

Austen novels, *Sense and Sensibility* and *Mansfield Park*. Chaucer is the most popular medieval author “because *The Canterbury Tales* are so witty and so varied in subject matter that every student can find at least one to cherish.”

He added, “I cannot forget Shakespeare, of course.”

Epley’s research during recent years has centered on Susanna Rowson, a British author born in the mid-18th century who later settled in America. He has written a book on Rowson that is under review at Northwestern University Press.

Rowson’s best-known book was *Charlotte Temple*, America’s first best-selling novel, but she also wrote eight other novels, a popular play, poems and educational books at a Boston young women’s academy that she founded and operated until her death in 1824.

Temple is a tragic figure who dies an early death in childbirth. The novel was so popular, Epley noted, that people would leave flowers at her supposed grave site in Trinity Churchyard in New York City. The tombstone is engraved *Charlotte Temple*, he said, but no one is buried beneath it.

Epley said he was very grateful to Samford “for giving me a chance to do what I love for the last 23 years.” He and his wife Deborah, a United Methodist minister, have one son, Zane, now 18. ▀

# Conference Explores Augustine's Great Influence

by Sean Flynt



**Samford University's Core Texts and University Fellows honors programs recently hosted their first annual conference on "Teaching the Christian Intellectual Tradition" (TCIT).** The conference, supported by funding from the Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts, explored ways to help students connect to Augustine of Hippo, the 4th–5th-century bishop regarded as a key founder of the Christian church.

Leading Augustine scholars and faculty from more than 30 schools attended sessions focused on unique interpretations of Augustine's writings and innovative approaches to teaching them. The resulting mix of disciplines, experiences and institutional cultures created an event that exceeded organizers' expectations. "Both during and since the conference, a number of attendees have told me how useful the conference will be to their own teaching," said Samford religion professor Scott McGinnis, one of the conference organizers. "Samford's interest and expertise in teaching was very much on display," McGinnis added.

Conference coordinator and senior University Fellow honors student Rachel Ray spent spring 2013 sending hundreds of email messages to departments and professors throughout the United States and internationally. She managed the responses and paper submissions, and led a group of Fellows volunteers in managing logistics during the conference. Ray said she expects the experience as both coordinator and attendee to distinguish her as she applies to graduate school.

## "Contagious Careerism"

Augustine plays a significant role in Samford's Core Texts and Fellows curricula. "Like him or not, understanding Western history is impossible without wrestling with Augustine's legacy on many, many fronts," McGinnis said. "Studying Augustine allows students the opportunity to know their tradition, and consciously define their own place in it or against it." Plenary speakers Kristen Deede Johnson of Western Theological Seminary and Peter Iver Kaufman of the University of Richmond

presented strong cases for Augustine's relevance in that process.

Reflecting on an encounter with students who felt called to move to Africa, Johnson discussed Augustine's teachings on justice and power. These teachings, she said, could "help bring to light for these students the significant role of structures and institutions in any effort to seek justice," while also motivating them to "look for ways to engage people, institutions and structures right where they are."

Johnson concluded her address with an expression of hope for students that echoed throughout the conference. "May Augustine prompt them to seek the grace of God in Christ that in all that they do they might prioritize the justice game over the power game, that they would be faithful, responsible and humble with the power that has been entrusted to them—not avoiding power as inherently evil but using it for the greater good of justice."

Kaufman, in his address and in a university convocation, emphasized Augustine's "critique of, and alternatives to, the contagious careerism so many of our undergraduates bring to college and bring to the core courses." The modern academy, which many believe values short-term career training over deep engagement with the foundations of western civilization, does not fare well in comparison to Augustine's *City of God* in Kaufman's estimation. He described Augustine's "recoil" from politics and the career path it promised, and lamented that many modern university graduates will realize too late that "their guilds, skills and powers inhibit their humanity."

"Preprofessional programs are all the rage" as students shun arts and humanities, Kaufman said. But as bleak as the higher education landscape looks from the perspective of the humanities, the students at Samford and elsewhere who follow that path distinguish themselves in important ways. "Sudden socioeconomic swerves turn today's career paths into tomorrow's cul-de-sacs, putting a premium on candidates' agility, versatility and, I would add, integrity," Kaufman said. "So, too, Augustine." ▮



M.B.A. student Yiyang "Ian" Zheng



**BROCK**  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS  
SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

Brock School of Business Insert stories by Kara Kennedy.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Studying blueprints of the new Brock School of Business Building are, from left, Glen Harris, Howard Finch, Buck Brock, Neil Davis and Mike Waller.

### **Student Achievement, Community Partnerships Typify Brock School of Business Success Story**

We are thrilled to be able to highlight some of the great things happening within Samford's Brock School of Business. At the heart of everything we do is student growth and achievement. We had a most successful fall semester and sent a great group of December graduates into the workforce ready to make the world a better place.

In the pages that follow, read about our social entrepreneurship students' successful trip to Rwanda, Africa, and our M.B.A. students' success at a national small-business conference in Tampa, Florida. We also profile some recent graduates who have successfully transitioned into professional life.

Our faculty members remain the heart and soul of Brock School of Business, and this spring marks a time of significant transition for us. Three longtime professors—Sharon Jackson, Dennis Price and John Venable—will retire at the end of this academic year. We recognize and honor their many contributions.

We continue to create new partnerships and to strengthen existing partnerships with community organizations throughout our footprint. These partnerships enhance the school's brand, provide opportunities for student internships and job placements, and make us a valuable asset to the regional economy. One of our newest efforts was a partnership last fall with Birmingham Business as Mission to host an event featuring entrepreneurs pitching business ideas. Plans are already underway for the next edition of "The Lion's Den" in fall 2015.

The excitement is growing as our new building enters the final phases of construction. Set for completion in time to host fall 2015 classes, the building will feature state-of-the-art classrooms, a special room for our student-managed Bulldog Investment Fund, outstanding collaborative meeting facilities for both students and faculty members, and a community resource room for hosting area events and organizations. You can follow the building progress as we approach this historical milestone in our history through the live web cam at [www.samford.edu/business](http://www.samford.edu/business).

There has never been a better time to pursue business education at Samford University. We are providing outstanding growth opportunities intellectually, personally and spiritually for our students. I look forward to hosting you on campus to tour our new building this fall!

It is a pleasure to serve as your dean.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Howard Finch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

J. Howard Finch



# Brock School of Business M.B.A. Students Place Second in International Case Competition

**Four M.B.A. students placed second at an international case competition sponsored by Baylor University and the U.S. Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE) at the USASBE Conference in Tampa, Florida, Jan. 22.** Rebecca Gornto, Jennifer Hughes, Amanda Strength and Anna Katherine Weathington wrote the case for “Collage Designer Consignment” last summer under the supervision of Brock Family Chair in Entrepreneurship Franz Lohrke. The case was part of a student consulting assignment focusing on the opportunities and challenges facing Vestavia Hills retailer/owner Tracy Dismukes as she considered growth options for her company.

Gornto and Strength presented the case at the conference.

“The judges commented that the students did a great job writing a case about a unique company in a niche industry,” said Dr. Lohrke. “They also encouraged the students to publish their case, so professors could use it to help students learn about important entrepreneurship issues like how and whether to grow a small business.”

The students also received a \$1,000 prize.

Other finalists included students from the University of Tampa, the University of South Florida, South Dakota State University, the University of San Francisco and IBS Hyderabad (India).

Five years ago, USASBE chose the Brock School of Business Entrepreneurship Program as the best new entrepreneurship program in the country. In 2006, the business school offered a single entrepreneurship class. Within two years, the school offered an entrepreneurship major, minor and concentration.



From left: Jennifer Hughes, Tracy Dismukes, M.B.A. '91, Amanda Strength and Rebecca Gornto

## Entrepreneurship Program Timeline

'07

- Entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship concentrations are launched for business students.
- The business school is renamed for Harry B. Brock, Jr.

'08

- The entrepreneurship concentration becomes a major for business students.
- A social entrepreneurship minor is established for nonbusiness students.
- ASHOKA, a UK-based advocacy group for social entrepreneurship, recognizes the social entrepreneurship program as one of only 28 comprehensive programs in the world.
- World of Business (BUSA 100) is redesigned so freshman can write preliminary business plans. Most universities require students to be juniors to take entrepreneurship courses.

'09

- The first Regions New Venture Challenge Business Plan Competition is held with prize money totaling \$20,000 and a division specifically for BUSA 100 students.

'10

- USASBE chooses the entrepreneurship program as the best in the country.
- A donation from Malcolm and Betty Miller allows \$100 loans for each student in Entrepreneurship and Small Business Concepts (ENTR 304) to run a micro-business for the semester.

'11

- An M.B.A. concentration in entrepreneurship is launched.
- An M.B.A. student team places fourth in an international entrepreneurship competition.

'12

- A BUSA100 class is selected as a finalist for a national Innovation in Entrepreneurship Education Award.
- The Brock School of Business Student Business Incubator opens in Dwight Beeson Hall.

'13

- The fifth annual Regions New Venture Challenge surpasses \$100,000 in total prize money.
- An entrepreneurship minor for nonbusiness students is introduced.

'14

- M.B.A. and undergraduate student teams place among the top four teams in two international entrepreneurship competitions. ▸

# Accounting Professors *to Retire This Spring*



Dennis Price



Sharon Jackson

## **Dennis Price and Sharon Jackson, assistant professors of tax and accounting, will retire at the close of the spring 2015 semester.**

After careers in public accounting and industry, Jackson began her teaching career at Auburn University. She joined Brock School of Business in 1997 when there were fewer than 15 senior accounting majors in the program.

“When I came here, there was no Accounting Career Night or on-campus recruiting,” said Jackson. “We had the first Accounting Career Night my second year, and there were about five firms in attendance. Now we average 25 firms each year. Our students are recruited by all of the Big 4 public accounting firms, and numerous local and regional firms.”

Price joined the accounting faculty in 2001 after a lengthy career with Ernst & Young. Hired principally to teach federal income tax courses within the accounting curriculum, Price gained the immediate respect of the students for his technical expertise and passion for his field.

“Over my tenure, the number of accounting majors has roughly doubled,” said Price. “But I am most proud of the significant numbers who have chosen tax careers and have been so aggressively recruited by certified public accounting firms—usually the first employment choice of accounting graduates.”

Both professors qualify Samford students as exceptional, not only because of the education they receive at Samford, but also in their reputation among the Birmingham community.

