4 Lost Treasure
Artist Roderick MacKenzie set up his easel in the Birmingham steel mills of the 1920s and produced more than 50 paintings. But over the years, the majority of his acclaimed “Steel Series” was lost. History professor Marlene Rikard discussed her rediscovery of MacKenzie in her presidential address to the Alabama Historical Association.

8 Little Big Town
The popular, Grammy-nominated country music group traces its roots to Samford, where members Karen Fairchild ’90 and Kimberly Roads first sang together as students. The group is currently touring with country music superstar Martina McBride.

21 Nursing Newsletter
Samford’s Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing now offers a variety of innovative curricular options to help people add a second degree in nursing, to enhance learning through internships and to assist practicing nurses in updating skills. Catch up on the latest in the Samford nursing school.

30 First Resident of Vail
Toni Moore Clevenger became the first resident of Vail Hall 50 years ago this summer. The journalism major was Channel 13’s “weather girl” on newscasts, making it difficult for her to go home for the summer. So Samford officials let her move in early.
Samford holds its final Commencement in the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex Arena May 26. Next year, the ceremony will be held at the new Pete Hanna Center on campus.
Jeanna and I have been looking at universities through a different lens in recent months—the lens of a rising high school senior. It is a fascinating experience.

Our daughter, Riley, has embarked upon the Summer of the Great College Search, with parents in tow. Of course, she has knowledge of a wonderful institution in Homewood, Ala., but she is still in the process of deciding whether mother, father and daughter may coexist (with a measure of tranquility) on the same campus. Until the resolution of that question, the search continues. (By the way, I'll be the first, or perhaps the second or third, to admit the potentially awkward nature of enrolling at the university where your father is the president.)

Riley is gaining many insights as she reviews expensive brochures, navigates Web sites and carries on conversations with admission officers. I'm gaining a few insights, as well. For instance, I'm learning that a recruiting brochure must present a powerful message to break through the clutter of the dozen publications that routinely appear in the mailbox any given day. I'm learning that an endorsement from a student enrolled at an institution trumps any recommendation from an employee. I'm learning that prospective students decide within a few minutes after arriving for a campus visit whether or not they can envision themselves as a part of that environment. I'm learning that interaction with great faculty members is of extraordinary importance as the search begins to narrow. I'm learning that human contact still matters.

So, as Riley continues her search, and as Jeanna and I have watched from an appropriate distance, we've remarked time and again that Samford has—in abundance—so many of the characteristics students and parents are seeking. For 166 years, men and women have created and sustained this environment. In just a few weeks, we'll welcome one of the largest incoming classes in the history of the institution, and the members of the class will forge another link in the chain. It is an institution and a cause worthy of our continued support.

As always, please keep Samford in your prayers.

Andrew Westmoreland
President
Performing Arts Now School of the Arts

New degrees, new academic programs, new faculty and a restructured academic school were among actions approved by the Samford University Board of Trustees at its regular spring meeting in May.

Trustees approved a recommendation that the art department be moved from the college of arts and sciences and combined with the current School of Performing Arts to become the School of the Arts. The 2007–08 academic year will serve as a transition period for the new school with full implementation by the 2008–09 academic year.

“This restructuring represents a natural progression in Samford’s long-term plan to provide the best environment for promoting the arts,” Samford President Andrew Westmoreland said in making the recommendation.

An approved reorganization of the School of Business created three academic departments: accounting and management information systems; economics, finance and quantitative analysis; and management and marketing. Three new bachelor’s degrees in management with concentrations in entrepreneurship, social entrepreneurship and international business also were approved.

Other new programs approved by trustees include a secondary collaborative graduate degree and a gifted education certification program in the school of education and professional studies, a master of music degree in piano performance and pedagogy, and a dance minor in the School of Performing Arts.

Trustees also authorized Westmoreland and administrators to conduct feasibility studies and negotiate contracts for additional renovations to Beeson University Center and potential new facilities for academic programs, such as exercise science and sports medicine, as well as for football and baseball. The projects would not move forward until funding is available, Westmoreland emphasized to trustees.

Trustees also authorized the approval of new programs such as exercise science and sports medicine, as well as for football and baseball. The projects would not move forward until funding is available, Westmoreland emphasized to trustees.

Facility and Health Promotion Accredited

Samford University’s Fitness and Health Promotion program earned accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) and the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM). The program, part of the exercise science and sports medicine (ESSM) curriculum, is only the eighth in the nation to achieve the distinction.

CAAHEP was founded in 1994 as an accrediting body for allied health programs, but the accreditation process for college and university programs in the area of exercise science is relatively new, having begun only in 2005. The fitness and health promotion major—one of six majors in the ESSM department—prepares students for employment in corporate wellness programs, fitness centers, YMCAAs, cardiac rehabilitation and recreational facilities.

Samford Publications Win National Competitions

Samford’s communications office won five awards of excellence and two awards of merit in the Religion Communicators Council (RCC) national competition. The office also won the Arthur S. Davenport Award, one of the top awards presented by the Baptist Communicators Association (BCA), for its 2006 admission campaign.

RCC awards of excellence went to Seasons in the national magazine category; to Samford’s presidential inauguration campaign in the public relations category; to a commemorative booklet, J. I. Packer: The Evangelical Future, for Beeson Divinity School and to the book Corts: Deo, Doctrinae, Aeterniati for the retirement of President Thomas Corts, both in special publications; and to designer Scott Camp for a divinity school poster, “Living with the Psalms,” in the flyer category.

Camp also won a BCA first-place award and an RCC award of merit for his Old Howard 100 Bike Ride logo. He and fellow staffer Sean Flynt won an award of merit for the campus visit brochure, part of the admission campaign, in overall publication design.

In the BCA, Samford won second place for the inauguration program and for the 2006 President’s Report.
Lighting Up the Night Sky

by William Nunnelley
MacKenzie Series Recorded the Story of Birmingham Steel

Picture the Ensley steel mills of the 1920s, filled with the flash of flame and the startling colors of molten metal at night—a dusty, noisy, smoke-filled environment where men worked in extreme heat and steam around the clock.

Now picture a middle-aged artist, working at his easel in the midst of this scene, clad in overalls and an acetylene miner’s cap, perspiration dripping off his face, recording the process for which Birmingham was best known, the making of steel.

Roderick D. MacKenzie did just that for more than two years, working at night because the colors were more graphic then, ultimately producing a series of more than 50 works that told the story of steel making.

“Often, he would have three easels set up so he could work on various scenes as the processes changed,” said Samford history professor Marlene H. Rikard. “He wanted to capture all the processes of making steel, but sometimes the image he wanted lasted for only a few seconds and never more than 10 minutes.”

So accurate was MacKenzie in recreating the processes that the mill chemists “claimed they could identify the stage of production from the coloration in his paintings,” she said.

This visual story of Birmingham steel making well might continue to unfold today at the museum of art or some other venue, but events over the years dictated otherwise. As a result, many of the paintings were lost, and only a few survive.

Dr. Rikard told MacKenzie’s story during the spring of 2007 as her presidential address to the Alabama Historical Association and shared information on her own unwitting discovery of MacKenzie’s work many years ago.

Birmingham approached its 50th birthday in 1921, Rikard noted, and as it struggled to find its cultural identity, MacKenzie’s paintings began to draw attention. A history of Birmingham used one of the paintings on its cover, and a downtown art gallery displayed some of the paintings as part of the city’s semicentennial exposition.

As the body of work grew, the Alabama Art League organized a display in 1922 of 45 of the canvases that attracted both art lovers and laborers who had watched MacKenzie work. Reviews noted that the painter had caught “the spirit of the furnaces,” and that he had introduced “a fourth new element dimension into painting—heat.”

MacKenzie worked in pastels because oil or watercolor would not have been practical in the dusty environment of the mills. Reviewer Frank Hartley Anderson noted that the painter challenged the image of pastels as “something light and dainty,” giving the medium a “strong, vigorous life.”

MacKenzie was of Scottish descent, born in London in 1865, but he moved with his family to Mobile, Ala., in 1872 and grew up in Alabama. He studied at the Boston Museum of Art for two years in the 1880s, returning to Mobile to open a studio, but moved to Paris for additional study in 1889.

He painted for a Calcutta art dealer for a time. Eventually, the dealer persuaded him to go to India to work. This he did in 1892 with his wife, Lottie. They lived in India for more than a decade, and MacKenzie earned a good living. Two paintings in particular won him a wide reputation in India and Europe, The Baluchis (tribesmen on horseback thundering toward the viewer) and The Afghans (men dressed in typical desert garb).

The couple returned to Paris in 1906, moved to London two years later and returned to Mobile in 1913. During this time, MacKenzie earned his

Samford history professor Marlene Rikard revisits steel mill sites.
living from commissions and exhibitions. In Mobile, he painted portraits and opened an art school. Even so, he was a poor businessman and struggled financially. After his wife died in 1920, he came to Birmingham to visit a brother in Fairfield.

“What he saw in the Magic City changed his life,” said Rikard. “For the first time, he truly encountered the New South, and stood in awe of the power and vitality of the steel industry that surrounded him in Fairfield and Ensley.” He told an interviewer he had grown stale painting ordinary landscapes but was awakened by what he saw in Jones Valley, particularly when the steel mills lit up the night sky.”

The Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company (TCI), a subsidiary of United States Steel, dominated the Birmingham industrial scene. Its president, George Gordon Crawford, wielded great power in Birmingham circles. MacKenzie contacted Crawford, “who was intrigued by the idea of artistic representation of industry and gave the painter permission to enter the Ensley mills for one week,” Rikard noted.

“The one week turned into two years and subsequent return visits, and resulted in MacKenzie’s most acclaimed work, the Steel Series,” she said.

Crawford was so pleased with the series that he persuaded Elbert Gary, the head of U.S. Steel, to use his influence to arrange an exhibition in New York City at the 1923 meeting of the American Iron and Steel Institute. The exhibit drew rave reviews from the more than 1,000 industrialists present and the national press.

“He has caught the spirit of the men at work in these plants,” proclaimed the New York Evening Telegram. The New Orleans Times Picayune praised the work, saying “few special industries have been so well served by such a capable and responsive hand.”

Following this success, Mackenzie made a fateful decision—the series originals would not be sold individually. His hope was that either Birmingham or the steel company would purchase the entire series and keep it intact.

Circumstances changed during the next few years. Crawford left TCI to join the Jones and Laughlin Steel Company in Pittsburgh, Pa. Gary died in 1927. Depression began to hit the Birmingham steel industry. MacKenzie’s paintings languished in storage in New York City, where he had left them.

The painter added six new works to the series in 1937 and arranged an exhibition of the entire series at the Birmingham Public Library. He still insisted on selling the series as a whole, but there were no takers. Finally, the paintings went into storage again at the library.

MacKenzie, once again beset by poverty, died in 1941. His brother inherited the Steel Series, which remained stored in the library until 1948, when the library needed the space for other uses. When MacKenzie’s brother died in 1953, his widow gradually broke up the series of paintings. “A few went to the city of Fairfield,” said Rikard. “Others fell victim to mold because of poor storage and conservation, and were discarded. Two ultimately went to the Birmingham Museum of Art.
SPECIAL REPORT

“Ironically, more of Birmingham’s industrial artistic heritage resides in Mobile than in Birmingham,” she said, because Mobilians bought some of the paintings from the law firm handling MacKenzie’s estate.

Rikard first encountered MacKenzie’s work as a 17-year-old high school graduate who had taken a job as a typist at TCI offices in Fairfield. “Each day, I entered a lovely foyer where a large and attractive painting of the Fairfield Steel Mills sat on an elegant easel,” she recalled. “I didn’t know the artist, but I took comfort in that painting because I was saving money to attend Auburn University to study graphic design.”

Later, after completing Auburn, she worked on a master’s thesis in history. Her topic was George Gordon Crawford, the TCI head that commissioned MacKenzie’s Steel Series. It was not until she had been teaching a course in the New South at Samford for several years that she made the connection with the artist she encountered years earlier at TCI.

Seeking a new textbook for her course, she discovered a volume with a cover that startled her. She flashed back to her TCI job, and the painting in the foyer. “If it was not the same painting, it was the same artist,” she said. It was Roderick D. MacKenzie.

“MacKenzie’s greatest artistic triumph, the Steel Series, also proved to be his great tragedy and a loss for Birmingham,” Rikard told her historical association audience. “MacKenzie’s work captured a changing South. Birmingham was the raw creation of the New South, unlike the more genteel environment of Mobile or Montgomery.”

Today, Rikard noted, Birmingham works to preserve and celebrate its industrial heritage, restoring such vestiges of the past as Vulcan and Sloss Furnace. Roderick MacKenzie’s Steel Series was an important part of that heritage, but unfortunately, only a small part of it remains.

Soaking Pits, TCI, 1932, Birmingham Museum of Art

Burst of Gas and Sparks, about 1921, Birmingham Museum of Art; gift of Mrs. J. D. Southall, Robert MacKenzie Southall, John C. Southall, Roderick D. Southall

The Governor’s Procession, Delhi, 1903, is representative of MacKenzie’s work in India. The procession honors the proclamation of King Edward VII of England as Emperor of India. The original is 18 feet long. Courtesy Classic Collections Fine Art, Irvington, N.Y.

**About this feature**

This story was developed from Samford University professor Marlene H. Rikard’s address to the annual meeting of the Alabama Historical Association (AHA) April 14, 2007, that closed her year as AHA president. A complete text of her remarks will appear in the fall issue of The Alabama Review, quarterly journal of the AHA.

The AHA celebrates its 60th anniversary this year. The late James F. Sulzby, author of a two-volume history of Samford, served as founding president (1947–49), and the late Dr. George V. Irons of the Samford history department was a charter member. Rikard is the ninth person with a Samford tie to serve as AHA president.

The AHA, with more than 1,200 members, is Alabama’s largest and oldest historical association. Learn more about the organization at http://www.archives.state.al.us/aha/aha.html.
Little Big Town received its first clue to the potential success of “Boondocks” in the fall of 2004 while on a 11-day Stars for Stripes tour of Afghanistan, where a favorite stop was at the remote Teran Kout camp. “The troops there had had running water for only two weeks, and they had been there for a year,” Fairchild said. “Those soldiers were the first to tell us that ‘Boondocks’ was a hit. That was nice confirmation for us.”

“It was amazing,” she said of the overseas tour. “You really realize the sacrifices the soldiers are making. They get lonely and are so grateful for your presence.”

Regular performers on Country Music Television, Little Big Town made its first network television appearance in April of 2006 on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno. In January, they returned to NYC to sing on NBC’s Late Night with Conan O’Brien.

Even before the recent elite Grammy citations, Little Big Town had been nominated for Academy of Country Music’s Top Vocal Duo or Vocal Group, and Country Music Association’s Top New Vocal Group.

The accolades and unexpected awards are gratifying. “Being nominated for Album of the Year was a goal, and to reach it so quickly was amazing. It represents a lot of stick-to-it-iveness and perseverance, but it paid off,” said Fairchild.

In April, Little Big Town began a five-month tour with country music superstar Martina McBride.

“It is a great opportunity to play huge arenas and to sing in front of Martina’s fans. Some may not know who we are,” said Fairchild, whose group also has toured with stars Keith Urban and John Mellencamp.

The 30-concert tour with McBride through the Midwest and East included shows in May at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex Arena and New York City’s Radio City Music Hall.

For a complete summer tour schedule, go to www.littlebigtown.com.

The group’s success comes as no surprise to Fairchild’s Alpha Delta Pi sorority sister, Karen Luster Eddins ’91.

It’s a long way from Samford’s Wright Center Concert Hall stage to such venues as Radio City Music Hall, the Grand Ole Opry and Jay Leno’s NBC studio, and even farther to a remote military camp in Afghanistan.

For former Samford students and A Cappella Choir members Karen Fairchild ’90 and Kimberly Bramlett Roads, and their hot country music group, Little Big Town, the journey has taken on warp speed recently.

The speed-up is due in part to the success of their latest CD, The Road to Here.

During 2006, the CD earned the band its first Grammy nominations and the prestigious Independent Artist and Independent Album titles from Billboard magazine. The Grammy nods were in two categories: Best Country Album, and Best Country Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal for their song, “Boondocks.”

“Nice affirmation for the two vocalists who first sang together on Samford stages.

“Samford was where things began,” Fairchild said recently.

An early childhood education major, Fairchild was a substitute teacher in her native Georgia for a while after graduation, but soon joined the Christian music group Truth for three and a half years.

Eventually, Fairchild and Roads reconnected, and in 1998, teamed with singer/guitarist Phillip Sweet and Jimi Westbrook, who is now married to Fairchild, to form Little Big Town.

The Nashville-based foursome’s first public performance was at the Grand Ole Opry in 1999.

“We had been rehearsing and forming the sound of what the band would be when our agent called and asked us to fill in for a cancellation at the Opry,” said Fairchild. “Things just took off from there.”


In 2005, Little Big Town connected with Equity Records for The Road to Here CD with its rootsy, bluegrass-tinged songs and edgy ballads. Sales topped 500,000 by year’s end. The CD’s “Boondocks” was a top-10 country single, and the single “Bring It On Home” in the top five.

“She always had the lead singing part in our skits for rush,” Eddins said of Fairchild, who was a senior class representative on the 1989 homecoming court and a Sigma Chi Sweetheart. “Karen always knew she wanted to sing and hoped that her vocation would be in music.”

Fairchild was choreographer for ADPi’s 1989 Step Sing show, “Slow Boat to China,” which won the women’s division competition and the Sweepstakes Award.

“We lived and breathed Step Sing for the time leading up to it, but I have fond memories of it,” said Fairchild, who keeps in touch with sorority sisters and other friends who lived in Vail Hall.

In November, Roads—who left Samford before graduating—married longtime friend Stephen Schlapman. Her first husband, former A Cappella Choir member Steven Roads ’86, J.D. ’89, who helped the group with record deals, died of a heart attack in 2005 at age 41.

