It was December, 1952, the Korean War was on, the economy was in a slump, and everybody was cautious about money—even if they didn't have much, and we didn't. As I rounded the corner of Park Avenue and W. 44th Street, my shoulder bag was almost empty of the 68 morning newspapers I dutifully distributed daily. Small vapor clouds of breathing marking my trail in the early cold, I strode toward home and breakfast past the sign reading “Terry Webb's Used Cars.” Heavily chromed, snow-topped '50s-era Pontiacs, Buicks and Fords offered themselves as a shiny wall along the corner sidewalk. It was about the first of December, the time each year when they surrounded the cars with Christmas trees. I suppose Terry's idea was that if people won't buy a car in December, maybe they'll at least buy a tree. The best ones were staked straight up, as though a forest popped up overnight among the DeSotos and Dodges of the used car lot. Maybe it was the aroma of the evergreen, but that morning I caught a serious case of the Christmas spirit. Reaching home, I proposed that we buy our Christmas tree early so we'd have more time to enjoy it. Mother, ever an optimistic realist, gently cautioned that we probably would not have a tree until later, when they were discounted.

Our household operating procedure was this: a few days before Christmas, when vendors cut prices, lest they be left with leftovers, our father would hunt out the cheapest advertised tree-seller, be certain that last-minute markdowns had been made, and negotiate a still lesser price. Triumphantly, we would tie a Christmas tree to the back bumper, get it to our driveway, and with a lot of huffing and puffing, wrestling with whatever makeshift tree-stand we could rig, we'd hoist it upright, hoping it wouldn't fall over. From our family of seven children, whoever was available would trim the tree, sing carols around the piano, and reminisce about Christmases past. Artificial trees were becoming more realistic as live trees got more expensive, and neighbors were switching to man-made, re-usable varieties; but, despite limited resources, our house held out for the real thing.

On my daily rounds, each morning my eye coveted those statuesque trees, looking so worthy of good homes, with signs that said: $6, $8, $10. Other homes were aglow with trees and decorations abundant. Christmas music was all around—Christmas was coming!

A paperboy's Saturdays were spent collecting for the week's newspapers, and I often ended up with $15 or $20, most of which I surrendered early Sunday morning when the route man came. On the dining room table, while everyone was getting ready for church, we stacked up sufficient half-dollars, quarters, dimes and nickels to pay for the week's quantity of papers, and whatever was left over was mine to keep.

Somehow one Saturday a couple of weeks before Christmas, I ended up with $9 and, with Mother's permission, my brother and I pulled a sled the few snow-covered blocks to the car lot. Flush with a wad of dollars in my pocket, using our own judgment, we picked out one of the comely, long-needled, $8 trees—long needles cost more and my father never afforded such extravagance—ripped it to the sled, and proudly pulled it home over snow-glazed pedestrian pathways. Readily decorated with bright lights and tinsel, with all our family's favorite things, it was the centerpiece of our Christmas and one of the best purchases I ever made.

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Re-warming the memory of that experience reminds me how much it means to us to invest in things that mean a lot to others!

Thomas E. Corts
President
Two Faces of Iraq
Samford student Mary Smothers and recent graduate James Kling '02 are serving in varying capacities in Iraq. Their reports provide a glimpse of what it's like in the Middle East hot spot.

Trendy, or Barometer of Quality?
Unlike some universities, Samford emphasizes undergraduate research. Arts and Sciences Dean David Chapman discusses how this helps students, whether or not their goal is graduate school.

Samford Trailblazers
Samford, then Howard College, began admitting women on a regular basis in 1913. But a few women attended as early as the 1890s. Sean Flynt's story provides a picture of two such pioneers, Annie Judge and Eugenia Weatherly.

A Major Success
Samford salutes its major donors in a program reflecting what their contributions have meant to the University.

The Changing Alma Mater
One of Samford's most lasting traditions is the singing of the Alma Mater. But while the custom has endured, the Alma Mater itself has changed several times. Jack Brymer traces the development of the song we sing today.
Mary Smothers faced the reality of war in Iraq last summer. Now, she faces the omnipresent danger of its aftermath. She’s not sure there’s much difference.

Smothers is the Samford senior who was three months shy of graduation when her Alabama National Guard unit was activated last March. She’s been in Iraq since June.

“Months after the war has ended, Americans are still being attacked and killed,” she wrote recently. “It seems that as long as we remain here, the war will never end.”

Life goes on, and with it, life’s routines. But in Iraq, not much is routine.

“Last night I was out running when all of a sudden, a mortar attack,” she wrote. “I was truly scared and ran to the building. There were 12 rounds fired, so loud and so close. They hit the compound next to ours. By the grace of God, no one was there. This company moved to our compound two days ago, but of course the Iraqis didn’t know that.”

After the mortar attack, a U.S. artillery battery was set up inside the compound. Now, when enemy mortar fire comes in, U.S. artillery returns the fire. The first time their artillery fired back, Smothers and her unit didn’t know it was friendly. When they were told, “It almost became a party.”

In the midst of all the violence, Smothers came upon a pastoral scene. Her unit was motoring to check on two of its platoons when explosives were discovered in the main roadway. To avoid the danger, they took a dirt farming road.

“We were in a rural area near the Euphrates,” she said. “Very fertile area, everything was green. We saw water birds, a ferret, a rabbit and butterflies. We were right next to a farm, and slowly about 12 children came out to see us. We gave them toys and candy.”

The farmers then approached and gave the soldiers vegetables—eggplants, potatoes, tomatoes and okra.

“I could have stayed there all afternoon,” said Smothers. “Truly a different world out there.”

But the reality of her situation always returns.

“I just hope we don’t lose anyone else,” she said. “It’s like we’ve become immune to hearing about people getting killed every day. A terrible thing.”

Mary’s parents, Jim and Sinikka Smothers of Talladega, Ala., added a postscript.

“Mary was able to call late last night, and sounded very good. She said they finally have some of the new, armored Humvees—enough for everyone, but they are appreciated. She also said there was one hot shower, and she was able to use it once, which she really enjoyed.”
James Arthur Kling '02 was a year out of Samford and working as assistant manager for Panera Bread Company in Birmingham when he got the opportunity of a lifetime. At least, that's how he viewed it as a 24-year-old.

The School of Business graduate got a chance to work for a company that operates dining facilities at military bases in Iraq. He accepted immediately, and today is project manager for a dining facility at a military base west of Mosul.

He's responsible for serving 14,000 meals a day. “We go through about 3.5 tons of meat a day,” he reported in late November. “I didn't know people ate that much.”

Kling is also overseeing the construction of a 60,000-square-foot dining facility. “We currently operate our dining facility out of two tents,” he said. Part of his job is making sure the food operation runs smoothly while the construction project stays on schedule.

“I'm usually making rounds by 7 a.m., checking construction progress and making recommendations to our subcontractors,” he said. “I often find myself reminding our mostly Indian crew that the booms we hear in the distance are exactly that: in the distance.”

His group faces little danger on a daily basis, he said, although one night in October, “we had 19 rockets launched at our base.”

Kling also has the challenge of making sure strict dining health codes are followed in a desert environment that includes few trees and plenty of dust.

“Fabric tents barely hold up in 60-mile-per-hour sandstorms,” he said.

When Kling arrived in August, temperatures were hitting 140 degrees. Now, it's 70 in the daytime and 40 at night.

The troops Kling feeds have been in Iraq for almost a year and “are itching to go home,” he said. The word is many will get there soon.

But, he added, “There will certainly be military presence here for quite some time; whether it's U.S. or coalition forces is yet to be seen.”

Kling signed on for a six-month commitment which he might extend.

“So far, it's been the best decision I could have made,” he said. “This has allowed me to meet a wide variety of people. It has taught me more than I learned in most of my Samford classes, but I couldn't have done it without the background Samford gave me. Samford encouraged critical thinking and common sense. Although going to Iraq isn’t necessarily for everyone, seeing the world is one of the best things we can do with it.”

What would he change if he could?

“I would have brought more to read and more long sleeves,” he said.

Kling has developed some strong feelings about the Iraq conflict.

“Freedom, for the common citizen, will never taste as sweet as it does to those who fight to defend it,” he wrote. “Our troops are working very hard to ensure the walls of America stay safe and free. For that, they are owed a debt of gratitude.”

He added, “I encourage everyone, no matter what their opinion of this conflict, to do something to show they support the men and women who fight for them.”
Staff Childs ’75 celebrated his 51st birthday in a novel manner Oct. 25. He took a hot air balloon ride over the Samford campus.

His reaction was succinct. “It was great!” he enthused. Several hundred Samford alumni, students and friends who rode the balloon agreed with him. Some waited up to an hour to enjoy the popular attraction.

The occasion was Homecoming. Festivity filled the air throughout the weekend, from spectacular fireworks on Friday night to streaking Air Force jets flying over Seibert Stadium before Saturday’s football game.

Graduates representing seven decades traveled from points near and far for the school’s 137th Homecoming. “Memories and Milestones” was the theme in recognition of the 50th anniversary of groundbreaking for the Lakeshore Drive campus.

Carol Guthrie ’93 of Washington, D.C., took home the Odyssey Award for having traveled the greatest distance to attend a Friday afternoon meeting of the Alumni Association. She left home at 4:30 a.m. to catch a 7 a.m. flight to Birmingham. She worked late the night before at her job as communications director for an Oregon senator. “I had two hours of sleep,” she confessed.

