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A NEWSLETTER FOR SAMFORD LEGACY LEAGUE

SPRING
2016

Happenings

CELEBRATION FEATURES SAMFORD'S SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

by Carolyn Robinson

Mark your calendars for April 29 and join us as we go "On the Town!"

Don't miss what promises to be a delightful event. The Legacy League, in collaboration with Samford's School of the Arts, is putting together an evening of dinner and theatre. A private reception in the Art Gallery will commence the Celebration, which includes a seated gala dinner on the Wright Center stage. After dinner, guests will enjoy the musical *On the Town* performed by talented Samford students in Harrison Theatre.

On the Town is a lively production with music by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green. The story follows three American sailors on shore leave in New York City during wartime 1944. It premiered on Broadway on December 28 of that year and was made into a film in 1949. The play has enjoyed several revivals on Broadway, the most recent being in 2014. The song "New York, New York" is one of several well-known numbers from the production.

In celebration of 100 years of Samford Arts, proceeds from the event will help endow the Legacy League School of the Arts Centennial Scholarship, a new scholarship for students who are pursuing a degree from the School of the Arts. This fund, like all Legacy League scholarships, will help provide the Samford experience to young people with significant financial need and challenging circumstances.

Seating for the event is limited, so reservations should be made soon. Standard

reservations are \$100 per person (\$50 tax-deductible) and include the gala dinner and the show. Deluxe reservations are \$125 per person (\$70 tax-deductible) and include the gala dinner, preferred seating for the show, a reception with cast members, reserved parking and an event photo. It is also possible to purchase a table for eight or 10 at either the regular or the deluxe level.

Suzanne Hopkins is the chair of the Scholarship Gala Celebration Committee (see photo below). Other committee members are Karen Bergquist, Jan Cobb, Monique Gannon, Caitlin Hammond, Melinda Mitchell, Tricia Naro, Lynn Parrish, Sharon Smith, Allison Strickland, Jeanna Westmoreland and Kathryn Woodruff. Additional volunteers will be needed to help with set up and decorations. ☛



Scholarship Gala Celebration Committee



The annual Scholarship Gala Celebration is a favorite of members and the culminating event of the Legacy League's program year.



ON THE TOWN
with Samford Legacy League

Scholarship Gala Celebration
Friday, April 29

5:30 p.m. Private reception • Art Gallery
6:30 p.m. Gala dinner • Wright Center stage
8 p.m. *On the Town* • Harrison Theatre

\$100-\$125 per person (\$50-70 tax deductible)
\$800-\$1250 per table (\$400-\$700 tax-deductible)

For reservations and more information,
go to samford.edu/legacyleague

Christmas Home Tour Nets \$21,000 for New Centennial Scholarship

by Frances King

Legacy League's 2015 Christmas Home Tour on December 10 raised over \$21,000 for the new Legacy League School of the Arts Centennial Scholarship. With months of planning and publicity, co-chairs Lisbeth Cease and Terre Currey, their hard-working committee and nearly 200 volunteers contributed to the success of the fifth annual event.

Exquisite decorations in each of the five featured homes, along with the new holiday gift market, offered more than 500 guests a Christmas celebration to remember. The funds raised will provide

scholarship recipients educational opportunities they'll never forget.

Visitors relished the tasteful holiday décor of four stunning Mountain Brook homes and the majestic mountaintop residence of Samford President Andrew Westmoreland and Legacy League Executive Director Jeanna Westmoreland. Featured in Mountain Brook were the Cherokee Bend home of Tricia and Mark Drew, the Frank Lloyd Wright influenced home of Dimity and Alex Leath, the Brookwood Road residence of Shannon and Richard Riley, and the New England cottage-style dwelling of Lynn and Duane Randleman. Holiday trimmings graced all 14 rooms of the Westmoreland residence including Nativity scenes from around the globe, an extensive nutcracker collection, and an assortment of festive plates, platters and cookie jars. In the spacious downstairs gathering room, delectable hors d'oeuvres and holiday treats were served with punch and coffee.

On the terrace adjoining the Samford President's Home was a tent housing the holiday gift market. Visitors browsed vendor booths, which included unique jewelry, art, photography, accessories, kiln-formed glass, children's items, clothing, Scripture dinnerware, handmade bow ties, puzzles, edibles and more. Many guests left the market with some of their Christmas shopping accomplished.

One visitor drove from Huntsville and booked a hotel room in Birmingham just to attend Legacy League's home tour. She explained that her home was included in a Huntsville Christmas tour, so she never had a chance to visit the other houses on that tour. After seeing a Legacy League poster during a shopping trip, she decided to return to Birmingham for the League's tour. She was not disappointed and hopes to return next year.