“The quality of a Brock School of Business accounting education and the strength of the school’s ties to the professional community make Samford a great choice for students interested in pursuing an accounting career,” said Price.

“What makes the students special is how professional most of them are,” said Jackson. “Not only are they intelligent, but they are very polished and confident when dealing with the public. It is so important in the public accounting world, which requires daily interaction with clients at all levels of the organization.”

Jackson helped establish the Samford chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, an international honor organization for financial information students and professionals, and has served as faculty adviser since 2002. She also served as chair of the Scholarship and Awards Committee, and has started the Sharon S. Jackson Scholarship for business students. It is her hope that donations from others will allow this scholarship to become endowed.

“I saw firsthand what a difference financial assistance can mean to our many deserving students,” said Jackson. “One of the happiest days of the academic year was the day of our awards ceremony. I hope that my scholarship can help with this effort and make a difference to students in the future.”

Both Price and Jackson have left a significant legacy at Samford.

“I will always cherish my time at Samford, and I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to share my passion for my professional field with so many young people,” said Price.

“I have developed lasting relationships with many of my former students,” Jackson said, “and I am so proud of their accomplishments. I am honored to have had some small part in helping them get started on their career paths.” ▀

# Jan Term Rwanda Course Teaches Demanding Work of Economic Development

**Twelve students—10 from Brock School of Business, one science and religion major, and one child and human development major—traveled to Rwanda during Jan Term to study development economics.** The course draws from traditions of ethics and theology, and explores how lives can be improved through investment and market exchange.

“My core objective of this course has always been the same,” said Jeremy Thornton, Dwight Moody Beeson Chair of Business and associate professor of economics. “Many students want to help others around the world, but wanting to be helpful and actually being helpful are not the same thing. Economic or community development is complex, demanding and often unglamorous work.”

The students spent 10 days studying the harsh economic conditions in Rwanda. They wanted a better understanding of why Rwanda was so different from other places they had visited. Early in their trip, they visited the Rwanda Genocide Memorial in Kigali. They met with the U.S. Embassy to learn about USAID and with Food for the Hungry Rwanda. They also met with Bridge2Rwanda to discuss international issues and how life in the United States and Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and South Sudan differ.

The students visited a financially sustainable co-op for HIV-positive women and children. They hiked to a hydroelectric plant run by Business as Mission and visited a village with HOPE International Savings Group, where they saw small businesses that were started by members within the community. They also learned about several nutrition programs in Rwanda and went on a safari in Akagera National Park.

The business school partnered with Samford’s Mann Center for Ethics and Leadership to give students an experience in understanding why poverty exists and to use their faith to engage in the issue of global poverty. Mann Center director Drayton Nabers and Samford’s chief marketing officer Betsy Holloway also traveled with the students.

“We hope to continue these programs and allow more Samford students with interests in social entrepreneurship and international ministry to develop their passions and skills in Rwanda,” said Cameron Collins, assistant director of the Mann Center.

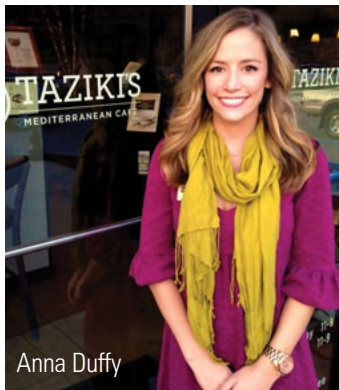
Thornton predicts that about half the students in this course will end up in some type of development work as a vocation. “Several went on to graduate school, and others are still overseas,” he said.

Samford is developing many long-term partnerships in Rwanda. Thornton, Holloway and Nabers spent time at the University of Rwanda College of Business and Economics to discuss

opportunities for exchange programs. Samford is working to bring a Bridge2Rwanda Scholar to Samford as a student next fall in the University Fellows program. “These relationships should pay dividends for students and the Samford community for years to come,” Thornton said. ▀



Top: Rwandan children greet Betsy Holloway.  
Bottom: Students Laura Bean and Michael Taylor enjoy a safari in Akagera National Park.



Anna Duffy

## Duffy Turns Internship into Full-time Market Analyst Position

**Anna Brewer Duffy's work as a market analyst for Birmingham-based Taziki's Mediterranean Café is proof**

**that perseverance and working hard as a student pay off.**

Duffy credits her success to her professors and degree she got from Samford's Brock School of Business. "Samford is a name that is recognized and respected by companies both locally and nationally," Duffy said.

Duffy chose a career in marketing based on her experience in Dr. Betsy Holloway's marketing class and two student internships. She interned for a large convenience store chain based in Ohio, Speedway LLC, where she learned some nuances of business and grew as a professional.

During her internship at Taziki's, Duffy worked in human resources, operations and marketing. She also had the opportunity to work as a full-time executive assistant to the president and CEO. When she graduated from Samford in May 2013, the internship led to a full-time position as a market analyst.

"I encourage everyone to take advantage of the internship program," Duffy said. "Even if you interview with several companies before landing the right internship for you, do it. You grow from each interview experience. Companies look for employees who are confident and humble."

Duffy also encourages current students to take advantage of Samford's smaller class sizes to get to know their professors. "Samford's environment fosters confidence and professionalism, and students are mentored formally and informally by their professors," she said.

Students can grow their skills and build résumés by taking advantage of other opportunities presented by the business school as well, Duffy said.

"It can be a tough transition from student to a full-time employee," said Duffy. "I encourage students to search for a job that makes them excited to go to work every day."

She says that every job, entry-level or not, can lead to other opportunities. "Your approach and perspective are everything and will lead you to your success," she said. ▀

**Former Samford quarterback Andy Summerlin credits his professors at Brock School of Business for having confidence in him and giving him the skills he needed to be successful in his career.** He graduated from Samford in 2013 with an M.B.A. with concentrations in finance and entrepreneurship.

"The support my professors and advisers gave me allowed me to step outside my comfort zone and aim higher for what I wanted in my life," said Summerlin. "They helped me develop a solid foundation for thinking critically and communicating effectively."

Summerlin also credits the Brock Internship Program for helping him prepare and navigate different work environments. He held one internship with Aliant Bank, where he learned firsthand about different credit principles. He also worked with the Harbert Management Corporation in investment strategies and other disciplines.

These internships helped him prepare for his job in a private equity firm. One Eighty Capital in North Dakota focuses on North America's oil and gas shale. Summerlin works with small businesses to help them develop a transformation plan, and to diversify services,

## Samford Quarterback Summerlin Helps Oil and Gas Industry



Andy Summerlin

regions and customers.

Summerlin advises current business students to intern or job shadow as often as possible, even if it is just for a brief period of time. He feels that students should gain as much exposure to as many jobs and disciplines as they can so that they can decide what they like and dislike when choosing a career path.

"The simple advice we have always heard remains true: treat others with respect, work hard, challenge yourself to improve, be humble and lead by example," said Summerlin. "When done consistently, it has a tremendous impact on your career, company and life." ▀

# First Lion's Den a Success; Second Event Set for Oct. 29

**At an exciting new program called "The Lion's Den," five businesses with operations in more than a dozen countries presented business plans to a panel of six experts Nov. 13 at Samford University in a *Shark Tank*-type experience with a twist.**

Panelists were looking for sharp business minds focused on producing more than just excellent financial results; they were looking for companies achieving a quadruple bottom line of financial success with positive social, spiritual and environmental impact in their communities.

A sold-out crowd of more than 200 people from 10 states voted live on the likely financial success and spiritual impact of each company.

"There is a significant wave of interest in business as mission and social entrepreneurship as more people seek to connect their minds and hearts in profitable, multi-impact investing," said attendee Blake Mosher of Austin, Texas. "The Lion's Den is helping to form and shape these movements."

Presenters included Birmingham-based companies Erwin Brothers Entertainment and Work of Worth International, Thrive Farmers Coffee, EzyLife India and East Africa Hydro Development.

Jon Erwin described his company's vision for the motion picture *Woodlawn*, filmed in the Birmingham area, and how it will have international reach and impact. Barry Morehead and Olivia Dunn of Work of Worth International provided a glimpse into their start-up's rapid growth in sourcing and selling handmade goods from India to alleviate poverty and human trafficking.

Thrive Farmers Coffee supplies Chick-fil-A's stores nationwide with Farmer-Direct coffees, a relational focus to sourcing coffee not seen before in the marketplace of the world's most popular beverage. Jonathan Jakubowski of EzyLife India explained how his company would enter India's agricultural market and provide higher crop yields at a cheaper price for farmers with its EzyGrow seed inoculant. Tom Phillips of Memphis, Tennessee, discussed how his East Africa Hydro Development Fund will boost Rwanda's domestic power generation by 150% through planned hydropower projects.

The purpose of the event was to help each company realize its full potential through the panel and audience input.

"The presenting firms provided outstanding examples for our students and faculty to experience business success coupled with

Gospel outreach," said Brock School of Business dean Howard Finch. "An important strategic goal for our business school is to prepare our students to achieve professional success while integrating their Christian faith in the workplace. We were pleased to partner with the Birmingham Business as Mission Network to cohost The Lion's Den."

Birmingham Business as Mission Network is changing its name to Cedarworks Inc. It encourages business people to prioritize and implement its quadruple bottom line.

Chuck Welden of WeldenField Development emceed the event. He led the panel of "Lions," comprised of Betsy Holloway, Samford's chief marketing officer; Drayton Nabers, director of Samford's

*"There is a significant wave of interest in business as mission and social entrepreneurship as more people seek to connect their minds and hearts in profitable, multi-impact investing," said attendee Blake Mosher of Austin, Texas.*



## THE LION'S DEN

Mann Center for Ethics and Leadership; Henry Kaestner, managing partner of Sovereign's Capital; Andy Perez, CEO of Audiencepoint.com; and Tom Sudyk, CEO of EC Group International.

Plans for an Oct. 29, 2015, event include greater student involvement, and further instruction on starting and operating companies with a quadruple bottom line. The business school's new building, scheduled for completion by late summer 2015, will be able to accommodate a larger audience. ▀

# Bulldog Fund Founder Venable

## *Heads to Retirement after 25 Years*

**After a 25-year career at Samford University teaching finance, professor John Venable will retire at the end of the 2014–15 academic year.**

When he first started teaching in the business school, there were only two majors: accounting and management. He has seen the growth and transformation of Brock School of Business, which now offers six majors, five minors, three concentrations, and M.B.A. and M.Acc. programs.