At the Alumni Association meeting, co-president Bennie Bumpers of Birmingham said the revitalized group hopes to establish alumni chapters throughout the nation. Gene Kelser, 1942 class agent, accepted the challenge of the classes prize for the highest percentage of participation in annual giving.
last year. More than 43 percent of her class gave to their alma mater during 2002–03.

The alumni dinner on Friday night offered an elegant setting on the stage of Wright Center Concert Hall. Four 2003 Alumni of the Year honorees were recognized (see pages 6 and 7). Afterward, spectacular fireworks lit the campus skies and alumni were joined by the Samford band, cheerleaders and other students for a bonfire near Wright Center.

Graduates of the Class of 1953 and earlier reminisced over breakfast Saturday morning. The Lockmiller Award, given annually to male and female alumni representing the earliest classes, went to longtime Samford English professor Ray Atchison of Birmingham, Class of 1943, and 1942 classmates Florrie Hurtt and Kathryn Robbins, both of Birmingham.

Four former roommates and members of the 50-year Class of 1953 posed for photos after the breakfast. Joyce DeRamus of Prattville, Ala., Doris Matthews of Scottsboro, Ala., Kitty Guyton Robertson of Adairsville, Ga., and Dot Pullen Wood of Birmingham all lived on the third floor of Renfroe Hall before moving to Inflation Hall, the name given to barracks housing on the East Lake campus.

A group of ’90s graduates with tots and strollers in hand found the balloon a convenient gathering spot. Ryan and Betsy Rainer ’95 of Centre, Ala., Jason and Chamlee Loscuito ’96 of Atlanta, Ga., and Bill and Kelly Shiel ’94 of San Angelo, Texas, enjoyed catching up as their young-sters got acquainted.

Fans filled Seibert Stadium to watch the Bulldogs take on Tennessee State. The game drew 10,360 spectators, the second largest crowd in Seibert stadium history. Many more tuned in to watch the live telecast on Fox Sports South. Unfortunately, the ’Dogs lost, 29-24.

Pregame activities included a flyover by two T-37 jets from Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. First lieutenant Ryan “Striker” Corrigan ’00 was the pilot in the lead aircraft. Corrigan was commissioned through Samford’s Air Force ROTC Detachment 012.

Harold Patton ’48 of Rainsville made a point to attend every event he could, starting with William Dooley’s lecture on Friday afternoon. Four generations of his family members have attended Samford. His dad furnished a cow to President Harwell Davis to pay for his older brother’s tuition in the early ’40s. The 14th and 15th members are enrolled now. Patton is a retired teacher.

Students, alumni and members of the general public filled 2,600-seat Wright Center Concert Hall for a lively Saturday night concert by Nickel Creek contemporary bluegrass band. The crowd represented the first sell-out for the Grammy winning trio, who endeared themselves further by topping off the evening with an impromptu encore in Wright Center parking lot.

Homecoming concluded with the Sunday morning worship service, led by Dr. Bill Turner ’60, retired minister of South Main Baptist Church, Houston, Texas.

Before and after the service, graduates from the early ’60s reminisced about a life-sized stuffed bulldog retrieved by Martha Ann Cox ’60 for the occasion.

The dog was acquired by the Class of 1960, the last class to begin freshman studies in East Lake.

During the move to Shades Valley, the dog got left behind. Early in the first semester in Homewood, Turner and several others walked from East Lake to Homewood, proudly carrying the new symbol of student spirit. “It was a tie from the old campus to the new,” said Joe McDade ’61 of Montgomery.

For more Homecoming images, visit the Samford Photo Album at www.samford.edu.
Mother’s Sacrifice Helps Bowdre Find Her Way to Samford

Karon Owen Bowdre’s childhood dream of attending Samford was made possible, she says, because of her late mother’s own dream and sacrifice, and scholarships.

“She had a dream for me to attend Samford because she had wanted to go to Howard College and couldn’t,” said Bowdre, who earned two Samford degrees: a bachelor’s degree with honors in 1977 and a juris doctor from Samford’s Cumberland School of Law in 1981.

“It was a miracle for me to attend Samford, but because of scholarships, I made it through,” said the former religion major. Her one disappointment about her Alumnus of the Year award was that her mother could not be there to enjoy the moment. She had died after a lengthy battle with cancer only a month before.

Bowdre took the oath of federal district court judge, Northern District of Alabama in 2001. She had taught at Cumberland from 1990 until 2001, and was director of the school’s Legal Research and Writing program. She published extensively and made many presentations in the areas of insurance law, conflicts of interests and professionalism. Before joining the law faculty, she was a partner with the Birmingham law firm of Rives & Peterson, handling trials and appellate matters in state and federal court, and developing an immigration practice which made her a sought-after expert in that field.

At Samford, the Montgomery native was student government vice president, chief justice of the residence hall judiciary and vice president of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. In law school, she was associate editor of Cumberland Law Review and a member of the Moot Court board. She served as judicial law clerk during 1981–82 for Judge J. Foy Guin, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Alabama.

She is a founder and board member of CenterStage Productions, a community theater group, and is a Sunday school teacher at Dawson Memorial Baptist Church. As a breast cancer survivor, she has been a frequent speaker about her experience. She served two terms as president of the Christian Legal Society of Alabama.

Judge Bowdre and her husband, attorney J. Birch Bowdre, a 1979 Cumberland graduate, have two sons, John and Barrett.

Dooley Finds Encouragement for Research at Samford

William C. Dooley ’78 would have been welcome at any college with an impressive science department, but none met the needs of the forward-thinking high school senior except Samford.

“I knew in high school that I wanted to go into research, and realized that at most schools I couldn’t have done research until my senior year,” recalls Dooley, now director of surgical oncology at University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and chair of surgical oncology at OU Breast Cancer Institute.

He had a different reception at Samford, where an accommodating biology faculty provided a small room in which he and cohort Mike Fountain could continue research on ovarian cancer in rats that they had begun at Indian Springs School.

“It was very clear that they would be supportive,” Dooley said of his Samford mentors. While at Samford, he was a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Beta Beta Beta honor societies and received undergraduate research grants from the Alfred Sloan Foundation and the Alabama Academy of Science.

He has received numerous grants for his work in breast cancer research. He has written a large number of articles, abstracts, presentations and book chapters.

His research related to ductal lavage, a diagnostic procedure to detect breast cancer at its earliest stages, has led to national and international awards and to his selection as one of “America’s Top Doctors” by his peers and many women’s magazines.

“It was at Samford, he notes, that his academic career was born and he learned how to seek answers.

“I was taught how to think and pursue truth. I appreciate what the university continues to do to inspire kids here to learn forever. The day they leave is the day they really begin to learn,” said Dooley, who lectured on his research to Samford science majors and faculty while on campus.

Before joining OU in 2001, Dooley was a faculty member and director of the Johns Hopkins Breast Center, Baltimore, Md. A graduate of Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, he also studied at Oxford University in England.

Dooley and his wife, Kathryn, a certified registered nurse anesthetist, have two teenage sons, Alexander Chestnut and Rees Hage.
Lolley Recalls ‘Wonderful Journey’ of College Years

W. Randall Lolley still remembers the bus ride that delivered him to his freshman summer term at Samford in 1949. “It was a wonderful journey,” he said of the trip he shared with another college student from his hometown in southeast Alabama.

“Wonderful journey” is an appropriate description of his life during the intervening decades since the Samford religion major, Class of 1952, embarked on a career blending ministry and academics.


A longtime leader in denominational work and community service, he was vice president of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention and president of the North Carolina Baptist Pastors Conference. More recently, he served as moderator of the North Carolina chapter of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship during 1997–98. He also was a member of White House conferences on race, family and aging.

“Lolley holds a master of theology degree from Southeastern Seminary and a doctor of theology degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He holds honorary degrees from five institutions, including Samford, which honored him with a doctor of divinity degree in 1980.”

Rogers Credits Education School with Changing Her Approach

Betsy Rogers is spending a year traveling the nation and world as the 2003 National Teacher of the Year. After being so recognized by President George W. Bush in April, she has served as fulltime international spokesperson for education.

Her schedule is so busy that she had to miss the Alumni of the Year banquet during Homecoming because of a scheduled trip to Japan. Her national honor, she feels, would not be a reality if she had not returned to Samford six years ago to earn her first graduate degree.

“Because of that experience, my teaching practice changed dramatically,” said Rogers, who earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Samford in 1974. After time away from the university classroom, she earned three graduate degrees: master’s in 1998, educational specialist in 2000 and doctor of education in 2002.

Recognizing that all children learn differently and at a different pace, she uses a variety of methods and materials to promote meaningful learning and social cooperation. During her graduate work, she devised and implemented an innovative “looping” process with her students. The concept involves a teacher staying with a class for two years.

“For Dr. Betsy Rogers to be the United States’ Teacher of the Year is a tremendous compliment to our Beeson school of education, where she earned all four degrees,” said Samford President Thomas E. Corts. “Dr. Rogers represents the values that we hold dear and that have given Samford’s teacher education program top national recognition.

“On top of that, my granddaughter had the advantage of being in Dr. Rogers’ classroom, so I know first-hand of her devotion to students and her effectiveness as a teacher of children.”

Rogers, a Birmingham native, began her teaching career in 1974 at Hewitt Elementary School in Jefferson County. After taking time off in 1976 to rear sons Rick and Alan, she returned to teaching in 1982. She began teaching at Leeds Elementary in 1985. She taught first grade for five years, then second grade for seven years before implementing the looping concept.

