



**Samford University**  
Orlean Beeson School of Education



## **2025 Awards Ceremony**



## **A Message from the Dean**

Welcome!

Thank you for joining us to celebrate the hard work and talents of our students.

Orlean Beeson School of Education faculty and staff are passionate about preparing graduates who demonstrate keen knowledge and skills, commitment to their profession, strong moral character, leadership abilities and an unparalleled ability to enrich the communities in which they serve. Our graduates lead classrooms, direct schools, advocate for families, conduct research, serve organizations, and implement positive change across the country and around the world.

The students we honor tonight are those who meet and exceed our expectations. I invite you to join with me in congratulating them on their hard work and commitment to their professions.



Anna E. McEwan

Dean



## **2025 ORLEAN BEESON SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AWARDS CEREMONY**

**Welcome** – Dr. Anna McEwan, Dean Orlean Beeson School of Education

**Invocation** – Dr. Monique Witherspoon, Associate Dean Orlean Beeson School of Education

**Awards Ceremony Remarks** – Dr. Anna McEwan, Dean

### **Presentation of Awards**

**Educational Leadership Department**

**Human Development and Family Science Department**

**Teacher Education Department**

**Closing Remarks** – Dr. Amy Hoaglund, Assistant Dean Orlean Beeson School of Education

# EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP DEPARTMENT

## Outstanding Dissertation

**Tyler Berryman      Jennifer Hogan      Kay Veazy**

## Outstanding Ed.D. Student

**Jennifer Bailey**

## Outstanding Ed.S. Student

**Thomas Brown**

## Outstanding M.S.E./18 hr. Instructional Leadership Student

**Amanda Potaczek**

## Maurice Persall Endowed Scholarship

*Established in 2011 in celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Doctor of Education program within Orlean Beeson School of Education and named in honor of Dr. Maurice Persall, long-time faculty, chair of Educational Leadership and director of the Doctor of Education program. This scholarship is awarded to a doctoral candidate with demonstrated financial need, academic ability to succeed, and commitment to the completion of the doctoral program in Educational Leadership.*

**Ivy Patterson**

(Dr. & Mrs. Maurice Persall)

## Charlotte Opal Herring Ennis Scholarship in Graduate Education

*This scholarship is established by Dr. Leslie Ennis and his father, Reverend Gene Ennis, in memory of Charlotte Opal Herring Ennis, mother and wife. The scholarship is awarded based upon need to students in graduate education in Orlean Beeson School of Education.*

**Erin Klotz**

## Jeanna King Westmoreland Scholarship

*Established in honor of Jeanna King Westmoreland, by her husband, Dr. Andrew Westmoreland. They labored together in the cause of Christ-centered higher education at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas and at Samford University in Alabama. She served as the Dean of the Mike Huckabee School of Education at Ouachita and as the Chair of the Arkansas State Board of Education before moving to Alabama in 2006. Throughout her lifetime, she has been known as a world-class teacher, a skilled administrator, a caring friend, a devoted mother, and a loving wife. This scholarship is awarded to a student of financial need within Orlean Beeson School of Education.*

**Allison Albert**      (Drs. Jeanna and Andy Westmoreland)

## Raymond Christian Scholarship

*The Raymond Christian Scholarship was established by his family and friends as the memorial to his life and service throughout our community and state. It is awarded to a student preparing for service in public education either as a teacher, counselor, or administrator and is intended to perpetuate his motivation and character through succeeding generations of students.*

**Tenille Blackmon**

## **Beth Thorne Stukes Scholarship for Educational Leaders**

*A native of Jasper, Alabama, Beth Stukes is a member of the Samford University Board of Trustees and is a former teacher in the Walker County School System. Her mother, Barbara Drummond Thorne, also served on the Samford University Board of Trustees from 2001 until her death in 2009. Her father, Buddy Larry Thorne, is a 1958 graduate of Howard College. Other members of her extended family, including her nephew Patrick Carroll and niece Sarah Thorne, are Samford University graduates as well. We are honored to present the following scholarship honoring Mrs. Beth Stukes and her remarkable contributions to enriching education for all.*

**Adriana Skutchan**

(Mrs. Karyn Uptain)