Venable also has seen a transformation in the quality and integrity of business students. “Brock students carry with them a presumption of high integrity out into the workforce,” said Venable. “Our students are well-received in the market, and we have placed some of our students in the northeast financial markets. They are making an impression.” His hope is for the school to continue to build relationships within the markets of New York, Princeton and Hartford so that graduates have an increased opportunity to work there.

One of Venable’s biggest accomplishments and proudest moments while teaching at Samford has been the establishment of the student-run investment fund, the Bulldog Fund. Venable was the founding faculty member responsible for researching and drafting its business plan. The fund became a reality in 2008 with the support of Samford’s board of trustees, President Andrew Westmoreland and then business dean Beck Taylor. The fund is \$1.7 million and is among the largest funds in the Southeast.

“While researching the possible models to use, I found that many ‘student-run’ funds were not true to their name,” Venable said. “With most of them, the students only made the recommended investments, and the adults approved the investments and devised the strategies. I felt strongly about vesting almost complete control with the students.”

At the beginning of each semester, Bulldog Fund students inherit and review the portfolio left by the existing managers. They approve how the funds will be allocated going forward, and they research, present and vote on new stocks. Venable has veto power



John Venable

only if a student violates the investment policy. So far, the fund has been on par with professionally managed funds.

“We now have 60 alumni managers, and most of them say that the Bulldog Fund was one of their best learning experiences,” said Venable.

He says that some of his most rewarding times at Brock School of Business have been when alumni who graduated 3-5 years ago send him letters of appreciation for all they were taught as a student. “Whenever I get one of those messages, I feel like I am floating on air for days afterward,” he said.

Venable credits the faculty for blending normal education practices with real-world experiences in the classroom.

“When our students leave us, I have good feelings about their readiness to enter the workforce,” he said. “I’m proud to have played a part in their development.” ▀

# Summer Brings Variety of Academic, Arts Learning Opportunities

Samford University is offering a variety of learning opportunities during the summer of 2015, ranging from arts camps for children to academic programs for high school students.

## **Athletic Training Summer Clinic**

**June 5–7 • Grades 9–12**

Samford's Athletic Training Education program, in collaboration with Champion Sports Medicine, hosts this residential clinic for high school students interested in athletic training.

## **Piano and Chamber Music Institute**

**June 7–13 • Grades 7–12**

Students further their performance abilities while increasing general knowledge of music.

## **Imagine! Summer Camps**

**June 8–12 and 15–19 • Grades K–12**

This one-week (for grades K–5) and two-week (for grades 6–12) camp gives students the chance to plan, create and participate in a theatre production.

## **Alabama Governor's School**

**June 14–26 • Rising high school seniors**

Students selected to participate in the Alabama Governor's School, hosted by Samford University, are nominated by their high school counselor.

## **Adventures in Music Camp (Piano)**

**June 15–19 • Grades 1–12**

Piano and voice students enhance their solo and ensemble performance, music history and theory knowledge.

## **Bulldog Pharmacy Camp**

**June 21–26 • Rising high school juniors and seniors and college freshmen**

In this overnight camp, learn about careers in pharmacy, participate in hands-on pharmacy science lab demonstrations and tour local health-care facilities.

## **Summer Debate Institute**

**June 21–July 4 • Grades 9–12**

National-caliber staff emphasizes 21st-century debate skills.

## **Academy Art Summer Camp**

**June 22–26 • Ages 7–11**

Students join artist Carolyn Wass to explore expression through drawing, kiln-fired clay, acrylic and watercolor painting techniques, printmaking and paper marbling.

## **J.D. Calling**

**June 24–27 • Grades 11–12**

This program features expert panels, a mock trial, analysis of legal cases and advice about law school application.

## **M.D. Calling**

**June 24–27 • Grades 11–12**

This program features premedicine advising, expert panels, networking and field trips.

## **Minority Youth Science Academy**

**June 28–July 1 • Grades 9–12**

This program offers college preparation and mentoring for outstanding minority students with an interest in science.

## **Animate**

**June 29–July 3 • Grades 8–12**

An intergenerational workshop on worship and the arts for young artists and their mentors.

## **Great Ideas Summer Institute**

**July 5–10 or July 12–17 • Rising high school juniors and seniors**

Students engage in lively discussions about the Great Books with faculty members and other exceptional high school students.

## **Quantitative Finance Summer Institute**

**July 5–10 or July 12–17 • Rising high school juniors and seniors**

Students study mathematical and analytical methods used in modern finance.

## **Adventures in Music Camp (Piano and Voice)**

**July 6–10 • Grades 1–12**

Piano and voice students enhance their solo and ensemble performance, music history and theory knowledge.

## **All Aboard for Music Camp**

**July 13–17 • Ages 3–6**

Students experience the foundations of music through movement, song, rhythm, instruments and performance.

For updates and more information on these and other opportunities, go to [samford.edu/go/summer](http://samford.edu/go/summer).  
Information about summer sports camps can be found at [samfordsports.com](http://samfordsports.com).

# 5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT

## EMILY ECHEVARRIA



### What Samford employee had the most influence on you?

Hugh Floyd, sociology department chair, has greatly influenced the way I think and perceive the world around me. He had several favorite quotes, one of which was something akin to, “The only problem with a simple answer is that it’s wrong.” Dr. Floyd challenged us to look at any situation from multiple perspectives and to be wary of quick fixes. Living in a cross-cultural context, this piece of wisdom has helped me be more flexible in the face of unfamiliar and sometimes uncomfortable situations.

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

While I am not sure about the key to success, I’m fairly certain about the key to meaningfulness: listening to the Lord, listening to others, trusting him and taking the necessary risks, especially when you are terrified. Do not let a small view of yourself keep you from taking that step, whatever it may be. Ask God how to use your talents, passions and experiences, because there is an important role for them in the goodness the Lord is working out through the Body.

### What is a favorite Samford memory?

My entire freshman year was a dream. I got to experience living in seasons for the first time. Everything was new and exciting! I met my roommate with whom I would live for five years and who became my best friend. And, I learned so much about community. My freshman residence hall experience set the bar high with a resident assistant who organized luaus, slip ’n’ slides and citywide scavenger hunts. She put up with our absurd antics and encouraged us to grow in our faith. Comments from that hall Bible study have stayed with me.

### What was your motivation for going to India and why are you there?

I’m in a two-year master’s program, spending one semester in urban Los Angeles and 20 months living and learning in a slum community overseas. Course topics are wide reaching, and include church leadership and mobilization, asset-based community organizing, social entrepreneurship and catalyzing grassroots movements. My freshman year at Samford, the Holy Spirit broke my heart for the

dalits (untouchables) of India, who are told from the day they are born that they are dirty and, oftentimes, less than human. The message of Christ is one radically different, unique and potent, and rather than keeping this group at the margins, invites them in as children of God.

### Why is giving back so important?

I think of Micah 6:8, “What does the Lord require of you, O man, but to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.” What an exciting calling! Every day in Delhi is a new adventure of excitement, heartbreak, frustration and humor. As a follower of Christ, I cannot help but feel the intense gravity of doing whatever I am able to secure access to a better life for those who are often overlooked. I am learning and

making mistakes often, but my hope is that I am on the path to learning how to love people well, and to participate effectively and fully in the global Kingdom of God. ▀

*Responses have been edited for length. The profile on Emily Echevarria and on other featured alumni and faculty can be found at samford.edu/spotlight.*

#### Degree/Year

B.A. in sociology, 2012

#### Hometown

Tampa, Florida

#### Current

Living in Delhi, India, as part of the M.A. in transformational urban leadership through Azusa Pacific University

#### Bonus Fact

You can follow her work through her blog at [emilyechevarria.tumblr.com](http://emilyechevarria.tumblr.com) and other social media outlets.





## JOEL SCOTT DAVIS

### Why do you teach at Samford?

I consider it a privilege to teach at Samford. I am particularly grateful to serve alongside the faculty and staff who mentored and influenced me during my own undergraduate years. I teach because I love working with the students who come here, and I enjoy getting to know them as fellow travelers in the ongoing journey of faith and learning. I find it extremely fulfilling to play a small role in the formation of my students' character, intellect, artistry and identity over the course of their collegiate years.

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

My background as a Samford alumnus (B.M. '05) has been particularly helpful in terms of how I relate to my students: I know what it feels like to be in their shoes, and I can remember experiencing many of the same emotions, struggles and triumphs they are currently navigating. Similarly, I feel that my connection to Samford's recent past provides me with a deeper understanding of this institution and its history. From my graduate studies and previous teaching posts to my work on film scores and concert hall premieres, my professional experiences have equipped me for the work that I do with our students on a daily basis.

### How did you become involved in composing film scores, and what is a favorite project you have done or are doing?

I got my start composing film scores back in 2009, when a college classmate of my mother's asked me to write the original music for her PBS documentary *Mississippi ReMixed*. I thoroughly enjoyed the collaborative and creative aspects of the project, and it was very

gratifying to see our work receive placement in international film festivals and national television broadcasts. I have had the good fortune to continue to work on numerous film scoring projects ever since.

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

Most students do not know that I had originally planned to be an English major. I decided to pursue a music degree after enrolling in an AP Music Theory course at my high school, and I even considered majoring in such subject areas as music therapy and commercial music before matriculating into Samford as a church music major. It wasn't until halfway through my first semester that I finalized my decision to study music theory and composition. Around that same time, instructor Jeff Northrup asked me if I had ever considered a career in teaching, and the rest, as they say, is history!

### How do you use your composition and performing talents in the local church?

From a young age, I have been mentored and shaped by musicians who serve in the local church. Upon returning to Birmingham, I joined the staff at Shades Mountain Baptist Church as a part-time worship associate in instrumental music. I direct the Shades Orchestra and serve as an instrumentalist in the worship band. I thoroughly enjoy my interactions with the faithful volunteers who offer their gifts to this ministry. ■

*Responses have been edited for length. The complete profile on Joel Davis and other featured faculty and alumni can be found at [samford.edu/spotlight](http://samford.edu/spotlight).*

#### Position

Assistant Professor of Music,  
and Coordinator of Music Theory,  
Composition and Musicology Studies

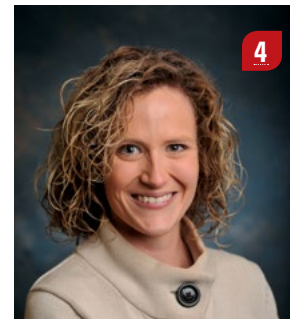
#### Teaching at Samford since

2012

#### Bonus Fact

Dr. Davis was in the second cohort of the prestigious Lilly Fellows Graduate Program while he earned his graduate degrees from Claremont Graduate University in California.