Rogers is a third-generation Samford alumna. Her mother and grandmother attended when it was Howard College in East Lake. The family tradition continues. Her son, Rick, is a 2000 graduate.
Undergraduate Research Projects: Trendy, or Barometers of Quality?

by David W. Chapman

Each spring, sometime between the wilting of the azaleas and the flowering of the roses, our university sets aside a day for Student Showcase. About 100 of our best students present the results of their research in a variety of disciplines. This year the topics ranged from “Normalized Circular Bernstein Bezier Curves” to “Country Music and Reactions to September 11th.” The presentations are attended by students and faculty, staff and administrators, and sometimes, even friends and relatives. We come together on this day not only to hear what our students have discovered, but to celebrate their achievements.

Samford University is not unusual in its growing interest in the idea of undergraduate research. In colleges across the country, the opportunity for undergraduate research is being touted through Web sites and brochures, and many admissions officers consider it a selling point in the competition to recruit top-notch college freshmen. In addition to programs on individual campuses, the National Conference on Undergraduate Research [NCUR] invites hundreds of students from around the country to present their work at the annual meeting.

Of course, this raises the question: Is Samford simply trying to be trendy in its emphasis on undergraduate research, or does such work contribute to the overall university mission? After all, helping students prepare an undergraduate research project places an extraordinary burden on everyone involved. The project adviser spends hours helping students move from vague notions about what they want to learn to an acceptable thesis. Students often feel overwhelmed by a project that requires a level of commitment far beyond anything else in their college experience. Many programs at Samford invest resources in sending the papers out for review and hosting a departmental showcase of the student papers. The university bears the majority of the expense necessary to send our students to the annual NCUR meeting. Such a massive effort is certainly not worth the time if it is merely a public relations ploy.

What makes undergraduate research so significant is that it serves as an enculturation into the values of the academy. Many, if not most of our students, come to the university as skeptics about the role of higher education in their lives. They know they want a degree; they are unsure if they want an education. They complain that understanding The Republic or learning calculus has nothing to do with “real life.” The only useful ideas are those that are in demand in the marketplace. By these standards, understanding Plato’s Theory of Forms is insignificant in comparison with the ability to write JavaScript.

What is refreshing about observing our Student Showcase is seeing students buying into the academic enterprise. Students who come to us caring only about fast cars and fashionable clothes are suddenly having animated conversations about dueling practices in antebellum Savannah or the consequences of females using “powerless speech” forms. They begin to see the connectedness of different disciplines. They want to contend for a certain way of seeing the world. They believe the past can teach us something about the future. In short, they believe that learning matters.

Some of our best and brightest will go on to academic careers, but these few are not the justification for our emphasis on undergraduate research. Coaches are fond of noting that collegiate athletics helps develop teamwork and character in student-athletes, and thus, makes a contribution to their lives that goes beyond the temporary glory of the college playing fields. Similarly, the value of undergraduate research—the habit of checking facts carefully, the ability to form carefully worded and qualified hypotheses, the willingness to contend for a particular viewpoint without becoming emotionally involved—is excellent preparation for any vocation.

In addition to its value for the students, undergraduate research is important for the faculty. Particularly at a college that emphasizes good teaching, undergraduate research often contributes to keeping faculty abreast of disciplinary trends and developments. Sometimes the projects are collaborative productions of students and faculty. In every case, the faculty are heavily invested in the project from the conception of the research topic to the final presentation of the results. Undergraduate research is a way of celebrating what we value most in the academy. Student Showcase is the Rose Bowl of academic endeavor. It is a way of highlighting the accomplishments of our student-scholars and bringing attention to the whole academic community that has had a hand in preparing the students for their senior
research projects. It makes us aware of the often unnoticed work of the academy—the solitary hours our students spend in library research and compiling notes, the long afternoon conferences in which student and teacher work together to revise a paper, and even the current concerns of contemporary researchers beyond our campus (what Kenneth Bruffee has called the “conversation of mankind”). In bringing attention to undergraduate research, we are reinforcing the notion of what we think a university should be.

Despite the value of undergraduate research—for students, for faculty, for the university-at-large—only a fraction of the students in America have an opportunity to engage in extended research projects in their undergraduate years. This spring Samford sent 19 students to the NCUR meeting in Salt Lake City. By way of comparison, Harvard sent one student; Stanford sent three; and Princeton, none. Obviously, this is not a reflection on the quality of students at these universities. It may, however, be a reflection on university priorities. State schools fared no better. The University of Maryland was represented by five students. The University of Michigan, by eight. The University of Washington had only one student. And the University of Texas with a student population of 49,000 students had, none. The majority of students at NCUR come from places like Samford—relatively small schools that emphasize good teaching and close interaction with students.

We are certainly proud of what our students have accomplished in their research. In addition to being recognized at NCUR, our student research projects have helped our students win prestigious national awards, appear on panels alongside established scholars at regional and national meetings, and earn fellowships at outstanding graduate schools. But we are also proud of what our emphasis on undergraduate research says about us as an institution. We are a school where students come first and where learning is the ultimate goal. Given the centrality of research and writing to the academic enterprise, it might well be argued that a showcase of undergraduate research is not simply a time to show off student work, it may be the best barometer available to an institution of the quality of its undergraduate education.

(Dr. David W. Chapman is dean of the Howard College of Arts and Sciences. An earlier version of this article appeared in The Chronicle Review, a national magazine devoted to issues in higher education.)

Samford Students Help Preserve Historic Valley

When Samford University history Professor Marlene Rikard's Oral History: Tradition and Techniques course returned last spring after a decade-long hiatus, students who enrolled became active participants in preserving Alabama’s past and documenting its present.

Rikard said she had always loved the time-intensive course and thought it important, but had set it aside for the 10 years she served as director of Samford's London Programs. After stepping down from that position, she was free to take up the oral history course again, but found she needed to connect to new practices and scholarship and identify new areas in which student research might be helpful. Previously, her own research had provided the contacts needed for entree into the mining communities she wanted her students to document. Her current research didn’t offer such obvious contacts, but a chance encounter with Samford alumna Judy Prince ’66 led to a unique partnership between alumna, professor and students.

Prince, a clinical social worker in private practice in Birmingham, grew up in the Paint Rock Valley region of Jackson County in northeast Alabama and saw in the valley “a way of life there that was disappearing,” Rikard said. At the time Rikard and Prince met, Prince already had secured grants to help her document life in the valley, protect it from urban sprawl and attract national recognition of its historical, cultural and environmental significance. Prince needed more trained interviewers to collect oral histories, especially those of the valley’s elders. So, Rikard asked her students to research the Paint Rock Valley, write traditional research papers and document life in the valley through oral histories and photography.

Rikard said it took a significant commitment on the part of her students to make the multiple, four-hour roundtrip drives their projects demanded. She said most students exceeded the required two trips and went back for further research, making a total of three or four visits to the valley. “They were pretty good sports” about the time involved, she said.

Senior history student Megan Mullins said some of her peers were surprised by the ease with which they communicated with the elders of the valley. “When we stopped to visit some of the homes and meet people, students became so engrossed in their conversations that they didn’t want to leave and had to be herded back into the van,” she said. Mullins said she brought home a strong sense of the project’s value. “We were able to help people preserve their own history,” she said.

As their work began to inform other studies and help attract the national attention Prince sought for the valley, the students saw that their study was of immediate, practical benefit to the community in which they worked. Their photographs, interviews and research papers have value far beyond the Paint Rock Valley, however. Rikard said all of the materials collected by the students will be deposited in Samford’s Special Collection department for the use of historians and other researchers. “I think they were pretty proud of what they did,” Rikard said of her students. “They captured some essence of life in rural Alabama—a life that’s passing.”

Student Chris Sims and Professor Marlene Rikard learn about Paint Rock Valley from Leverl Green.
n 2002, female Samford students outnumbered male students 2,602 to 1,764. That ratio represents a dramatic change for an institution that less than a century ago was still exclusively male and surprisingly martial. The story of coeducation at Samford sometimes goes unnoticed alongside more spectacular moments in our history, but few events more strongly shaped the modern culture of the University.

Beginning in the 1870s, all-male Howard College in Marion, Alabama, became increasingly militarized, with uniforms and military drill a fact of daily life for the Howard College Cadets. With its sister institution, Judson College, just across town and with ongoing financial troubles, conflict with the State Baptist Convention and increased interest in relocation, coeducation was hardly a pressing issue at Howard in the '70s and '80s.

The Woman Craze

By the early 1890s, however, Howard had moved to Birmingham and coeducation was already reshaping other Alabama colleges. The Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama (now Auburn University) admitted female students in 1892. The University of Alabama followed in 1893. In the summer of 1894 Howard College, under the leadership of President Arthur W. McGaha, was poised to begin its own first experiment in coeducation. Some Alabamians opposed this trend, and an editorial in The Alabama Baptist in July 1894 predicted that time would prove them right: "The 'Woman Craze' seems to be on us just now, and it must run its course. All the colleges are falling into line, only because it is the fashion, and not because there is any great demand for coeducation...Without claiming to be a prophet, we predict that, in the South at least, the time will never come when any considerable number of our young women will attend the male colleges which are throwing their doors open to them."

Key Howard College supporters disagreed with these sentiments, defended coeducation "on the grounds of justice and policy" and informed the Alabama Baptist State Convention that other institutions had "wheeled into line, and Howard proposes to stand abreast of them." Later that year The Alabama Baptist published the religious poetry of Annie Judge, one of two women enrolled in Howard College.