Fairchild, Kimberly Roads and Steven Roads were all members of the A Cappella Choir’s smaller component, the Samford Singers.

“I have been following their singing careers with interest and am happy that they have found such great success in the music industry,” retired choir director and music dean L. Gene Black said of the Little Big Town vocalists.

Fairchild confirms that, indeed, life is good for Little Big Town.

“It couldn’t be better,” she said. “We are blessed.”

Little Big Town members are, from left, Kimberly Roads, Jimi Westbrook, Karen Fairchild and Phillip Sweet.
What does the European Union have to do with the state of Alabama, and why would its ambassador to America come to a Samford breakfast to speak?

John Bruton, who holds the EU leadership post in Washington, D.C., can answer those questions with myriad statistics. Or he can sum it up in one word: economics.

The former prime minister of Ireland, who has led the EU delegation to the United States since 2004, brought the following pointed message to Birmingham businesspeople at an April 24 gathering hosted by the Samford School of Business:

The 27-nation EU is more important economically to Alabama than either India or China, and it is the top source of foreign direct investment dollars flowing into the state.

“In all, the EU accounts for more than $14.9 billion annually in export and investment dollars earned by Alabama, supporting more than 156,800 jobs within the state,” Bruton said. It channeled about 9.3 billion foreign investment dollars to Alabama in 2004.

The 43,200 Alabamians who work in companies resulting from European investment is more than three times that of jobs supported by investments from the Asia Pacific region, according to the EU ambassador.

The EU is also Alabama’s largest export market, with some $5.6 billion in goods and services moving in that direction last year. “This supports more than 113,600 in-state jobs,” he said.

Alabama’s exports to the EU in 2006 were significantly more than the state’s sales to Japan, China and South Korea, and more than 73 times that of all goods and services sold to India.

An important part of Bruton’s job is to remind Americans that the expanding EU is good for the U.S. economy and good for American jobs, which explains his recent visit. He has taken this message to governors, mayors, business leaders and students in more than 20 states.

The EU began more than 50 years ago as the European Economic Community, with six members. It has maintained a Washington, D.C., office since 1954, and the office has held ambassadorial status since 1971. The EU sets commercial/environmental standards; deals with foreign policy, development and humanitarian aid; and fights cross-border crime.

“It is the only multinational democracy in human history,” said Bruton, noting that it stresses high standards of democratic governance for its members, including commitment to human rights as well as respect for free markets and property rights, separation of powers and the rule of law.

Bruton told his Samford audience that he would like to see a simplifying of standards for various products.

Many products, such as drugs and cosmetics, must meet varying standards in Europe and the United States. Even crash dummies used in automobile safety testing must pass different regulations, he said.

Bruton believes an ideal situation would be one in which both Europe and the United States could have confidence in each other’s standards. “This would save an enormous amount in the cost of launching new products,” he said.

A more common set of standards would mean, for instance, that if a product can get approval in the United States, a venture capitalist would know that a product also could be sold in Europe, said Bruton. A result would be an easier “speed launch to market” of new products and a reduction of unnecessary costs.

Asked about any potential risk on national sovereignty as a result of the recent acquisition of two prominent Alabama banks by EU-based banking companies, Bruton noted that the U.S. national debt is very low compared to that of other countries.

“I wouldn’t panic about your national debt,” he said, noting that it is not linked to bank ownership. Bankers are unsentimental about national allegiance, said Bruton.

Bruton’s talk at the Marriott Grandview Hotel was attended by several hundred local and state business leaders, Samford alumni, faculty and students.

While in Alabama, the EU leader also visited the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and the Mercedes-Benz plant in Vance, and met with Gov. Bob Riley in Montgomery.
Leonard Downie, Jr., is a veteran newsman who recognizes the inevitability of change, especially as it affects his profession. He knows the Internet is irreversibly transforming the news media, and that newspapers face radical change to survive.

But the mission and content of the news won’t change, he believes, as long as newspeople adapt successfully to new media realities. The mission is to inform, and the content that matters most is accountability journalism.

“The journalism that I believe must survive all the change swirling around us in the new media environment is accountability journalism,” the Washington Post executive editor said recently at Samford. “That is the journalism that holds those with power in our society accountable to everyone else.”

Downie spoke in April at the second annual Timothy Sumner Robinson Forum sponsored by Samford’s journalism and mass communication department in cooperation with The Post. The program honors the late Samford graduate and Post reporter who covered the Watergate scandal of the 1970s as the paper’s federal courts reporter.

Downie said accountability journalism “is the kind of journalism that the founding fathers intended to protect with the First Amendment to the Constitution” and noted that it separates free nations from those that “not only suppress political freedom but also do not allow a free press.”

“Tim Robinson believed in accountability journalism,” Downie said. “For years after he left our newsroom, his work was held up to his successors as a model for beat reporting.”

“Downie listed several recent examples of accountability journalism, including The Post’s series on poor treatment received by Iraq war veterans in Walter Reed medical center in Washington, D.C.; The Hartford Courant’s investigation of the high rate of suicides among American troops in Iraq, leading to new mental-health screening for recruits; The Post’s discovery of a network of secret CIA prisons for suspected terrorists; and The Wall Street Journal’s stories exposing companies backdating stock options to inflate executives’ compensation.

Downie said accountability journalism has exposed waste and fraud, raised significant issues about competence and honesty for politicians, freed wrongly convicted people from prison and made food and vehicles safer.

“Accountability journalism is not easy to do,” he said. He noted that it requires resources (both staff and time), expertise in using records and databases, good interviewing techniques, clear writing, and editors who know how to be devil’s advocates to be sure that stories that could ruin reputations or worse are as accurate and fair as possible.

“Above all, it requires a news organization dedicated to accountability journalism—in other words, a news organization dedicated to public service,” he said.

Such reporting is at risk today at too many newspapers that have lost readers and advertising to the Internet and other competing media, he said.

“Pressured by Wall Street, too many newspaper owners have nevertheless been trying to maintain the very large profits made in the old days of newspaper monopolies,” he said.

“Cost-cutting has shrunk most newsrooms, undermined their morale and threatened their ambition,” he added, making it “harder to cover routine news well, much less to do accountability journalism.”

While the Internet has had “an extraordinarily disruptive impact” on the economics of print newspapers, Downie said it created “tantalizing new opportunities for news organizations.” He noted that most newspapers lost circulation but attracted large audiences for their Web sites.

Downie said the Internet revolution “could mean more accountability journalism—not less.” For that to happen, he said, “old journalists must learn new tricks,” newsrooms with reduced staffs must still set accountability journalism as one of their top priorities, and universities must turn out journalists with traditional reporting and writing skills who can present their journalism in new forms on the Web, as well as in print.”

Internet Changes Newspaper World, but ‘Accountability Journalism’ Still Key

Washington Post editor Leonard Downie, Jr., reviews The Crimson with staff members.
A n Episcopal priest, an evangelical minister and a scientific humanist walked into a concert hall. Really. There’s no punch line. This was the prelude to a unique conference on environmental stewardship at Samford April 21.

Samford’s Vulcan Materials Center for Environmental Stewardship and Education assembled a diverse panel for “The Creation: An Appeal to Save Life on Earth,” the spring 2007 conference of the Alabama Environmental Education Consortium [ALEEC]. The conference included sessions on a variety of interconnected topics, including urban sprawl and health, sustainable landscaping, climate change, biological diversity and Christian environmental stewardship.

Jeff Danter, director of the Nature Conservancy, Alabama, opened the conference with a reminder that Alabama is one of the nation’s leaders in terms of biological diversity. “Alabama ranks number one among all 50 states for freshwater diversity—the number of things that live in our rivers,” he said. He noted that the nearby Cahaba River alone contains 130 species of fish while the entire state of California claims only 99.

Danter said scientists around the world continue to discover new species in Alabama’s water, air and earth, yet the state ranks second in the nation for species loss. “We have great biological wealth in our state, but we are losing it,” he said.

“Far Ain’ts””

As a boy in south Alabama, the event’s keynote speaker, legendary biologist and Pulitzer Prize-winning author E. O. Wilson, made the first recorded notice of an imported species many Southerners would rather see extinct: fire ants.

“Down here, we call them ‘far ain’ts,’” he said, “and that’s not accent.” The Birmingham native said he explains to the inhabitants of northern states that, “what we’re saying is that they come from far away and they ain’t going home.”

Wilson’s combination of humor and exhaustive knowledge (he spoke without notes) made his well-known scientific humanism beside the point. Wilson was raised a Baptist but now says his idea of heaven involves hanging from a crane high over a rainforest canopy with killer bees buzzing outside his research gondola. His unique background inspired his latest book, which gave the conference its title.

The Creation: An Appeal to Save Life on Earth takes the form of a letter from Wilson to an anonymous Baptist minister meant to represent all religious leaders. Through the book, Wilson appeals for people of faith to join in the fight to save a badly damaged natural environment.

Apart from a brief discussion of his book, Wilson didn’t speak of his personal journey away from religion. Mostly, he spoke with infectious awe about a world containing vast numbers of species. “We haven’t even begun to explore this planet,” he said, noting that a single gram of soil contains 10 billion bacteria, almost all of which are unknown to science. Wilson also noted that the degradation of Earth threatens species big and small, known and unknown.

Wilson described the stakes for humans. He said the consensus of the scientific and economic development communities is that, “the central problem of the new century—in my opinion, the one that’s going to count long-term—is how to raise the poor to an endurable quality of life while preserving as much of the natural world as possible.” Wilson said he hoped that consensus was consistent with the concerns of the world’s faith communities as well.

Explaining the intersection of poverty and environment, Wilson noted that the poorest people and the natural environments containing the greatest biological diversity are concentrated in the developing world and are mutually dependent. “The poor, especially the nearly one billion who are absolutely destitute, have little chance to improve their lives in a devastated environment,” he said. “Conversely, the natural environments where most of the biodiversity hangs on cannot survive the press of land-hungry people who have nowhere else to go.”

Wilson said the solution to the dilemmas of environment and poverty must begin with recognition of their interdependence, and end with action worthy of human intelligence and will. “A civilization able to envision God and an afterlife, too—even dream of embarking on the colonization of space—surely might find a way to save
love if we're wasting water, if we're wasting electricity or wasting anything, because it could be beneficial to someone, somewhere in the world, and in many cases what we are wasting harms other people.”

**Divided Evangelicals**

Surprisingly, the greatest dissent expressed on the conference stage was not between Christianity and science, but between evangelical Christian factions.

Evangelical minister Craig Branch, director of the Apologetics Resource Center in Birmingham, coauthor of Public Schools: The Sorcerer’s New Apprentice? and hardly a liberal, asserted that he agreed with almost everything his copanelists said. He noted that his own organization’s view is that, “Christianity is a science starter, not a science stopper.” Branch’s task at the conference was to describe the full spectrum of evangelical responses to environmental issues, and those have historically been unfriendly to environmentalism.

“There is a general agreement among knowledgeable evangelicals on the biblical basis of environmental stewardship,” Branch said. He acknowledged that the evangelical response to environmental degradation and social justice issues has been tepid due in part to politics. The related issues were long viewed as markers of “liberal churches,” he said. Branch said this view is changing as more evangelicals have been won over by scientific consensus, creating a rift between stewardship-oriented evangelicals and those who remain suspicious of science and an Earth-friendly interpretation of Scripture.

The distance between the opposing camps of evangelicals came to public attention in 2006, when evangelical celebrities including James Dobson and Rick Warren found themselves on opposing sides of the global warming issue, competing for political and cultural influence in a national political environment evangelicals recently dominated as a unified front.

Given such open disagreement among believers, can there really be hope that believers and nonbelievers can work together to save Earth, as E. O. Wilson envisions? That proposition, at least, no longer calls for a punch line. At Samford in April, an Episcopal priest, an evangelical minister and a scientific humanist walked into a concert hall . . . and found common cause.

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**McWhorter Receives $77,051 Disaster Response Grant**

Samford’s McWhorter School of Pharmacy received a $77,051 grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC] to help Alabama pharmacists learn more about emergency responses to disasters such as Hurricane Katrina.

The grant—to McWhorter’s Institute for Public Health and Pharmacy—will enable the pharmacy school to offer a course that draws on lessons learned during the aftermath of Katrina.

“The public-health system in Alabama gained important disaster response experience after Katrina,” said Dr. Stuart Capper, director of the Institute for Public Health and Pharmacy. “This course will focus on one specific area that has received only limited attention, the partner relationship between the public-health practice community and the pharmacy practice community.”

Dr. Capper noted that Katrina disrupted such critical services as the writing and dispensing of important medications for disaster victims as well as the provision of such basic services as vaccinations and triage.

The grant will fund a course that not only builds on the lessons learned from Katrina, but also focuses on the roles and responsibilities of the pharmacy practice community for public health preparedness and response.

Capper said the grant would help determine how Alabama pharmacists prefer to access such a course, face-to-face or via the Internet, and whether or not both formats are equally effective at conveying the content. The course will be offered in each format to as many as 60 pharmacists at each presentation.

The Samford institute will work with the Alabama State Department of Public Health in designing the course. These public-health pharmacy-preparedness efforts are part of an extensive program for such work at the University of Alabama at Birmingham [UAB] South Central Center for Public Health Preparedness.

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**The Moral Issue of Our Time**

Although the conference format promised sparks by following Wilson with an Episcopal minister and an evangelical apologist, those panelists raised few arguments against Wilson or his cause. In fact, the Rev. Sally Bingham of the Regeneration Project, and the Interfaith Power and Light Program at San Francisco’s Grace Cathedral, joked that Wilson’s killer-bee vision of heaven was the greatest distance between herself and the Harvard biologist.

Bingham sounded the alarm of environmental degradation as loudly as Wilson, touching on some of the same themes but focusing primarily on global warming and the unique responsibilities of Christians to the natural world. “You cannot sit in a pew with a reverence for the earth and watch God’s creation be destroyed,” she said. “This is the moral issue of our time,” she added, noting that, “it will affect everything, all of life and, very importantly, it will define the future of our children and the generations that come after us.”

Bingham echoed Wilson’s concern for the link between poverty and the natural world, but went a step further in calling on Christians to be mindful of their responsibility to “the least of these.”

“If we are to serve one another and serve God—which is what loving one’s neighbor means—we have to address this problem,” she said. “It’s not an act of

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**The Sorcerer’s New Apprentice?**

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Staying Awake through the Revolution

Samford University graduate and former presidential assistant Eric L. Motley told members of the Class of 2007 the world desperately needs people “who ground their decisions in values that make a difference.”

Delivering the commencement address May 26, Dr. Motley reminded seniors that their Samford education nurtured a set of Christian values “that says community is as important as self, that caring for others who need us is most important, and that rewards are not just material.”

Motley also urged the seniors to remain alert during their post-university years through “the new tidal wave of technology, politics and economics of the 21st century.”

“The great challenge facing every individual graduating today is to remain awake through this, the most enormous transformation in human history,” he told 683 seniors and more than 5,000 others at the ceremony.

Motley, a 1996 Samford graduate, was a presidential appointments assistant in the Bush White House from 2001 until 2005. He is now vice president and managing director of the Henry Crown Fellowship Program at the Aspen Institute in Washington, D.C.

In his travels as a presidential assistant, Motley said he was greatly disturbed by one particular trait in people he met, “the lack of awareness of what is going on nationally and internationally, and the lack of serious engagement.”
President Andrew Westmoreland had some simple, straightforward advice for graduates of Samford's Cumberland School of Law May 19: "Leave time for editing."

Presiding at his first law school commencement since becoming president last year, Westmoreland used the life analogy of settling for a first draft versus edited drafts to encourage graduates to always strive for the best.

He told them of a novel written by Ernest Hemingway, and edited and published posthumously by his son, Patrick. "Apparently, Hemingway never finished the book, and there remains some doubt about whether this is a first draft, second draft or a fifteenth draft."

Westmoreland said he was "captivated" by the inconsistencies of the posthumous publication of a potentially unedited and uncompleted novel. "What if the first drafts of our work were all we had to represent us?"

"A great sadness of our age is that many of us seem to have been robbed of or have simply given away or have squandered the time and the energy required for the edit."

He noted that "great writing, great ideas, great lives" are years and decades in the making. "It takes the love of family. It takes years of study and practice. It takes decades of interaction with colleagues. It takes a lifetime of reflection. It takes an appreciation for love and learning that grow with each day of life. In short, it takes a lot of editing."

"We all need more than one draft to get it right," Westmoreland concluded, speaking to 158 graduates and more than 2,000 others in Wright Center Concert Hall.

During the ceremony, the new Daniel Austin Brewer Professionalism Award went to Bains Fleming of Wellington, Fla., the 2007 class president. Endowed by former Alabama Governor Albert Brewer in honor of his father, the award goes to a third-year law student "who best exemplifies the high standards of ethics and professionalism expected of members of the legal profession."
Wayne Kennamer of Hoover, Ala., has ridden in more than 60 100-mile bike rides over the past 10 years, and he counts the Old Howard 100 one of his favorites.

“Riding through country and history on low-traffic roads, with locals waving and speaking from their porch or yard, and support and friendliness at rest stops made for an outstanding event,” he said.

Kennamer was one of a record 229 registrants for the third Old Howard 100. They cycled through Perry and Hale counties on a beautiful spring day, opting for routes of from 30 to 100 miles. The riders came from various Alabama towns as well as from Georgia and Tennessee. The Birmingham Bike Club and cycling community gave heavy support.

The oldest rider, 80-year-old John Fuller of Birmingham, chose a 55-mile route.

More than 20 Samford faculty and students rode, and two dozen or more others served as volunteers at support and gear stops, including members of Greek-letter organizations and Alpha Lambda Delta freshman honorary.