# CLASS NOTES



## 1960s

'61 **Bill Beavers** of Franklin, Tennessee, and his wife, Jean, celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary in November. They enjoy golfing and traveling. They have two sons and two grandchildren.

'61 **James Don Ragsdale** retired as professor and chair of communication studies at Sam Houston State University in Texas and moved to Manassas, Virginia.

'61 **Gloria Hardy Tarver** is the author of a contemporary Christian romance novel, *He Planted a Garden* (Highland Press Publishing). She and her husband, Tony, celebrated their 55th anniversary in August. They live in Southern Pines, North Carolina.

'63 **Terry Ross Bennett** was cited recently by the Alabama State Board of Pharmacy for his 50 years as a licensed pharmacist and by the State of Alabama House of Representatives for contributions to the community by his Arab, Alabama, business, Parkway Pharmacy. He and his wife, Debbie, have two daughters, **Molly Bennett '87** and **Amanda Bennett-Pierce '88**, both Samford music graduates.

'69 **Orrin K. "Skip" Ames, J.D.**, is vice chancellor of Troy University's Dothan, Alabama, campus. He joined the faculty in 2011 after a 42-year legal career that included positions with the U.S. Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps, the University of Memphis School of Law faculty, South Central Bell, and the Mobile, Alabama, law firm of Hand Arendall.

'69 **Neal Wade** has joined the University of Alabama's research and economic development team as director of its new Economic Development Academy. He is experienced in economic development at private, state and local levels, and is chairman of the Samford-based Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama.

## 1970s

'70 **Joe Syslo, M.B.A.**, received a Commonwealth of Virginia award for completing 10 years of service as an adjunct faculty member at Rappahannock Community College in Glens, Virginia. He instructs classroom and online courses in management and leadership.

'76 **Mitchell R. Heppenheimer, J.D.**, was elected 2014–15 vice president of the Indiana State Bar Association. He is a managing partner with Heppenheimer & Korpala in South Bend, Indiana.

'79 **Steven F. Casey, J.D.**, a member of Jones Walker law firm, was elected president of the Birmingham Bar Association (BBA). The BBA leadership also includes Cumberland School of Law alumni **Robert P. Mackenzie III, J.D. '84**, president-elect, and **Anne Lamkin Durward, J.D. '95**, secretary-treasurer.

## 1980s

'81 **Frederick "Rick" Kuykendall III, J.D.**, is of counsel with the District of Columbia-based Hausfeld law firm.

'84 **William P. Riley, M.B.A. '89**, was inducted into the Alabama Bankers Association's Half Century Club in recognition of his 50 years in the banking industry. He and his wife, Marilyn,

live in Eufaula, Alabama, where he is Barbour County market president for MidSouth Bank.

'87 **Lauri Sitton Rogers** is a tax accountant at HealthSouth in Birmingham. She earned a master's degree in accountancy at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in December.

'88 **Brian George, M.B.A. '97**, is assistant treasurer for Alabama Power, where he oversees the company's financial and corporate planning organization.

'89 **George M. Gilbert** of LaFayette, Georgia, is vice president of the Bank of LaFayette. He serves on Samford's Journalism and Mass Communication Advisory Board.

'89 **Todd Nielsen, J.D.**, of Creston, Iowa, was recently named magistrate of Union County. He and his wife, Beth, have three children.

## 1990s

'92 **Hal Clemmer, M.B.A.**, is president and CEO of Fifth Third Bank in Georgia. He and his family live in Atlanta.

'93 **DeAnn Mullins** is chairman of the board of directors of the National Community Pharmacists Association. A certified diabetes educator, she owns Mullins Pharmacy, WeCare Wellness and the WeCare Diabetes Education Program in Lynn Haven, Florida.

'94 **Scott Carter, M.Div. '97**, is the author of *Popping Pop Christianity* (Amazon), which deals with the origins of popular concepts of the devil, demons, angels, the afterlife and more. He teaches religion at Jefferson State Community

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College. He and his wife, Janica, have two daughters, Rebekah, 5, and Jessie, 3. They live in Hoover, Alabama.

'94 **Frank Coppersmith, J.D.**, is president of Capson Technology in Austin, Texas. The digital health company provides data solutions to the property and casualty insurance industry. **1**

'94 **Mike Sims, M.B.A.**, is executive vice president and chief banking officer for all banking functions of State Bank & Trust Company in Atlanta and Middle Georgia. He oversees commercial, retail and private banking operations and the bank's client-facing organizations. **2**

'94 **Lea Wolsoncroft** is second vice president of the National Community Pharmacists Association. The owner of KidsMeds, a pediatric pharmacy in Birmingham, she was recently named an outstanding businesswoman in Hoover, Alabama.

'95 **Brian McDaniel, J.D.**, of Moultrie, Georgia, was elected superior court judge for the five-county Southern Judicial Circuit in Georgia. He is a former defense attorney and a former prosecutor in the district attorney's office.

'96 **Kelsey Logan** is director of the division of sports medicine at Children's Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio, and associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Cincinnati. She has three children, Jane, 2, and twin sons, Henry and Franklin, 1.

'96 **David Watson, M.Div. '00, D.Min. '14**, is pastor of Foundry Church, a new church plant in Smyrna, Georgia. He and his wife, **Holly Leo Watson '97**, have two children, Chase, 12, and Claire, 10.

'97 **Heather Hargis** of Mt. Olive, Alabama, was named vice president of operations at Children's of Alabama. She and her husband, David, have two children, Ashton, 11, and Addison, 7.

'98 **Bill D. Bensinger, J.D.**, is a partner in the Birmingham law firm of Christian & Small, where he focuses on commercial disputes, bankruptcy and restructuring litigation. He has served as a coach for Cumberland School of Law's national bankruptcy moot court competition.

'98 **Lara Fowler, B.S.N. '02**, is director of transition care with MissionPoint Health Partners in Nashville, Tennessee. She is responsible for operational oversight of the clinical professionals that make up the transition team as the organization launches health management programs in four new markets.

'98 **Jason Lovoy** was named to *Birmingham Business Journal's* Top 40 Under 40 list for 2015. He is president of Infomedia Inc. web design company and founder of Uptick Marketing.

'99 **Sean Dailey** of Decatur, Alabama, is director of parks and recreation for Morgan County. He and his wife, Leslie, have two children, Olive, 4, and Connor, 2.

'99 **Mary T. Miller** of Birmingham is executive director of the Parkinson's Association of Birmingham.

## 2000s

'00 **Michelle Harlan** married Brad Miller in October. They live in Huntsville, Alabama, where she is a communications specialist for the U.S. Army. **3**

'01 **Mark Ervin** was named to *Birmingham Business Journal's* Top 40 Under 40 list for 2015. He is chief brand officer for Big Communications advertising and public relations agency.

'01 **Kelly Thrasher Fox, J.D.**, was named to *Birmingham Business Journal's* Top 40 Under 40 list for 2015. She is an attorney with Hand Arendall LLC, where she helps build new practice areas and recruit attorneys.

'02 **Jason Walters, M.B.A./J.D.**, was named to *Birmingham Business Journal's* Top 40 Under 40 list for 2015. He is a partner with Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings LLP, where his practice includes life and health insurance companies.

'03 **Christie Beasley Brown** is director of communications for the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry. **4**

'03 **Ryan Clark Hankins, M.Div.**, was named to *Birmingham Business Journal's* Top 40 Under 40 list for 2015. He is executive director of M-Power Ministries, which seeks solutions to poverty, health-care and education needs.

'04 **Donald Baker** is an orthopaedic surgeon with Central Mississippi Bone & Joint Specialists and Crossgates River Oak Hospital in Brandon, Mississippi. He is married to Mandy McCoy Baker.

'04 **Stephen Garrison** completed a cross-sectional imaging fellowship at Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida, and is a practicing radiologist in Inverness, Florida. He and his wife, Erika, have a son, Colby Chase, born in November.

'05 **Daniel Bisese** is a financial adviser with Edward Jones Investments. He and his wife, Jessica, live in Alpharetta, Georgia, with their daughters, Sophia, 2, and Sydney, born in February.

'05 **Julie Martin Douglass, M.Acc./M.B.A. '07**, is business development manager at ITAC Solutions in Birmingham. She and her husband, Tom, have two children, Mattie Cate, 3, and Ford, born in June.

'05 **Josh Hausen** is associate pastor at Redeemer Community Church in Birmingham.

'05 **Daniel Mitchell** is executive director of Valley Interfaith Promise, a nonprofit sheltering program that helps homeless families in Columbus, Georgia.

'05 **Eric Michael Napier** of Casselberry, Florida, is operations manager for Fairways for Warriors. He also is mentor leadership program manager for the Camaraderie Foundation in Orlando, Florida.

'05 **Andrew R. Patterson** was named to *Birmingham Business Journal's* Top 40 Under 40 list for 2015. He is principal/executive vice president of Shannon Waltchack LLC real estate firm, where he oversees departmental operations.

'06 **Elizabeth Garrett, J.D.**, is a partner and leader of the divorce litigation support practice with Frazier & Deeter, a certified public accountant and advisory firm based in Atlanta, Georgia.

'06 **Kevin Pughsley, M.S.E. '07**, was named 2014 Middle School Teacher of the Year by the Shelby County (Alabama) School District. He is in his eighth year at Calera Middle School, where

he teaches sixth grade earth science, and is athletics director, head coach of football, track and field, and sponsor of several clubs.

'06 **Sallie Kruse Thomas** was named Teacher of the Year at Randolph Park Elementary and Elementary Teacher of the Year for the Anniston (Alabama) City School District.

'07 **Kyle Krebs** is an account executive in ticket sales for the National Basketball Association's Memphis Grizzlies in Tennessee.

'07 **Lacey D. Smith, J.D.**, was named to *Mobile Bay Magazine's* 2014 Class of 40 Under 40. She is a senior associate with Armbrrecht Jackson LLP in Mobile, Alabama, where she is a specialist in complex aviation litigation.

'07 **Rita Sparks, M.S.E.**, was named 2014 Alabama Gifted Specialist of the Year by the Alabama Association for Gifted children. She works at Thompson Intermediate School and is lead teacher for gifted programs in Alabaster City Schools.

