

INSIDE Samford

A newsletter for faculty, staff and friends of Samford University • May 2004

Track and Field
Ohio Valley Conference Championships
Friday–Saturday, May 7–8
Seibert Stadium

Samford To Host 57th Meeting of Alabama Historical Association

Samford University will host the 57th annual meeting of the Alabama Historical Association Friday and Saturday, May 7–8. More than 200 professional and lay historians will attend.

Dr. George C. Rable, prize-winning author of the book *Fredericksburg! Fredericksburg!* will speak at the annual AHA dinner Friday at 7 p.m. in Beeson University Center. Rable, the Charles G. Summersell chair in Southern history at the University of Alabama, won the Lincoln Award, the Douglas Southall Freeman Award and Jefferson Davis Award for his latest book on the Civil War.

The Samford Special Collection Department will be open for tours before the banquet at 6 p.m.

Kathryn Tucker Windham, popular author and storyteller, will speak at the Saturday breakfast. Her topic is "Please don't put sugar in my cornbread!"

Dr. Marlene Rikard, professor of history, is general arrangements chair for the meeting. Students from Phi Alpha Theta history honor society will assist with various events.

Vestavia Hills Baptist Church also will host sessions Friday afternoon and Saturday. ■

Samford To Present Honorary Doctorate To Birmingham-Southern President

Samford will confer an honorary doctor of laws degree on Dr. Neal R. Berte, retiring president of Birmingham-Southern College, recognizing his 28 years of leadership at the liberal arts college.

Samford President Thomas E. Corts announced that the Samford Board of Trustees "enthusiastically approved" the granting of the degree, which will be conferred at Commencement May 22.

"This is as high an honor as our University can give, one that is richly merited in your case, and I am very pleased," Dr. Corts wrote to Dr. Berte in a letter informing him of the honor. Corts cited the "common commitment" of Birmingham-Southern and

Samford "to academic quality, to Christian faith and to the worthiness of independent higher education."

He added, "It would be an honor for Samford University to claim you as an honorary alumnus."

In a response to Corts, Berte said he was "overwhelmed" by the action, and added, "this is a high honor, and I cannot thank you, members of the Board of Trustees and others associated with this decision enough."

Berte's tenure at Birmingham-Southern was "unprecedented in length and achievements," noted W. Michael Atchison, chairman of the

See **Berte** page 4

Senior Coalition Education Adviser to Iraq, John Agresto, Will Address Graduates

Dr. John Agresto, senior adviser for higher education and scientific research to the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq, will deliver the Samford University commencement address.

Agresto, named last August as the top education adviser in the war-torn country, will speak during 10 a.m. exercises Saturday, May 22, at Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex Arena. It will be his only speaking engagement outside Iraq during the U.S. commencement period.

The former president of St. John's College in Santa Fe, N.M., Agresto succeeded Andrew Erdmann when he left Iraq last summer for an assignment on the National Security Council.

Agresto has broad powers to determine policy and to set a course for the future of higher education in Iraq. His contract specifies an 18-month assignment that is extendable.

"I was told the job would take anywhere from four months to forever, but it certainly can't be done in four months," he told *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. "The Iraqis had one of the finest systems of higher education years ago, and it's simply a question of helping them rebuild what they once had."

Congressman Artur Davis of Alabama's Seventh District will address Cumberland School of Law graduates during 3 p.m. exercises at Wright Center.

Dr. Joel Gregory of Gregory Ministries, Fort Worth, Texas, will deliver the Baccalaureate sermon Friday, May 21, at 6 p.m. in Wright Center.

The President's Reception for seniors and their families will precede Baccalaureate, 2:30–4:30 p.m., in Beeson University Center.

Samford will graduate 835 seniors, including 158 law graduates. ■

New Software Package Coming

Samford has entered into an agreement with SunGard SCT to implement its Banner line of core administrative software.

The software handles information in student registration and grades, university finances, personnel, payroll, alumni and other areas.

The transition to Banner will enable such new features as

access to information 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and access to key information with a simple Web browser.