The members of Sigma Chi fraternity took advantage of their location near the Faunsdale Crawfish Festival to supply riders with crawfish meals under the shade of big trees in Magnolia Grove.

Once again, the event was sponsored by the Howard College of Arts and Sciences to benefit the Sowing Seeds of Hope ministry in Alabama’s Black Belt region. It has grown each year, from 148 participants in 2005 to 198 last year to this year’s total, which produced a $3,000 contribution to Sowing Seeds of Hope.

Dr. Rosemary Fisk, Samford associate dean of arts and sciences, and Bridget Rose, curator of Beeson Divinity School’s Hodges Chapel, took the lead in coordinating the event. Student Brooke Crutchfield of Conyers, Ga., served as site coordinator at Judson College in Marion, where riders started and finished their ride.

“Thanks for an awesome day,” said Kennamer, a retiree who works part-time for Birmingham Bicycle Company, where he plans to spread the word about the ride.

One casualty occurred when Bill Mathews’ trademark Penny Farthing high-wheel bicycle succumbed to metal fatigue after 25 years, causing the frame to break and sending Mathews sprawling. The retiring vice president for business affairs was unhurt, he said, and he began looking for a replacement right away.

Old Howard 100 riders enjoy the pastoral beauty of Black Belt Alabama.
Samford President Andrew Westmoreland, left, Southern Conference Commissioner John Iamarino and Samford Athletics Director Bob Roller, right, celebrate the Bulldogs’ move to its new conference.

The opportunity to play in a well-respected conference with a good mix of private and public universities helped Samford make the decision to join its new athletic league, the 86-year-old Southern Conference.

When the presidents of the Southern Conference voted unanimously to invite Samford to become its 12th member March 15, Samford President Andrew Westmoreland quickly said yes.

“The invitation from the Southern Conference comes at a unique point in Samford’s history,” Dr. Westmoreland said. “Finding the right balance of academics and athletics is a strategic planning priority for Samford, and we share other peer relationships with Southern Conference member institutions that make the athletics relationship right for us at this time.”

Including Samford, five of the Southern Conference teams are privately funded institutions. While it enjoys a strong relationship with its present conference, the Ohio Valley, Samford is the only privately supported school in the 11-member OVC.

Samford will join private schools Davidson, Elon, Furman and Wofford, and public universities Appalachian State, College of Charleston, Chattanooga, The Citadel, Georgia Southern, North Carolina-Greensboro and Western Carolina in the Southern.

Samford will play the 2007–08 school year in the OVC—its fifth year in that league—and become a member of the Southern in July 2008.

“This has not been an easy decision for Samford University,” Westmoreland said. “We are grateful for the good relationships we have enjoyed with our fellow OVC institutions. The decision to join the OVC was the right one for Samford at that time. It is important for us to focus on the long-term academic and athletics priorities that will meet the goals that our trustees, alumni, faculty and students expect for Samford.”

Southern Conference Commissioner John Iamarino said the league was “delighted” that Samford was becoming a member. “Samford’s institutional profile is one that is very consistent with those of our current members—strong academics, an unwavering commitment to the welfare and graduation of the student-athlete, combined with a burning desire to operate a successful athletics program within the mission of the institution,” he said.

Samford Athletics Director Bob Roller said the invitation to join Southern “speaks volumes about the progression of Samford athletics,” but added, “This move is not without emotion as we leave very good friends in the OVC.”

Dr. Martha Myers dedicated her life to serving as a Southern Baptist medical missionary. After graduation from Samford in 1967 and the University of Alabama School of Medicine in 1971, she became a missionary in Yemen, where she treated poor, sick people free of charge.

Her hospital at Jibla treated some 40,000 patients a year, more than a million during her 24-year tenure.

The people of Yemen were never far from her thoughts, and during her furloughs to the United States, she spoke about her mission work, and collected medical and humanitarian supplies for the Yemeni people. Shortly before her death, she emptied her personal savings account to pay for a kidney transplant for one of her patients.

Dr. Myers was shot and killed, along with two coworkers, at Jibla Baptist Hospital by a Muslim extremist Dec. 30, 2002. She is buried in Jibla on the grounds of the hospital she served.

Samford paused May 11 to remember the life and good works of Myers, dedicating a bronze statue to her in the Marla Haas Corts Missionary Biography Collection of Harwell Goodwin Davis Library (see back cover). The collection contains more than 1,000 books on missionaries collected over the years by former Samford first lady Marla Corts and her husband, President Emeritus Thomas Corts.

At the dedication service, Dr. Corts recalled that Myers gave her weekends to care for people in remote areas, becoming a local legend.

“Wherever she stopped on the road, people flocked to see ‘Dr. Martha,’” said Corts. He said he hoped students casually passing her likeness might be stirred by her story.

Samford President Andrew Westmoreland joined Dr. Ira Myers ‘45, the late missionary’s father, in unveiling the sculpture, which was created by artist Glynn Acree of Roswell, Ga.

In her hands, the Myers statue carries a roll of bandages and a prescription pad. Because she was fluent in the Arabic language, Acree used both English and Arabic to inscribe the memorial with her name, birth and death dates, and the words, “She Loves God.”

The phrase also appears on the stone monument at her gravesite.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 24–</td>
<td>Samford Forensics Summer Institute, (205) 726-2049</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 7</td>
<td>Independence Day holiday, university closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 4</td>
<td>First summer term ends</td>
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<td>July 5</td>
<td>Second summer term begins</td>
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<td>July 9</td>
<td>Samford Summer Workshop for rising high school seniors and parents, hosted by Samford admission office, (205) 726-3673, <a href="http://www.samford.edu/admission">www.samford.edu/admission</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>July 9–13</td>
<td>Adventures in Music camp, (205) 726-2810</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 16–20</td>
<td>All Aboard for Music camp, (205) 726-2810</td>
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<td>July 20</td>
<td>Alabama Baptist Education Commission summer meeting</td>
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<td>Aug. 2–4</td>
<td>Alabama Defense Lawyers Association Trial Academy, hosted by Cumberland School of Law, (205) 726-2865</td>
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<td>Aug. 4</td>
<td>Law and Civic Teen Court training, (205) 726-2433</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 4–5</td>
<td>Alabama Ballet presents Mikhail Baryshnikov and Hell's Kitchen, Wright Center Concert Hall; for tickets, contact the Alabama Ballet box office, (205) 975-2787, <a href="http://www.alabamaballet.org">www.alabamaballet.org</a></td>
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<td>Aug. 8</td>
<td>Second summer term ends</td>
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<td>Aug. 9</td>
<td>Beeson Extension Division workshop, Divinity Hall, (205) 726-2338, <a href="http://www.beesondivinity.com">www.beesondivinity.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 11</td>
<td>Law and Civic Teen Court training, (205) 726-2433</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 12</td>
<td>Ernie Haase and Signature Sound concert, 6 p.m., Wright Center Concert Hall; for tickets, call 1-800-965-9324</td>
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<td>Aug. 13</td>
<td>Cumberland School of Law new student orientation, (205) 726-4093, <a href="http://www.samford.edu/law">www.samford.edu/law</a></td>
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<td>Aug. 18</td>
<td>NurCE continuing education workshop, hosted by Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing, 7 a.m.–5 p.m., Brock Forum, (205) 726-2626, <a href="http://www.samford.edu/nursing">www.samford.edu/nursing</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 20–21</td>
<td>Faculty Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 22–23</td>
<td>New Student Orientation Session 5, (205) 726-2216, <a href="http://www.samford.edu/groups/fyi">www.samford.edu/groups/fyi</a></td>
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<td>Aug. 23</td>
<td>Move-in day for new students, <a href="http://www.samford.edu/connections">www.samford.edu/connections</a></td>
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<td>Aug. 23–25</td>
<td>Connections for new students. hosted by student affairs and freshman life, (205) 726-2345, <a href="http://www.samford.edu/connections">www.samford.edu/connections</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 26</td>
<td>Welcome Back Dinner on the Dirt, 5 p.m., hosted by Student Activities Council, (205) 726-2345, <a href="http://www.samford.edu/activities">www.samford.edu/activities</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 27</td>
<td>Fall semester begins</td>
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Aug. 28  University Convocation, 10 a.m., Wright Center Concert Hall; speaker: President Andrew Westmoreland


Aug. 31–Sept. 1  New student retreat, hosted by University Ministries, (205) 726-2825, www.samford.edu/um

Sept. 1  Labor Day, university open and classes in session

Sept. 2  Faculty Gala, hosted by Division of Music, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall

Meet the Firms, hosted by Samford Business, 5–9 p.m., Wright Center lobby, (205) 726-2547

Sept. 3  Holley-Hull Lecture, 10 a.m., Reid Chapel; speaker: Richard B. Hays, George Washington Ivey Professor of New Testament at Duke Divinity School in Durham, N.C.

Sept. 6  Greek Weekend, sponsored by greek life, (205) 726-2068, www.samford.edu/greeklife

Sept. 9  Super Jazz Big Band concert, 3 p.m., Brock Recital Hall


Sept. 13  High school journalism workshop, hosted by journalism and mass communication department, (205) 726-2465, www.samford.edu/schools/artscl/jmc

Sept. 18  Alabama Symphony Orchestra Concertmaster and Friends Series, 7:30 p.m., Brock Recital Hall

Sept. 21–23  Family Weekend

Sept. 22  Preview Day, hosted by Samford admission office, (205) 726-3673, www.samford.edu/admission

Sept. 23  Old-Song Sing-Along featuring Joseph Hopkins, dean of Samford’s School of Performing Arts, and concert pianist Barbara Bamberg, 2 p.m., Reid Chapel

Sept. 28  Alabama Elementary All State Choir Festival, hosted by School of Performing Arts, (205) 726-2651

Sept. 28–29  Consortium for Global Education annual meeting, hosted by Samford

Sept. 28–30  Leadership Samford, coordinated by student involvement, (205) 726-2345, www.samford.edu/involvement

For schedules and information on Samford athletics, go to www.samfordsports.com.

For a listing of Samford After Sundown classes, go to www.samford.edu/sundown.

For the academic calendar, go to http://www.samford.edu/calendars.html.

Information was compiled from the university calendar as of May 15, 2007. Dates, times and details are subject to change. Please go to www.samford.edu for updated information.

SHOW YOUR SCHOOL SPIRIT WITH THE SAMFORD CAR TAG!

Now, you can sport the handsome Samford license plate on your car and help the student aid fund at the same time.

The Alabama Vehicle License Department will send the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund $48.75 of the $50 charge you pay for the special Samford auto tag, available where you normally purchase license plates.

When your tag comes due, ask the county auto license clerk to exchange it for a Samford Tag. You’ll be helping today’s Samford students as you show your Samford spirit wherever your travels take you!

Make sure you request the NEWLY DESIGNED Samford Tag (right). Take this ad when you purchase your tag.

Available in two styles; numeric and personalized (up to 5 letters). The official Samford University auto license is available in every county in Alabama. Be sure and ask for yours when your license plate comes up for renewal.
As a tot, Betty Sue Garner Shepherd found her way to the piano bench at her Oneonta, Ala., home. “My mother said I would pick out tunes on the piano by ear at age three,” said Dr. Shepherd, who retired this year after 50 years on the Samford music faculty.

For five decades, she has trained pianists who have made their mark on concert stages and in churches, public schools, college music departments and private studios around the world.

Shepherd taught several years part-time and for one year full-time on the East Lake campus before taking a one-year maternity break. When she rejoined the faculty, the school had relocated to Homewood. She has been a fixture in Buchanan Hall music building ever since.

Her roster of students has included piano performance majors that she instructed one-on-one, and other music majors enrolled in group piano courses.

She was a newlywed living near the East Lake campus when music department head George Koski asked her to fill in for a teacher who was on leave. Soon afterward, she performed solo with the orchestra to play Prokofiev’s Third Concerto for Piano as part of a festival in the school gym. She was 21 years old.

Since then, she has performed with the Alabama Pops and other orchestras, and presented, by her estimation, “tons” of piano recitals at schools, churches and venues such as Glorieta and Ridgecrest Baptist assemblies.

An unexpected treat came her way in 2004 during a Samford-sponsored tour of famous musical sites in Italy. While in Mantua, she was allowed access to the famed Teatro Bibiena stage where the composer Mozart performed in 1770. “I played some Mozart and Liszt,” she said of her minirecital performed for 18 appreciative Samford travelers.

Shepherd enjoyed a regular off-campus position at Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, where she was organist for 38 years. Before that, she was organist at Ruhama Baptist Church in East Lake for 15 years. She retired from Vestavia this year but continues to serve as organist emeritus and artist in residence.

“I have always enjoyed playing organ at church, but preferred the piano for concerts,” said Shepherd, who began taking organ lessons while a piano major at Judson College.

Even longtime colleagues of the always-elegant and well-coiffed musician may not know that at Judson, her first choice of an undergraduate minor subject was physical education.

“I found that it would take as much practice time as my music major, so I switched to French,” said Shepherd.

She was 1994 Alumna of the Year at Judson, which awarded her an honorary doctor of humane letters degree in 1979.

Shepherd earned a master’s in music at the University of Alabama and has done additional study at Juilliard School of Music and Peabody Conservatory, where she studied with such greats as Leon Fleisher and Fernando Laires.

Such experiences allowed her to bring fresh ideas to her students and to her own performances, she said, noting that in that regard, learning and teaching “go hand in hand.”

She was the first female faculty member inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa leadership honor society and was named 1998 Teacher of the Year by the Alabama Music Teachers Association, which she has served in various capacities.

She received Samford’s 2004 George Macon Award, given to a professor who demonstrates the ability to inspire students to greatness.

Her students regularly achieve success in graduate programs and consistently win Birmingham Music Club and National Federation of Music Club auditions.

The veteran teacher is proud of the success her students have achieved in many different musical—and some non-musical—fields. Electrocardiologist Richard Vest ’99 credits part of his success in medical school to the discipline he learned as a piano performance major under her tutelage.

“As a performer, Randall Atcheson has excelled on stage, and others [such as senior Dawson Hull] are on the way,” said Shepherd.

Beside her for most of her 50 years at Samford have been her daughters, Susanne Shepherd ’77 and Jacqueline Shepherd Johnson, and her beloved late husband, Dr. Neil Shepherd ’48, J.D. ’66, who died in 2005. She has two granddaughters, Audra and Courtney Johnson.
Over the last two years, the Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing [IVMSON] has celebrated its past while building its future. The school continues its commitment to fulfill the health-care needs of the state, nation and world through exceptional teaching, scholarship and service. The stability and acclaimed quality of nursing programs are especially important in this critical time of nursing faculty and practice shortage.

Accolades. In 2005, the IVMSON was designated as a Center of Excellence by the National League for Nursing. The designation was in recognition of the school’s sustained efforts to “Create Environments that Promote Student Learning and Professional Development.” The Center of Excellence program is offered by the National League for Nursing to recognize schools that have demonstrated a commitment to excellence and invested resources over a sustained period to distinguish themselves in a specific area related to nursing education. Nationally, the IVMSON is one of seven schools that holds this designation.

Anniversaries. The IVMSON celebrated its 85th anniversary in January 2007. The school’s history is one of tradition founded on the principles and philosophy of Ida V. Moffett. Over these 85 years, more than 5,000 nurses have graduated from the school and practice not only in Alabama, but throughout the United States and the world.

Advancements. The IVMSON is committed to addressing the needs of patients, its students and the health-care community. To meet these needs, the school has developed a number of innovative academic programs to increase the number of practicing nurses in the workforce, and to provide nontraditional means for practicing nurses to gain advanced knowledge and skills required to practice in today’s highly complex health-care system. These innovations in nursing education include a second degree option that leads to a bachelor of science in nursing, a nurse internship program, a registered nurse to master of science in nursing degree option and a post-baccalaureate advanced practice nurse option that leads to a master of science in nursing degree. These advances in nursing education are explored in a related article in this publication.

Advisory. The IVMSON established and convened its first Advisory Board in 2006. The membership includes 22 alumni, physicians, health-care administrators, business leaders and consumers. Mrs. Jo Kicker serves as chair. It is anticipated that the membership will increase over the next two years until it reaches its full compliment.

It is a pleasure to highlight the academic excellence, scholarship and ministry dimensions of the nursing program. Our success is due in large part to the generous contributions of alumni, friends and donors. I thank each of you who have contributed to the IVMSON and made these accomplishments possible. As Mrs. Moffett stated, “Before great things are accomplished, someone has to dream a dream.” We continue to dream dreams related to the future of the IVMSON. We invite you to join us in making these dreams a reality.

Nena F. Sanders, RN, D.S.N.
Ralph W. Beeson Dean and Professor
Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing
Curricular Innovations Help Moffett Meet Variety of New Nursing Needs

The Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing offers a variety of innovative curricular options aimed at helping people add a second degree in nursing, helping nursing students enhance their learning through internships, and assisting practicing nurses to update their skills and meet new certification requirements.

The nursing school accomplishes this through its Second Degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Nurse Internship, Registered Nurse to Master of Science in Nursing and Postbaccalaureate Advanced Practice Nursing programs.

“Through all these programs, the Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing is making it possible for nurses at various levels and in varying situations to gain the latest professional knowledge and to satisfy new credential requirements,” said nursing Dean Nena F. Sanders.

“Through these programs, as well as through its traditional bachelor’s and master’s degree offerings, the nursing school provides ongoing service to health-care professionals and the patients they serve.”

In 2001, Samford began admitting students holding bachelor’s or master’s degrees in other fields to its Second Degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

“This is an accelerated opportunity for individuals who already hold a degree in another field to complete requirements for a B.S.N. in 24 months after all prerequisite coursework is completed,” said Dr. Joy Whatley, assistant dean, baccalaureate program.

Since the program began, 39 students have earned this degree, including three in May 2007. About 20 students are currently enrolled.

The nursing school is studying the feasibility of a 15-month second-degree program that would run the year around, said Whatley. Currently, students in this program do not attend during the summer.