'08 **Brittany Stillwell Krebs** is minister of music and youth at First Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee.

'08 **Ashley Sawyer, J.D.**, is an associate with the family law firm of Hedgepeth, Heredia, Crumrine & Morrison in Atlanta, Georgia. She serves on the board of directors of the family law section of the Atlanta Bar Association.

'09 **Jamie Ryan Posniak** is hiring manager at SoftRock, a software media company in Orlando, Florida.

## 2010s

'10 **Christopher P. Hulin, D.N.P.**, was named president of the Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia in Madison, Tennessee. He will assume his new role on July 1. He currently serves the school as dean and program administrator.

'10 **Staci M. Pierce, J.D.**, was named to *Birmingham Business Journal's* Top 40 Under 40 list for 2015. She is a corporate attorney with

Baker Donelson, which she joined after an early career with a software development firm.

'10 **Tripp Watson, M.B.A./J.D.**, was named to *Birmingham Business Journal's* Top 40 Under 40 list for 2015. He is an entrepreneur attorney at The Watson Firm.

'11 **Lucas Boatwright** is pursuing a doctorate in computational and functional genomics at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida. He and his wife, **Christine Taylor Boatwright '10**, have a son. Bennett Taylor, born in November.

'11 **Claire Hardison Brown** was named Teacher of the Year at Rosinton Elementary School in Robertsedale, Alabama, where she teaches sixth grade.

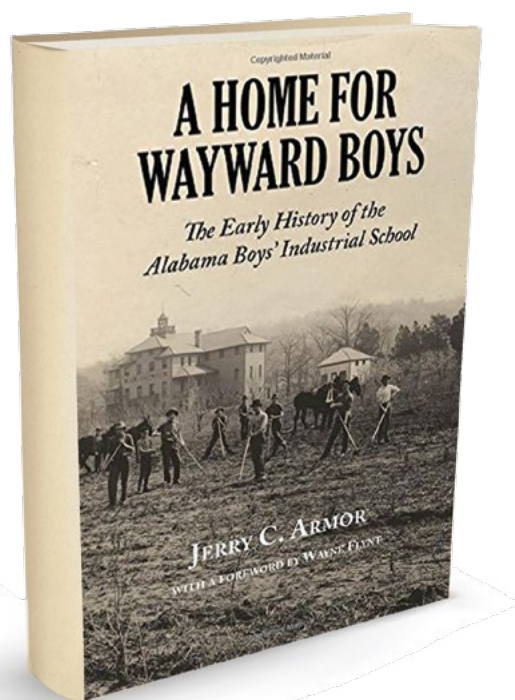
'12 **W. Wesley Hill, J.D.**, is an associate with Sirote & Permutt in Birmingham, where he works in the firm's estates, wills and trusts practice group.

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# Armor's Book Describes Struggle to Establish Boys' Industrial School



Educator Jerry Armor's new book, *A Home for Wayward Boys*, tells the story of reformer Elizabeth Johnston's efforts to separate teenage boys from hardened criminals by establishing the Alabama Boys' Industrial School in 1900. Prior to Johnston's efforts, boys were held in prison mining camps alongside adult criminals.

Johnston, called "Alabama's first lobbyist for children" by former Alabama Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb, was stunned when she first saw boys working alongside convicts in prison. She led an effort that ultimately convinced the Alabama legislature to establish the industrial school in Birmingham's eastern section.

After several difficult years, Johnston and her supporters were able to hire a young Tennessee couple, David and Katherine Weakley, as superintendent and matron of the school. In time, it came to be recognized as one of the nation's premier institutions of its kind.

Armor, a 1975 Samford graduate, taught for 30 years at Calhoun Community College and Athens State University. He was also a juvenile probation officer for seven years and served two years as a psychologist in a state prison. Today, he directs the Lawrence County Children's Policy Council and teaches part time. Armor also has written for academic and general interest publications.

The 220-page trade paperback, which has a foreword by historian Wayne Flynt, was published by NewSouth Books Inc. of Montgomery. ▀

*For information on A Home for Wayward Boys, go to [newsouthbooks.com](http://newsouthbooks.com).*

'12 **Andrew Mardis, Pharm.D.**, completed a transplant specialty pharmacy residency in June and married Caitlin Musgrave in August. They are both pharmacists at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, South Carolina.

'12 **Hannah C. Rogers** earned a master's degree in physician assistant at the Baylor College of Medicine's School of Allied Health in December. At graduation, she received the prestigious Henry D. McIntosh Award as the graduate student who, in the opinion of classmates and faculty, achieved the highest degree of academic excellence and service, and who best exemplifies the concept of the physician assistant.

'12 **Breanne S. Zarzour, J.D.**, was named to *Mobile Bay Magazine's* 2014 Class of 40 Under 40. She is an associate with Phelps Dunbar LLP in Mobile, Alabama.

'13 **Leslie Graf** and **James Wardell "Bo" Ackerson '14** married in October and live in Knoxville, Tennessee. They met as Samford students.

'13 **Tiffany Moore** is an elementary computer teacher at Lindsay Lane Christian Academy in Athens, Georgia.

'14 **Thomas R. "Trey" Frazer III, J.D.**, is a member of the Bone McAllester Norton law firm in Nashville, Tennessee, where he focuses on commercial litigation, product liability, antitrust violations and intellectual property law.

'14 **Mitch Relfe, J.D.**, is a member of the commercial litigating practice group at Burr & Forman in Birmingham. ▀

## NEW ARRIVALS



'96 Erik and **Christine Claxton Amick** of Silver Spring, Maryland, the adoption of a daughter, Maisie Love, born in Chongqing, PR China, Jan. 13, 2010, adopted May 26, 2014. **1**

'98 Jason and **Jennifer McLean Arndt** of Germantown, Tennessee, a daughter, Jessica Wrynn, born Jan. 6, 2015. **2**

'02 Jamin and **Lawren Olenchak Bercaw** of Bedford, Massachusetts, a son, Albrecht Joshua "Brec," born Nov. 20, 2014. **3**

'03 Allan and **Shelley Sager Blocker** of Birmingham, a daughter, Margaret "Maggie" Elizabeth, born Nov. 21, 2014. **4**

'03 **Jess** and **Sara Mike Nix '04**, of Vestavia Hills, Alabama, a daughter, Layla Elizabeth, born May 6, 2014. **5**

'04 James and **Betsy Ingram Campbell** of Tucson, Arizona, a son, Cole James, born Nov. 18, 2014. **6**

'04 Erika and **Stephen Garrison** of Inverness, Florida, a son, Colby Chase, born Nov. 15, 2014. **7**

'04 **John** and **Tanya Humphries Rogers '06** of Fort Payne, Alabama, a daughter, Alice Anna, born Sept. 26, 2014.

'04 **Jeff** and **Ashley Crafton Stephens '08** of Birmingham, a daughter, Spencer Kate, born April 9, 2014. **8**

'05 **Baxter Bolling Bentley** and **Katie Hill Bentley** of Allen, Texas, a son, Rhodes Daniel, born Nov. 14, 2014.

'05 Jessica and **Daniel John Bisese** of Alpharetta, Georgia, a daughter, Sydney Preslie, born Feb. 2, 2015. **9**

'05 Tom and **Julie Martin Douglass, M.Acc./M.B.A. '07**, of Birmingham, a son, Thomas "Ford" Edwin Douglass IV, born June 16, 2014.

'05 Jason and **Ashley Hudgins Murray** of Birmingham, a daughter, Hannah Claire, born Jan. 13, 2015.

'05 Grant and **Melissa Morgan Musgrove** of Birmingham, a daughter, Eleni Katherine, born Dec. 2, 2014. **10**

'05 Scott and **Courtney Clemons Rearden** of Vestavia Hills, Alabama, a daughter, Katelyn Scott, born Nov. 29, 2014. **11**

'05 **Matthew** and **Sarah Spires Rich '07** of Birmingham, a daughter, Abigail Elaine, born Sept. 24, 2014. **12**



'05 Alan and **Lauren Baughman Swartwood** of Mount Juliet, Tennessee, twin sons, Zachary Barrett and Ayden Jackson, born July 9, 2014. **13**

'06 **Josh** and **Cassie Applegate Jacobs '09** of Birmingham, a daughter, Emery Jo, born Dec. 27, 2014. **14**

'06 **Matt** and **Suzu Horner Harrison** of Huntsville, Alabama, a daughter, Margaret Camille, born Nov. 4, 2015.

'06 Doug and **Kerri Buck Stephen** of Vestavia Hills, Alabama, a daughter, Evva Reese, born Sept. 11, 2014. **15**

'07 **Christine Halliday Fitzgerald** and **Ryan Fitzgerald** of Collierville, Tennessee, a daughter, Eloise Jane, born Dec. 29, 2014. **16**

'07 **Warren Tyler Herring** and **Dana Lee Herring** of Jackson, Mississippi, twin son and daughter, Kenneth Hughes and Eliza Adele, born Nov. 11, 2014.

'07 **Justin** and **Katrina Rodger Paxson**, of Auburn, Alabama, a son, Duncan Andrew, born Jan. 29, 2015. **17**

'08 **Patrick** and **Amy Clayton Baggett '09** of College Grove, Tennessee, a daughter, Eleanor Lovin, born April 5, 2014. **18**

'08 Marshall and **Mary Michael Joiner Davis** of Suffolk, Virginia, a daughter, Elizabeth Jane, born Dec. 18, 2014.

'09 **Tim** and **Kendall Baker Ansley** of Birmingham, twin sons, Jackson Thomas and Baker James, born June 23, 2014. **19**

'09 Casey and **Mary Scott Wood Cox** of Monticello, Arkansas, a son, Hodgson Tate, born July 14, 2014. **20**

'09 Josh and **Shelby Patton Etrass** of Hoover, Alabama, a son, Chamberlain Patton, born May 9, 2014. **21**

'09 **Chris** and **Jessica Cheney George** of Birmingham, a daughter, Hannah Kathryn, born Dec. 19, 2014. **22**

'09 Micah and **Rachel Kuhl Smith** of Jupiter, Florida, a daughter, Sawyer Arya, born Aug. 23, 2014. **23**

'10 **Christine Taylor Boatwright** and **Lucas Boatwright '11** of Gainesville, Florida, a son, Bennett Taylor, born Nov. 27, 2014. **24**

'10 **Kyle** and **Amanda Rice Stanton** of New Port Richey, Florida, a daughter, Sawyer Leigh, born March 6, 2014. **25**

'10 Christian and **Kimberly Shoemaker White** of Wake Forest, North Carolina, a daughter, Madeline, born Aug. 1, 2014. **26**

# IN MEMORIAM

**'41 Rubilaw Ray Granade**, age 95, of Montgomery, Alabama, died Dec. 24, 2014. She loved the arts and supporting the work of her pastor husband, the late Sam Granade '41.