Preparations for the sixth annual Christmas Home Tour are already underway. Mark your calendar for Thursday, December 8 and plan to participate in this wonderful yuletide tradition. ❧



Jeanna Westmoreland, Sharon Smith, Karen Bergquist and Susie Hammers welcome Christmas Home Tour guests to the Samford President's Home.



Helen McEwen, Terre Currey and Deb Pounds ring up sales at the inaugural Holiday Gift Market.



Shoppers keep vendors busy at the Holiday Gift Market.

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Robert F. Henry Tile Co.
Savage's Bakery
Seibels
The Fresh Market
Thompson Frame Factory
Tricia's Treasures
Urban Cookhouse

Holiday Gift Market sponsored by Event Rentals Unlimited

Kelly Minter Inspires at Scholarship Luncheon

by Lynn Parrish

Vestavia Country Club was the setting of the Legacy League's Scholarship Luncheon on Thursday, January 28. Nearly 300 members and guests gathered around lovely tables decorated with beautiful ivy topiaries. Legacy League President Kathryn Woodruff welcomed everyone and gave the invocation. Harriet Williams then awarded door prizes to four lucky guests.

Vice President for Student Scholarship and Support Paula Gossett introduced scholarship recipient Maymo Hawkins, a freshman from Memphis, Tennessee, who shared her Samford story. Maymo, whose father died of bladder cancer, expressed her gratitude to the Legacy League for helping her achieve her dream of attending Samford.

Executive Director Jeanna Westmoreland explained the purpose of the Legacy League and how events, such as the Scholarship Luncheon, raise funds for named scholarships. This year's scholarship, in recognition of 100 years of Samford Arts, will be awarded to students pursuing a degree in the arts. Jeanna also announced the creation of the Myra Gravlee Grady and Odell F. Grady Memorial Scholarship, made possible by a generous gift from their estate.

Vice President for Programs Harriet Williams introduced featured guest Kelly Minter. Kelly, author of several books and

Bible studies, is passionate about women discovering Jesus Christ through the pages of Scripture. She began her inspirational message by giving a brief synopsis of the story of Esther in keeping with our theme verse, "... for such a time as this" from Esther 4:14. She stated that the command Jesus gave in John 13:34-35 is the anchor for why we are here at this time. "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

Using verses from 1 John, Kelly encouraged the audience by sharing how we can love others as Jesus loves. She concluded her remarks by singing "You Lifted Me" from *Hymns and Hallelujahs*, her acoustic record of beloved hymns and new songs. Kelly was accompanied on the fiddle by her assistant, Bethany Bordeaux.

The Scholarship Luncheon raised over \$9,000 for the Legacy League School of the Arts Centennial Scholarship. Many thanks go to the Scholarship Luncheon Committee



Julie Cundiff, Julie Warren and Courtney McCrory enjoy a visit with Kelly Minter at the Scholarship Luncheon.

comprised of Harriet Williams (chair), Karen Bergquist, Lisbeth Cease, Robin Edmondson, Lindsay Kessler, Lynn Parrish, Sharon Smith, Allison Strickland, Jeanna Westmoreland and Kathryn Woodruff (see photo below). Over 40 additional volunteers graciously gave their time and talents to make the luncheon a great success. ❧



Scholarship Luncheon Committee



Nearly 300 Legacy League members and guests gather to hear Kelly Minter at the 2016 Scholarship Luncheon.

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Melinda Mitchell

Swim with Miss Lynn (AKA Swim Nazi, Jr.)

The Bright Star Restaurant
Caldwell Mill Animal Clinic
Home Instead Senior Care
Kilgore-Green Funeral Home
Sweet as Honey Personalized Scripture Cards
Wild Birds Unlimited/Joe Perez

Door prizes courtesy of:

Diamonds Direct
Homewood Gourmet

Monograms Plus
Wild Birds Unlimited

Leaving a Legacy – Changing Lives through Life and Death *by Sharon Smith*

For decades Myra and Odell Grady made a difference to countless young people in Alabama classrooms. The Gradys, both graduates of Howard College (now Samford University), dedicated their lives and their careers to education. An active member of the Samford University Auxiliary (now Legacy League), Dr. Myra Grady taught at the elementary, high school and college levels. She later served with the State of Alabama as an education specialist and consultant. Mr. Odell Grady, a World War II veteran, was a teacher prior to becoming an elementary school principal. Once honored as a teacher of the year, he worked for the Alabama Department of Education as a consultant before his retirement.

Through their deaths, the Gradys' commitment to education endures with the creation of the Myra Gravlee Grady and Odell F. Grady Memorial Scholarship, made possible by their generous estate

gift. This new scholarship, the Legacy League's 26th endowed fund, will provide financial assistance for students who could otherwise not afford a university education. The Gradys' bequest will ensure that the work they cared about in life will continue far beyond their lifetimes.