The nursing school joined with Princeton Baptist Medical Center in 2006 to provide its Nurse Internship Program for currently enrolled students. It provides opportunities for students to plan and provide direct patient care by performing clinical nursing skills under direct supervision of a faculty member.

“Students increase clinical competence and clinical judgment by integrating theory with practice; refine communication skills; and enhance skills in critical thinking, decision making, delegation, priority setting, organization and team work,” said Dr. Geri Beers, who codirected clinical supervision of the first group of eight students with assistant professor Elaine Marshall.

A total of 26 students enrolled in the first three sessions of the internship, including seven this summer.

In the Registered Nurse to Master of Science in Nursing program, Samford helps experienced nurses holding the associate degree or diploma to earn a master’s degree. Students take four bridge courses that build on previous learning to validate their knowledge of baccalaureate level content, and then complete the master’s degree program in its entirety.

“The American College of Nursing has stated that quality patient care for the future depends on having a highly educated nursing workforce,” said Dr. Jane Martin, assistant dean for the graduate program. “The R.N. to M.S.N. program enables the nursing school to contribute to this long-range plan to improve patient care outcomes and clinical competency.”

The demand for this program is high in the Birmingham area, Alabama and surrounding states, said Martin. The program is using an online format to assist nurses who work full-time and take classes. Graduates work as nurse educators, family nurse practitioners and nurse administrators, she noted.

Samford also offers a program that enables Postbaccalaureate Advanced Practice Nursing [APN] nurses to complete requirements for a master’s degree. Even though many APN nurses have practiced successfully for many years with a certificate or bachelor’s degree, they now face requirements to hold master’s degree credentials to practice their specialty.

“This option prepares certified registered nurse anesthetists, midwives and nurse practitioners who graduated from their respective specialty programs before the new professional and regulatory mandates to obtain master’s degree credentials in their specialty,” said Martin.

This innovative option is online and can be completed in 12 months, she noted.
Far from home, Samford nursing faculty and students minister to the needs of people in need. From Mexico to Nicaragua to Africa, they are sowing seeds of comfort and healing.

Professor Elaine Marshall, and students Rachel Saucer and Julie Lee traveled to Matamoras, Mexico, April 15–20 to operate a free health clinic. “Through the gracious donations of others, we were able to carry a variety of medical supplies, over-the-counter medications and children’s clothes across the border,” said Saucer.

The three operated free health clinics in several neighborhoods during their five-day stay, providing blood sugar screenings, blood pressure checks, temperature readings and physical assessments.

“We diagnosed several cases of diabetes, hypertension and malnutrition,” Saucer said, “and offered health education and referrals to local physicians for follow-up care.”

Saucer felt the experience provided a mutual gain for those treated and for the Samford participants. “It expanded my view of health care and enhanced my philosophy of nursing,” she said.

Student Meredith Lynn Wells travels this summer to Swaziland to continue a focus on missionary nursing that she began several years ago. “I went to Swaziland after my freshman year with 13 college-aged students and worked in primitive conditions helping orphan soup kitchens, schooling, evangelism and my favorite part—hospital ministry,” she said.

Wells said she was touched by “the pain and fear surrounding the reality of death that comes with AIDS” in Africa. She returned to Africa with her father the next year and felt a calling to missionary service.

“I will be completing my independent study with Samford this summer while working in an orphan clinic, assisting short-term missions teams in hospital ministry, and learning what it takes to have a respectable and competent free medical clinic in Africa,” she said.

For Wells, this is the goal.

Student Andrea Bunger worked for 10 days in a medical clinic in Jinotega, Nicaragua, during the summer of 2006, assisting a nurse and pharmacist giving free medical treatment.

“I counted, labeled and bottled medications as well as took blood pressures, other vital signs and gave my first shot,” she said. “I was blessed with the amazing opportunity to serve God through missions.”

The experience underscored the differences in health care between the United States and Nicaragua, she said. It also prompted her decision to return to Nicaragua this summer, where she will serve as a medical intern for two months.

Student Sarah Hebert traveled with a group of 11 volunteers to Tenwek Hospital, a missionary medical facility in the highlands of Kenya. After traveling several hours on dusty roads, her group reached a gate with a bright yellow sign proclaiming, “We treat. Jesus heals.”

“He is a hospital [founded in 1935] that gave birth to a surrounding town and a rigorous top-notch medical school, that treats people without regard to insurance or charge sheets, and that continues to function and grow with little or no profit margin,” she said.

Hebert said “resourcefulness and compassion” explain the reason why. Hebert and her group attended a church service during their stay. Afterward, people contributed to the collection. One woman gave a small bag of beans and another a single egg. A missionary explained that it possibly was the only egg she had that week.

At that moment, Hebert said, “I realized that when Jesus is all you have, you’re a lot more likely to be grateful.”
Samford Nursing Students Compete in Two Demanding Arenas, Academic and Athletic
by Jean M. McLean

For 15 students in Samford’s Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing, competing in one of the most challenging nursing programs in the nation is not enough. They also choose to compete on courts and fields as student-athletes in seven intercollegiate sports and cheerleading.

Nursing students are members of Samford teams in basketball, cheerleading, cross-country, football, golf, soccer, tennis, and track and field. Those students, which include men and women, exemplify the dedication and excellence of Samford’s nursing students.

“We are proud of every one of our students in the nursing school,” said Dr. Nena Sanders, Ralph W. Beeson Dean and professor of the school. “Our nursing student-athletes particularly serve as exemplary representatives of the diversity of our program. The nursing school is unique in that we allow nursing students to continue with their athletic program while enrolled in nursing courses.

“I credit our faculty with making this possible by assisting students to negotiate academic versus athletic requirements. We have men and women with wide-ranging athletic interests that exhibit dedication and discipline related to both their academic and athletic pursuits.”

Samford scored above the National Collegiate Athletic Association [NCAA] three-year national average in Academic Progress Ratings [APR] for all 17 of its intercollegiate sports.

Discipline seems to be the byword for nursing student-athletes. Tennis player Bethany Benson is mindful of balancing nursing school demands when traveling to other schools, trying to focus on studies in a van or hotel with teammates. Soccer goalkeeper Cayley Winters agrees, but adds, “When I am in-season, my grades are better because I have to be so disciplined and have great time management, so I am able to focus and work hard on my studies.”

Cross-country runner Katherine Herring says success in both athletics and academics means sacrifice and attitude adjustment. “It means finding joy in studying at Starbucks instead of going out with friends, going to bed early so I can wake up at 4 a.m. and get my run in before clinical, and keeping up with classes and clinical when I have to be gone almost every weekend for a meet,” she said.

Sprinter Ashley Flowers and soccer goalkeeper Jenna Sturgill say that although the challenges are real, “you find ways, whether it is on the bus, between classes and even during lunch, to squeeze in that extra studying time,” said Flowers.

Each of these students has long been interested in medicine. Some, like soccer forward Amber Cress, Sturgill, Herring and Benson, have family members who are nurses or physicians. Others, like tennis player Sarah McKey, who entered Samford as a sports medicine major, changed to nursing after realizing their passion for hands-on patient care. Each feels called to the profession.

“I believe nursing is a calling from God,” said Winters. “This semester, I felt God pushing me to switch to nursing. Through the help of my friends and through prayer, I knew I wanted to invest my life into helping others.”

In addition to fulfilling their sports and academic dreams, these students say there are other rewards to their Samford student-athlete experience. Herring lists what she has learned in sports about teamwork, leadership, communication, assertiveness and the ability to follow as assets that will benefit her and her patients. Benson cites the people she has been able to meet, and the balance that tennis and nursing gave her.

Each student was effusive in their praise of supportive professors and classmates. Flowers is grateful for the “body of believers that can pray and encourage me when things are getting tough.”

Jean M. McLean is a freelance writer in Montevallo, Ala.
Ruth Shell Saw the Face of War as a Nurse

Ruth Searcy Shell of Abbeville, Ala., learned her way around a hospital as a student at Birmingham Baptist Hospital School of Nursing. She discovered the face of war as a member of the U.S. Army Nursing Corps not long thereafter.

The south Alabama native had just finished nursing school and begun a career as a nurse when the United States entered World War II. In November of 1942, she joined the Army Women’s Corps and went to Fort Rucker, Ala., for training.

“It’s about 30 miles from my home,” she recalled. “and my father showed up for training. I never really developed the English pastime of drinking tea,” she said. “They put milk in it, of all things.”

Searcy got her first taste of war treating bomber crew members who had been wounded by antiaircraft fire. During this time, she met then-Col. Curtis Lemay, who had been injured by shrapnel on a mission. Lemay later became a four-star general and chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force. He and Searcy remained friends throughout the war and afterward.

Several weeks after the D-Day invasion, Searcy and her unit went ashore on Omaha Beach in France to set up mobile field hospitals that followed closely behind the troops. The hospitals moved frequently, performing as many as 80 operations a day. More than 85 percent of the soldiers operated on survived.

Searcy earned a commission as a second lieutenant. On Jan. 3, 1944, she and her unit sailed from New York City for England. They were assigned to a tent city near the town of Honiton in southwest England as part of the buildup for the upcoming invasion of Europe in June of 1944.

“I never really developed the English pastime of drinking tea,” she said. “They put milk in it, of all things.”

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Searcy saw the horrors of war up close, and recalled giving morphine to two men who had lost their legs when their truck ran over a land mine in Belgium.

The war in Europe ended in May of 1945, and Searcy returned to England and then to the United States, where she was discharged in November of 1945. She earned citations for her part in the victory, and in January of 1946, was promoted to Captain.

Searcy returned to Abbeville and continued her nursing career in a local medical clinic. She married Dr. James Shell in 1951.

Now 88, she reported that she would be unable to attend a recent tea for Samford nursing school graduates. But the invitation started her thinking again about her days at Baptist Hospital and her contributions as a member of the Army Nursing Corps.

She was chief nurse in her unit at the time the war ended. In her commendation letter of Sept. 7, 1945, Major Max Morrison wrote, “The conduct of your nurses has been, in my opinion, exemplary of the high standards of the Army Nurse Corps.”

This article contains information from an interview by Ken Bedsole that appeared in The Abbeville Herald July 31, 2003, and from Bob Weed, nephew of Ruth Searcy Shell.

‘Workhorse’ Nurses Filled in Well: Ogburn

It was hard work, but Mary Isgett Ogburn can’t remember not wanting to be a nurse.

“One of the happiest times of my life was getting the letter that I had been accepted to nursing school,” she recalled. She started to Birmingham Baptist Hospital School of Nursing—forerunner to Samford’s nursing school—in 1944 at age 18. She earned her diploma, and the prized white nursing uniform and cap, three years later.

Ogburn was a member of the Cadet Nurse Corps during student days. These student nurses also pulled full-time shifts in hospitals, filling in for registered nurses who had gone off to World War II.

“Really, we were the workhorses,” she said.

Student nurses went to three classes a day and then worked a shift in a hospital. They were paid $10 a month, and the government supplied their uniforms, room, board and books. Ida V. Moffett, for whom Samford’s school is named, headed the nursing program.

“It was a wonderful time, even though it was hard,” she said. “We didn’t have all the machinery they have today, and we did things like manually counting IV drops.”

Ogburn worked as a nurse until 1949, when she married and began raising a family of five children. After her husband, Bill, died in 1980, she returned to nursing after being out 32 years. She worked for another 22 years in oncology at Brookwood Hospital.

She has one regret associated with her Cadet Nurse Corps days, and it’s simply that the corps is not formally recognized today. “All the records are gone,” she said. “It’s too bad.”
Students Assist Hospice Patients and Discover They Benefit as Well

I was truly pleased with the amount of conversation that took place in my third volunteer visit. We talked for an hour on topics such as baseball, planes and flying. He talked about his belief in God, and we listened to gospel music on the radio.”

These words reflect the thoughts of a Samford nursing student after a visit to a hospice care patient.

“I took him a bag of chocolates,” the student continued, writing in a journal. “Whenever I visit, he talks about the food in the nursing home and his dislike of it. Next time I come, I will bring him a barbecue sandwich, and we will plan to have our own picnic in the courtyard outside, weather permitting.”

The student is one of more than 100 involved in a program offering visits to hospice patients around Birmingham during the past two years. Directed by nursing professor Janet Alexander, the program is funded by a three-year Vision Grant of $46,700 from the 3M Company.

Dr. Alexander has worked previously with hospice and oncology patients in her clinical practice. She created the proposal leading to the 3M grant to improve the amount and quality of clinical exposure for students caring for hospice patients. “I was particularly interested in finding a way for nursing students to better understand and appreciate the needs of caregivers whose family member has chosen to die at home, and the importance of volunteerism in a community,” she said.

The nursing school’s partner in the grant is New Beacon Hospice of Birmingham. The grant is designed so that three or four senior nursing students are assigned a hospice patient for the semester. They work with the patient, family or other caregivers as well as the New Beacon volunteer director, Cheryl Acton, and its nurses to determine short- and long-term patient needs that students can meet.

“They might offer services such as reading to the patient, taking them out to a meal, checking out videos or books from the library, cutting grass or assisting with light chores around the house, such as washing dishes, filling a bird-feeder or picking up groceries,” said Alexander.

“They also bring patients their favorite foods, play cards or chess, or just listen and talk with the patient about life or current events,” she said.

Students submit a reflective journal of their visits and how their faith has impacted the experience. “The reflective journal has been more insightful than I anticipated,” Alexander said. “Several said they thought the visits would help the patient, but that they were the ones who were really helped.”

One student wrote, “I feel better prepared to give emotional support to patients and their families after this service-learning experience. My faith played a big part in this experience. [It gave] me the strength I needed to offer emotional support to a dying patient.”

A total of 117 students, 39 patients and 60 other caregivers have benefited from this volunteer learning experience, said Alexander. “The goals for increased understanding and appreciation of the needs of hospice patients and caregivers have been realized.”

The grant will continue for one more year, she said, adding, “I hope what the students have learned and the desire to be a volunteer will last a lifetime.”

Nurse Anesthesia Celebrates Five Years

The nurse anesthesia program at Samford’s Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing celebrates its five-year anniversary this summer. The 28-month course of study awards the master of science in nursing degree and prepares students to sit for the nurse anesthesia national certification examination.

“The program was developed in response to the critical need for certified registered nurse anesthetists [CRNAs] throughout the U.S.,” said Dr. Mary Karlet, chair of the nurse anesthesia department. The program’s inaugural class of 18 students graduated in 2005. Approximately 24 students graduate each year, and Samford CRNA graduates are respected practitioners throughout Alabama and beyond, Karlet noted.

“The program’s reputation has grown within our local community and nationally, and applications from across the country have increased dramatically,” she said. “In the Class of 2007, 37 percent of the students are from out-of-state.”

Commensurate with its growing stature, Samford will be represented at the National Nurse Anesthesia College Bowl in Denver, Colo., this summer for the first time. Alison Herron, junior nurse anesthesia student, was selected from more than 100 applicants nationwide to represent the program.

“Central to the program’s success is the support of the Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists, and the entire Birmingham nurse anesthesia and anesthesiologist community,” said Karlet.

“Additionally, the program would not have recognized its current status without the support and guidance of Dr. Lonnie W. Funderburg and the graduates of the Birmingham Baptist Nurse Anesthesia Program.”

Alumni of the Birmingham Baptist Nurse Anesthesia Program and the Nurse Anesthesia Program established the Funderburg Lectureship four years ago to honor the Samford graduate who developed and directed the Birmingham Baptist Nurse Anesthesia Program that resided on the Samford campus until the mid-1980s.

Funderburg’s generosity also provided for the establishment of a scholarship in his name. The Funderburg Nurse Anesthesia Scholarship will be used to help support a nurse anesthesia student who demonstrates a commitment to anesthesia practice in rural communities, a demographic with a critical need for anesthesia providers.”
Parish Nurse Program Helps People See Value of Proactive Approach to Health

In 1999, Samford became one of the first 50 nursing schools in the nation to offer the Basic Preparation for Parish Nurses course developed by the International Parish Nurse Resource Center. Parish nurses work through churches and faith communities to stress healthier lifestyles, offering such services as education, counseling, referral and support groups.

The school works with Baptist Health System [BHS] and Woman’s Missionary Union [WMU] to offer programs in what is now called Faith Community Nursing. Samford has trained about 450 parish nurses since ’99, according to Dr. Gretchen McDaniel, who coordinates the Samford course program.

Samford nursing graduate Debbie Duke found new inspiration for her career when she discovered the field several years ago. She had been a registered nurse for several years when she took the parish nurse course in 2000 and became the nurse at Clear Creek United Methodist Church in Argo, Ala.

Later, she was named congregational health program coordinator for Baptist Health System. Today, BHS sponsors a program to promote health and wellness from a faith perspective in 85 churches across 17 counties, Duke noted.

Over the past two years, Samford has joined with BHS and WMU to offer more than 60 health fairs and community health events.

“Samford provides huge support for this program,” said Duke. “We work closely to maintain educational opportunities for the parish nurses to keep them informed and motivated.”

Duke believes such programs are helping people change to healthier lifestyles.

“The most exciting thing to me is I believe some people are finally beginning to understand that their personal accountability for their health can be proactive and not just reactive,” she said.

“I am actually seeing people change their behaviors, slowly for sure, by education and commitment.”

McDaniel noted that “the relationship between faith and health has gained considerable validation” in recent years.

“The nurses foster new and creative responses to health and wellness concerns through a variety of roles,” said McDaniel. These include serving as health educators and counselors, referral agents, support group developers, coordinators of volunteers and health advocates.

“By serving as integrators of faith and health, these nurses assist parishioners to achieve higher levels of wellness by recognizing the relationship between spiritual and physical health,” she said.

Nurses Stay Current Through NurCE

The Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing helps Alabama nurses stay current in their field and meet periodic licensure requirements through its continuing education program, NurCE. The department has provided professional development for nurses since the early 1990s, when continuing education became mandatory.