**'41 Martha Grace Sarber Green**, age 95, of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, died Nov. 30, 2014. A longtime educator, she wrote a magazine column and a book, *Pockets for my Apron*. She was married to the late G. Carl Green '43.

**'42 Mary Brown Cronan**, age 93, of Gainesville, Virginia, died Nov. 2, 2014. She was president and corporate secretary-treasurer of Fairfax Hydrocrane Company and ran a family LLC. She was a member of Women in Construction and Associated Builders and Contractors. During World War II, she worked at the U.S. Navy Yard in Washington, D.C.

**'44 Russell Collins Knight**, age 93, of Birmingham died Nov. 26, 2014. He retired from Birmingham Ornamental Iron Works. He was a machine gunner with the U.S. Army's 81st infantry division in the Palua Islands during World War II.

**'44 Mary Lucius Turpin**, age 90, of Pensacola, Florida, died July 12, 2014. She was a dedicated community volunteer. At Samford, she was a member of Phi Mu sorority.

**'47 Redmond Wheeler Flemming**, age 95, of Birmingham died Jan. 2, 2015. He was cofounder of Flemming Transfer Company. He played with the semi-pro Birmingham Vulcans and Bessemer Royals basketball teams, coached the minor league Opelika Owls baseball team and coached a John Carroll High School basketball team to the state tournament in 1958. He was a member of the Samford basketball team that beat a traveling professional team, the original Celtics from New York City, 54-45, in an exhibition game in 1943. He served in the U.S. Marines during World War II.

**'49 Helen Harrell Dedman**, age 87, of Huntsville, Alabama, died Nov. 25, 2014. She was librarian at several Huntsville schools. At Samford, she was active in the Wesley Foundation, president of Delta Zeta sorority, editor of the *Crimson* student newspaper and a member of the orchestra.

**'49 Morris D. Freeman**, age 90, of Birmingham died Jan. 28, 2015. After serving as a pastor, he worked at *The Birmingham News* and as a real estate agent. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.

**'49 Jesse Gilder Sides**, age 91, of Birmingham died Jan. 21, 2015. An auditor at Southern Natural Gas Company, he had served in the Pacific theatre during World War II.

**'49 Robert Cooper Weaver**, age 86, of Talladega, Alabama, died Nov. 5, 2014. He owned Wood-Weaver shoe store. Recipient of many city and state awards for his voluntarism, he earned the NASCAR Foundation's inaugural humanitarian award in 2011 for his work at the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind. A dedicated AIDB volunteer for more than 50 years, he was known by many students as the "Ice Cream Man" for his weekly visits with treats. At Samford, he was editor of the *Crimson* student newspaper.

**'51 Nancy Jo Hardy**, age 85, of Albertville, Alabama, died Jan. 9, 2015. An educator for 40 years, mostly at Snead State Junior College, she served on the Alabama Women's Commission. At Samford, she received many student actor awards.

**'52 Elsie Means Johnson**, age 86, of Gadsden, Alabama, died Dec. 17, 2014. She was one of the first female pharmacists in the Gadsden area.

**'52 George Glenn "Doc" Miller**, age 94, of Chuckey, Tennessee, died Jan. 17, 2015. He retired from CVS pharmacy in Kingsport, Tennessee. He served with the U.S. Army in the south Pacific theater during World War II.

**'52 Samuel Emmett Parker**, age 85, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, died Jan. 28, 2015. He was professor emeritus of French at the University of Alabama and a Korean War veteran.

**'53 John Earl Rasberry**, age 83, of Indiatlantic, Florida, died Dec. 12, 2014. A retired U.S. Air Force chaplain, he served ministries in Mobile, Alabama, and Melbourne Beach, Florida.

**'54 Billy Carl Bentley**, age 81, of Greensboro, Georgia, died Dec. 7, 2014. He was a dentist and a past president of the Hinman Dental Society of Georgia.

**'54 John Carrol Steakley**, age 84, of Sheffield, Alabama, died Jan. 30, 2015. He owned and operated Sheffield Pharmacy.

**'56 Leroy Anthony**, age 83, of Jasper, Alabama, died Sept. 25, 2014. He was a bivocational pastor/teacher who taught at Oakman High School and served churches in Walker County.

**'57 Lillian McGehee Jordan**, age 83, of Decatur, Alabama, died Feb. 1, 2015. She was a teacher. At Samford, she was Miss Entre Nous and Pi Kappa Alpha dream girl, and a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority and the A Cappella Choir.

**'58 Charles B. Stroud, M.A. '74**, age 78, of Pelham, Alabama, died Dec. 20, 2014. He served in the ministry for 50 years, most recently as director of missions for the Shelby Baptist Association.

**'59 L. Gene Black**, age 80, of Birmingham died Feb. 25, 2015. He was a former Samford professor, dean of music and longtime director of the A Cappella Choir. He retired in 2000 after a 35-year career at Samford, where he led singers on 30 international concert tours to Asia, the United Kingdom, Scandinavia and Europe. The choir performed in European cathedrals, the White House, and churches in the U.S. and abroad. He held master's and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Alabama, and studied choral music and conducting at Florida State University and Columbia University. He led a Samford A Cappella Alumni Choir on concert tours to Germany and England. He was minister of music at Birmingham area churches and an inaugural member of the Alabama Music Educators Hall of Fame. He and his wife, Faye Hamilton Black, M.S. '67, met as A Cappella choir members.

**'59 Anne Lyons Pascal**, age 79, of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, died Jan. 27, 2015. She worked at Bowman Gray School of Medicine.

**'60 Margaret Burnett Baggett**, age 92, of Birmingham died Nov. 1, 2014. She taught elementary school.

**'60 Robert Louis Horn, Sr.**, age 82, of Bakersfield, California, died Oct. 21, 2014, of cancer. He was a pharmacist in California and Tennessee, and worked at a medical clinic for



migrant farm workers. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War.

**'60 James B. Price**, age 89, of Pinson, Alabama, died Jan. 18, 2015. He owned and operated Price's Drugs, and for 60 years was a volunteer weather observer for the National Weather Service. For more than 21,000 consecutive days, he filed daily climate observations from his home weather station as part of the Cooperative Observer Program.

**'60 Terry Ratcliff**, age 83, of LaFollette, Tennessee, died Oct. 27, 2014. He owned several drug stores and practiced for 50 years until Parkinson's disease forced him to retire.

**'61 Walter G. Boone**, age 79, of Valley Grande, Alabama, died Oct. 26, 2014. A hospital pharmacist, he retired from the Alabama Department of Public Health.

**'61 Linda Little Tipton**, age 74, of Snead, Alabama, died Nov. 28, 2014. She was a nurse.

**'63 Tom Lyle**, age 74, of Birmingham died Nov. 6, 2014. He was founder and director of Pioneer Playschool. He served in the National Guard.

**'67 Louis Anthony Mezrano, J.D.**, age 72, of Birmingham, died Nov. 14, 2014. He practiced law before joining his wife's catering company, Kathy G and Company Inc.

**'68 John Samuel Andrews, J.D.**, age 72, of Greenville, Alabama, died Nov. 19, 2014. He was a district attorney.

**'68 John E. Santoro, Jr.**, age 70, of Northport, Alabama, died Jan. 29, 2015. A pharmacist, he retired from Druid City Hospital.

**'69 Sarah Jo Bancroft Farnell**, age 66, of Auburn, Alabama, died Oct. 26, 2014. She worked at several Alabama newspapers and was the first female radio news reporter for WKRG in Mobile.

**'69 E. Taylor Glass IV**, age 69, of Clover, South Carolina, died Nov. 24, 2014. He worked in the human resource and information technology departments at Winthrop University.

**'69 William Allen Still**, age 72, of Grayson, Georgia, died Jan. 6, 2015. He was a pharmacy graduate.

**'70 William Stephen Eubanks**, age 75, of Boaz, Alabama, died Dec. 27, 2014. He was an Alabama Baptist minister.

**'72 Eleanor Ruth Crenshaw, M.A.**, age 71, of Vestavia Hills, Alabama, died Jan. 8, 2015, of cancer. She was a math and science educator.

**'74 Charles Houser Booth, Jr., J.D.**, age 71, of Birmingham died Jan. 16, 2015. He practiced law in private and corporate sectors, and taught at Birmingham School of Law.

**'74 O. James Shuck, J.D.**, age 70, of Annapolis, Maryland, died Nov. 10, 2014. A longtime attorney in Anne Arundel County, he was a Green Beret in the U.S. Army Special Forces during the Vietnam War.

**'76 Charles L. Richards, M.A.**, age 82, of Hazel Green, Alabama, died Jan. 7, 2015. He was a Baptist minister, director of missions and a U.S. Air Force veteran.

**'78 Sara Elizabeth Long**, age 62, of Birmingham died Jan. 21, 2015. She worked at Alagasco from 1979 until her death.

**'79 Frank E. Adams, Sr., M.S., Ed.S. '81**, age 86, of Birmingham died Oct. 29, 2014. He was a jazz musician, recording artist, teacher, lecturer and composer who in 1978 was a charter inductee into the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame. He wrote an autobiography, *Doc: the Story of a Birmingham Jazz Man*.

**'80 Robert L. Clough**, age 57, of Attalla, Alabama, died Jan. 5, 2015. He worked at Rocky Ridge Pharmacy in Vestavia Hills, Alabama. At Samford, he was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity and active in Campus Ministries.

**'80 Shasta Nan Parker**, age 58, of Birmingham died Feb. 5, 2015. She retired after a career with Delta Air Lines in Birmingham and New York City. She was active in the Antiquarian Society of Birmingham and was a longtime member of the Miss Alabama Board of Directors.

**'80 Thomas Howard Sherk, J.D.**, age 63, of Birmingham died Nov. 25, 2014. He worked for Bruno's and Books-a-Million corporations.

**'83 Friedrich Marcus "Mark" Bodenhausen**, age 52, of Birmingham died Nov. 6, 2014. He was a former chairman of the Alabama Libertarian Party.