Records of the time suggest no great disruption resulting from the admission of Judge and Eugenia Weatherly, both of whom were from the East Lake community. In fact, some male students who looked forward to a soothing feminine influence on the toughest members of the faculty lamented the lack of change in their professors.
Howard College seems to have encouraged Judge and Weatherly and taken pride in their success. Both women were chosen to address their class as part of the college’s 1895 commencement activities, and although we don’t have the text of their addresses, their topics certainly sound appropriate. Weatherly spoke on the “The Tendency of the Times.” Judge became ill and couldn’t deliver her address, “The Coming Woman,” but its title was prescient. Howard College admitted three more female students, Lillian Butler, Estelle Holloway and Mattie Weldon, for the 1895–96 school year.

**Annie Judge**

In 1896 Judge became Howard’s first female graduate with a degree or certificate that apparently was something other than a traditional four-year degree. We know only a few tantalizing details about her life after Howard College. She married classmate J. W. Johnson not long after their graduation and relocated with him to Louisiana so he could study medicine at Tulane. For several years Howard alumni records listed Judge with a footnote indicating that she was Mrs. J. W. Johnson. Then, in 1902, Howard’s alumni record listed her, under her maiden name, as deceased. In fact, Annie Judge wasn’t dead, but she wasn’t Mrs. J. W. Johnson, either. The couple had divorced and Judge had moved to New York and become an actress working under the name of Ann Johnson.

In New York Judge married Walter H. Schoellkopf, heir to a utilities company fortune, and began researching and writing history. In 1914, writing as Anna Schoellkopf, she published a history of the Great Lakes, and in 1924 published a biography of South American revolutionary Jose de San Martin. When Walter Schoellkopf served as First Secretary of the American Embassy in Spain during the Spanish Civil War, Anna likely accompanied him to Madrid. As little as we know about Anna Schoellkopf’s life before the 1930s, we know even less about her life after that period, and so her story ends here for now.

College officials suspended coeducation after Judge’s graduation in 1896, exciting lack of proper facilities for women at a time when the campus truly was in need of new facilities of all sorts. The fate of the three women admitted in the ’95–’96 academic year is unclear. Their names are not listed in alumni records. Whatever happened to them, Eugenia Weatherly somehow continued her studies at Howard because in 1898 she became our second female graduate and the first with a four-year degree. She would be the last woman to graduate from Howard College for almost two decades.

**Eugenia Weatherly**

Eugenia Weatherly left little room for doubt about the value of coeducation at Howard. She earned the ranking of “Distinguished” in Howard’s School of Science for attainment of 90 percent, and was the only student to reach that level in the school for that year. She also was listed as Distinguished in the schools of Latin and Greek and was among the top ten Distinguished undergraduates in the entire college.

After earning her A.B. degree at Howard, Weatherly served as a teacher in Birmingham City Schools until she married and most likely had to leave her position as a result. Although the social conventions of the day excluded her from service in public schools, Eugenia Weatherly King continued to teach music privately. We know this only because she took on a young piano student named Lolla Wurtele, who went on to marry Leslie S. Wright, president of Samford University from 1958–1983.

Weatherly somehow continued her studies at Howard because in 1898 she became our second female graduate and the first with a four-year degree. She would be the last woman to graduate from Howard College for almost two decades.

Samford Sunday Still Helping Young Preachers

Every Sunday during the school year for more than 50 years, groups of Samford students have met on campus, car-pooled to some Alabama Baptist association and preached the gospel to fellow Alabama Baptists.

Their sermons haven’t always been polished, but they’ve always been from the heart. And as the school year progressed, they’ve gotten better and better, thanks in part to the encouragement of local church members.

It started as H-Day in the late 1940s, when a number of World War II veterans were enrolled at then-Howard College. Some of these men felt called to preach, and they contacted some associational missionaries to ask for the chance, even though they were still students.

The missionaries liked the idea, and H-Day was born.

“There was a double reaction, both positive,” recalled Dr. Sigurd F. Bryan, who retired after many years on the Samford religion faculty two years ago but who still directs Samford Sunday. “The students enjoyed it and so did the churches.

“The churches enjoyed hearing these young fellows preaching in a live situation, and it gave the young men a chance to learn to preach by doing it. They really grow in this situation. That was true then and it is now.”

Charlie Swain, a senior who serves as student coordinator of Samford Sunday, agrees. “Samford Sunday has been invaluable,” said Swain. “It has helped tremendously in my preparation for the ministry.”

Fellow student Joe Dixon said Samford Sunday is a great learning tool.

“God has blessed me with wonderful experiences through this program and I thoroughly enjoy it,” he said.

One example occurred recently following one of his sermons.

“One lady came up to the altar in tears seeking prayer and encouraging words in regards to her life with God,” said Dixon. “It was truly a blessing to be able to pray with her and see that God had used me that morning in such a specific way.”

Swain underscores how much the participating churches mean to the program.

“My thanks goes out to any of the churches that participate,” he said. “I don’t think they realize what a great work for God they are doing.”
A Major Success

Discussing Samford merits are, from top, student Alisha Damron, football coach Bill Gray, business Dean Marlene Reed and student Matthew Spann.
Samford University saluted its most generous donors at the Samford Philanthropy Dinner in November. The more than 300 Samford friends who attended were cited for their significant financial support during the 2002–03 academic and fiscal year.

Special guests of honor were members of Samford’s four lifetime giving societies, which recognize cumulative contributions of $100,000 or more to the University.

The program celebrated the past, present and future with remarks by president Thomas E. Corts, School of Business interim dean Marlene M. Reed, head football coach Bill Gray, and students Alisha Damron and Matthew Spann.

“Samford has taught me to blend education and faith,” summed up Damron, a sophomore journalism/mass communications major from Springdale, Ark.

John Floyd, chair of the University relations committee of the Samford Board of Trustees, presided at the dinner. Floyd holds three Samford degrees: B.A. ’85, J.D. ’88 and M.S.E.M. ’99.

Receiving accolades at the banquet as members of the Samuel Sterling Sherman Society were the Alabama Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the Alabama State Baptist Convention, and John and Marjorie Pittman of Birmingham.

The Samuel Sterling Sherman Society, named for the University’s first president, is the highest level of recognition for a lifetime donor to Samford. The honorees were recognized by James Stivender ’49, chairman of the Samford Board of Trustees.

Sherman, noted Stivender, “dedicated himself fully to the institution that would become Samford University when it had no funds, no faculty, no students and only a single wooden building.

“The Samuel Sterling Sherman Society honors those who share Sherman’s intense dedication to the vision of what Samford can become.”

Executive Director Ginny Bugg of Birmingham represented the Alabama Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. As the largest independent university in the state, Stivender said, Samford is called on to be a leader in the AAICU. “And we enjoy a strong relationship with our fellow member institutions,” he commented.

It is impossible to imagine where Samford University would be without the Alabama Baptist State Convention, said Stivender. “Alabama Baptists have contributed more than $82 million dollars to Samford through the years…significant funding that has enabled us to provide quality education in a Christian environment for Alabama Baptist students,” he said. Joe Bob Mizzell, director of the convention’s Office of Christian Ethics/Chaplaincy Ministries, accepted the award on behalf of the convention.

“The spirit of Samford University has never been more beautifully expressed than through the commitment and generosity of John and Marjorie Pittman,” said Stivender. The Pittmans, he noted, have provided an endowed student scholarship bearing her name, and have participated in the matching gift scholarship program sponsored by their church, Brookwood Baptist.

Although scholarship support through the Pittman Fund and other scholarships is the primary focus of their philanthropy, he said, “The Pittmans also have supported the annual Samford Fund, the Samford Auxiliary, the school of performing arts, the Children’s Learning Center, Samford athletics, Alpha Phi Omega, the School of Business, the Centennial Walk, Cumberland School of Law and various capital projects.”

John ’44 and Marjorie ’42 Pittman are both Samford graduates, and he is a life member of the Samford Board of Trustees.

Honored as members of the Lovelace-Wilkerson Society were the BellSouth Foundation and Corporation, represented by Tom and Wyona Hamby; and Malcolm and Betty Miller of Birmingham.

The Lovelace-Wilkerson Society is named for long-time donors of the university.
trustees J. B. Lovelace and W. W. Wilkerson, who saved the college by purchasing the property in Marion at a foreclosure auction and returning it to the college’s board of trustees.

Members of the A. P. Montague Society recognized at the Philanthropy Dinner were Mountain Brook Baptist Church of Birmingham, represented by pastor Dr. James Moebes; the Hill Crest Foundation of Birmingham, represented by Charles Terry; the Torchmark Corporation, represented by Tom and Charolette Hamby; A. Gerow and Mary Louise Hodges of Birmingham; and Vulcan Materials Company of Birmingham, represented by David Donaldson.

A. P. Montague was Howard College president from 1902–12 and “emphasized the distinctiveness of a school unafraid to address the improvement of the whole person in mind, body and spirit,” Floyd noted in presenting the Montague awards.