NurCE was among the first continuing education providers recognized by the Alabama Board of Nursing.

“These health professionals need an opportunity to select courses that can best meet their learning needs in a variety of locations and formats,” said Dr. Gretchen McDaniel, NurCE director.

During 2006–07, NurCE sponsored 54 continuing education programs covering a wide range of topics. The program also earned continuing education provider status through Dec. 23, 2010, from the Alabama Board of Nursing.

In addition, NurCE provided continuing nursing education [CNE] to missionary nurses on leave in the United States, offered an end-of-life care program in connection with the 3M grant awarded the nursing school in this subject area, sponsored a health ministry conference in conjunction with Baptist Health System of Alabama and offered for the 16th time a course in basic preparation for parish nurses.

“Alabama nurses must complete 24 contact hours of CNE within the two-year licensure period,” said McDaniel.

“Of these, 12 hours must be obtained by attending programs, while 12 can be obtained through independent study activities.”

The goal of NurCE is to make a wide variety of courses available at reasonable costs in convenient locations. Among the higher interest courses are basic offerings in preparation for parish nurses, chemotherapy administration and trauma concepts every nurse should know, geriatric care concepts, breast cancer update, obesity management, end-of-life nursing care, domestic abuse and family violence, management of bedside emergencies and others.

Suzanne Scharf serves as coordinator of the NurCE program.
“Celebrate Traditions”
Samford University’s 2007 Homecoming
October 19–21

Enjoy renewing friendships
Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Homewood campus
and the 165th anniversary of Samford’s founding

You don’t want to miss
- Gala banquet celebrating the dedication of the new Pete Hanna Center and honoring the 2007 Alumni of the Year: Walt Barnes ’56, Sigurd Bryan ’46, Carol Guthrie ’93 and George Irons ’52
- Fireworks, pep rally and bonfire Friday night
- Samford Alumni Association annual meeting Friday
- Parade Saturday morning
- Festival and organization reunion tents Saturday
- Live @ the Library featured historian and author Kathryn Tucker Windham
- Football vs. conference rival Austin Peay State University; soccer and volleyball conference matches throughout the weekend
- Special events for the classes of 1957, 1982 and 1987
- Special reunion gatherings for art alumni, nursing alumni, former members of the BSU/Student Ministries Choir, and other organizations and affinity groups
- Golden Bulldogs (classes of 1957 and earlier) gathering Saturday
- Sunday worship led by Esther and Bob Burroughs, featuring the BSU/Student Ministries Reunion Choir
- Hot-air balloon rides and the Bulldog FunZone
- Performances by the Alabama Ballet

Online registration opens Aug. 1.
Other events will be added to the schedule throughout the year.

For regular updates, go to www.samford.edu/alumni.
Moore Moved over the Mountain from East Lake to Become The First Student in Vail

by Jack Brymer

The magnitude of the contrast between where we were moving from and where we were moving to didn’t sink in until the day I first walked into Vail [Hall],” recalled Mrs. Charles Clevenger of Pensacola, Fla., the former Toni Moore of Eight Mile, Ala.

It was the summer of 1957, and the young woman from near Mobile found herself as the only student living in a modern residence hall designed for 200 students on the new Shades Valley campus of then-Howard College. It was a welcome contrast from East Lake, where she spent her sophomore year after transferring from the University of Alabama.

“The old campus, with its antiquity and charm that history brings, had been appealing to me,” she said. “The paths worn into the wooden floors, the vines growing into my Old Testament classroom through gaps in window frames and the general dilapidation all seemed normal and pleasantly quaint.”

Her East Lake home was quaint, too, but not so pleasant, she recalled. She lived in “the small library of a home near Ruhama Baptist Church, with no closet, no nearby bath and an assortment of really strange characters in the house.”

Moore, who was the last Miss Entre Nous at the East Lake campus, had a job as the “weather girl” in local television, and could not go home for the summer like most students. She badly needed a change in living accommodations, and Howard officials gave her early entry into the residence hall.

Although her new room on the fifth floor of Vail Hall was small with two built-in beds and desks, one window and a private bath, it was luxurious compared
Almost immediately, Clevenger began preparing for the Miss Alabama pageant, which became an annual ritual the next three summers. “I kept returning to the pageant to re-up my scholarship,” she said. She was alternate Miss Alabama in the summer of 1958.

Clevenger said her decision to transfer to Howard was life changing in more than one way.

“For one thing, it turned me in a decidedly more Baptist direction, which has led to a layperson’s fringe career of Baptist journalism, history and denominational service,” she said. It also introduced her via television to Samford alumnus and husband-to-be Charles Clevenger, a doctor practicing medicine in the Birmingham area.

“Moving to the new campus was exciting, not just for those of us who were students and faculty, but for the entire city,” she said. “It was the talk of the town. News organizations covered the developments regularly. At Channel 13, the NBC affiliate where I worked as the weather girl on the evening newscasts, the Howard story was covered with the latest technical innovation—16-millimeter movie film, black, white and grainy. No color, no videotape and certainly no remote trucks. The story was big.

“Driving up Shades Mountain on U.S. Highway 31 to get a good view of the progress at the Lakeshore site from the scenic overlook was a regular ritual,” she said.

She recalled a serendipitous event from that scenic overlook: “Long before I knew him, my husband had lost his Howard ’52 class ring at that overlook. Years later, someone found it there, took the time to call the school, and using his engraved initials and graduation date, located him and returned the ring. I like to think that it was someone who really cared about the college, knew the special meaning of the ring and had stopped to view the campus under construction.”

Clevenger said that while she shares the memories of most of the students from the East Lake adventure, especially the closeness—both emotionally and physically, she suspects her experience was not typical.

“For one thing, being chosen Miss Entre Nous in the last year on the old campus altered the direction of my years as a coed and, indeed, the direction of my life,” she said. “I have often wondered if Dean Margaret Sizemore did not play a role in my being selected for the television job,” she said. “She always encouraged the many special appearances generated by my involvement in radio, television and the Miss Alabama Pageant, and she reminded me regularly and commandingly that I also represented Howard College.”

Clevenger said she was also greatly influenced by several professors in the areas of English and journalism, and particularly the late religion professor, Dr. Arthur Walker. “How grateful I am that I was required to take both Old and New Testament,” she said. “I still use the Bible dictionary that I bought to use in those classes, which opened up for an 18-year-old a new world of study that continues to this day.”

Although always a Baptist, Clevenger noted that being a part of the Samford community made her much more aware of her heritage and denomination. In addition to her life as a wife and mother, Clevenger also enjoyed a career as an active Baptist layperson and writer. A Sunday school teacher of men and women at First Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla., for many years, she also served as a member of the Southern Baptist Convention Radio and Television Commission, the North American Mission Board and the Foreign Mission Board Task Force. Additionally, she served on the Florida Baptist Witness Commission. Currently, she is a director of Baptists Today, and a member of the Baptist History and Heritage Society advisory board. She is author of On The Bay—On the Hill, an acclaimed history of the First Baptist Church of Pensacola.

Clevenger’s two daughters—both of whom also have lived on the fifth floor of Vail—are amused that of all the special things that happened in their mother’s Samford life, she seems proudest of being the first student on the new campus and the first resident of Vail.

“Maybe they are right,” she said. “That is a very special memory.”
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Ridgecrest Reunion Aug. 9–11

All former staffers at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly in North Carolina are invited to a reunion Aug. 9–11, 2007, at Ridgecrest. For reservations and information, call tollfree 1-800-588-7222. For additional information, call Samford graduate Neil Nation '61 at (615) 395-7664.

CLASSnotes

This issue includes Class Notes received through May 22, 2007.

'25 Mabel Causey celebrated her 102nd birthday recently at Homestead Village in Fairhope, Ala. She retired in 1965 after teaching ninth-grade civics for 40 years in Hueytown, Ala. At her party, she recited from memory the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution.

'49 Marvin C. Atchley, Sr., and his wife, Ruth, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in September. They live in Pell City, Ala.

Howard Golden of Wetumpka, Ala., teaches Samford extension courses at Staton and Draper state prisons, and Maxwell federal prison.

Henry Raymaker, Jr., is a retired clinical psychologist. Dr. Raymaker and his wife, Colleen, live in Dublin, Ga.

'David DeMaine Russell is retired and lives in Brooksville, Fla. His granddaughter, Lindsay Redenbach of Ponte Vedra, Fla., will enroll at Samford on a tennis scholarship in the fall.

Harold Anderson is retired from the Alabama Baptist Convention’s State Board of Missions. He lives in Montgomery, Ala.

William G. Caldwell retired from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, after 30 years as professor of administration. He helped develop a church administrators certification program and is a contributor to church administration publications. Dr. Caldwell and his wife, the former Dianne Clemm, whom he met at Samford, have two grown children and four grandchildren.

John B. Upchurch received the 2006 Frist Humanitarian Award for Volunteer Service at StoneCrest Medical Center, Smyrna, Tenn. He is the center’s volunteer chaplain coordinator.

Charles F. Hill, a retired chaplain and pastor, continues to perform pastoral duties and promote home missions. He and his wife, Mavis, live in Waverly Hall, Ga.

'Mary H. Hudson retired from the Samford math department faculty. She lives in Birmingham.

Donald Theodore Johnson of Auburn, Ala., retired in July after 26 years as director of missions, Tuskegee Lee Baptist Association.

J. Wayne Flynt was honored by the national news journal Baptists Today with its Judson-Rice Award for leadership with integrity. A historian, author and professor emeritus at Auburn University, Dr. Flynt was cited for being a strong advocate for the poor and a bridge builder across racial divides.

Mary Thornberry Phillips, M.B.A. ’72, was named a Woman of Achievement by the Northwest Georgia YWCA for the difference she makes in the community. She is executive assistant to the president at Southern Polytechnic State University, Marietta, Ga., where she and her husband, Ben, live.

Jerry Mae Talley Windsor and Jerry Mack Windsor ’64 live in Graceville, Fla. She retired from Jackson County Schools. He retired from Baptist College of Florida, and is adjunct professor at Chipola College and secretary-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Historical Society.

Bobby Jackson was named running backs coach for the Miami Dolphins of the National Football League. Jackson has coached in the NFL for 20 years, including three seasons as offensive coordinator of the St. Louis Rams. Previously, he was an assistant coach in college ranks for 17 years. He was a two-time Little All-America running back at Samford under Coach Bobby Bowden in 1961-62.

Wallace Henley is coauthor of Energy Zappers: Dealing with People Who Drain You (Baker Publishing) with Shaun Blakeney of California’s Saddleback Church. Henley, a former president of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, is assistant pastor of the 43,000-member Second Baptist Church in Houston, Texas.

Bobbie Lacey Lowery is founder/owner of Contract RX.

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Byron W. (Tony) Brooks of Cordova, Tenn., is vice president and chief financial officer of Transaction Graphics, Inc.

Linda Keller Thomas is education department manager at Trinity Medical Center, Birmingham, and an adjunct faculty member at the University of Alabama’s Capstone School of Nursing.

Ruth Ann Carpenter Siegler of Cincinnati, Ohio, was named to 2007 Who’s Who Among American Teachers. She is visual arts coordinator for Sycamore Community Schools, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Billy T. Gamble lives in Birmingham. He retired from teaching in the Samford School of Business in 1988. Previously, he was a chief warrant officer in the U.S. Navy and superintendent of the physical plant at Samford.

J. Richard Duke, J.D., was listed in the December 2006 issue of Worth magazine as one of the Top 100 Attorneys in the United States. He specializes in international and domestic asset protection planning, estate planning and tax planning. He practices law in Birmingham.

James A. Stephens, Jr., M.B.A. ’75, was elected to the Bessemer, Ala., city council. He is president of Stephens and Son Enterprises.

James Edward Yeargan of Lafayette, Ala., is chairman of the interior design advisory board in Auburn University’s School of Human Sciences. He owns Creative Cabinets in Auburn and Lafayette.

Shelley Outlaw Peterson of Centerville, Ohio, is community relations manager for Lexis Nexis, Dayton, Ohio.

Debbie Penson Bozeman of Warner Robbins, Ga., is founder/owner of Contract RX.
Barksdale Named Samford Business Alumnus of the Year

Brian Barksdale

Birmingham certified public accountant Brian Barksdale was named the Samford University School of Business 2007 Alumnus of the Year. A 1979 magna cum laude business administration graduate with an accounting emphasis, Barksdale is managing partner of the Birmingham office of Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC.

He is council chairman of the Alabama Society of Certified Public Accountants and a past president of the group’s Birmingham chapter. He is a member of the Samford School of Business Advisory Council and a trustee of the Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Barksdale was appointed assistant director of the Department of Justice’s Office of Legal Services. In 2001, he returned to private practice as an attorney and corporate risk manager with Fairmont Funding, Ltd., Tampa, Fla.

He and his wife, Lita, have three children, Beth, 8, Anna, 5, and Elliott, 2.

Ruth Ellis of Birmingham is 2007-08 national president of Kappa Delta Epsilon education honor society.

Irene Pendleton is retired and is enrolled in theology courses at Springhill College, Mobile, Ala. She lives in Birmingham.

Muzaffar Sheikh, M.S.E., retired from Vestavia Hills High School after teaching world history for 35 years. He was also coach of a state championship girls soccer team.

Jeff W. Swedenburg owns and operates Change of Heart Christian Store in Reform, Ala., and is bivocational minister of education at First Baptist Church, Pickensville, Ala. He has two sons, Adam, 13, and Brad, 17.

John Malcom Floyd, J.D. ’88, M.S.E.M. ’99, was named to the Cumberland School of Law Advisory Board, to the board of trustees of Holy Family Cristo Rey High School and chair of the Mt. Laurel Public Library. He is senior attorney and corporate risk manager with Vulcan Materials Company, Birmingham. He and his wife, Marsha Moon Floyd ’85, have two sons, Harrison, 13, and Hampton, 9.

Susan Barnes Howerton of Franklin, Tenn., is missions pastor at The Bridge, Springhill, Tenn.

Kevin A. Purta is a business analyst with College Foundation, Inc., in Raleigh, N.C.

Mark A. Yancey of Norman, Okla., was appointed assistant director of the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Legal Education, which involves a one-year transfer to the department’s national advocacy center in Columbia, S.C. His duties include development and administration of training courses for justice department attorneys.

Stacia Sinclair Gaines, her husband, Matt, and their children, Madison and Mason, live in Tianjin, China, where Matt teaches at Tianjin International School. She helps local university students with conversational English and works with human resources projects.

Melanie Kay Boyd Hill of Dothan, Ala., is director of sales training and development for the hospice division of Gentiva Health Services. She is responsible for training and sales support for 40 account executives in 29 offices in five states.

Lauri Sitton Rogers is volunteer coordinator for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Birmingham.

Sonya Stewart presented programs on family history and genealogy, and blacks, baseball and the mines in Ernest, Penn., at recent conferences in Pennsylvania. She is working on several grant projects on related topics. She and her husband, Mohammad Rizwan Ismail, live in Pittsburgh, Penn.

Brian William Tisdale is youth pastor at First Baptist Church, Hokes Bluff, Ala., and a fifth grade teacher.

C. Wade Hyatt is an optometrist in Nashville, Tenn. He has two sons, Samuel Wade, 2, and John Chalmers, 1.

William B. Nickell III, J.D., is a contributing author of Lexis Tax Insights for Florida and of the manual Counseling the Small Business Client in Florida. He practices law in Tallahassee, Fla.

Alicia Thrash Storbeck and her husband, Jim, are founders and owners of HeartStrings Enterprises, Inc., an Auburn, Ala., based personalization company that offers engraved sterling silver jewelry and personalized items to shops and Web retailers nationwide. They recently launched a direct sales company, Initial Outfitters. They work with a local Hispanic church plant and sponsor evangelistic conferences in Mexico, where most of their jewelry is made.

Melissa Ann Edmiston Rathke moved back to her hometown, Jacksonville, Ala. She is assistant manager/pharmacist at Wal-Mart in Gadsden, Ala.

Andrea Baird Smith is vice president, treasury management, for RBC Centura Bank. She and her husband, Randy, live in Sarasota, Fla., They have a son, Cooper James, born in February.

Johnson LaVoria Chandler earned a master of arts at Birmingham-Southern College in 2006. She lives in West Sacramento, Calif.

Robin Foutch Mahlow is completing a family medicine residency in Glasgow, Ky. She and her husband, Jeremy, have a daughter, Eleanor Louise, born in January.

Jetson B. Davis is a partner with NuMedRx Pharmacy Solutions, an independent nuclear pharmacy in the Jackson, Miss., area. He also teaches a nuclear pharmacy course to nuclear med tech students during their clinical rotation.
Lee and Holly Anne Angel Dymond live in Pike Road, Ala. A missionary with the Alabama Baptist Convention’s State Board of Missions, he is campus minister at Auburn University Montgomery. Holly teaches preschool at Taylor Road Baptist Church. They have two children, Caroline, 8, and Anna, 3.

Marta Tyree Koonce lives in Granger, Ind., with her husband, Kipp, and children, Cole, 3, and Gigi, 1.

Trisha Miller Manarin is associate pastor of M Clean Baptist Church, M Clean, Va. She and her husband, Tim, have three children, Peter, Nathaniel and M argaret Georgann, born in October.

Leslie Henry Sasser of Birmingham ran her first half marathon during Birmingham’s Mercedes Marathon in February. Time: 1:58:44.

John Engelhardt Carter practices law in O wenteon, Ky. A graduate of Duke Law School, he will attend Wake Forest Divinity School in the fall.

Lyle, M.D., ’96, and Luchrysta Sweet Caswell ’95 live in Lakeland, Fla., with their four children. Lyle, a church planter, started Christ Community Presbyterian Church two years ago.