Estate gifts have funded scholarships for countless Samford students, many of whom could never have earned their degrees without significant financial assistance. Bequests, like that of Myra and Odell Grady, have life-changing implications, both for those who receive the scholarships and for those who are later influenced by the scholarship recipients. They provide perpetual ministry, honoring the memory of lives well-lived and impacting generations to come.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can leave such a life-changing legacy, please contact Sharon Smith at 205-726-2247 or ssmith12@samford.edu. 🐾

Volunteers in Action



Legacy League members and their families tailgate with Spike the Bulldog before the Samford-Furman football game.



Phyllis Landers, Ann Layne and other members of the Registration Committee greet guests at the Fall Luncheon.



Jeanna Westmoreland, Vickie (Gord) Griffith, Sharon Smith, Kathryn Woodruff, Cynthia Watts, Lynn Parrish and Karen Carlisle serve refreshments as guests celebrate Samford's School of the Arts 100th Birthday at the Centennial Celebration Benefit Concert.



Legacy League scholarship recipients enjoy home-cooked meals at Fellowship Suppers hosted by Legacy League volunteers.



Legacy League members utilize distressing methods to prepare terra-cotta pots for the Scholarship Luncheon centerpieces.



New international students are welcomed to campus with a dinner hosted by Legacy League members at the Samford President's Home. Each student was given a bag of snacks and schools supplies donated by Legacy League members.



Mary Edith Jones, Shellyn Poole, Jean Fain, Sybil Johnson, Mary Berryman and Vicki Everett work behind the scenes preparing food for the Christmas Home Tour.



Brenda Weaver hosts guests at the Scholarship Luncheon. Organizing a table for an event is a great way to support our mission and help others learn about the organization.

Where Are They Now?

Kayla Frank: A Vision Complete

by Cynthia Walker Watts

Kayla Frank will never forget walking into Seibert Hall during homecoming weekend 2014 for Samford's first Homecoming Ball. She recalls the colors, lights, decorations and the sold-out crowd. The vision was complete, and the vision had been hers. Kayla had been chosen to plan and host this premiere event, and everything was perfect.

In 2010 Kayla lived in Vail Hall as a freshman Legacy League scholarship recipient majoring in accounting. She describes that year as her "transition year" when she frequently called on her Legacy League family when she needed support or encouragement. She is grateful for the prayers of the members and for events such as student dinners. She attended every meeting and enjoyed speaking at a few of them.

Kayla lived at home in Hoover the remaining years of her undergraduate work, but she continued to be active on campus. In the spring of her senior year, she received an

opportunity through Brock School of Business for an internship with Pearce, Bevill, Leesburg and Moore, PC. After graduating in 2014, she was offered a full-time position with the CPA firm while she continued coursework toward her master's degree in accounting. Upon completion of graduate school in 2015, she was asked to remain with the firm and is now in her third tax season there.

She states that the Legacy League scholarship was the only way she could have attended Samford, and it is because of Samford that she has her present position as an accountant. Now a Legacy League member, Kayla enjoys volunteering for events with scholarship recipients. She is able to provide students the kindnesses that were given her, another vision complete. ❧



Kayla Frank

Share a Memory:

Step Sing: Carrying on Tradition and Conquering Stage Fright

by Kathryn Woodruff, with memories shared by Lindsay Kessler

While Step Sing is a major event for most Samford students, it held even greater significance for Lindsay Kessler, a third-generation participant. Lindsay's grandmother sang on the steps of the Howard College campus, and her parents and brother participated as Samford students.

As a freshman, Lindsay sang and danced in her sorority show, but the next year she applied for the Step Sing Committee instead. The committee consisted of about 20 students who managed all aspects of the show. Lindsay was chosen for this prestigious assignment and, as an interior design major, was put in charge of the printed program. That was a momentous year: the 50th anniversary of Step Sing and also the first year a raked stage was used to improve audience viewing. She enjoyed the committee so much that she served again as a junior.

Lindsay was urged by friends to interview for the position of Step Sing director. She was selected, and her assistant director was a new committee member who had

previously directed a sorority program. In spite of concerns that Lindsay's sweet, quiet personality might be overpowered by her fiery, red-headed assistant, they became great friends and were later in each other's weddings.

As the two began planning for Step Sing, it became apparent that Lindsay's senior year schedule might be too busy, so she simply put off her senior thesis a semester and graduated in December. An unintended consequence of this delay was that she had to find a way to pay for her remaining classes because her parents had agreed to pay for only four years of school.