The Harwell G. Davis Society members present at the dinner were Walt and Kay Barnes of Birmingham; Richard and Mattie Barr of Birmingham; Brookwood Baptist Church of Mountain Brook, Ala., represented by pastor Barry Howard; John and Frances Carter of Birmingham; Boyd and Sara Christenberry of Montgomery, Ala.; Thomas and Marla Corts of Birmingham; Mildred Hire Fleming of Birmingham; Lonnie and Mary Funderburg of Birmingham; Wyatt and Susan Haskell of Birmingham; Charles and Barbara Money of Birmingham; the Kenny Morgan Scholarship Foundation, represented by Red Walker of Birmingham; John and Genie Morris of Birmingham; Bill and Betty Ratliff of Birmingham; Mel Robinson of Birmingham, representing the Jewel

Jane and Firmon Hardenbergh of Vestavia Hills, Ala., visit with Samford development officer Stan Davis before the Samford Philanthropy Dinner.

relocation from the East Lake section of Birmingham to suburban Homewood in the mid-1950s. That relocation allowed for much-needed expansion, and the Davis Society “honors those who take up Major Davis’ challenge of continual progress at Samford,” Floyd said.

Guests arriving at the HealthSouth Conference Center in Birmingham were treated to music by the Samford Student Strings. Members of the student string quartet are Josey Cox, a senior from Vestavia Hills, Ala.; Celeste Sharp, a senior from West Monroe, Ala.; Belinda Trott, a senior from Shelbyville, Tenn.; and Paul Vest, a senior from Branchville, Ala. President and Mrs. Corts hosted a pre-dinner reception for members of the four lifetime giving societies. Samford student Kathryn Hoppe entertained reception guests on the harp. Hoppe, a freshman from Huntsville, Ala., is one of two student harpists enrolled at Samford. Philanthropy Dinner guests received a commemorative compact disc from the University. The disc, recorded in the A. Gerow Hodges Chapel of Samford’s Beeson Divinity School, features piano meditations by Houston, Texas, concert artist Barbara Bamberg.

For more on the Samford Philanthropy Dinner, visit the Samford Photo Album at www.samford.edu.

Ginny Bugg, executive director, represented the Alabama Association of Independent Colleges and Universities at the annual Samford Philanthropy Dinner.

Graves Endowed Scholarship Fund; the Coca-Cola Company of Birmingham, represented by David Earwood; and James and Stella Stivender of Gadsden.

The Davis Society is named for the visionary college president who led relocation from the East Lake section of Birmingham to suburban Homewood in the mid-1950s. That relocation allowed for much-needed expansion, and the Davis Society “honors those who take up Major Davis’ challenge of continual progress at Samford,” Floyd said.

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“SING THEM OVER AGAIN”

Reflections on the songs of Philip P. Bliss and others

Piano meditations from Barbara Bamberg

Recorded in A. Gerow Hodges Chapel at Samford University

As a holiday gift or for your listening pleasure, enjoy the sounds of Samford in this new recording featuring Houston, Texas-based concert and recording artist Barbara Bamberg.

Featuring gospel hymns and songs by noted 19th and early 20th century composers Philip Paul Bliss, William Bradbury, Ira D. Sankey and Daniel W. Whittle. Hear such favorites as “Wonderful Words of Life,” “I Will Sing of My Redeemer,” “Sweet Hour of Prayer,” “Jesus Loves Me” and “It Is Well with my Soul” plus 18 others in this 17-track compact disc.

$15 each includes shipping and handling

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1.877.SUALUMS (782.5867)
New Book Features Samford’s Famous Tie with Alabama

One of the chapters in a new book, All-Time Greatest Alabama Sports Stories, details what many call Samford’s greatest football victory: the 7-7 tie with Alabama in 1935. Edited by Wendell Givens ’44, the book was published this fall by the University of Alabama Press. It features three players from then-Howard College on the cover—Raymond Christian, Glenn Hearn and Herb Browne.

Alabama had won the Rose Bowl the previous January 1, and the tie with Howard, a relative unknown, shocked the football world. The Givens book builds on a 1968 book, 20 Grand, by the late Benny Marshall, former sports editor of The Birmingham News and another Howard grad. The tie story, entitled “7-7, Favor Howard,” was in Marshall’s original volume, which Givens edited.

Givens, a retired Birmingham News editor, and other writers who worked with Marshall added 10 chapters to Marshall’s original 16. Included is Givens’ story on “The Marne Football Battles,” the Howard/Birmingham-Southern College games of the 1920s and ’30s.

Billy Bancroft, who coached the 1935 Howard team, figures prominently in another original chapter about the famous Birmingham Baron win over Houston and pitcher “Dizzy” Dean in the 1931 Dixie Series. Bancroft got the hit that beat Dean, 1-0, before the largest crowd in Baron history (20,074). ■

Howard players Raymond Christian, Glenn Hearn and Herb Browne, who played in the 7-7 tie with Alabama, grace cover of new book.
Wayne Flynt Named President of Southern Historical Association

D r. Wayne Flynt, '61, Distinguished University Professor at Auburn University, has been elected president of the Southern Historical Association. He moved into the post at the annual SHA meeting in Houston in November.

The former Samford history professor (1965–77) is a renowned expert on Alabama and Southern history, religion and culture, and education reform and poverty. Flynt is the author of 10 books, including Poor But Proud (1990), which was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize and won the Lillian Smith Award for the best book on Southern history.

Flynt holds the Ph.D. from Florida State University. He left Samford to become head of the Auburn history department and later was named to his present endowed professorship.

Carol Belcher is manager of the Alabama Reading First Initiative with the State Department of Education. She was formerly principal of West Blocton Elementary School.

Kevin Bussey is associate pastor/student minister at First Baptist Church, Tillman's Corner, Mobile, Ala. He and his wife, Cassandra, have two children, Jacob and Hope.

Ellen Patricia Denton was named the 2003 Second Mile teacher at Lipscomb Elementary School, where she teaches fourth- and fifth-grade language arts.

John Oliver of Durham, N.C., has been cast in principal roles with the North Carolina Opera Company. He is a pastoral chaplain.

Richard Scott Pearson of Columbus, Ohio, is enrolled in the Ph.D. program in development economics at Ohio State University. He is president of Value View Financial Corp.

Sandra Lin White Elliott is choral director of Mt. Juliet High School, Mt. Juliet, Tenn., and mentor for a technology-in-the-classroom program. She was accepted into the Tennessee Arts Academy.

Robert R. Mullins of Birmingham is a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Marines and recently returned home from Iraq, where he was stationed with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

Denise Stimpson Bates is training coordinator and technical writer for EPOS Corporation in Auburn, Ala. She and her husband, Larry, have three children.

Sheri Brown Boston is president and co-owner of Southern Pharmaceutical Services, Inc., a specialized pharmacy provider headquartered in Birmingham.

Stacia Sinclair Gaines works in the human resources department of Colonial Properties Trust, Birmingham.

Gregory B. Parker is president of the faculty senate at Southeast Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo. He is assistant professor of music.

Brain Allen Sharp is chief executive officer of Prime Health Services, Brentwood, Tenn. He and his wife, Lynn Dean Sharp ’87, and their three daughters live in Franklin, Tenn.
**‘Terminator’ Turns to Samford Law Grad for Legislative Aide**

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has appointed Cumberland School of Law graduate Richard Costigan, J.D. ’91, as his legislative secretary. Costigan has been vice president of Government Relations and chief lobbyist for the California Chamber of Commerce, where he oversaw the development and implementation of the chamber’s public policy agenda.

Previously, Costigan served as a lobbyist and senior adviser at the law firm of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips and as chief of staff for the office of the assembly Republican leader. In the latter role, he was directly involved in legislation that led to streamlining of power plant siting, reduction of the vehicle licensing fee and the development of a comprehensive infrastructure funding proposal.

Costigan, age 37, has an undergraduate degree from the University of Georgia.

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Alumni of the Year nominations sought

Nominations are being sought for the 2004 Alumni of the Year to be recognized by Samford University at the annual Homecoming banquet Oct. 29, 2004.

Nominees should be graduates who have distinguished themselves in service in their community and to Samford. They also must have shown support to the University through their personal involvement and financial contributions. The recognition can be for lifetime achievement or for a significant achievement during the previous year.

All alumni are encouraged to participate in the nominating process. Submit nominations in a letter with appropriate supporting materials and information. Nominations may be mailed to: Alumni of the Year c/o University Relations Samford University 800 Lakeshore Drive Birmingham, AL 35229

Nominations also can be submitted via electronic mail to alumni@samford.edu.
David King and Lauren Elizabeth Stirling married in July. They live in Morrisville, N.C.

Whitney Locke married Jonathan Rich in July. They live in Louisville, Ky. She is a registered dietitian with CARITAS Hospitals.

Sarah Elizabeth McIntyre received a master's in vocal performance from Belmont University in May. She lives in Chicago, Ill., where she studies and performs, and has a private studio at the Chicago Center for Voice.

Andrew and Terra Langston Morrow live in Birmingham. She is pursuing a master's in physical therapy at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He is owner of Urbanscapes, specializing in landscape and implementation.

Jennifer Marie Sommers recently was ordained by Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga., where she is minister to students.

E. B. Harrison Willis, J.D., is associated with the Birmingham law firm of Toffel & Altmann, P.C. He is in general practice with an emphasis on consumer and corporate bankruptcy matters.

John Gary Wyatt is business development officer with Gary C. Wyatt General Contractor, Birmingham.

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### '02

Allison Kay Bailey and Andrew Clinton Weaver '03 married in June. She is a teacher at San Jose Episcopal Day School, Jacksonville, Fla. He is an operations manager for Global Golf Management.

Brandon Beard of Mobile, Ala., has a real-estate sales license and is in an appraiser apprenticeship.