Chris Deering, J.D. ’97, is a shareholder in the Birmingham office of Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C. He practices labor and employment law.

Ashlee Dunn of Louisville, Colo., produced a Yoga video, Power Flow with Ashlee Dunn. She and her husband, Gray Hoos, have a son, Haven, 3.

Daniel Clay Lassetter is owner/executive chef of Fire restaurant in Birmingham. He and his wife, Jill, have two daughters, Farrah Daye, 3, and Tatum Elise, born in March.

Kevin Brannon is worship pastor at Woodward Avenue Baptist Church, Muscle Shoals, Ala. He and his wife, Kara, have four children, Matthew, 11, Hannah, 7, Emily, 3, and Haley, 1.


Matthew D. Eddy, who teaches in the philosophy department at Durham University, England, was tenured. Next year, he will be a visiting assistant professor at California Institute of Technology and a fellow at the Clark Library, University of California, Los Angeles. Dr. Eddy and his wife, Thani, have a daughter, Eirene Gabriella.

Stacy Cleary Goebel received national recognition from Honeywell and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for her classroom implementation of a “Got 2b Safe” abduction prevention program. She is a fourth grade teacher at Belair Elementary School, Glendale, Ariz.

David Kitchens is a pediatric urologist at Children’s Hospital of Alabama, Birmingham. He and his wife, Rupa, have two children, Maya, 5, and Deven, 2.

Matt Mitchell is cofounder and worship pastor of Potter’s Hand and Bible Church near Raleigh, N.C. He and his wife, Amy, have a daughter, M ary Faith, 1. They live in Apex, N.C.

Bill Shiel is senior pastor at First Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn. He and his wife, Kelly Parks Shiel ’95, have two sons.

Brad O’Rear is channel sales and solutions integration manager of Cyber Operations, Inc., Pelham, Ala. He will develop the company’s network of channel partners.

Kent Chastain Ellington and his wife, Ashley, live in Rome, Ga., where he is a cosmetic and family dentist.

Billy Ivey is co-owner and managing director of Ivey McCooG Creative Partners, an advertising, design and branding collaborative in Franklin, Tenn. A former alumni relations officer at Samford, he and his wife, Bethany, have four children, Anna Beth, Benjamin, Merrie Cannon and Abraham.

Julianne Anderson Norman and her husband, Brent, live in M iramar, Fla., with their two children, Madison Marie, 3, and Blake Kenneth, 1.

J. P. Philpot, Jr., is a personal assistant with Miller Communications, Birmingham.

Rachel Fry is a psychologist with Pitts and Associates in Birmingham. A specialist in medical and health psychology, she works with clients and families involved with major lifestyle changes. She is on the board of the Alabama Network for Eating Disorder Awareness. She holds a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Alabama.

F. Stuart Shelby is curate at Saint James Episcopal Church, Fairhope, Ala.

Wayne Carter and Stacey Estabrooks ’01 married in October. They live in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Jamie Lynn Minton Garrett earned a master of divinity at Asbury Theological Seminary in May, and will enroll in the Ph.D. program in family financial planning at the University of Missouri-Columbia. She and her husband, Scott David, live in Lexington, Ky.

LeAn Linton Hanks is a licensed professional counselor and contract therapist with Union Baptist Association’s Center for Counseling, Houston, Texas. She and her husband, Hudson, live in Pearland, Texas.

Peter Lacy earned a bachelor’s degree in building construction management from the University of North Florida and works with Skanska USA Building, Jacksonville, Fla. He and his wife, Brandy, have two children, Annabelle, 2, and Jeb Thomas, born in November. They live in Kingsland, Ga.

Jennifer Swatzel Lay and her husband, Shilo, live in Hoover, Ala.

Megan Rutledge Bunting was inducted into Alpha Theta Tau honor society at Central Carolina Community College, where she is pursuing a degree in Veterinary Medical Technology. She and her husband, John, live in Knightdale, N.C., near Raleigh.

M. Kristin Henry married Adam Culpepper in March. They live in Albany, Ga., where she is an occupational therapist at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital.

Joshua Wade and his wife, Stacey, live in Hoover, Ala.

Melissa Dennison Wayne was one of the final four contestants on NBC’s Today Show competition to earn a spot as Anchor for a Day. She appeared with other finalists on the show on Feb. 26. She lives in Riverside, Conn.

Sam, J.D., and Jessica Roark Jackson, J.D., live in Nashville, Tenn., where she is a law clerk for the Court of Criminal Appeals, and he is in practice with Lewis, King, Kreig and Waldrop P.C. They have two children, Anna, 3, and Leah Grace, born in December.

William Alton Parker III and Anna Martin ’02 married in March. He teaches dance at Atlanta Dance in Marietta, Ga. She is a mystery shopper for SecretShopper.com. They live in Norcross, Ga.

Marianne Donovan Pohl and Michael Pohl ’01 live in Bentonville, Ark., where he is a business development specialist for Kraft Foods.

Jason Roland is a development officer at the University of Missouri Medical School, Columbia, Mo.
John Hunter Franklin, M.Div., of Hermitage, Tenn., has started John Franklin Ministries.

Mary Beth Varbough Kennedy is healthcare activities director at Martha Franks Baptist Retirement Center, Laurens, S.C. She and her husband, Price, have a daughter, Julia, 1.

Lucy Jordan, J.D., of Birmingham is an associate with Kee & Selby, LLP. She practices in the area of civil defense litigation. She and her husband, Jason, have two children, Garrison Edward, 3, and Parker Thomas, born in November.

Mark Adam Smith, M.Div. '05, is chaplain and bereavement services coordinator of the Japer, Ala., office of Wiregrass Hospice and a chaplain, 1st lieutenant, with the Tennessee Air National Guard. He is also bivocational associate pastor with the Tennessee Air National Guard.

Mary Beth Yarbrough Kennedy, 1st lieutenant, has started John Franklin Ministries.

Mark Edward Smith, M.Div., is a chaplain in health promotion at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Education. He and his wife, Jessica, live in Pinson, Ala. They have a daughter, Lorali Leigh, born in March.

Barley Aycock Franklin is a special education teacher. She and her husband, Brian, have a daughter, Caroline Grace, born in December. They live in Hiram, Ga.

Will Grogan is a broker with Tom Wilson & Combs LLP. He is a 2006 magna cum laude graduate of the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law.

Douglas Davis, an interior designer at Dungan Nequette Architects' Birmingham office, is vice president of communications for the Alabama chapter of International Interior Design Association and an officer in the Alabama Interior Coalition. He is a frequent juror and tutor to students in Samford's interior design program.

Lara Hawley married Kurtis Schubert in May. They live in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Janice Johnson is owner of WISEO Consulting in Birmingham. She is a member of Samford's Metro Programs advisory board.

Brent Powell received a doctoral fellowship in health promotion at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Education. He and his wife, Jessica, live in Pinson, Ala. They have a daughter, Lorali Leigh, born in March.

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Barley Aycock Franklin is a special education teacher. She and her husband, Brian, have a daughter, Caroline Grace, born in December. They live in Hiram, Ga.

Ashleigh Susan Gowen Peak and Paul Peak, Pharm.D. '06, live in Memphis, Tenn., where he is a pharmacist and she is a registered nurse at Baptist Memorial Hospital. They have a son, Charlie, born in September.

Michael Giles earned an M.B.A. at the University of Alabama in May. A former Samford student government president, he is an associate brand manager for Pedigree Brand Dog Food, Brentwood, Tenn.

Emily Caroline Smith married Chris Self in October. They live in Birmingham.

Courtney Blair Worley earned a master's in health behavior at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health in May, graduating in the top 10 percent of her class. A winner of a National Alumni Association graduate fellowship, she will enroll in the Ph.D. program in clinical health psychology at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa in the fall.

Tamika Bibb is office manager/executive assistant to the president at Operation New Birmingham.

Gabriela Melton completed training as an officer in the U.S. Army in May. Her first duty station as a 2nd lieutenant in ordnance and munitions will be at Fort Campbell, Ky., after basic training in Aberdeen, Md.

Melinda Toole was fourth runner up and Miss Congeniality in the 2007 Miss America pageant, and second runner up for the competition's Quality of Life award. She was Miss Samford 2006 and Miss Alabama 2006.

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’97 Lee and Amy McDuffee Carlisle of Nashville, Tenn., a daughter, Caroline, born Nov. 20, 2006.

Eric and Angie Thaner Hinkle of Tyrone, Ga., a daughter, Madison Olivia, born April 5, 2006.

Ingrid and Bill Lunsford of Huntsville, Ala., a son, Judd Johnston, born Sept. 8, 2006.


Philip and Emily Shackelford Herring of South Haven, Mich., a daughter, Mary Claire, born July 2, 2006.

Brandy and Peter Lacy of Kingsland, Ga., a son, Jeb Thomas, born Nov. 21, 2006.


David and Ashley Norton Spurling ’00 of Birmingham, a daughter, Audrey Jeanne, born Sept. 24, 2006.


Stephanie and Brandon Ford of Dallas, Ga., a son, Elijah Cale, born Sept. 18, 2006.

Scott and Julie Mims Hunter of Cumming, Ga., a son, Knox James, born Sept. 2, 2006.


Nicholas and Sarah Roberts Hilscher ’02 of Nashville, Tenn., a daughter, Sarah Ann, born Dec. 1, 2006.

Sam, J.D., and Jessica Roark Jackson, J.D., of Nashville, Tenn., a daughter, Leah Grace, born Dec. 8, 2006.


J. J. and Erica Curington Surma of Germantown, Md., a daughter, Molly June, born March 5, 2007.


’01 Shelley and Keaton Blakeney ’03 of Panama City, Fla., a son, Chapel, born Nov. 24, 2006.


Aaron, M.Div., and Emily Jane Kimmerlin Martin of Ooltewah, Tenn., a daughter, Cameron Alyss, born July 11, 2006.

Herbert Moses Newell IV and Ashley Maccaughley Newell ’02 of Birmingham, a daughter, Adelynn Elizabeth, born March 12, 2007.

Jason and Lucy Parker, J.D., of Birmingham, a son, Parker Thomas, born Nov. 1, 2006.


’02 Matt and Anna Stancil Cumbow of Bristol, Va., a son, Hadley Matthew, born Dec. 14, 2006.


Hunter and Heather Prokop Letchman of Birmingham, a son, David Aleksandr, born Sept. 11, 2006.

Allison Bailey Weaver and Andrew Weaver ’03 of Jacksonville, Fla., a daughter, Lila Bailey, born April 3, 2007.


’04 Brian and Barkley Aycock Franklin of Hiram, Ga., a daughter, Caroline Grace, born Dec. 11, 2006.


Elizabeth Davis Eshelman Was First Woman To Earn a Cumberland Degree in Birmingham

Elizabeth Davis Eshelman earned her bachelor’s degree from then-Howard College at age 19, and in 1964, she became the first woman to graduate from Cumberland School of Law after it became a part of Samford University.

In 1972, she and her son, Bill, also an attorney, became the first mother and son to be admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court at the same time.

Eshelman, who died April 10, was the daughter of the late Maj. Harwell G. Davis and Lena Vail Davis. She was a longtime benefactor of Samford, the Birmingham YWCA and Mountain Brook Baptist Church.

Eshelman was a trust and estates lawyer who worked with SouthTrust Bank, now Wachovia, and coauthored a book in the field. Later, she entered private practice. She and her family endowed the Harwell Goodwin Davis Chair of Constitutional Law at Cumberland.

A member of the Alabama Bar Association, Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity and Phi Kappa Phi scholarship honorary, she was listed in Who’s Who in International Women as well as Who’s Who in American Women. She was awarded the Birmingham YWCA Woman of Valor Award in January 2007. She was a member of the National Association of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

Her survivors include her son, a daughter, Vail Jeavons; a sister, Dorothy Jenkins; 10 grandchildren; and a great granddaughter. The family suggested memorial gifts to the Lena Vail Davis Scholarship Fund at Samford. Continued on page 39
IN MEMORIAM

Biology professor Ron Jenkins was driving to work at Samford a few years ago and noticed one of his students trudging down Lakeshore Drive toward the campus. He pulled over and offered the student, Marion Belk, a ride.

His old car had broken down for the final time, Belk recalled, so he had begun riding a city bus as close as he could to Samford and walking the rest of the way.

“I had been living on a shoestring budget for several years, with barely enough money to eat and pay rent, with all my hopes and energy directed at getting a slot in medical school," Belk said. The bus system was inconsistent and was causing him to miss class time.

“I knew this could devastate my premedical career," he said.

When Dr. Jenkins heard this, he handed Belk a spare set of keys to his truck and told him to keep the vehicle "as long as I needed it, just to come by and pick him up on my way to school every morning because it was his only car.”

Belk today is an emergency room doctor and assistant director of Baptist Desoto Medical Center Emergency Department at Southhaven, Miss., a suburb of Memphis, Tenn.

“I have no doubt that if it hadn’t been for Dr. Jenkins, I would not be a physician today," he said.

Jenkins died April 27 at age 54 after an eight-month battle with cancer. During a memorial service in Reid Chapel, his colleague and close friend, Dr. Mike Howell, remembered Jenkins as having "a pure heart and a strong desire to help his students, especially those in need." He relayed the story of how another student with financial difficulties lived for a semester with the Jenkins family in their home.

Yet another student, Hossein Dovlatabadi, came to Samford in 1997 as an older Iranian pharmacy major. He had an interest in plant research but no access to a biology lab or materials.

When Jenkins learned of this, he provided both and worked with Dovlatabadi at night and on weekends. Together, they developed a chemical substance that lowers cholesterol, ultimately receiving a patent on it.

“Ron was always so encouraging,” said Dovlatabadi, now a pharmacist at Cooper Green Hospital and researcher at the University of Alabama at Birmingham [UAB]. “Our families visited each other, and we were close. If I wanted to brag on somebody to my kids, it would be Ron.”

Former student Adam Edwards recalled Jenkins teaching classes on spiders, insects and other invertebrates in the field. “He was most in his element when teaching in such outdoor settings with the visual material provided by nature," said Edwards. “I remember him teaching with a wild-eyed exuberance that made learning contagious.”

Howell recruited Jenkins to the Samford faculty after hearing him teach a class on “How to Become a Scientist” to high schoolers at the 1987 Alabama Governor’s School at Samford. Howell’s office was located next to Jenkins’ lecture room.

“There was so much enthusiastic teaching coming from that room and student exuberance over this course," Howell said. "After meeting this gifted young teacher from UAB, I decided I would do all I could to get him on board in the Department of Biology."

Jenkins joined Samford the next year. He served as biology department chair...
continued from page 37

'54 Jeanne E. Shaffer, age 81, of Montgomery, Ala., died April 9, 2007. She was a singer, composer and radio host who was professor of music and chair of the visual and performing arts department at Huntingdon College, 1976–1989. She helped start Montgomery Performing Arts Company and Montgomery School of Fine Arts.

'55 Robert C. (Bob) McKeel, age 72, of Birmingham, died April 6, 2007. He practiced law for 51 years and taught Sunday school for 34 years.

'58 Rayferd Bowman, age 81, of Albany, Ga., died Jan. 26, 2007. He was a staff member at Baptist churches in Georgia and in Baltimore, Md.

'59 Robert M. Matthews, age 84, of Birmingham, died March 18, 2007. He served Baptist churches in Alabama and Illinois. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.

'60 Anita Polk Keywood, age 87, of Pensacola, Fla., died March 15, 2007. She lived in Homewood for many years and was an active church member and volunteer. She taught several years at Berry Elementary School.

'61 Leroy Augustus (Gus) Kennedy, M.B.A., age 80, of Trussville, Ala., died Feb. 14, 2007. General superintendent at Connors Steel for 31 years, he was a board member of Trussville Seniors Activity Center and a member of several square dance groups. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

Ken D. Kirkley, age 66, of Hueytown, Ala., died March 1, 2007. He taught choral music and was a school principal in Walker County, and was a minister of music at Baptist churches. He led many mission trips and concert tours, and was a member of Alabama Singing Men, Centurymen and Samford’s A Cappella Alumni Choir. As a student, he was also a member of the Samford Band.

J. Timothy Hodges, age 63, of Midlothian, Va., died April 23, 2007. He was a staff member at Baptist churches in Alabama and Virginia. A licensed professional counselor, he was a former counselor for the Virginia Department of Corrections and a partner in Lifeline Counseling Associates Inc.

Beverly Louis Grayson Broome, age 70, of Gardendale, Ala., died March 17, 2007. She was a retired teacher who taught 30 years in Homewood and Mountain Brook schools.


'69 William E. Robertson, J.D., age 67, of Talladega, Ala., died Feb. 5, 2007, of a heart attack. He was a retired Alabama Court of Civil Appeals judge who served as presiding judge for 10 years. He served in the U.S. Air Force and the Army National Guard.


'78 William Richmond Stephens, J.D./M.B.A., age 57, of Ashville, Ala., died Feb. 28, 2007. He was an attorney, college instructor, businessman and consultant to foreign governments in the war on terror. He served two tours of duty as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam and 25 years with the Alabama National Guard.

'81 Joseph G. Vickers of New Orleans, La., died Feb. 27, 2007, of complications from diabetes. He was a claims adjustor in the maritime insurance field. At Samford, he was active in Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity and A Cappella Choir.

Sue Treadwell Millican, age 78, of Trussville, Ala., died Feb. 10, 2007. She retired from U.S. Steel after 25 years of service. She graduated from Samford at age 65.

Stella Nuttall Hand of Destin, Fla., died Feb. 1, 2007, of cancer. She was a nurse.

Nancy Copin, M.T.S., age 60, of Snow Creek, Va., died April 4, 2007. She was minister of Snow Creek Christian Church near Martinsville, Va., and was a former minister in Birmingham. She traveled on missions to Mexico, Cambodia and Africa with other Disciples of Christ church members in recent years.