## **Luke 8:16 Scholarship**

*Orlean Beeson School of Education faculty and staff came together to establish the Luke 8:16 Scholarship. Through the collective effort of all of those within Orlean Bullard Beeson Hall, the Luke 8:16 Scholarship serves as an encouragement for our students to shine brightly as they are prepared to fulfill their calling to emerge as leaders with servant hearts.*

**Aldric Bennett**

# **HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

## **Distinguished Service Award**

**Rayne Ford**

## **Outstanding Senior**

**Sara Fields**

## **Undergraduate Assistant Scholarship**

*Students will assist HDFS faculty with academic research and course management with a commitment of approximately 4 hours each week per semester. Evidence of service and potential contribution to the department, campus, and community, along with a minimum GPA of 3.2 are required. Funded by the Ralph W. and Orlean Bullard Beeson Scholarship Fund. Ralph and Orlean Bullard Beeson, for whom this school was named, have established several scholarship awards as a way to reward academic excellence. They also recognize leadership, participation in campus activities, and professional promise.*

**Susanna Brooks** (Dr. Celeste Hill)

**Sarah Davis** (Dr. Clara Gerhardt)

**Claire Gann** (Dr. Kristie Chandler)

**Jordyn Parmley** (Dr. Kayla Wenth)

## **Academic Scholarship**

*Minimum GPA of 3.5 with evidence of service and potential contribution to the department, campus, and community required. Funded by the Ralph W. and Orlean Bullard Beeson Scholarship Fund.*

**Mackenzie Arthur**

**Camilla Barrett**

**Susanna Brooks**

**Carmen Davis**

**Sarah Davis**

**Harper Duffy**

**Madeline Dunn**

**Julia Foley**

**Rayne Ford**

**Claire Gann**

**Caroline Garcia**

**Ella Jayne Hyde**

**Olivia Jenkins**

**Josselyn Kalber**

**Lindsey Kopach**

**Palmer Louthan**

**Madeline Manning**

**Ellie Marvin**

**Isabella Morstatt**

**Erin Norris**

**Jordyn Parmley**

**Presley Parrish**

**Halle Parsons**

**Madelyn Reed**

**Hannah Stage**

**Carolyn Standridge**

**Amelia Grace Waltman**

**Olivia Webber**



### **Alumni Relations Assistant Scholarship**

*Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 is required. This student will work with the Alumni Relations Coordinator in the School of Education and will begin communication with alumni. This scholarship is funded by the Ralph W. and Orlean Bullard Beeson Scholarship Fund.*

**Erin Norris**

### **Ms. Jewell Scholarship**

*This scholarship was created by Leon Zalenski in memory of his wife, Jewell Carmichael Zalenski. The purpose of the scholarship is to demonstrate to the recipient what the Lord will do for the recipients whose hearts and minds are dedicated to loving and serving the Lord all the days of their lives. It will serve as an illustration of what can and will happen in the lives of one, with a passion for demonstrating to the lives of the recipients, the fact that "JESUS IS LORD."*

**Carmen Davis**

### **Dr. Joan Gardiner Chambers and Home Economics Retailing Scholarships**

*Dr. Joan Chambers served as chair of the home economics department within the school of education. The late Dr. Chambers, and her late husband, Mr. Carl Chambers, created these scholarships to provide financial assistance to support worthy students during their Samford experience.*

**Dr. Joan Gardiner Chambers Scholarship – Hannah Stage**

**Home Economics Retailing Scholarship – Brynna Smith**

**Home Economics Scholarship – Rayne Ford**

### **Departmental Scholarship**

*To receive this scholarship, there must be evidence of service and potential contribution to the department, campus, and community. This scholarship is funded by the Ralph W. and Orlean Bullard Beeson Scholarship Fund.*

**Josselyn Kalber**

### **Jean Daugherty Williams & James H. Williams Endowed Scholarship**

*James H. "Jim" Williams attended Morgan County High School in Hartselle, Alabama before volunteering for the U.S. Navy. As a member of the crew of the USS Dennis, he received a presidential citation for "extraordinary heroism in action in keeping with the highest tradition of the U.S. Naval Service." After the Navy, Jim entered Howard College (now Samford University) where he earned a B.S. in Economics in 1949 and met Jean Daugherty Williams, to whom he was married for 55 years. Jim had a 30-year career as a contract negotiator for the U.S. Air Force which honored him with the Mark E. Bradley Award "for excellence in individual performance. He was a considerate person who exhibited solid Christian values, sincere patriotism, and loyal friendship. Jean Williams' objective in establishing this scholarship is two-fold: to honor the memory of her husband of 55 years and to assist worthy students in their effort to acquire a Samford education. Jean explains, "I have been blessed personally, and it is my hope that this scholarship will be a blessing to future Samford students."*