**'84 Arthur Frank Patterson, Jr.**, age 57, of Lanett, Alabama, died in December 2014. He was an assistant attorney general in Montgomery, Alabama, and a lawyer in Chambers and Russell counties.

**'84 Herbert Blackman Sparks, Jr., J.D.**, age 55, of Birmingham died Nov. 4, 2014. He was general counsel for Southern Risk Services Inc. and more recently at Millennium Risk Managers.

**'85 Wendal Randolph Scott, M.B.A.**, age 64, of Birmingham died Oct. 29, 2014. He was a banker and a business instructor at Miles College.

**'87 Jamil Farid Harb, Pharm.D.**, age 53, of Sonoma, California, died Jan. 4, 2015. He operated the Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy in Petaluma, California, for many years.

**'88 Robert Kane Jordan, J.D.**, age 55, of Fort Payne, Alabama, died Jan. 27, 2015. He was the attorney for Fort Payne City Schools and municipal judge for several north Alabama towns.

**'93 Robert Boeneke, M.B.A.**, age 51, of Tallahassee, Florida, died Jan. 21, 2015. He was owner and president of Residential Elevators, a manufacturing and installing company.

**'97 Walter Carlisle "Trey" Kannaday III, J.D.**, age 43, of Columbia, South Carolina, died Jan. 15, 2015. An attorney for the State of South Carolina, he was certified as a public accountant, internal auditor and treasury professional.

## Other Samford Family

**Bobby Grant Bryant**, age 66, of Birmingham, dean of Samford's McWhorter School of Pharmacy from 2006 to 2008, died Nov. 19, 2014. Prior to his Samford post, he taught or was dean at Purdue University, Albany College of Pharmacy and Ohio Northern University. He held bachelor's and Pharm.D. degrees from the University of Tennessee, and a master's in public health from the University of Michigan. ▀



# Pat Sullivan Steps Down as Samford's Winningest Coach

by William Nunnelley

**Pat Sullivan stepped down as Samford football coach in December after the two most successful seasons of his eight-year tenure.** Sullivan directed the 2013 team to Samford's first Southern Conference championship and the school's first playoff appearance in 21 years. He led the 2014 team to another winning season, finishing second in the SoCon.

But Sullivan dealt with agonizing health issues both years. "The past couple of years have been difficult," he said in announcing his decision. "I've been dealing with health issues, more than I would have liked. Our young men have never blinked. This coaching staff never blinked. I am so proud of each and every member of the Samford football program.

"This is not a decision I've taken lightly," he said. "A head coach never likes to think about stepping down, particularly me. I've always been a competitor, and that spirit never fades. I love this job and I love this university."

The coach remains at Samford as special adviser to President Andrew Westmoreland for campus and community development. He chaired the search committee that identified his successor as head coach, Chris Hatcher (*see separate story*).

Westmoreland praised Sullivan and his accomplishments. "In an age in which public figures often disappoint us, it is refreshing and inspirational to reflect on the long and successful career of Pat

Sullivan," he said. "As I have grown close to Pat in the years since he became Samford's head football coach in 2006, and as I have seen him in some of the highest and lowest moments of life, proximity has only enhanced my profound respect for him."

Samford honored Sullivan and his family by renaming the football building the Sullivan-Cooney Family Field House at homecoming last fall.

Sullivan, the 1971 Heisman Trophy winner as a quarterback at Auburn University, coached eight seasons at Samford. He ended his tenure as the school's winningest football coach with 47 victories, surpassing Terry Bowden's total of 45 last season. His program gained momentum during recent years with four straight winning seasons and three consecutive seasons of at least seven wins for the first time since the early 1960s.

"I have loved working with Samford's young men, helping them grow as football players, as student-athletes and spiritually," said Sullivan. "I am so thankful to each and every one of my players and their families for allowing me to be a part of their lives.

"Coaching is a grind," he added. "Right now I need more balance in my life. I need to pay more attention to my health, and I want to spend more time with [my wife] Jean, my children and grandchildren. I owe that to them. But I'm not done working and I'm not leaving Samford." ▀

# Hatcher Brings His High-Scoring Offense to Samford Football

by William Nunnelley



**New Samford football coach Chris Hatcher has a very definite offensive philosophy: "Get the ball in space to people who know how to score, and do it quickly. That's our goal."**

Hatcher's teams mostly have accomplished that by throwing the football. The Hatch Attack has produced some of the nation's highest passing totals in his three previous head coaching stops at Valdosta State, George Southern and Murray State. Expect more of the same at Samford.

Hatcher was named head coach in December after Pat Sullivan stepped down. Samford President Andrew Westmoreland said "a core quality of our new head football coach is that he sees himself, fundamentally, as a teacher." Athletics Director Martin Newton described Hatcher as a family man, a coach passionate about student-athletes and their development not only as football players, but as men, and a coach with a desire to win and a proven track record.

Hatcher's career record is 121-57 in 15 years as a head coach. He was a two-time All-American quarterback during college days at Valdosta State, throwing for more than 11,000 career yards.

"They always say you never want to be the coach that follows a legend, but I'm going to embrace it," Hatcher said at the press conference announcing his selection. "With Dr. Westmoreland's

unwavering support, Coach Sullivan has built an incredible program here at Samford from top to bottom."

Hatcher said he would work every day to build on that foundation, "not just on the field, but off the field as well."

Hatcher and his staff inherited a solid foundation from last year's 7-4 Samford team that finished second in the Southern Conference. Among the offensive leaders are quarterback Michael Eubank, who passed for 2,136 yards; running back Denzel Williams, who gained 918 yards rushing and scored 16 touchdowns; and receiver Karel Hamilton, who caught 55 passes for 877 yards. On defense, returnees include linebacker Justin Cooper, the leading tackler, and defensive backs Josh Killett and Jamerson Blount, third and fourth in stops.

In addition, Hatcher signed 16 student-athletes to his first class of recruits at Samford, nine offensive players and seven defensive. "Our staff was way ahead of the game when I got here," said Hatcher, "and worked diligently to go out and fill all of the needs we had. We're excited about this class." ▀

# CAMPUS NEWSCOPE

*News from Each of Samford's Schools and Colleges*

## SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Samford University received a \$600,000 grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to further the work of *anima*: the Forum for Worship and the Arts. Housed in Samford's School of the Arts, *anima* is fostering vocational exploration, theological nourishment, spiritual formation and artistic aspiration among young people.

Founded in 2013 with the help of a grant from the Christ Is Our Salvation Foundation, *anima* has a mission to invigorate the church with theologically imaginative worship leaders. The project consists of three key initiatives: the Forum on the Web ([animatheforum.com](http://animatheforum.com)), a repository of practical resources for worship leaders; the Elisha Project, a worship leadership mentoring program for Samford students; and Animate, a hands-on, interdenominational, intergenerational workshop in worship and the arts.

"The grant from the Lilly Endowment will help us build on these already successful endeavors," said Eric L. Mathis, director of *anima* and an assistant professor of music. "The 21st-century church needs a new model of worship leadership that helps clergy and lay people alike revitalize what it means to be in worship."

The *anima* initiatives and resources are designed to help young people deepen their knowledge of worship and the arts by exploring their local and global experiences of worship, and by reflecting on the history, theology and practice of worship.

*To learn more or to make a donation to anima, go to [animatheforum.com](http://animatheforum.com).*



## HOWARD COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Howard College of Arts and Sciences will host an alumni tour to Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic June 26–July 6, 2015. The detailed final schedule is not set, but the tour will include a visit to Neuschwanstein Castle in Bavaria and time in Prague, one of Europe's most beautiful cities.

Angela Ferguson, director of Samford's Global Engagement Office and German language professor, will join Howard College dean David Chapman to lead the 2015 tour. Ferguson spent her early years in Kaiserslautern, Germany, where her father served as pastor in a European Baptist church. She is a recipient of both Fulbright and DAAD awards to study in Germany, and spent two years researching at the Freie Universität Berlin and the Ernst-Moritz-Arndt-Universität Greifswald.

*For 2015 alumni tour details, email [gsmartin@samford.edu](mailto:gsmartin@samford.edu).*

## BEESON DIVINITY SCHOOL

Beeson Divinity School received a \$94,667 grant from Kern Family Foundation to train pastors to help their congregations understand the intersection of faith, work and economics. The grant will be dispersed over 18 months beginning in June, according to the project supervisor, associate professor of divinity Mark DeVine.

"The Bible and the history of theology have much to say about the work human beings were created to do; about the money earned doing it and about wealth and poverty," said DeVine. "With the resources this grant provides, we seek to comprehend and explore the relevance of this rich subject and educate and equip pastors to do so within their ministry settings."

Teaching in the area of faith, work and economics is largely absent in most seminars, DeVine noted. Beeson Divinity School will seek to address this absence by equipping pastors to teach on the subject.

"We look forward through an array of initiatives including conferences, pastor symposia and master's-level course offerings to equip pastors to think biblically and theologically at the intersection of faith, work and economics," said DeVine. "We are convinced that faithful biblical and theological reflection has much light to shed on the workaday lives of Christian believers."

The grant will make possible the continuation of a study begun in 2013 with an earlier Kern grant.

## ORLEAN BULLARD BEESON SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education organized and hosted professional development for two groups of Alabama educational leaders.

School superintendents throughout the state gathered to discuss transforming education in Alabama at the Transformational Leadership Academy, an ongoing partnership between Samford, School Superintendents Association of Alabama, Schlechty Center and Education Solutions to collaboratively design professional development and support for Alabama superintendents.

According to education dean Jeanie Box, the academy offers 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.

The Middle Grades Leadership Academy, a pilot program providing eight schools with leadership development, met to address the changing dynamics for middle grade education in the state.

The academy is an ongoing partnership between Samford and the Alabama State Board of Education, providing educational leaders with critical practice models to enhance their leadership skills that are also aligned with Alabama's Plan 2020.

The program supports school leaders through a three-year cycle of work that expands each year. When fully implemented, the leadership processes, strategies and practices will build leadership teams' capacity to create a culture of learning and continuous improvement. A culture grounded in collegiality and collective expertise will embed and sustain innovative leadership practices and will support the design of profound learning experiences that influence student performance.



## SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

The Department of Kinesiology recently hosted Greg Sankey, executive associate commissioner for the Southeastern Conference. An accomplished collegiate sport administrator, Sankey spoke to Nathan Kirkpatrick's Sport Governance and the NCAA class, sharing stories from his career and tips for personal and professional success during the Q&A session.

"Life is primarily about the decisions you make," he said, recalling his decision to stop simply working for the weekend.