Jessica Burgess is a senior transition specialist at Youth Villages, Nashville, Tenn. She does social work and counseling with teens and their families.

Grant Caldwell is financial representative for Strategic Financial Partners, Memphis, Tenn. The firm is affiliated with New England Financial.

Daniel Craft and Mary Morlino '03 married in July. They live in Birmingham. She is an intensive-care registered nurse at Baptist Medical Center Montclair. He is finance manager for an automotive group.

Amy Harold is pursuing a master's in Spanish literature at the University of Georgia, Athens, Ga.

Katie Jones teaches Spanish at Peachtree Ridge High School, Duluth, Ga.

Lindsay Rogers Keith of Birmingham works in mortgage banking with AmSouth Bank corporate office.

Tyler Drew Mayfield and Lauren Mills Jones '03 married in August. They live in New Haven, Conn.

Ginger McCarthy is an associate at First Evangelical Free Church, Austin, Texas. She trains University of Texas students in discipleship.

James Parker and Rachel Long '01 married recently. He is assistant music charter at Mountaintop Community Church, Vestavia Hills, Ala.

Shannon Rainey married Jeff Shuford in October. She is a special education teacher. They live in Birmingham.

Luke Schrimsher of Orlando, Fla., is pursuing a master's in building construction at the University of Florida.

Sara Arnold Tew and her husband, Dwayne, live in Birmingham. She is a nurse at Baptist Medical Center Montclair and is enrolled in Samford's graduate nursing program.

Robert and Sara Jackson Wade live in Collierville, Tenn. He received a master's in industrial engineering from Georgia Tech in August. She is pursuing a master's in international security studies at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland on a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship.

Keiran Walsh is a student at the Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, S.C.

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### '03


Ashley Gavin married Bryan Johnson in August. They live in Homewood. She teaches dance to children ages three to 11.

Rob Pacienza and Jennifer Myers married in July. He is director of youth at Rio Vista Community Church and is pursuing a master's in divinity at Knox Seminary.

Allison Yvonne Reid and Charles Nathan Lumbatis married in July. They live in Birmingham.

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### BIRTHS

**Julie and Scott Austin '92 of Alabaster, Ala., a daughter, Rachel Elisabeth, born Sept. 1, 2003**

**Larry and Connie Ray Patterson Bogdan '86 of Manila, the Philippines, a son, Elijah John, born Feb. 3, 2003**

**Monica and Hunter Copeland Carroll '94, J.D. '97, of Homewood, Ala., a daughter, Adeline Elisabeth, born Nov. 19, 2002**

**Kimberly and Glen Abbott Catlett '93 of Saraland, Ala., a son, Joshua Gene, born June 3, 2003**

**Neely and Mark David Clayton '99 of Calera, Ala., a son, Noah Russell, born June 11, 2003**

**Glen '97 and Kristen Hancock Criswell '98 of Montgomery, Ala., a son, Colton, born Aug. 2, 2003**

**Paul Daniel, Jr. '98 and Jill Little Crompton '96 of Warrior, Ala., a daughter, Leah Anne, born Jan. 17, 2003**

**Levis and Carol Chambless Dasher '90 of Lake Park, Ga., a son, Johnathan, born Oct. 2, 2002**

**Blake and Marisa Sterling Dempsey '99 of Rose Hill, N.C., a son, Coleston Sterling, born My 18, 2003**

**Daniel and Cynthia Arlin Hayslette Doggett '96 of Hayden, Ala., a daughter, Erin Elizabeth, born July 18, 2003**

**Bryant and Lori McMullan Dooley '00 of Kimberly, Ala., a daughter, Madison Leigh, born Oct. 15, 2002**

**Tina and Randy S. Duckett '90 of Odessa, Texas, a son, Connor Davis, born Jan. 18, 2003**

**Osiel and Judy Victoria Blair Elortegui '92 of Mobile, Ala., a daughter, Catherine Olivia, born July 23, 2003**

**Cheri and Shane Fogle, Pharm.D. '01, of Central City, Ky., a son, Cooper Shane, born Oct. 17, 2003**

**Tim '89 and Mary E. Francine '88 of Suwanee, Ga., a son, Hollis Timothy, born June 12, 2003**

**Seth '97 and Shannon Rountree Gibree '97 of Cumming, Ga., a son, Jackson Seth, born Aug. 27, 2003**

**Jonathan, J.D. '97, and Jana Hamil Green '90, M.B.A. '98, of Birmingham, a daughter, Julie Anne, born April 22, 2003**

**David and Heather A. Leo Hargis '97 of Garendeale, Ala., a son, Ashton William, born June 2, 2003**

**Jennifer and Jason David Hobbs '94 of Madison, Ala., a son, Noah David, born May 22, 2003**

**Eric '91 and Stephanie Neil Hube '91 of Collierville, Tenn., a daughter, Caroline Renee, born Feb. 24, 2003**

**William Russell, Jr. and Carolyn Dewberry Jacks '96 of Birmingham, a daughter, Cathryn Anne, born July 27, 2003**

**Chris '93 and Julie Marable Johnson '95 of Columbia, Miss., a daughter, Mia Lane, born Sept. 2, 2003**

**John '94 and Jennifer Barnes Johnson '94 of Maylene, Ala., a son, Jacob Stephen, born Aug. 19, 2003**

**Doug '90, J.D. '93, and Julie Ayers Kauffman '90 of Birmingham, a daughter, Lily, born May 30, 2003**

**Scott and Heather Leigh McKinney Kinnamon '00 of Dalton, Ga., a daughter, Katherine Leigh, born July 17, 2003**

**Matt and Amy Kogler Langeler '97 of Grand Rapids, Mich., a son, Colby Griffin, born July 9, 2003**


**Kevin, J.D. '94, and Lisa Carozza Lottes, J.D. '94, of Naples, Fla., a daughter, Amy Kathryn, born Sept. 22, 2003**
IN MEMORIAM

Margaret C. Alsbrooks ’35, age 88, of Mountain Brook, Ala., died Nov. 2, 2003. She was a retired teacher.

Marjorie Elizabeth Hurst Armstrong ’70, M.S.E. ’71, age 85, of McDonough, Ga., died Sept. 3, 2003. A school teacher in Jefferson County, Ala., she was a member of Kappa Delta Pi honor society and was selected for Who’s Who in Education. She was known for retelling stories related to the Civil War.

Charles Warriner Barnes ’38, age 90, of Tuscaloosa, Ala., died Aug. 17, 2003. He was director of the Baptist Student Union at the University of Alabama from 1940 to 1974, and a religion instructor at UA and Stillman College. He was campus minister at Livingston University during 1974–79. He was also a volunteer missionary in Nigeria and a consultant to students in the San Francisco, Calif., area.

Roger Aaron Brasher ’69 of Birmingham died Sept. 22, 2003. He was a registered pharmacist and owner of Center Point Pharmacy.

Earl T. Brown ’49, age 77, of Clark, Ala., died Aug. 13, 2003, of bone cancer. He was an education specialist in the writing and development of training materials for the Department of the Army at Fort Rucker, Ala. He served with the U.S. Army in South Pacific and Japan during World War II.

James Van Dotson ’53, age 79, of Jasper, Ala., died Sept. 28, 2003. A Baptist preacher for 54 years, he was director of Baptist missions in Walker County during 1965–89. After retirement, he did interim work in Alaska and New Hampshire. During World War II, he served in the European theatre and received 13 medals.


William Geer Served 20 Years as First School of Business Dean

D. William Geer served on the Samford faculty for 31 years, including 20 as the first dean of the School of Business. During his tenure as dean, Dwight M. Beeson Hall, the School of Business building, was built, and almost 2,000 business graduates earned degrees.

Geer, who died Oct. 3 at age 80, helped Samford start the first evening master of business administration program in Alabama. He directed the program and advised more than 900 M.B.A. graduates during his tenure.

Geer joined the faculty in 1959 after teaching at Stetson University, Mississippi College and Mars Hill College. He was named chairman of the Division of Business in 1964. When the division was elevated to school status in 1966, he became dean. Completing 20 years in the post in 1986, he was named the first Margaret Gage Bush Professor of Business, retiring in 1990.

A native of Augusta, Ga., and veteran of World War II, Geer held undergraduate and master’s degrees from Stetson and the doctor of business administration from Indiana University. He also held the Chartered Life Underwriter designation.

He served as president of the Southern Business Administration Association and trustee and chairman of the executive committee of the Annuity Board, Southern Baptist Convention.

Geer is survived by his wife of 53 years, Elizabeth; three children and nine grandchildren.
Robert U. Ferguson, Sr. ’49, age 77, of Hensley, Ark., died Oct. 8, 2003, of the effects of advanced Alzheimer’s disease. He was a pastor in Alabama, Louisiana and Oregon. For the last 18 years of his ministry, he served with the Department of Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists for the Louisiana and Arkansas Baptist state conventions.

Walter W. Furner, J.D. ’72, age 76, of McCalla, Ala., died Sept. 14, 2003. First trained as a chemical engineer, he was a longtime employee of E.I. DuPont DeNemours Inc., before attending law school. During World War II, he was a lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Force.

Robert Lewis Ginn ’60, age 66, of Vestavia Hills, Ala., died Oct. 12, 2003. A second-generation pharmacist, he worked at Bruno’s Food and Pharmacy in Hoover, Ala. He retired as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, and officiated basketball and football games for many years.

William Lee Golden ’67, age 70, of Nashville, Tenn., died Aug. 12, 2003, after surgery for lung cancer. He was a pharmacist at Veteran’s Administration Hospital for 20 years.