**Ella Jayne Hyde**

**Mollee Powell**

**Palmer Louthan**

(Mrs. Kathy Anderson, Ms. Lucy Anderson, Mrs. Mary Bradley Anderson, and Ms. Kathleen Anderson)

## ACADEMIC HONORS

### Honors (GPA 3.5-3.74)

McRae Acuff  
Faith Albritton  
Mackenzie Arthur  
Camilla Barrett  
Susanna Brooks  
Sarah Carrell  
Allison Colyar  
Sophia Cort  
Georgia Darnell

Anna Grace Davidson  
Sarah Dodgen  
Meredith Egger  
Pierce Fenton  
Julia Foley  
Kylee Ford  
Hannah Foust  
Lilah Harold  
Anika Holt

Lauren Hudson  
Sadie HuYoung  
Shelby Jenkins  
Mattie King  
Palmer Louthan  
Rleigh Malone  
Elizabeth Moore  
Kylie Pettit  
Sarah Grace Queen

Georgia Scully  
Mallory Shepperson  
Caroline Skipper  
Abbey Smith  
Hannah Swearingen  
Katelyn Tolson  
Hunter Vinson

### Highest Honors (GPA 3.75-4.0)

Rainey Bardolf  
Ashlyn Barrett  
Leighton Batcheller  
Brooke Bonner  
Allison Bovey  
Ainsley Bowman  
Ella Brinkman  
Perry Brown  
Elyssa Burleson  
Haviland Coley  
Linley Darnell  
Carmen Davis  
Sarah Davis  
Hagan Dietrich  
Harper Duffy  
Madeline Dunn  
Danielle Dykes  
Allison Edelman

Brenna Everett  
Claire Gann  
Caroline Garcia  
Bethany Garmon  
Caroline Glass  
Ellie Glenn  
Emma Hester  
Ellie Higgins  
Morgan Hill  
Kaytlin Hood  
Ella Jayne Hyde  
Skyler Iverson  
Catherine Jarvie  
Olivia Jenkins  
Kayli Jones  
Josselyn Kalber  
Anna Kennedy  
Landon Kight

Lindsey Kopach  
Sariya Landrum  
Rachel Langston  
Claire Lawing  
Madeline Manning  
Emma Marino  
Marlo McAlister  
Paige McNabb  
Ava Michaux  
Emma Montana  
Jordan Morris  
Isabella Morstatt  
Sarah Noe  
Erin Norris  
Jordyn Parmley  
Presley Parrish  
Anna Clay Parrish  
Halle Parsons

Emily Reid  
Julia Reis  
Madeline Sentell  
Kaylee Snider  
Shelby Snow  
Hannah Stage  
Carolyn Standridge  
Claire Stevens  
Mallory Thomas  
Louise Tillman  
Ella Turner  
Amelia Turner  
Amelia G. Waltman  
Olivia Webber  
Dorothy Williams  
Sarah Witte

## TEACHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

### John and Frances Carter Awards

*John and Frances Carter Awards for Excellence in Education are given each year to undergraduate students who show excellence in the K-12 classroom, based on their clinical experiences. Dr. John T. Carter joined the Samford faculty in 1956 and served until his retirement in 1987. He was dean of the School of Education from 1980 until 1986. His wife, Dr. Frances Carter, also served as a senior faculty member for many years. Over the years, the Carters have supported education programs by funding scholarships and sponsoring the Young Authors Conference held annually here at Samford. The Carters also led the International Book Project, which provided thousands of books to foreign university libraries.*

**John and Frances Carter Award for Teacher Excellence in Early Childhood Education**

**Emmaline F. Johnston**

(Mrs. Nell Branum & Mrs. Myrtis Johnson)

**John and Frances Carter Award for Teacher Excellence in Elementary Education**

**Joy C. Bozeman**

(Mrs. Nell Branum & Dr. Tarsha Shepard)