The agreement with SunGard SCT is the first step of a project that will take 18–36 months to complete. The new software will replace the Plus suite from SunGard SCT that has been in use for 15 years at Samford. ■



Out & About

David Bains (Religion) had an article, "Conduits of Faith: Reinhold Neibuhr's Liturgical Thought," published in the March 2004 issue of *Church History*. During March, he also led a series of discussions on world religions sponsored by Samford Student Ministries. He chaired a session on "Revisiting the Mercersburg Movement" at the spring meeting of the American Society of Church History in Harrisburg, Pa., April 3.

Kim Benner and **Mary Worthington** (Pharmacy) lectured on "Pharmacology in Neonatal Care" at the Advanced Continuing Education Pharmacology Course for Neonatal Nurse Practitioners April 23 at Alabama State University in Brewton.

Amanda Borden (Communication Studies) presented a paper, "A Content Analysis of Stewardship Themes in Students: Reflections on Environmental Service Learning," at the Southern States Communication Association [SSCA] convention in Tampa April 1-4. In addition, Samford students **Brooke Bamberg**, **Kim DeLaney**, **Jeremiah Sizemore**, **Chase Williams** and **Jason Wood** had papers accepted for presentation at SSCA's 2004 Undergraduate Honors Conference.

Jean Ann Box (Education and Professional Studies) served as a Board of Examiners reviewer for the

National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education at Dowling College in Oakdale, N.Y., April 23-28.

Jim Brown (History) gave a presentation April 5 at the South African Historical Association annual meeting, held this year at Stellenbosch University. The presentation, written in collaboration with **Max Baber** (Geography), was entitled "Great Roads in World History—A G.I.S. Approach to the Johannesburg-to-Durban Corridor."

Stephen Chew (Psychology) attended the consolidated meetings of executive boards of the American Psychological Association in Washington, D.C., in his role as faculty consultant to Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools [TOPSS]. He also attended the Carnegie Colloquium on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in San Diego, where he presented a paper entitled "Principles for Designing Questions, Activities, Examples and Problems That Lead to Deep Learning." The paper was presented as part of a panel discussion by five Carnegie Scholars on the topic, "What Types of Questions Promote Deep Learning and How Might We Find Out?"

Charles (Bo) Cole and **Wayne Scott Simpson** (Law) traveled to Brazil during spring break to lecture in Sao Paulo. They offered environmental law lectures at the law school for FMU three days and alternative dispute resolution lectures at Judges College another day. Cole also lectured on "External Constitutional Control of the Judicial Branch of Government" and "Judicial Review: A Comparison of the Authority in the United States and Brazil." He once again will conduct the Master of Comparative Law Program during June and July. The July portion will be in conjunction with the 2004 Durham Study Abroad Program in Durham, England.

Bill Collins (Political Science), and **Rosemary Fisk** and **Chris Metress** (English) presented papers at the 10th annual conference of the Association of Core Texts and Courses [ACTC] in Dallas April 15-18. Collins' paper, "Newton and Dante on the Character of the Infinite," anchored a panel of participants from the three-year Bridging the Gap project sponsored by the National Endowment of the Humanities. Fisk's essay, "Colonial Quagmire and Hearts of Darkness: Recovering George Orwell's 'Burmese Days' for the 21st Century," resulted from her recent study-abroad course in Myanmar. Metress presented



Box



Kirk



Price



Sansom

"Galileo's 'Letter to the Grand Duchess Christina': Minding the Gap Between the Humanities and Sciences," which resulted from his current sabbatical project on Galileo.

Steve Donaldson (Mathematics and Computer Science) served as a judge April 2 in the computer science portion of the Graduate Student Research Competition at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Donna Fitch (University Relations) edited the new book, *The Thematic Catalogue of the Musical Works of Johann Pachelbel*. Published by Scarecrow Press, the book was written by her late stepfather, Jean M. Perreault.

Eric Fournier (Geography) attended the Centennial Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Philadelphia recently. He served as a panelist for a discussion on preparing undergraduates for graduate school, chaired the meeting for the Committee on College Geography, and organized a workshop on writing and publishing for early career faculty.