Earl Goodwin ’33, age 93, of Selma, Ala., died Oct. 24, 2003. He helped found the Bush Hog farm equipment company, and served in the Alabama senate. He was a veteran of the D-Day invasion during World War II.

Mary Sue Smith Green ’46, age 81, of McCalla, Ala., died May 3, 2003. She was deaf for most of her life. She represented her Samford sorority, in the Alabama Theater’s Beauty Parade. She taught art at the Alabama School for the Deaf.

Mary Louise Guthrie ’61, age 80, of Warrior, Ala., died Sept. 29, 2003. A registered nurse, she served with the U.S. Navy as a lieutenant during World War II.

Vaughn M. Hollon ’72, age 53, of Zolfo Springs, Fla., died Oct. 15, 2003. He was a hearing officer for the State of Florida Division of Motor Vehicles and was an Eagle Scout. At Samford, he was a cheerleader and a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity.

Cecil N. King ’40, age 84, of Birmingham died July 17, 2003. He worked for Chrysler and Ford, and was a foundry consultant and plant manager in Argentina and Mexico. He taught at Lawrence Institute of Technology and retired from E. M. Wood & Associates, Atlanta, Ga. He was an aircraft maintenance officer in the Army Air Force in World War II. He was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity and Warblers singing group.

Victor Nicholas Marsico, J.D. ’31, age 93, of Bethany, Okla., died in October 2003. An attorney and judge, he was a member of the State Bar of Texas for more than 70 years. He was an avid golfer who made his first hole-in-one at age 78.

Thomas Maye, Jr., ’85, age 41, of Monroeville, Ala., died Sept. 4, 2003. He toured Europe with America’s Youth in Concert and performed in Carnegie Hall. His musical career encompassed many styles of music, including band, gospel and sacred music. He was active in the music ministry at churches in Alabama, Texas and California.

L. Maynard McGinity ’60, of Roanoke, Ala., died June 3, 2003, after a brief illness.

Mary E. Miner ’37, age 88, of Dothan, Ala., died Oct. 1, 2003. She was a retired English teacher and worked in the advertising department of The Dothan Eagle.

Jayne Myrick ’81, age 73, of Vestavia Hills, Ala., died July 30, 2003. She was a chapter president and board member of Chi Sigma Iota international counseling association, and the first Birmingham chapter president of the Alabama Association for Spiritual, Ethical and Religious Values Issues in Counseling.

Thomas L. Oglesby ’41, age 84, of Birmingham died March 1, 2003. He was retired from Rast Construction Co. He was president of the Samford student body and a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

Preston Puckett ’37, age 90, of Springville, Ala., died Aug. 12, 2003. He was a licensed owner of Puckett Egg Company. A Samford basketball player, he was the first Springville High School graduate to receive a college basketball scholarship.


John Lee Smith ’50, of Helena, Ala., died Aug. 28, 2003. He was a minister for 55 years, serving churches in Alabama, Georgia and Florida. He was former executive director of Alabama Council on Alcohol Problems and the American Council on Alcohol Problems.

William Alexander Shumate ’73, age 66, of Hoover, Ala., died Aug. 8, 2003. A professional engineer, he was retired from Alabama Power Company. He was a member of the Alabama and Florida bar associations and was a past chairman of Camp ASCCA.

Harris Gerald Walker ’48 of Vestavia Hills, Ala., died Aug. 13, 2003. He was a minister for 57 years, serving churches in Alabama, Kentucky, Florida and Georgia. He was longtime minister and administrator for the Nation’s Family Prayer Period, which originated in Indianapolis, Ind. He served on the boards of Judson College and The Alabama Baptist.

Daniel Eugene Watson, J.D. ’79, age 52, of Homewood, Ala., died Sept. 29, 2003. He was a member of the Alabama Bar Association and worked with esophageal cancer patients at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Comprehensive Cancer Center.
The Samford football team was picked to finish eighth in the nine-team Ohio Valley Conference race during its first season in the league. But Coach Bill Gray's Bulldogs surprised the experts and remained in contention for the conference championship until their 10th game.

Relying on an exciting spread offense, the 'Dogs led the league in scoring and finished 7-4, their first winning season in four years. Enroute, they posted a 5-3 OVC mark and beat two teams, Southeast Missouri and Murray State, that handled them easily last year. They were close, very close, to accomplishing much more.

"We had a productive season, we surprised some people and finished higher than predicted," Gray said. "But we are still disappointed we didn't win it all after having an opportunity to win every game except San Diego State."

There is a lot to be proud of when you look back on the season, but I think we have also shown that we don’t need to settle for anything but the top.”

Quarterback Ray Nelson and receiver Efrem Hill—both juniors—sparked an offense that averaged 31.8 points a game. Nelson passed for 2,759 yards—a Samford record—and 23 touchdowns and led the OVC in passing and total offense. Hill caught 92 passes for 1,387 yards and 15 touchdowns—leading the conference in all three categories. All three of Hill's totals were Samford records, and the receptions and yards gained totals were OVC marks.

Safety Cortland Finnegan, a sophomore, was the leading tackler in the conference (9.8 a game) and led in kickoff returns with a 27.5 average. Senior Ty Neil led the OVC in points by kicking (78).

Fourteen Bulldogs completed their eligibility this season, but the majority of the team—including many key performers—will be back next year. Gray and his team are already looking forward to 2004.

The Samford women's soccer team claimed the regular season title and came close to winning it all in its first Ohio Valley Conference season. Coach Todd Yelton's team posted a 7-1 league record and beat Southeast Missouri in the first round of the tournament before losing to defending champion Eastern Illinois in the title game.

Both tournament games ended in ties and were decided on penalty kicks.

“I am unbelievably proud of this team and all that they accomplished,” said Yelton, who was named OVC Coach of the Year. The Bulldogs were 12-4-5 overall.

Marian Wagner and Lindsay Shanks led the team in scoring with 20 and 17 points respectively. OVC Freshman of the Year Kim Matthews followed with 16 points.

Shanks' goal in the championship game was the 24th of her career, the Samford record.

Matthews was named to the all-conference second team, and Sharon Young and Heidi Kears third team.

Royall, the goaltender, recorded a season-record 10 shutouts and allowed only 15 goals in 21 games. Her 0.68 goals-allowed average was another record.

This year's success followed a 13-7-1 record in 2002, making Samford 25-11-6 during Yelton's two seasons as coach. What next?

"Now, we will take two weeks off and start working toward next year," he said following the championship game.
Samford Will Introduce OVC To Princeton-Style Offense

Samford men’s basketball coach Jimmy Tillette has no idea how the Ohio Valley Conference will defend its new member, Samford. The other league coaches may share Tillette’s puzzlement.

No other OVC team plays the three-point-or-lay-up Princeton offense that Samford adopted six years ago. Last year, 85 percent of the Bulldog shot attempts were either threes or lay-ups. “Our style of play is probably different than what they are used to, so hopefully that will be to our advantage,” said Tillette.

Samford returns four starters and the top five reserves from last year’s 13-15 team. The starters are center Phillip Ramelli, forwards J. Robert Merritt and Jon Mills and guard Tyson Dorsey. Ramelli led the balanced Bulldogs in scoring (11.5) and rebounding (5.7). Dorsey, who took 165 of his 186 shots from three-point range, was 10th in the nation in three-point percentage.

Filling the hole left by point guard Cornell Felton’s graduation is a key. “If we can solidify the point guard position, we can have a successful season,” said Tillette. The most likely successor is top sub Anthony LoPiano, Samford’s best perimeter defender.

“There is part of moving to a new conference that is challenging and exciting,” summarized Tillette. “There are also arenas that we have never played against, and that is a little scary.”

Versatility and Experience Characterize Women’s Team

Samford women’s basketball coach Mike Morris is encouraged about two aspects of his 2003-04 team: its versatility and the return of four starters.

“We have four or five people who can play three or four different positions,” said Morris. “That versatility is critical for us to execute our offense. It also should give us the ability to change things up defensively.”

Lindsey Harris and Cora Beth Smith were starters at guard, and Giovanni Price and Chelsea Insell at forward. Harris (and graduated forward Suzette Pittman) led scoring with 9.0 a game and Price added 8.8. Forward Che Walker and guard LaBrenna Friend also started some games. Others back are forwards Morgan Vickery and Sarah Clement, sidelined by injuries most of the year.

Morris hopes his team can avoid last year’s run of injuries, which contributed to the 7-20 record. “We never had 12 healthy people,” he recalled.

Two freshmen could help in the post. Veronica Pike scored 2,037 points and grabbed 1,136 rebounds in four years at Franklin Road Academy in Nashville, Tenn. Alex Munday led scoring and set the career rebound record (1,023) at Farragut High in Knoxville, Tenn.

Samford’s new conference, the Ohio Valley, “is a strong league, top to bottom,” said Morris. “It’s a league that draws well. We are excited about entering a conference that values women’s basketball.”