**John and Frances Carter Award for Teacher Excellence in Special Education**

**Kirsten Jennings Norvell**

(Mrs. Nell Branum & Dr. Mandy Hilsmier)

**John and Frances Carter Award for Teacher Excellence in Secondary/P-12 Education**

**Madison E. Tarifa**

(Mrs. Nell Branum & Dr. Erin Gilchrist)

**Ira F. Simmons Award**

**Brennan C. Paulus**

(Dr. Jeanelle Day)

**Most Promise to Be a Teacher Leader in Education**

*The awards for Most Promise to be a Teacher Leader in Education are presented to students who demonstrate the potential to excel as professional leaders in their schools.*

**Most Promise to Be a Teacher Leader in Elementary/Early Childhood Education**

**Abigail E. Weaver**

**Most Promise to Be a Teacher Leader in Secondary/P-12 Education**

**Ava M. Berry**

**The Martha B. Ralls Award for the Most Promise as an Exemplary Teacher in  
Early Childhood/Elementary Education**

**Maria C. Benitez**

**The Martha B. Ralls Award for the Most Promise as an Exemplary Teacher in  
Secondary/P-12 Education**

**Mary Grace Leuenberger**

**Most Innovative Practice in the Classroom**

**Davis Hinton**



**Kappa Delta Pi Chapter Award for Excellence in the Field of Education**

**Ava M. Berry**

(Dr. Kate Scarborough)

**Carol D. Dean Outstanding Service Award**

**Courtney E. Krueger**

(Drs. Carol and Joe Dean & Dr. Amy Hoaglund)

**Highest Academic Achievement as a Junior in Elementary/Early Childhood Education**

**McKenna Connelly**

**Trinity Phillips**

**Highest Academic Achievement as a Senior in Elementary/Early Childhood Education**

**Amy Herndon**

**Highest Academic Achievement as a Junior in Elementary Education**

**Ava Maddux**

**Highest Academic Achievement as a Senior in Elementary Education**

**McKenzie Pilch**

**Highest Academic Achievement as a Junior in Secondary Education**

**Ali Grace Williams**

**Highest Academic Achievement as a Senior in Secondary Education**

**Madison Tarifa**

**Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education Dean's Award for  
Outstanding Teacher Education Graduating Senior**

**Ava M. Berry**

(Dr. Amy Hoaglund)

**Alabama Power School of Education Endowed Scholarship**

*This scholarship was established to honor Rev. Terry W. DeFoor for many years of service to the Baptist Ministry and to promote the education of deserving students.*

**McKenna S. Connelly**

### **Alto L. Garner Memorial Scholarship**

*Dr. Alto L. Garner was a member of the Samford faculty for 34 years and served as the first Dean of the School of Education. This scholarship is established in his memory by his family and friends and is awarded to graduate education students dedicated to the field of education and embodying characteristics of Dr. Garner such as Christian character, moral and ethical standards, caring, respectful, cooperative, validating and a champion for students.*

**Eudora M. Smith**

### **Anne Glaze Stone and William C. Stone Scholarship**

*This scholarship was established in memory of Charles R. Glaze and to honor Ila G. Glaze. This scholarship is for undergraduate students preparing for a career in education, with preference given to students from Madison and Limestone Counties in Alabama.*

**Caroline B. Kopecky**

(Mrs. Anne Stone and guest Mrs. Amy Harbarger)

### **Beth Thorne Stukes Scholarships for Educators**

*A native of Jasper, Alabama, Beth Stukes is a member of the Samford University Board of Trustees and is a former teacher in the Walker County School System. Her mother, Barbara Drummond Thorne, also served on the Samford University Board of Trustees from 2001 until her death in 2009. Her father, Buddy Larry Thorne, is a 1958 graduate of Howard College. Other members of her extended family, including her nephew Patrick Carroll and niece Sarah Thorne, are Samford University graduates as well. We are honored to present the following scholarship honoring Mrs. Beth Stukes and her remarkable contributions to enriching education for all*

#### **Elementary Educators**

**Anslee Reese Wrather**

**Margaret E. Yenser**

(Mrs. Karyn Uptain)

#### **Secondary Educators**

**Kathryn E Peterson**

(Mrs. Karyn Uptain)