Ginger Frost (History) gave a paper entitled "A Silent Scorpion: Illegitimacy in England, 1918-59" for the annual meeting of the Center for Contemporary British History in London, England, March 17. The conference theme was "Rethinking Mid-Century Britain."

Linda Jentsch (World Languages and Cultures) chaired two sessions at the 12th annual Latin American Studies Symposium at Birmingham-Southern College April 2-3. Four students from her Spanish-American Literature class presented papers at the symposium, which is nationally recognized for undergraduate research.

Cindy Formanek Kirk (Metro College) attended the 89th annual University Continuing Education Association [UCEA] meeting in San Antonio April 13-17. She facilitated two sessions for the Futures and Change Community of Practice, of which she is chair.

Sarah Latham, **Dea Mathews** and **Karen Hamby** (Institutional Research) presented a session, "Conducting a

Faculty Salary Study at a University: From Buy-in to Follow-up," at the annual Alabama Association of Institutional Research Conference at the University of Alabama at Birmingham April 30. Latham also cofacilitated a workshop at the conference on the new Southern Association of Colleges and Schools [SACS] accrediting standards.

Mary McCullough (World Languages and Cultures) presented a paper entitled "(Re)Claiming a Space of One's Own: Leila Sebbar's Urban Heroines" at the interdisciplinary colloquium, "Mapping Identities: Urban Landscapes and the Discourses of Space," at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., April 3. She chaired a panel on "Performances: Gender, Nationalism and Identity" at the African Literature Association Conference at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, April 14-18.

Philip Poole (University Relations) served as program chair for the 75th anniversary meeting of the Religion Communicators Council held in Birmingham March 25-27. RCC is a national, ecumenical organization of about 750 communications professionals representing a variety of faith groups and organizations. Poole was elected to the RCC governing board at the meeting.

Milburn Price (Performing Arts) presented a paper entitled "175 Years of Congregational Song in South Carolina" at the annual meeting of the South Carolina Baptist Historical Society April 23 in Anderson, S.C.

Robin Roberts (Sociology) presented a paper, "Killing Them Softly: Animal Hoarding as a Peculiar Form of Deviance," at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society in Atlanta April 16. He is working with Dr. Jacque Meyer, executive director of the Greater Birmingham Humane Society, on the social problem of animal hoarding.

Ken Roxburgh, **David Bains** and **Joe Scrivner** (Religion) visited Boston College in Massachusetts April 15-18 to meet with members of the Department of Theology, the director of the Institute of Pastoral Ministry, the

INSIDE
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**Deadline for next issue:
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Samford University is an Equal Opportunity Institution and welcomes applications for employment and educational programs from all individuals regardless of race, color, sex, age, disability, or national or ethnic origin.

director of the Capstone Program and several students. The visit was in connection with the Department of Religion's Wabash Grant.

Donald Sanders (Music) had his article, "The Sonatas of Domenico Paradies," published in *The Musical Times* of the United Kingdom recently. The article commemorated the 250th anniversary of the London publication of the 12 keyboard sonatas. Sanders attended the Leon Fleischer Piano Workshop at Carnegie Hall in New York City in March.

Don Sandley (Theatre), **Lynette Sandley** (SIM/Co-neXus) and **Kathy Parnell** (Co-neXus) presented at the Gulf South Summit on Service-Learning, Community Engagement and Higher Education in New Orleans March 26. Their topic was service-learning in Samford theatre courses, communication arts and last fall's Biology Learning Community.

Dennis Sansom (Philosophy) had two articles published recently. "What Is the Right Thing? The Moral Instructions of Death in Leo Tolstoy's 'The Death of Ivan Ilych'" appeared in *Philosophy and Literature*. "War and the Love of Neighbor and Enemy" was published in *The Baptist Peacemaker*. He presented a paper, "Medical Futility: Its Problems and Usefulness," at the 2004 Healthcare, Ethics and the Law [HEAL] Institute conference in Birmingham. In July, he will present "The Morality of Stem Cell Therapy" for the Ethics Committee of the Baptist World Alliance in Seoul, Korea.