Amy Hope Washington, Pharm.D., age 31, of Shelby, Ala., died March 13, 2007. She was a pharmacist at CVS pharmacy in Montevallo, Ala.
Samford University expresses gratitude to the following alumni who made financial gifts to the university during the most recent fiscal-year quarter to sustain and enhance the university’s mission “for God, for learning, forever.” These graduates represent only a portion of thousands who contribute during each year. A complete roster of Samford’s contributing alumni is published annually in the President’s Report.

When (L) follows a name, it represents a law graduating class; (P) denotes pharmacy; and (D) represents divinity. A class year after one of these letters indicates a subsequent degree conferred in that year for the corresponding specialty.

Between Feb. 1, 2007, and May 15, 2007, the following alumni made contributions:

1944
Mrs. Mary V. Lee
Mrs. Lois M. Lee
Mrs. A. Gerow Hodges
Dr. J. Carey Gwin
Mrs. Martha A. Campbell
Mrs. Jo M. Ballard

1943
Mr. John R. Cannon
Mr. Harry Charles, Jr.

1942
Dr. Leland Hull, Jr.
Mrs. Nina Miglionico

1945
Mrs. Beryl J. Bates
Dr. H. Brooks Cotten
Mrs. Emilaine R. Parker
Mrs. Juanita H. Searcy
Mr. Michael H. White
Dr. Sigurd F. Bryan

1946
Mr. Pat M. Courington
Capt. Warren C. Graham, Jr.
Mrs. Jo T. Kallenborn
Mr. William S. McGinnis, Sr.
Mrs. Mary Pierson Montgomery
Mrs. Jacqueline S. Pittman
Mr. Clarence W. Slaughter
Mrs. Elaine D. Slaughter
Mr. R. D. Stevens Wesson, Jr.

1947
Mr. Roy L. Bates
Mrs. Nina F. Chafin
Dr. Howard G. Clark III
Mrs. Loretta R. Cunningham
Mr. Cecil G. Duffee
Mr. Thia G. Parker (P)
Mrs. Polly M. Perry
Mrs. Margaret M. Peterson
Mr. James N. Pittman
Mr. Howard H. Sisson
Mrs. Frances W. Williamson
Dr. James M. Wood, Jr.
Mr. James A. Zitzberger

1948
Rev. James W. Brown
Dr. David M. Vess
Mr. Hugh I. Williamson, Jr.

1949
Rev. William D. Aders
Mr. R. Ralph Barber (P)
Mr. William A. Boone, Jr.
Mr. Jack Cole (P)
Mr. Charlie B. Dickinson
Dr. William T. Edwards
Rev. Howard H. Golden
Mrs. Johnnie E. Golden
Mr. William R. Hawkins
Mrs. Norma S. Johnson
Brig. Gen. Robert L. Lott III
Dr. Henry Raymaker, Jr.
Dr. George F. Scofield
Mrs. Patricia T. Scofield
Mr. Jesse G. Sides
Mr. William J. Ward

1950
Mrs. Julia E. Clark
Mr. Merrill H. Cook
Lt. Col. Vernon E. Cunningham
Mr. Howard B. Foshee
Lt. Col. Charles E. Gray
Mr. Hoffman C. Harless
Mr. John C. Hollingsworth
Mrs. Peggy J. House
Mrs. Dorothy Davis Jenkins
Mr. Thomas L. Johns
Mr. Robert W. King (L)
Mr. James T. Lee (P)
Mr. Malcolm K. Miller, Jr.
Mrs. Kathryn N. Sims
Mrs. Anne B. Townes
Dr. Hazel A. Peterson Walter

1951
Mr. William H. Bancroft, Jr.
Mr. Jack Biddle III
Dr. Cecil D. Etheredge
Mr. A. Randolph Fagan
Mr. Sam D. Glenn (P)
Dr. James David Griffin
Dr. William E. Hull
Mr. Lou Mayer, Jr.
Mr. Al T. McCuen (P)
Mrs. Ora K. Parr
Rev. Charles B. Smith
Miss Phoebe A. Thomas
Dr. Robert W. Youngblood

1952
Dr. Harold L. Anderson
Mr. Milton L. Baker
Mrs. William Henry Bancroft
Mr. Langley B. Creighton
Mrs. Marjoryn R. Creighton
Mrs. Neil T. Dirks
Dr. Harold L. Flatt
Rev. James L. Gebhart
Mr. Joseph L. Goode
Mrs. Janice C. Greene
Rev. William H. Gresham
Mrs. Wyldone H. Hull
Dr. Eugene G. Hutcheson
Mrs. Juanita P. Lewis
Dr. Jack Preston
Dr. Harper Shannon
Dr. William A. Wood

1953
Mrs. Davis G. Hill
Mr. James L. Holland, Jr.
Mr. Joe McBrien, Jr. (L)
Rev. Charles E. Morris
Dr. James A. Pickle
Chaplain John E. Rasberry

1954
Mrs. Ann Tisdale Belcher
Rev. Larry G. Blount
Rev. James Leon Boyd
Mr. Dorothy R. Gebhart
Mrs. Jo Alicej. Halsell
Mr. George P. Hayes
Dr. John Kenneth Hering
Mr. Clifton C. Hinds
Mrs. Joseph W. House
Mr. Harold L. Hunt
Dr. Harold D. Nixon
Mrs. Sarah J. Smith
Rev. Berkely L. Webb

1955
Mrs. Annie O. Dabbs
Mr. Charles R. Fleming
Dr. Mary C. Henderson
Mr. Louis K. Isaiah
Rev. Donald A. Phillips
Ms. Katie F. Phillips
Mrs. Velma L. Sebring
Mrs. Terah R. Sherer
Mrs. Bonnie B. Swearingen
Rev. Roy E. Walker
Rev. Dr. P. Joe Whitt

1956
Rev. Robert M. Abercrombie
Mr. Walter G. Barnes
Mr. Roy J. Chandler, Jr.
Mr. Paul T. Goins
Mr. Louie D. Grimes
Col. Charles F. Hall
Rev. David B. Howe
Mr. A. C. Hutcheson
Dr. J. Wayne Johnson
Dr. Thomas O. King
Mrs. Nettie G. Langston
Mr. Bobbie J. Lawrence
Mrs. Betty J. Lawrence
Mr. Bobbie J. Lawrence
Mr. Roy A. Norred
Dr. Billy Nutt

1957
Rev. Barbara A. Beckett
Rev. Harold Blackburn
Mr. William J. Brown
Rev. W. Thomas Carter
Mr. John F. Closer
Mr. Herman E. Crotwell, Jr. (P)
Dr. Robert C. Curlee, Jr.
Mr. Donald A. Garcia
Mr. William G. Garner
Mrs. Martha H. Grimes

1958
Rev. Gaylord C. Brownlee
Dr. William F. Chilton
Dr. J. Roderick Davis
Mrs. Doris G. Jones
Dr. Joe B. Lawley
Mr. Albert D. Lipscomb, Sr.
Dr. Joe Bob Mizzell
Mrs. Nan R. Norris
Rev. Robert C. Perry III
Hon. George H. Pierce (L)
Mrs. Clara N. Shirley
Mrs. Charleen N. Sims
Mr. Tommie B. Slaughter
Dr. George C. Smith (P)
Mr. William O. Smith, Jr. (P)

1959
Rev. Dr. W. Batson
Rev. C. Thomas Bodkin
Mr. Clarence A. Brooks II
Mrs. Barbara T. Buetter
Mrs. Mary S. Cole (P)
Ms. Gayle S. Colley-Caldenwood
Rev. Herbert J. Collier
Mrs. Wyna K. Hall
Mrs. Mary H. Hudson
Mr. Thomas L. Jackson
Dr. Gerald H. Lord
Dr. Donald Mason
Mrs. Joan D. Mercer
Mrs. Sue A. Morris
Dr. O. Suthern Sims, Jr.
Dr. Ronald Snow
Mrs. Mary E. Winter

1960
Mrs. Janice H. Allison
Mrs. Ruth M. Boyce
Mr. Thomas W. Buckelew, Sr.
Ms. Martha Ann Cox
Mr. William B. Daniels, Jr.
Mrs. Judith E. Dean
Mr. Joseph P. Duncan
Mrs. Madeleine T. Duncan

1961
Mr. Edgar C. Blackburn
Mrs. Mary Y. Haan

1962
Mr. Edmond S. Strickland

1963
Dr. Charles E. Clark
Ms. Rose W. Slutty
Mrs. Arminde H. Thompson
Mr. George R. Yeager

1964
Dr. Robert N. Davie
Mrs. Emily M. Lindsay
Mrs. Nina T. Strickland

1965
Mrs. Martha M. Azar
Mrs. Joanne G. Casey
Dr. Richard G. Crowe
Mrs. Jane D. Dorn
Mrs. Frances F. Dunn
Ms. Jeanette T. Jeffers

1966
Mrs. Ann W. Armstrong
Mrs. Gene G. Flatt
Mrs. Vivian Houlditch Hart
Dr. Ruth H. Peet

1967
Mr. Jo M. Ballard
Rev. James M. Beasley
Mrs. Martha A. Campbell
Col. Cooper
Dr. J. Carey Gwin
Mrs. A. Gerow Hodges
Mrs. Lois M. Lee
Mrs. Mary V. Lee
Mrs. Frances G. Locke

1968
Rev. James W. Brown
Dr. David M. Vess
Mr. Hugh I. Williamson, Jr.

1969
Rev. William D. Aders
Mr. E. Ralph Barber (P)
Mr. William A. Boone, Jr.
Mr. Jack Cole (P)
Mr. Charles B. Dickinson
Dr. William T. Edwards
Rev. Howard H. Golden
Mrs. Johnnie E. Golden
Mr. William R. Hawkins
Mrs. Norma S. Johnson
Mr. Bob Lott III
Dr. Henry Raymaker, Jr.
Dr. George F. Scofield
Mrs. Patricia T. Scofield
Mr. Jesse G. Sides
Mr. William J. Ward

1970
Mrs. Davis G. Hill
Mr. James L. Holland, Jr.
Mr. Joe McBrien, Jr. (L)
Rev. Charles E. Morris
Dr. James A. Pickle
Chaplain John E. Rasberry

1971
Rev. Barbara A. Beckett
Rev. Harold Blackburn
Mr. William J. Brown
Rev. W. Thomas Carter
Mr. John F. Closer
Mr. Herman E. Crotwell, Jr. (P)
Dr. Robert C. Curlee, Jr.
Mr. Donald A. Garcia
Mr. William G. Garner
Mrs. Martha H. Grimes

1972
Mr. William J. Brown
Mrs. Patricia A. Williams

1973
Dr. Robert N. Davie
Rev. James E. Davis
Mr. Jack Cole (P)
Mr. Charles B. Dickinson
Dr. William T. Edwards
Rev. Howard H. Golden
Mrs. Johnnie E. Golden
Mr. William R. Hawkins
Mrs. Norma S. Johnson
Brig. Gen. Robert L. Lott III
Dr. Henry Raymaker, Jr.
Dr. George F. Scofield
Mrs. Patricia T. Scofield
Mr. Jesse G. Sides
Mr. William J. Ward

1974
Mrs. Davis G. Hill
Mr. James L. Holland, Jr.
Mr. Joe McBrien, Jr. (L)
Rev. Charles E. Morris
Dr. James A. Pickle
Chaplain John E. Rasberry

1975
Rev. Robert C. Perry III
Hon. George H. Pierce (L)
Mrs. Clara N. Shirley
Mrs. Charleen N. Sims
Mr. Tommie B. Slaughter
Dr. George C. Smith (P)
Mr. William O. Smith, Jr. (P)

1976
Rev. Roy S. Smith
Rev. C. Thomas Bodkin
Mr. Clarence A. Brooks II
Mrs. Barbara T. Buetter
Mrs. Mary S. Cole (P)
Ms. Gayle S. Colley-Caldenwood
Rev. Herbert J. Collier
Mrs. Wyna K. Hall
Mrs. Mary H. Hudson
Mr. Thomas L. Jackson
Dr. Gerald H. Lord
Dr. Donald Mason
Mrs. Joan D. Mercer
Mrs. Sue A. Morris
Dr. O. Suthern Sims, Jr.
Dr. Ronald Snow
Mrs. Mary E. Winter

1977
Mrs. Madelyn T. Duncan
Mrs. Rebecca R. Griffith
Mrs. Caroline E. Guida
Dr. Florence A. Guthrie
Mrs. Marcia L. Hamby
Mr. Alvin L. Hammers (P)
Mrs. Anne B. LaRusso
Mrs. Betty A. Norton
Mr. Madelyn B. Olson
Mr. John L. Patterson III
Mr. John M. Pruitt, Jr.
Mrs. Lucy C. Reeves
Rev. Daniel A. Shadix
Mr. Ira S. Silver (L)
Mr. Dale L. Skelton
Mr. James J. Stevenson, Jr.
Mrs. Sheila R. Tweed (L)
Mrs. Donna M. Wells
Dr. James R. Wilson

1977
Dr. Joel L. Alvis, Jr.
Mr. Michael B. Beers (L)
Hon. Karon O. Bowdre (L’81)
Mr. Ronald G. Burleson (P)
Mrs. Nora E. Cammack
Mr. William T. Coplin, Jr. (L)
Dr. Anne M. Cusick
Mr. Henry L. Dicus (L)
Ms. Cathy A. Elkins
Mrs. Joy C. Godfrey
Mr. Charles W. Lancaster
Mr. Charles K. Horn
Mrs. Deborah P. Holmes
Mr. William T. Gonzales
Mr. E. J. Gunter
Mr. Richard R. Hutfall (L)
Mr. Mary Ellen Hyatt Kelle
Rev. Roger L. McGee
Mr. Myrtle S. Moller
Mrs. Barbara V. Money
Mr. Stephen C. Olen (L)
Rev. John W. Price
Mr. Arthur L. Smith III (L)
Rev. Douglas C. Sullivan-Gonzales
Mr. Kie N. Westby (L)
Ms. Kathryn M. Woodruff
Ms. Nelda J. Young (P)
Mr. J. Fred Kingren
Mrs. Marva H. Morse
Mrs. Patricia Baldwin Naro (P)
Mrs. Gloria K. Parvin
Rev. Dr. William W. Reese (L)
Mr. Glenn T. Schneider
Mrs. Jamelle K. Shaw
Ms. Amanda W. Smith
Mr. Richard E. Smith (L’85)
Mr. Fred W. Tyson (L)
Ms. Diane M. Williams
Mrs. Carol R. Wright

1980
Mr. Randie B. Baker
Mr. Michael K. Beard (L)
Mr. J. Allen Bearden, Jr.
Dr. John W. Campbell
Mr. Thomas M. Eden III (L)
Ms. Dianne W. Ellis
Mr. Fred Fekete, Jr. (P)
Mr. Michael G. Gilbow (P)
Mrs. Sarah A. Hedrick
Mr. Gregory S. Hilton
Mr. Andy L. Hodges
Mr. Larry J. Holman
Ms. Lisa A. Kimmons
Ms. Rebecca K. Landers (P’94)
Mr. G. Elaine Marshall
Mrs. Mary Beth McCrady
Mr. William D. Motlow, Jr. (L)
Ms. Irene Pendleton
Ms. Julia A. Pugh
Mr. Romaine S. Scott III (L)
Mr. Peter W. Somerville, Jr. (P)
Ms. Sandra L. Vinik (L)
Mr. Kenneth G. Warr

1981
Mr. Ernest Cory (L)
Mr. G. Rick DiGiorgio (L)
Mr. Edgar W. Evins, Jr.
Dr. R. Lee Franklin III
Mr. Mark Fuller
Mrs. Ann H. Gusey
Mrs. Elizabeth H. Hutchins (L)
Ms. Lynne Madison
Mr. David H. Marsh (L)
Mr. Jan P. McFarland
Mr. Stanley J. McFarland
Mr. Blane A. Moller (P)
Mrs. Cheryl C. Oatts
Mrs. Dalea Padgett
Mr. Gregory R. Powell
Mr. William A. Ratliff (L)
Mr. John T. Haywood
Mr. J. Fred Kingren
Ms. LeAnn S. Little
Ms. Marva H. Morse
Mrs. Patricia Baldwin Naro (P)
Mrs. Gloria K. Parvin
Mr. Glenn T. Schneider
Mrs. Jamelle K. Shaw
Ms. Angela W. Smith
Mr. Richard E. Smith (L’85)
Mr. Fred W. Tyson (L)
Ms. Diane M. Williams
Mrs. Carol R. Wright

1982
Dr. James R. Barnette
Mr. James D. Bass (L)
Mr. Sally C. Bussell (L)
Mr. Douglas J. Compher
Mr. J. David Dreher (L)
Ms. Melissa M. Dupree
Ms. Doris J. Floyd
Rev. Dr. James H. Gillispie, Jr.
Mrs. Amelia G. Gillies O’Neil (L)
Mr. Dale R. Hightower (L)
Mrs. Diane H. Jensen
Mr. Forrest S. Latta (L)
Ms. Jennifer H. Lawrence (L)
Mr. Anthony J. Rolfe (L)
Mr. William B. Rose, Jr. (P)
Mr. Douglas E. Wilson
Mr. Cled E. Wright, Jr.
Mr. David A. Yergey, Jr. (L)

1983
Mrs. Stella M. Anderson (L)
Mr. Richard J. Brockman (L)
Ms. Jennifer W. Clemens (P)
Ms. Nita G. Denton (L)
Mrs. Lisa B. Freeman
Ms. Jennifer F. Fuller
Mr. W. Morgan Green
Ms. Howard T. Hubbard
Mr. C. Alan Lancaster, Jr.
Mr. Robert L. Martin
Mr. Stephen R. McFarland
Mr. Leonard Nelson III
Mr. Mark Fuller
Mrs. Susan C. Greene
Ms. Norma M. Lenholt (L)
Mr. Wayne B. Mason (L)
Ms. Cindy K. McPherson
Mr. W. Mark Meadows
Mr. Robert J. Morse, Jr.
Mr. G. Edward Newberg
Mr. James V. Roberts, Jr. (L)
Mr. Richard H. Sample
Mrs. Shirley A. Thomas
Hon. James A. Yancey (L)