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**2003-04 Men’s Basketball Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>OPPONENT</th>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 23</td>
<td>Purdue</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 25</td>
<td>BRYAN COLLEGE†</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 29</td>
<td>New Orleans</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 5</td>
<td>Winthrop</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 6</td>
<td>Hampton or Southern Miss</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 13</td>
<td>Ohio State</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 18</td>
<td>TENNESSEE-TEMPLE</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 20</td>
<td>COVENANT COLLEGE</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 22</td>
<td>Memphis</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 30</td>
<td>Oklahoma State</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 3</td>
<td>TENNESSEE-WESLEYAN†</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 6</td>
<td>JACKSONVILLE STATE*†</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 10</td>
<td>Tennessee State†</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 15</td>
<td>Murray State†</td>
<td>7:15 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 17</td>
<td>UT-Martin†</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 22</td>
<td>MOREHEAD STATE†</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 24</td>
<td>EASTERN KENTUCKY†</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 29</td>
<td>EASTERN ILLINOIS†</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 31</td>
<td>SOUTHEAST MISSOURI†</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 5</td>
<td>Tennessee Tech†</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 7</td>
<td>Austin Peay†</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 12</td>
<td>Eastern Kentucky†</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 14</td>
<td>Morehead State†</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 18</td>
<td>Austin Peay†</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 21</td>
<td>TENNESSEE TECH** (FOX-TV)</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 24</td>
<td>Jacksonville State†</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 26</td>
<td>TENNESSEE STATE†</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 2</td>
<td>OVC First Round</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 5-6</td>
<td>OVC Tournament</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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**2003-04 Women’s Basketball Schedule**

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<tr>
<td>Nov. 22</td>
<td>ALCORN STATE</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 25</td>
<td>TROY STATE†</td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 28</td>
<td>Vanderbilt**</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 29</td>
<td>Louisville or Princeton**</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 2</td>
<td>Nicholls State</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 13</td>
<td>Jacksonville University</td>
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<td>Dec. 16</td>
<td>UNC ASHEVILLE</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 29</td>
<td>Louisiana–Monroe†</td>
<td>4:45 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 30</td>
<td>Mississippi Valley State</td>
<td>or South Alabama††</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 3</td>
<td>SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI†</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>JACKSONVILLE STATE*†</td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
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<td>UT-Martin†</td>
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<td>Jan. 19</td>
<td>ALABAMA STATE</td>
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<td>Jan. 22</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Ohio Valley Conference game
†Doubleheader
**Vanderbilt Tournament
††South Alabama Tournament
All times are Central; dates and times are subject to change. Home games are in BOLD CAPS.

For Ticket Information: (205) 726-2050

samfordsports.com
They May Toil in Anonymity, But They’re Heroes Still
by Mike Perrin
The Birmingham News

Kellen Winslow, the tight end for the University of Miami, is an unbelievable physical specimen. He’s 6-foot-5, 243 pounds and runs a 40-yard dash in 4.6 seconds.

He holds Miami’s single-season records for receptions, receiving yards and touchdowns for a tight end. He was All-Big East last year as a sophomore, his first season as a starter, and is a shoo-in for every All American team this year.

He is also a 20-year-old who loves attention and makes dumb statements.

After the Hurricanes lost to Tennessee, Winslow was unhappy with the SEC officials who hit him with a penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct. In a post-game tirade, the son of the NFL Hall of Fame tight end by the same name compared himself to a soldier and said he hates referees.

Sunday, he apologized for his statements, which were made in the heat of the moment following the first back-to-back losses at Miami since 1999.

If I were building a team, I’d prefer a guy like Ross Newton. Or Cortland Finnegan or Ray Nelson or Darold Williams or Efrem Hill.

You might not have heard of any of them. They play football for Bill Gray at Samford University. We all know they aren’t the physical equals of a Winslow or possibly even as good as Winslow’s backup’s backup.

Those five are prime examples of what we claim we want in our football heroes. We say we want our teams to win with class, lose with dignity and not dance around after making a tackle or catching a pass for a first down.

We say that, but usually we keep quiet when somebody on our team does it—as long as our team wins.

Saturday, like Miami, the Bulldogs lost a big game. A fine Jacksonville State team beat them 49-32 and eliminated Samford from any shot at the Ohio Valley Conference championship. To Samford, that loss hurt just as much as Miami’s. Newton and Williams, as seniors, saw their last chance to win a title and to beat their in-state rival slip away. Following the game, they held their heads high and certainly held their tongues.

“Sometimes things don’t go how you want them to go,” Williams said.

“There’s a reason behind everything. I just thank God for having the opportunity to come to Samford.”

Samford’s student athletes are students.

School policy forbids accepting Prop 48 players—non-academic qualifiers who get a pass for the first year of school, providing they can do the work once they are in school.

Last week, a couple of Samford players spent all night helping out at a homeless shelter. In the past, the football team has worked together building a Habitat for Humanity home.

Football can build character, but not from nothing. Samford’s athletes—and I’m not saying the Bulldogs are the only ones with stellar students and classy kids—come into the program with character nurtured by their families, communities and churches.

Baptist-affiliated Samford is a world away from most “big-time” athletic programs and the Kellen Winslows of the world. And I don’t mean that in a bad way.

(Reprinted with permission from The Birmingham News of Nov. 11, 2003)
Early Traditions: School spirit set to music  

by Jack Brymer

One of the earliest traditions developed by most colleges and universities in the United States has been to set the history and spirit of the institution to music.

The history of the institution and its academic significance in a student's life are most often captured in the poetic lyrics of an alma mater. The social atmosphere is encouraged and preserved through music as well, particularly in the athletics arena through the traditional fight song.

This tradition is alive and well at Samford, and has been for more than a century.

The earliest alma mater was penned in 1884 by Dr. George W. Macon, dean of Howard College, and sung to the music of "America the Beautiful." The three-stanza text is quite symbolic, yet historically accurate:

Oh, Howard, Alma Mater true,  
I love thy glorious name,  
Deserving every honor due  
To an unassilled fame.  
I'll love thee through each fleeting breath  
For all that thou hast done,  
And in the agonies of death  
Be still thy loving son.

Oh, Alma Mater, dear, thy life  
A treasure is to me:  
Thou, Phoenix fair, through flames and strife,  
Hast shown thy right to be.  
Since poverty has made thee rich  
And struggle made thee strong,  
I view thee in thy self-made niche,  
And burst to filial song.

Oh, parent true, the future fair  
Must hold but good for thee,  
For hope's fruition waits thee there  
In blest reality.  
And sons like thine will make thee shine  
With glory all thine own,  
And bring to thy maternal shrine  
Not gifts of gold alone.

In 1927, Professor Paul de Launay, who taught French and conducted the College Choir, copyrighted a new melody for the alma mater and dedicated the piece to Dr. J. C. Dawson, president of Howard. The new melody was to be played or sung at tempo di Marcia, according to historian James F. Sulzby, Jr.

Professor de Launay's version sufficed for half a century.

In 1986, band director Greg Berry initiated major revisions in both the alma mater and fight song. At two previous Baptist colleges he had served, Berry had been impressed with the spirit and vigor in singing their alma mater and fight song. In an attempt to rewrite Samford's alma mater into a singable and easily-remembered text, he enlisted the services of band member James Grey, a music theory major, to do a different orchestration for the two songs. These are currently in use.

The alma mater's lyrics were also revised and shortened in 1986 by Kelley Courington. The new text reflected the name change to Samford and was limited to one verse with minor textual changes as follows:

O Samford, Alma Mater true,  
Her halls shall ever ring  
With sounding glories of the past,  
With plans and future dreams.  
On knowledge that we seek, O Lord,  
We pray Thy blessing true.  
With pride we pledge our hearts and minds  
To the Samford red and blue.

In 1991, music professor James Jensen arranged professor DeLaunay's score for four-part harmony using the Courington text. This appears to be the latest version.

Traditionally, the alma mater is sung at the beginning of all home football games. It is not sung at other athletics events. During Homecoming 2003, it was sung at the Candlelight Dinner and Homecoming Worship Service.

Some alumni of years past recall that the alma mater was beloved and sung often. Arminda Thompson '39 remembers it being sung at convocation and athletics events. "We just loved it," she said. Fred Phillips '35 doesn't recall it being sung that much, but he thinks it was compulsory for chapel.

Marylee Blackman Windsor '27 also does not remember hearing the alma mater much, or any importance being placed on DeLaunay's score, which was introduced that year. She does remember, however, English professor A. H. Mason as a favorite teacher. "Dr. Mason noticed that Arthur Windsor and I used to meet outside his office between classes," she said. "Dr. Mason called us 'the children of my doorstep.' Arthur and I were married several years after we graduated."

Unlike the alma mater, which is heard only once at the beginning of home football games, the fight song, at least the musical score, is heard several times during both football and basketball games. The text of the current fight song is:

Fight, Fight, Fight! for Samford Bulldogs,  
Go on to victory.  
Oh, we'll wear the red and blue,  
Samford we're all for you  
And we love you too!  
Fight, Fight, Fight, for Samford Bulldogs,  
Go on to victory.  
Oh, we'll give a cheer or two,  
Samford we're all for you...  
Fight! Fight! Fight!

At least two other musical scores played a role in seeking to capture the loyalty and spirit of students for their alma mater. One was titled "Crimson and Blue," which was published in the 1911 Entre Nous. The words and music were by W. J. Mims, pupil of Patton's Normal Musical Institute. The lyrics of another song were entitled "The Crimson and The Blue." It was composed by Joseph T. Vaughn '18. No musical score is available.
Samford fans enjoyed a winning first season in the Ohio Valley Conference. Head coach Bill Gray was named OVC Coach of the Year after the Bulldogs' surprising 7-4 record and third place conference finish. Receiver Efrem Hill was named OVC Offensive Player of the Year and defensive back Cortland Finnegan Defensive Player of the Year.