Lisa Sharlach (Political Science) presented a lecture, "Wars Against Women," at the University of Alabama at Birmingham April 13 as part of the week on violence against women. Cosponsored by the YWCA and the UAB Women's Studies program, the presentation was based on Sharlach's research on violence against women and focused particularly on Pakistan.

Fred Shepherd (Political Science) was selected as a fellow for the ninth annual Institute on the Holocaust and Jewish Civilization this summer at Northwestern University.

Julie Steward and **Nancy Whitt** (English) attended the American Indian Literary Conference in Minneapolis, Minn., April 15-17.

Ron Wilson (University Relations) was called as interim pastor for Chandler Springs Baptist Church in Talladega County. ■



May Calendar

(Birthdays are listed in red.)

Saturday, May 1

Patricia Kuntz, Frank Parsons

- 1 p.m. Baseball: SU vs. Morehead State, Joe Lee Griffin Field (DH)
- 1 p.m. Softball: SU vs. Austin Peay State, Bulldog Field (DH)
- 7:30 p.m. Samford Theatre: *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, Wright Center Concert Hall (for tickets, call ext. 2853)

Sunday, May 2

Susan Denman, Karim Shamsi-Basha, Roy Swatzell

- 1 p.m. Baseball: SU vs. Morehead State, Joe Lee Griffin Field
- 1 p.m. Softball: SU vs. Austin Peay State, Bulldog Field
- 2:30 p.m. Samford Theatre: *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, Wright Center Concert Hall (for tickets, call ext. 2853)

Monday, May 3

Michael DeBow, Laura Price, Robert Schrimsher

- Samford Faculty Art Show, Wright Center Art Gallery, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Mon.-Fri., through May 6

Tuesday, May 4

Jessie Baker (ret.), Andrew Greene, Joyce Johnson (ret.), Raymond Johnson

- 10 a.m. Reid Chapel: Summer Missions Program, "Hearing the Call and Answering"
- 6 p.m. Baseball: SU vs. Jacksonville State, Joe Lee Griffin Field
- 7:30 p.m. Concert: Samford Strings Orchestra, Hodges Chapel

Wednesday, May 5

Evelyn Lynn, Heather Mitchell, Si-King Tan

- 4 p.m. Softball: Samford vs. Charleston Southern, Bulldog Field

Thursday, May 6

Crystal Briley, Michael Carter, Mike Morris

- 10 a.m. Reid Chapel: Summer Missions Commissioning Service
- 4-6 p.m. Closing Reception, Samford Faculty Art Show, Wright Center Art Gallery
- 4 p.m. Concert: Samford Wind Ensemble, Quad

Friday, May 7

Gail Barton, Sharon Coleman, Ralph Gold, Rickey Hinkle

- 1 p.m. Track and Field: Ohio Valley Conference Outdoor Championships, Seibert Stadium
- 7:30 p.m. Concert: Samford Music Theatre Ensemble, Wright Center Recital Hall
- 7:30 p.m. Concert: Bells of Buchanan, Harrison Theatre

Saturday, May 8

Mark Holcombe, James McDill (ret.)

- 9 a.m. Track and Field: Ohio Valley Conference Outdoor Championships, Seibert Stadium
- 1 p.m. Softball: SU vs. Southeast Missouri State, Bulldog Field (DH)

Sunday, May 9

Tim Banks

- 1 p.m. Softball: SU vs. Southeast Missouri State, Bulldog Field

Monday, May 10

Beth Cox, Kathryn Gardner, Glenda Martin

- 7:30 p.m. Concert: Samford Faculty Wind Quintet, Wright Center Recital Hall

Tuesday, May 11

Stan Davis, Dianne Ellis (ret.), Candia Gann, Faye Howell, Nancy Hughes

- 10 a.m. Reid Chapel: *Katherine Arnold*, Samford University Senior

Wednesday, May 12

Tim Covington, Rosemary Fisk, Heather Klinner, Belinda Treadwell

- Spring semester classes end
- Samford Art Graduating Senior Show, Wright Center Art Gallery, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Mon.-Fri., through May 21