"Celebrating the Past, Reaching for the Future" was the theme of Step Sing in 2002, which coincided with the 160th anniversary of Samford's founding. As director, Lindsay had to appear on stage and speak. She tried in vain to delegate the task to her assistant, but, in the end, she conquered her stage fright. Years later, in 2010, Lindsay filled the former director slot on the judging panel. ❧



Step Sing Director Lindsay Kessler and Adrian (Howell) Fitchpatrick, her assistant director, accept congratulations for a successful show.

NEW MEMBERS

July 1, 2015–Feb. 15, 2016

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Mrs. Lacey D. Amos
Ms. Louise Barbour
Mrs. Mary M. Berryman
Mrs. Suzanne Paul Blankley
Mrs. Dianne Booth
Ms. Melissa Carlisle
Mrs. Dorothy S. Carroll
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Mrs. Judith S. Cooley
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Mrs. Sharon P. McKean
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Dr. Monique G. Witherspoon

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Ms. Melinda Mitchell
Mrs. Deb Pounds
Ms. Jo Elaine Sims
Mrs. Mechelle S. Wilder

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Ms. Robin Langner Edmondson
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Challenge Upgrade

Mrs. Diane M. Dill
Mrs. Bonnie B. Mullis

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July 1, 2015–Jan. 31, 2016

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Dr. & Mrs. William R. Baggett
Miss Patrice R. Donnelly
Mrs. Daisy M. Perrigin
Ms. Summer R. Robinette
Mrs. Terri T. Robinette

Caitlin Creed Scholarship

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Ms. Cherie Feenker
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Mr. David R. Tucker Jr.

Jean and Pat Sullivan Scholarship

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Dr. Joe O. Lewis

The Mothers' Fund Scholarship

The Honorable Karon O. Bowdre & Mr. J. Birch Bowdre Jr.
 Mr. James H. Gamble



On Feb. 1, a dozen new Legacy League challenge members and their guests gathered for a special dinner at the Samford President's Home.



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Glorifying God through Art

by Jeanna Westmoreland

In the crowded gallery, I stood in front of Raphael's painting "The Crucified Christ." I was shoulder to shoulder with people from all over the world, visiting the National Gallery in one of the most diverse cities on the planet, London. Our outward appearances would indicate that we were from a wide range of cultural and ethnic heritages. From the words spoken, one would infer that we were from a variety of linguistic backgrounds. As I lingered in front of the painting, taking in its spiritual significance to me, I was overwhelmed with thoughts about the people around me. Did they know who Jesus is? Did they understand the symbolism in the painting and its significance to their lives? Did they wonder why they were seeing these symbols and themes repeated, over and over again, throughout the museum? What were they thinking about as they viewed the painting? Would they read about the painting in their guidebooks and want to know more?

I paused and asked God to speak to the hearts of the people around me, to open their eyes to the message of the painting. I prayed that curiosity would raise questions about what they were seeing, that God would place people with answers in their paths.

As these prayers swirled in my mind, I focused on the painting in front of me. Thought to have been painted in 1503, it has been displayed as the altarpiece in a church, in private collections and in museums for over 500 years. Undoubtedly it has provided testimony through the centuries to the illiterate who, during the early life of the painting, had no scriptures to read, to the

learned who had collected or studied it as a work of art and to the thousands who viewed it in museums.

Still deep in thought on the power of art, I walked across the street to St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church to enjoy the rehearsal of a string ensemble in the same space where Mozart and Handel performed. Noted for its architecture and its music programs, St. Martin's is still an active church that also welcomes thousands of tourists to enjoy its beauty. I sat in one of the pews, absorbing the sunshine streaming through windows that line the sides of the sanctuary, as I enjoyed the music. As I listened, I looked at the people around me. Were they tourists checking off an item on their "must see" list? Were they travelers on a spiritual journey looking for answers? Were they believers seeking quiet respite from the busy city streets of London for a time of prayer and reflection? I prayed, this time that God would use the simple grandeur of the architecture and the beauty of the music to speak to those present.

As I left the church that day, I realized that on that one corner of Trafalgar Square in London I had experienced architecture and visual and performing arts, all created to glorify the one, true, living God. The church, the music and the painting had each proclaimed that glory for hundreds of years. It made me think of the important work of Samford's School of the Arts. As an institution, we have been preparing young men and young women for lives in service in the arts for 100 years. Today's programs in interior architecture, visual arts and

performing arts develop students who are salt and light, using their gifts in the secular culture as well as in ministry, worship and missions.

Through the Legacy League's fundraising efforts this year, we are creating a scholarship for students in the School of the Arts. By participating in our events, you can be a part of preparing students to make important contributions in this field. Someday, and hopefully for decades to come, people will stand in front of a work of art, will enjoy an inspiring performance or will appreciate the beauty of a building created by our students, and something in the experience will speak to them in a life-changing way. We get to be the instruments of God in making a difference! ❏

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