1984
Ms. Mrs. Julia J. Wallace
Mr. James T. Wallace
Ms. Brenda J. Walker
Mr. Stephen C. Stroud
Ms. Belinda K. Stroud
Dr. Ivey Davis Rutledge
Mr. James D. K. F. Randolph (L)
Mr. Jeffrey C. Rickard (L)
Mrs. Wilda M. Ritchie
Dr. Ivey Davis Rutledge
Mrs. Sherry E. Shely
Mrs. Belinda K. Stroud
Mr. Stephen C. Stroud
Ms. Brenda J. Walker
Mr. James T. Wallace
Ms. Jill J. Wallace

1985
Mr. Michael A. Anderson (L)
Mrs. Catherine K. Barr (L’85)
Ms. Cathy S. Bradley
Mr. Nat Bryan (L)
Mr. Jerry W. Coleman
Mr. Kevin E. Collins (L)
Ms. Elizabeth G. Courtine
Ms. Susan Y. Darby
Mr. Arness S. DeGaris (L’88)
Ms. Nancy C. Drummond (L)
Mr. John M. Floyd (L’88)
Ms. Marsha M. Floyd
Mr. Joseph P. George, Jr. (L)
Ms. Carol H. Hazel
Mr. Alex L. Holtsford, Jr. (L)
Mr. Charles D. Joiner, Jr. (P)
Mr. Paul S. Kennedy (L)
Ms. Rozzenia A. Moore
Mrs. Vicki A. Page
Ms. Lenora W. Pate (L)
Mr. Tom J. Sanders
Ms. Jacquelyn S. Shaha (L)
Mr. Daniel D. Sparks (L)
Mr. John J. Stathakis (L)
Mr. Phillip G. Stutts (L)
Ms. Pamela J. Tutaj
Ms. Susan S. White (L)
Mr. Bobby L. Whitney (L)

1986
Ms. Lisa B. Freeman
Ms. Jennifer C. Fuller
Mr. W. Morgan Green
Ms. Howard T. Hubbard
Mr. C. Alan Lancaster, Jr.
Mr. Robert L. Martin
Mr. Stephen R. McFarland
Mr. Leonard Nelson III
Mr. Mark Fuller
Mrs. Susan C. Greene
Ms. Norma M. Lenholt (L)
Mr. Wayne B. Mason (L)
Ms. Cindy K. McPherson
Mr. W. Mark Meadows
Mr. Robert J. Morse, Jr.
Mr. G. Edward Newberg
Mr. James V. Roberts, Jr. (L)
Mr. Richard H. Sample
Mrs. Shirley A. Thomas
Hon. James A. Yancey (L)

1987
Mr. Faith N. Anderson
Mr. J. Craig Bailey (L)
Dr. William C. Davis (P)
Mr. Mark Christopher Egan (L)
Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Fuller
Mrs. Amy M. Houston
Mrs. Mitzi H. Lundy
Mr. Douglas W. Mason
Mr. Philip W. McCallum (L)
Mrs. Stephanie R. McFall
Mr. Renee D. Mende (P)
Mr. Alan B. Morris
Mr. Brian A. Sharp
Mrs. Sharon D. Stuart (L’90)
Mr. Desmond V. Tobias (L)
Mrs. Mary Ann Tomlinson
Mr. Christopher W. Weller (L)
Ms. Lois S. Woodward (L)

1988
Dr. Gerald A. Anderson II
Capt. Philip T. Anderson (L)
Mr. Michael L. Bell (L)
Mr. Bobby G. Bowden, Jr.
Ms. Linda S. Connor (L)
Mr. Roger K. Fuston (L)
Mrs. Kathryn A. Gerlach
Mr. Carri H. Kaiser
Mr. Michael W. Lammons
Mr. Thomas J. Mathvin (L)
Mr. Phillip A. Nichols
Mr. Stephen B. Porterfield (L)
Mr. Lee Rudder
Mr. Robert C. Webb
Ms. Julia J. Weller (L)
Ms. Helen C. Wells (L)

1989
Mr. William M. Black
Mrs. Amy S. Farrow
Mrs. Sherri C. Friday (L)
Ms. Janet S. Jones
Mr. Alan B. Lasseter (L’93)
Mr. Paul J. Moses
Mrs. Lisa R. Powell
Mr. James D. K. F. Randolph (L)
Mr. Jeffrey C. Rickard (L)
Ms. Wilda M. Ritchie
Dr. Ivey Davis Rutledge
Mrs. Sherry E. Shely
Mrs. Belinda K. Stroud
Mr. Stephen C. Stroud
Ms. Brenda J. Walker
Mr. James T. Wallace
Ms. Jill J. Wallace

1990
Mrs. Laurie G. Aderholt
Ms. Jo Ann Akrust (L)
Ms. Marie-Louise B. Connery
Mr. David L. Corts, Jr.
Lt. A. David Fawel (L)
Ms. Suzanne D. Lazebny
Mr. William F. Patty (L)
Ms. Anne C. Phillips
Mrs. Kelly T. Schrupp
Mrs. Laurie B. Sharp (L’93)
Ms. Susan J. Silverman (L)
Mr. R. Claude Tindle
Mrs. Ahrian A. Tyler (L)

1991
Ms. Susan J. Silverman (L)
Mr. R. Claude Tindle
Mrs. Ahrian A. Tyler (L)
Mr. Gary W. Lee (L’02)
Mr. Peter B. Lequire
Ms. Ginger N. McCarthy
Dr. Patricia A. Outlaw (D)
Mrs. Audrey M. Oyama
Mrs. Claire H. Puckett (L)
Mrs. Amelia H. Stehouwer
Mrs. Rebekah P. Stitt
Mr. John G. Thompson (L)
Mr. Jason A. Walters (L’02)
Ms. Lara S. Walters
2003
Dr. Mary Sue Baldwin
Mr. Jason E. Black
Ms. Jessica N. Burress
Ms. Emily R. Conte (L)
Mr. Craig M. Daugherty
Ms. Tracey C. Dotson (L)
Mr. David B. Goodwin
Mr. Jace A. Gordon
Mr. Robert B. Gowin
Mr. Robert W. Heath (L)
Ms. Cindy Hill
Mr. Aryvia P. Holmes
Ms. Cheryl A. Janes
Mr. Stuart C. Jones
Ms. Kimberly A. Lynam (D)
Ms. Emily C. Marcato
Mr. Wesley A. Mitchell
Mrs. Heather C. Morris
Ms. Letisha R. Shields
Mr. Christopher R. Simpson
Mr. Tracy E. Swinney
Ms. Bree A. Taylor (L)
Mr. Mario T. White

2004
Mr. Dustin T. Allen
Ms. Lauren E. Broeseker
Ms. Crystal M. Caldwell
Mr. Robert C. Deal
Mr. Philip J. Eggleston
Dr. Maryam Farrokh-Roo (P)
Dr. Clara Gerhardt
Mrs. Maliej. Gowings
Dr. Philip M. Hall (P)
Mrs. Lana S. Kleimon
Mr. John W. Lancaster
Mrs. Margaret M. Lancaster
Mr. William J. Luse (L)
Mr. Grant P. Lyons
Mrs. Hannah V. Lyons
Mr. Paul N. McDaniel
Mr. Brian Mendenhall (L)
Ms. Jessica L. Mitchell
Mrs. Valerie C. Mitchell
Mr. Chris Newman
Mr. Matthew R. Newton
Ms. Chelsea R. Oldfield
Ms. Ann W. Parrish
Mr. John T. Richie
Mrs. Melissa N. Richie
Mr. Chris Scott
Mr. David M. Stark
Mr. Steven L. Strunk
Ms. Natalie A. Temple
Mr. William C. Waller, Jr. (L)
Dr. Cynthia K. Watts
Mr. Frank A. Yeilding

2005
Mr. Baxter B. Bentley
Mrs. Katie L. Bentley
Mr. Jeremy D. Carter
Ms. Haley A. Andrews (L)
Ms. Sarah K. Bailey
Ms. Jill L. Butler
Mr. Todd H. Cox (L)
Mr. Joel B. Davis
Mr. Matthew A. Francisco
Ms. Casey C. Graves (L)
Mr. Stephen R. Hunt, Jr. (L)
Mr. Jonathan M. Lieb (L)
Mr. Hiriye R. Lutz (L)
Ms. Susan C. Mitchell
Mr. Taylor C. Powell (L)
Ms. Bethany M. Rushing
Ms. Jennifer H. Rutherford
Ms. Chez Shaeffer
Ms. Melinda A. Toole
Ms. Katherine L. Turtle (L)
Mr. Dow S. Walker
Ms. Caralisa D. Wilson (D)
Ms. Emily A. Wilson

2006
Ms. Haley A. Andrews (L)
Ms. Sarah K. Bailey
Ms. Jill L. Butler
Mr. Todd H. Cox (L)
Mr. Joel B. Davis
Mr. Matthew A. Francisco
Ms. Casey C. Graves (L)
Mr. Stephen R. Hunt, Jr. (L)
Mr. Jonathan M. Lieb (L)
Mr. Hiriye R. Lutz (L)
Ms. Susan C. Mitchell
Mr. Taylor C. Powell (L)
Ms. Bethany M. Rushing
Ms. Jennifer H. Rutherford
Ms. Chez Shaeffer
Ms. Melinda A. Toole
Ms. Katherine L. Turtle (L)
Mr. Dow S. Walker
Ms. Caralisa D. Wilson (D)
Ms. Emily A. Wilson

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(205) 726-2807
giftplan@samford.edu
Students returning from a semester at Hong Kong Baptist University speak of it as a life-changing experience that helps one become a global-minded citizen.

The experience is made possible through the Drs. Lynda and Jeremy Hon Annual Scholarship for Exchange Students to Hong Kong Baptist University. Both are physicians in Huntsville, Ala. Dr. Jeremy Hon is a native of Hong Kong and an alumnus of Samford.

“I am thankful that Dr. Hon is helping students gain this life-changing experience, for it is through experiencing other cultures, and learning to call ‘foreigners’ brothers and sisters, that we become global-minded citizens with open hearts to the visitors in our own great land,” said Jenny Duckworth of Birmingham.

Likewise, the most recent recipient, Kyle Jones of Fort Thomas, Ky., said the experience helped him understand what it is like being a minority.

“Living on a hall with students from 20 different countries certainly expands your view a little,” he said while spending the spring semester in Hong Kong. “This is one of the coolest parts about studying here. There is no real way to understand what it is like to be a minority at Samford if you are white, middle-upper class and Christian.”

Jones said he had the opportunity to study putonghua (Mandarin language) and environmental science in a completely different culture than in the United States.

“Looking at how the rest of the world is looking to the U.S. to take responsibility and a position of leadership when it comes to issues such as the environment and international relations has been really enlightening,” he said. “Studying putonghua and the environment through this sort of lens has helped me to think about what it means to be an American. I am just beginning to understand what this means.”

Jones expressed appreciation to Samford and to Hon for these experiences.

“To be able to think about these sorts of issues has been made possible for me only through the help of Samford and Dr. Hon,” he said. “With Samford’s help, I have traveled to 23 countries while in college. There is not much I could say to show how much I have learned and experienced other than to say how necessary it is for Samford students to get off campus and for donors to keep making it easier for Samford students to have such experiences.”

Acknowledging that his perspective on what it means to be a Christian has changed quite a bit during his five years at Samford, Jones said studying in Hong Kong definitely added to this process.

Other students who have studied in Hong Kong through the exchange scholarship—now in its fourth year—are Trad Godsey of Winfield, Ala., currently enrolled at Harvard University; Anna Pleen of New Albany, Ind., and Ben Wortham of Symsonia, Ky.

Hon, who expressed a wish to see more students apply and go to Hong Kong, said the purpose of the scholarship is to promote cultural exchange in a positive way.

“College life shapes the vision of young people, and the opportunity of being in Hong Kong/China will definitely broaden their horizon,” he said. “My Samford experience provided me a foundation and road map for my future, and I want to pay back by offering Samford students chances to enhance the journey of their lives.”

After earning his B.S. in pharmacy from Samford in 1975, Hon finished his internship at Children’s Hospital in Birmingham. Subsequently, he worked as a registered pharmacist at University Hospital in Birmingham before enrolling at the University of Alabama School of Medicine.

Hon is board-certified in internal medicine and medical oncology, and has practiced medicine in Huntsville since 1985, where he is associated with the Clearview Cancer Institute.

Lynda Hon is a retired, board-certified diagnostic radiologist. They are members of Willowbrook Baptist Church in Huntsville and have three children.
The Pat Sullivan Era Is About to Begin

The Pat Sullivan Era begins for Samford football this fall, and the new head coach and his staff are excited about prospects for success. “I am pleased with where we are,” Sullivan said coming out of spring practice. “We aren’t ready for our first game yet, but I am pleased with the progress we have made.”

Samford returns eight starters on offense, five on defense and 29 other lettermen from last year’s team. Sullivan recruited 22 new players, and some of those will be counted on to play right away. “We are excited about our signing class,” said the coach. “We look for them to give us immediate depth.”

Sullivan, a former Heisman Trophy winner at Auburn, had his offense running from a variety of formations in the spring. Fans can expect plenty of passing from Samford this fall and an improved running game.

Senior Jefferson Adcock, who has started 19 of Samford’s last 22 games, came out of the spring as the top quarterback. He has passed for 3,253 yards and 23 touchdowns the past two seasons.

Jefferson Adcock passed for 221 yards and three touchdowns in Samford’s final spring scrimmage.

Adcock’s top receiver, senior Jeff Moore, also returns. He caught 49 passes for 668 yards and five scores last year, and 53 for 669 yards and four touchdowns the year before. Other offensive starters returning are linemen Colby Hooper, Tommy Smith and John Weber; receivers Jonathan Lowery and Joe Jones; and running back Marcus Rice.

Defensively, Samford returns four of its top five tacklers in linebackers Rodney Shepherd, Jay McCurty and Quinton Smith, and free safety B. T. Hartloge. Also back on defense is starter Haris Kovacevic at tackle.

Samford will play a tough 2007 schedule as it tries to improve on last year’s 3-8 disappointment. Among others, the Bulldogs will play Georgia Tech and two Ohio Valley Conference teams, Eastern Illinois and Tennessee-Martin, that finished in the top 15 nationally. Both OVC schools went to the Championship Division (formerly I-AA) playoffs.

Samford will play six home games, opening with West Alabama on Thursday, Aug. 30, and hosting Presbyterian Thursday, Sept. 13, before beginning OVC play against Southeast Missouri Sept. 22 at home. ■

Samford 2007 Football Schedule

Aug. 30 West Alabama
Sept. 8 at Georgia Tech
Sept. 13 Presbyterian
Sept. 22 Southeast Missouri (Family Weekend)
Sept. 29 at Eastern Kentucky open
Oct. 6

Aug. 30 at Tennessee-Martin
Oct. 13 at Austin Peay (HC)
Oct. 20 at Tennessee Tech
Oct. 27 Jacksonville State
Nov. 3 Tennessee State
Nov. 10 at Eastern Illinois
Nov. 17

For Tickets, call 205 726-2050
Baseball Wins 30-plus a Second Straight Year

Samford baseballers beat Alabama, UAB, Memphis and Arkansas State twice each, and notched wins against Auburn and Purdue in 2007. After finishing fourth during the Ohio Valley Conference regular season, the Bulldogs made it to the semifinals of the OVC tournament and finished with a 32-28 overall record.

The victory total was the second highest in a season and marked the first time Samford has won 30-plus games in two consecutive seasons.

Coach Casey Dunn praised his team’s play, particularly in the tournament, saying, “I think the heart and effort our kids gave will become the identity of this club. It will carry over for these guys into whatever field they enter.”

Shortstop Michael Marseco hit .350, and relief pitcher Joseph Edens recorded a season-record 11 saves to earn OVC first-team honors. Marseco committed only one error in 27 conference games, and Edens posted a 4-3 won-loss record and 2.63 earned run average out of the bullpen.


Lefthander Josh Ehmke (6-4) and righthander Trent Hill (6-6) led the team in wins. Ehmke, who battled nagging injuries all season, finished his two Samford campaigns with a 17-6 record after transferring from the University of South Alabama.

Softball Sets Samford Record for Wins (31)

The Samford softball team posted a 31-23 record to establish a season high in wins, and set single-season records for home runs (30) and stolen bases (87) during the 2007 season.

Coach Beanie Ketcham’s team bettered the previous Samford win record of 28 set in 2004 and posted 20 wins for the seventh straight season.

All-Ohio Valley Conference first-team pitcher Stephanie Royall led the way, finishing with a 19-13 record, seven shutouts and a 1.50 earned run average. Her 19 wins also set a Samford record.

All-OVC tournament selection Jessica Owens led the team in hitting with a .304 average and tied the season record for stolen bases with 19 (in 20 tries). Shelley Stanley and Amanda Barrs tied for the home run lead with seven each; Stanley had 32 runs batted in and Barrs 31.

“Our success this season can be attributed to the strong pitching and strong defense we had down the stretch,” said Coach Ketcham. “Overall, we just put things together more often this season than we have in the past.”

The Bulldogs finished third during the OVC regular season. They split their first two OVC tournament games before losing a 10-inning heartbreaker, 3-2, to Eastern Kentucky to end the season.
Samford University expresses gratitude for these additional tribute gifts received Feb. 1, 2007–May 15, 2007. For further information, contact the Samford University Gift Office at (205) 726-2807.

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Samford dedicated a statue of the late medical missionary Martha Myers in Davis Library May 11. See the story on page 17.