Thursday, May 13

Arcie Bonds (ret.), John Garrett, Geneva Hardie, Annie Wheeler (ret.), Jim Williams

Friday, May 14

Charles Cole, Tanual Hall

- Final exams begin

Saturday, May 15

Janice Lasseter, Haley Myers, Karlo Senasi

- 11 a.m. Extension Division Recognition Service, Hodges Chapel, Rev. J. Talbert Prince, director, external affairs, Beeson Divinity School, speaker
- 1 p.m. Baseball: SU vs. UT-Martin, Joe Lee Griffin Field (DH)

Sunday, May 16

Robert Cameron, Odine Gallman (ret.), Patricia Outlaw, Billy Strickland

- 1 p.m. Baseball: SU vs. UT-Martin, Joe Lee Griffin Field

Monday, May 17

Kristie Chandler, Ken Mathews, Anethia Reliford, Katherine Rush, Tena Strawbridge

Tuesday, May 18

Paul Hall (ret.), Eric Olsen, Robin Snyder, Deborah Young

- 6 p.m. Baseball: SU vs. UAB, Joe Lee Griffin Field

Wednesday, May 19

Ernestine Bodie (ret.), Candace Hudson, Patricia Sillavan (ret.)

Thursday, May 20

Jack Brymer (ret.), Carolyn Crocker, Lori Hill, Rory Segrest

Friday, May 21

Keith Abrams, Francis Carter (ret.), Patricia Donnelly, Mary Hudson (ret.), Alice Martin, John Ray (ret.)

- 1:30 School of Nursing Pinning Ceremony, Hodges Chapel

- 2:30-4:30 p.m. President's Reception for seniors and their families, Beeson University Center
- 6 p.m. Baccalaureate Service, Wright Center Concert Hall, Dr. Joel Gregory, Gregory Ministries, Fort Worth, Texas, speaker
- 7 p.m. (approx.) Closing Reception, Samford Art Graduating Senior Show, Wright Center Art Gallery

Saturday, May 22

Linda Connor, Lynze Lysen, Becca Williamson

- 10 a.m. Commencement, Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex Arena, Dr. John Agresto, Coalition Provisional Authority (Iraq) Senior Adviser for Higher Education and Scientific Research, speaker
- 3 p.m. Cumberland School of Law Commencement, Wright Center Concert Hall, U.S. Rep. Artur Davis, Seventh District, Alabama, speaker

Monday, May 24

Sandy Brinson, George Keller

- 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Staff Appreciation Day

Tuesday, May 25

Sara Berry, Adam Seidel

Wednesday, May 26

Ronda Lee, Billy Putt, Robert Smith, Judith Vinzant

Thursday, May 27

Marione Nance, Jonathan Parker, Lisa Pickett

Friday, May 28

Chris Doss, William Hull (ret.), Mary Lewis

Saturday, May 29

Aaron Farrow, Anton Fourie, Mike McCormack, Charles McQuire, John Morgan, Aleesa Naish

Sunday, May 30

Marilyn Wright

Monday, May 31

Kathryn Fouse, Betty Legg (ret.), Cynthia Medbery
Memorial Day
University closed

'Samford Salutes London' Photo Exhibition Planned

Samford Art Gallery Director Robin Snyder is organizing a photo show commemorating 20 years of Daniel House, the London Centre. The show opens Oct. 25 and closes Nov. 12. An afternoon tea reception is planned for Homecoming Oct. 29.

All faculty, students, alumni and friends of Samford are invited to submit photos for the exhibition. Contact Snyder at ext. 2508 for information.

Winning photos will be selected to hang in Daniel House. ■

Joys & Sorrows

Congratulations to . . .

• **Janie Kennedy** (Mathematics and Computer Services) and her husband, Doug, on the March 30 birth of their daughter, Sydney Nicole

Sympathy is expressed to . . .