"It's amazing the talent that's wasted because of bad decisions," he added.

One key decision students should make—"put away the cell phone," said Sankey. "Phones rob you of thought. Take time to engage with people. Look them in the eye."

Sankey encouraged students to not be afraid of working hard, noting that although relationships are important, it's not all about who you know. For him, the most important attributes of prospective employees relate to their ability to do good work, to work hard, and to be someone who can work with the team.

Sankey acknowledged that living his faith in the workplace can sometimes be difficult. "If you want the easy path, set your faith aside," he said while urging students to be accountable for their actions now, and later as professionals.

The Sport Governance and the NCAA class is part of Samford's new sport administration major.

## CUMBERLAND SCHOOL OF LAW

Cumberland School of Law has exceeded its "Pride. Promise. People." campaign goal.

As of the Dec. 31, 2014, conclusion, gifts and pledges totaling \$17,208,602 had been received from 2,374 donors, representing the largest fundraising effort in the law school's 168-year history. The public phase of the campaign ran from fall 2013 through 2014 with the unprecedented school goal of raising \$15 million.

Individual gift amounts ranged from \$5 to \$2.8 million.

Campaign cochair Stan Starnes said the campaign objectives were to raise funds to support student scholarships, academic programs and faculty enhancements. Starnes is chairman and CEO of Birmingham-based ProAssurance and a 1972 Cumberland School of Law graduate.

"The success of the campaign is a reflection of the pride, devotion and affection which Cumberland School of Law graduates and friends have for our law school," Starnes said.

As a result of the campaign, 28 new student scholarships were formed; 116 existing student scholarships and special funds increased in size; 554 Public Interest Fellowship stipends were granted for first- and second-year law students to be able to provide community service through the Public Interest Academic Program, which occurred over the five years of the campaign; 10 law faculty research stipends were granted; and two professorial chairs were created and endowed.

The campaign was part of the university's recently completed "Campaign for Samford" that raised more than \$202 million.

## IDA V. MOFFETT SCHOOL OF NURSING

A total of 180 nursing and pharmacy students participated in a complex inter-professional case study based on an actual trauma case. Students were divided into small groups consisting of nursing students in the critical care course and second-year pharmacy students. They determined the patient's most significant problems and developed a plan of care. Students then joined faculty facilitators Cindy Berry, Amy Broeseker, Jill Hightower and Dee Thomason for a discussion about the plans. Students were given a pre- and post-test, and were required to complete pre-session work and a journal about the session.

According to Berry, the experience was designed to encourage students to learn about each other's scope of practice, identify that they are part of an interprofessional team and to recognize what other disciplines they need to discharge a complex patient.

"The activity forced both nursing and pharmacy students to teach each other and break away from jargon," said nursing student Christen Greer. "I understood the medications prescribed, but the pharmacy students truly amazed me by their knowledge of comparable, more cost-effective medications," she added.

Nursing and pharmacy plan to repeat this experience each semester, and the Department of Social Work will join them in November 2015. "We hope to include as many disciplines as possible to mimic real-life practice," added Berry. The project stems from a recently published 2008 project led by Berry and Broeseker.



## McWHORTER SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Students, faculty and staff recently heard Dean Michael A. Crouch present his inaugural State of the School address. "The state of the school is strong," said Crouch, who laid the foundation for his vision by highlighting the rich history of the school and its leadership. "If we're smart and we work together, our best days lie ahead," he added.

Despite an uncertain external environment, Crouch emphasized that McWhorter School of Pharmacy is "thriving in a time of uncertainty." Pharmacist recently earned the top spot on *Forbes'* list of the Top Jobs in Health Care for 2015.

The school's statistics are "remarkable," he noted, with an average four-year graduation rate of 96% and average NAPLEX first-time pass rate of 96%, and graduates are well prepared to transition seamlessly into their careers. Ninety-five percent of the Class of 2014 had employment offers before graduation.

For Crouch, the future is focused on providing students an individualized education that uniquely prepares them to be competitive upon graduation. "It is our belief that 'where you get your Pharm.D. matters,'" said Crouch. The school combines the strength of its academic programs with global service and innovative research to prepare graduates who transform lives through pharmacy.

## SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

In January 2015, the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics welcomed its inaugural class of 17 dietetic interns. Interns come from nine states and represent a wide variety of educational and professional experiences, including a registered nurse, a Culinary Institute of America-prepared pastry chef, an educator and a violinist who also completed more than 1,600 hours of undergraduate research.

"We have a phenomenal group of interns," said Pat H. Terry, professor and chair of the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics. "Their varied backgrounds and accomplishments strengthen the program and add value to the overall educational experience," she added.

Samford's dietetic internship, a 12-month postbaccalaureate program, is concentrated in community nutrition and public health.

"Across the country, dietetic internships focus on a variety of things, but Samford's is specifically designed to foster the interns' shared passion for improving health in communities at home and abroad," said Terry. In fact, 13 of the 17 students are also enrolled in Samford's new master of public health program. Upon completion of the dietetic internship, students are eligible to take the national Registration Examination for Dietetics offered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration. ▀

*News from Brock School of Business can be found beginning on page 21.*

*Additional information on these stories and other news from Samford's academic units can be found at [samford.edu/news](http://samford.edu/news).*

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# Why Estate Planning?

Whatever the size, you have an estate. And you are responsible for the management and transfer of it. While taking the first step is up to you, we can help.

Samford has paid the fee for you to receive biblically based estate planning services through PhilanthroCorp. Just call Susan at PhilanthroCorp (1-800-876-7958) for more information and to schedule time for talking with a PhilanthroCorp estate specialist. Once you develop your plan, you can implement it through your attorney.

For more information, go to [samford.edu/legacy](http://samford.edu/legacy) or call Stan Davis, Director of Gift and Estate Planning at Samford, at 205-726-2366.



# Calendar

## April 1

Andrew Gerow Hodges Lecture,  
Speaker: George Marsden, 4:30 p.m.,  
Brock Recital Hall

Student Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by  
Student Government Association

## April 6

Easter Monday holiday, university closed

## April 7

Birmingham-area Samford Parents  
Association event, 5–7 p.m., Hanna  
Center

## April 9

Alumni and Parents Event, Jacksonville,  
Florida, 5:30 p.m., alumni.samford.edu

## April 9–10

Alabama All-State Choir Festival, hosted  
by School of the Arts

## April 10–11

Cumberland School of Law Alumni  
Reunion Weekend

## April 11

Junior Preview Day, hosted by Office of  
Admission, samford.edu/admission/visit

## April 13–17

Spring Fling Week

## April 16

Atlanta Area Young Alumni Event,  
7 p.m., alumni.samford.edu

Alumni and Parents Event,  
Selma, Alabama, 5:30 p.m.,  
alumni.samford.edu

## April 18

Samford Gives Back Day, 9 a.m.–  
12 p.m., Earthly Treasures, Columbiana,  
Alabama, alumni.samford.edu

## April 21

Dogs for Dogs Event, Jasper, Alabama,  
5:30 p.m., alumni.samford.edu

Samford Orchestra and Wind Ensemble  
concert, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall

## April 22

Earth Day events

## April 23

Greek Awards Ceremony and Reception,  
6 p.m., Hanna Center

Annie Moses Band, 7:30 p.m., Wright  
Center Concert Hall

## April 24

African-American Alumni and Friends  
Luncheon, 12 p.m., The Club,  
Birmingham, alumni.samford.edu

Choral Vespers, 5:30 p.m., Andrew  
Gerow Hodges Chapel

## April 30

Young Authors Conference, hosted by  
Orlean Bullard Beeson School of  
Education

## April 30–May 3

Michael J. and Mary Anne Freeman  
Theatre and Dance Series presents *Jane  
Eyre*, samford.edu/arts

## May 2

Alabama Symphony Orchestra  
SuperPOPS presents “The Music of  
John Williams,” 8 p.m., Wright Center  
Concert Hall, alabamasymphony.org

## May 5

Division of Music Honors Recital,  
7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall

## May 6

Beeson Divinity School  
Commencement and Consecration  
Service, 11 a.m., Hodges Chapel

## May 7

Samford Jazz Ensemble concert,  
7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall

Samford Legacy League’s Scholarship  
Celebration, “An Evening with David  
Phelps,” samford.edu/legacyleague

## May 8

Last day of spring semester classes  
Washington, D.C. Alumni Event:  
Nationals vs. Braves baseball game,  
7 p.m., alumni.samford.edu

## May 9

Birmingham Area Alumni Event:  
Samford vs. Western Carolina baseball  
game, 2 p.m., Griffin Field,  
alumni.samford.edu

## May 12

Nashville Samford Business Network  
luncheon, 11:30 a.m.,  
alumni.samford.edu

## May 14–16

Commencement Weekend,  
samford.edu/commencement

## May 21

Atlanta Samford Business Network  
Reception, 6–8 p.m.,  
alumni.samford.edu

## May 25

Memorial Day holiday, university closed

## June 1

First day of classes, Summer I Session

## June 1–2

Bulldog Days new student orientation  
session 1, samford.edu/admission

## June 6–10

Institute for Genealogy and Historical  
Research, ighr.samford.edu

## June 8–9

Bulldog Days new student orientation  
session 2, samford.edu/admission

## June 11

Montgomery Alumni and Parents Event:  
Montgomery Biscuits baseball game  
6:30 p.m., alumni.samford.edu

## June 12

Bulldog Days transfer student  
orientation, samford.edu/admission

## June 15–16

Bulldog Days new student orientation  
session 3, samford.edu/admission

## June 18–19

Bulldog Days new student orientation  
session 4, samford.edu/admission

*For a complete list of spring  
commencement activities, go to  
samford.edu/commencement.*

*Information about summer learning  
opportunities and camps can be found  
on page 29.*

*Information was compiled from the  
university’s calendar as of March 1, 2015.  
Dates, times and details are subject to  
change. Please go to samford.edu/events for  
updated information and a complete list  
of academics, arts, athletics, Academy of  
the Arts, Institute of Continued Learning,  
Lay Academy of Theology and Ministry  
Training Institute opportunities.*

SAVE  
the  
DATE

**FAMILY WEEKEND  
SEPTEMBER 18–20**

Details to come at  
samford.edu/parents

**HOME COMING  
NOVEMBER 6–8**

Details at  
alumni.samford.edu



Students Sara Hess, left, and Mary Ellen Smith relax between classes on Ben Brown Plaza.