- **Sandy Brinson** (Divinity) and her husband, Tommy, in the April death of Tommy's mother, Marjorie Brinson
- **Brad Bishop** (Law) in the April 21 death of his mother, Wilma Earle Bishop
- **Jo Dohoney** (Sociology) in the April 11 death of her father, William Dohoney
- **Mary Ann Tomlinson** (Compliance) in the April 21 death of her brother-in-law, Jerry Powell, of El Paso, Texas
- **Marilyn Wright** (University Ministries) in the April 18 death of her mother, Edith Crisler Morgan

Dear Samford Family,

Thank you for the lovely plant in remembrance of my brother. Your kind expression of sympathy is deeply appreciated.

Wanda Lucas

NEW FACES

Shawn E. Gregory
(Athletics/Football)

Julia Hayes (Metro College)

Zaida S. Jones (Metro College)

Dorothy Mangum (Christian Women's Leadership Center)

Henrietta P. McNeel
(Education and Professional Studies)

Andy Parrish (WVSU)

Lucy E. Phillips
(Education and Professional Studies)

George D. Todd (Campus Safety)



Andy Parrish Named WVSU General Manager

Samford graduate Andy Parrish was named general manager of WVSU-FM Radio upon the retirement of former manager Berkley Fraser April 1.

Parrish graduated in 1994 with a journalism/mass communications degree. He began his career in Laurel, Miss., at WBBN-FM as news director. He returned to his hometown of Birmingham in 1996 to become news anchor with the Alabama Radio Network and remained there until 2002, when he accepted a position as news director of Radio Alabama.

This is not Parrish's first stint at WVSU. He was station manager as an undergraduate.

Communications Staff Wins RCC Awards; Football Program Chosen Fourth Best

The University Relations communications staff recently received three national awards from the Religion Communicators Council: an award of excellence for "From Corinth to Beeson" CD case, an award of merit for the Samford admission CD packaging and the prestigious "Shoestring Award for Exceptional Creativity on a Limited Budget" for the Beeson project. Scott Camp was the designer and Jana Pearson was the editor. RCC is a national, ecumenical organization of some 750 communications professionals from various faith groups and organizations.

In addition, the 2003 Samford football program was selected as the fourth best of 132 entries in the national competition of NCAA Division I-AA schools. Joey Mullins and Alan Verlander of Athletics and Janica York Carter of University Relations edited the program. Scott Camp and Carlie Stamper of University Relations created the design. ■



Provost Brad Creed chats with Lauren Cole, left, and Lauren Bean at an April 15 reception for students and faculty at the Birmingham Museum of Art.

Changes in Insurance Coverage Announced

Samford will begin offering SVIVA Health, a new health insurance option with a drug card, effective June 1. It will continue to offer Blue Cross and Blue Shield, and employees may decide which option to choose.

Meetings are scheduled Wednesday, May 5, and Thursday, May 6, to assist employees in making an informed decision regarding their choice of health insurance. Information sessions will be 9-10 a.m. in Davis Library 235 Wednesday and Thursday. Afternoon sessions will be 2-3 p.m. Wednesday and 3-4 p.m. Thursday. Representatives also will be available 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in the University Center Lobby both days.

Information will be provided on the VIVA Health plan and on

the comparison between BCBS and VIVA coverage and monthly rates. (A meeting was also held April 29.)

Some changes in BCBS deductibles and copayments will be effective June 1. These are being incorporated to keep the BCBS health insurance at an affordable premium, noted Director of Human Resources Marylyn Gavin. A fourth tier of prescription drug coverage has been added to address rising costs and new drug therapies. Letters containing a summary of the changes and new rates went to BCBS participants. Dental coverage will remain the same and will be available to employees on VIVA Health or BCBS health insurance. ■

Berte

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college's Board of Trustees, when Berte announced his upcoming retirement last fall.

Berte became president Feb. 1, 1976, after serving at the University of Alabama as dean of New College and vice president

for educational development. An Ohio native, he holds three degrees from the University of Cincinnati, where he was elected Phi Beta Kappa.

Berte, who was named president and chancellor when he announced his retirement, will retire June 30. He will retain the title of chancellor. ■