### **Bill & Pam Smith Family Foundation Scholarship**

*Established through the generosity of Bill and Pam Smith, this scholarship is awarded to students pursuing a career in elementary education, with preference given to those who are passionate about teaching mathematics and science.*

**Haley A. Skinner**

### **Brookwood Baptist/Nila Graham Campbell Scholarship**

*The Campbell Family and Brookwood Baptist Church established this scholarship in 2000 in memory of Nila Graham Campbell. The scholarship is awarded to a deserving undergraduate student with preference given to those students pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Education.*

**Trinity E. Phillips**

(Mr. Bobby Campbell)

### **Carter Family Legacy Scholarship**

*The Carter Family Legacy Scholarship has been established to honor the many contributions made by the Carters to Orlean Beeson School of Education. The scholarship is awarded based on both merit and financial need to a student who is studying Elementary Education with a Christian education and missions concentration, with preference given to rising juniors and seniors.*

**Serina M. McCormick**

(Mrs. Nell Branum)

### **Jo Cooper & Henry W. Dark Endowed Scholarship**

*This scholarship was created through a series of gifts from Edwin W. and Billie B. Bleier, in memory of their aunt and uncle, Jo Cooper and Henry W. Dark. The Darks both served as teachers throughout their professional careers.*

**Adeline G. Sylvester**

### **David Finn Legacy Scholarship**

*Dr. Alyssa Barnes established the David Finn Legacy Scholarship at Samford to honor her beloved professor and mentor and pay forward the opportunities she received as a Samford student. Dr. Finn taught in the Department of Teacher Education in Orlean Beeson School of Education for 24 years and retired in April 2022. During his time at Samford, he was instrumental in the development of a special education degree program and inspired and touched the lives of countless students. The David Finn Legacy Scholarship is awarded to undergraduate students studying within the Department of Teacher Education with demonstrated financial need. Preference will be given to those who have a passion for teaching special education and wish to travel abroad as part of their Samford experience through a Samford-sponsored program.*

**Alayne Brooke Jiles**

(Dr. David Finn)

### **John & Frances Carter Scholarship for Teacher Education**

*Dr. Frances Carter created a legacy of generosity in supporting our Samford students. In addition to her other contributions, she established the John and Frances Carter Endowed Scholarship to be awarded to rising juniors and/or rising seniors who are enrolled in a certification program for Teacher Education.*

**Sophia C. Wright**

(Mrs. Nell Branum)

### **Kathryn Abercrombie Scholarship**

*Ms. Abercrombie and her family and friends have established an endowment to financially assist outstanding students in the school of education. This scholarship is based on academic performance, character, and worthiness of the individual.*

**Ali Grace Williams**

## Mary Elizabeth Wyatt Scholarship

*The late Mary Wyatt was a retired educator, an alumna of Orlean Beeson School of Education, and immediate past chair and member of its Dean's Advisory Board for many years. While hospitalized for what would be a fatal stroke, Mrs. Wyatt formalized one of her last wishes: to establish the Mary Elizabeth Wyatt Scholarship as an investment in the next generation of Samford students. The Mary Elizabeth Wyatt Scholarship is awarded to a student who is starting their junior year at Samford University and is a registered declared student in Orlean Beeson School of Education. Scholarship recipients should exhibit Christ-centered character, have shown evidence of propensity in leadership, exemplify Samford's motto of For God, For Learning, Forever, have earned at least a 3.0 academic average in their coursework at Samford University and have demonstrated financial need.*

**Naomi J. Crowe**

## Ralph W. & Orlean B. Beeson Scholarship

*Ralph and Orlean Bullard Beeson, for whom this school was named, have established several scholarship awards as a way to reward academic excellence. They also recognize leadership, participation in campus activities, and professional promise.*

**Katelyn M. Hadder**

**Savannah G. Rodgers**

**Olivia G. Trimmier**

## School of Education International Internships Scholarship

*This scholarship was created by Drs. Joe and Carol Dean to support School of Education students enrolled in the Teacher Education Curriculum to enable and support their participation in international internships in developing countries allowing them to work as teacher assistants/interns in schools that serve local (primarily underserved) children.*

**To be awarded during the ceremony** (Drs. Carol and Joe Dean & Dr. Amy Hoaglund)

## Twanna Caddell Powell Annual and Endowed Scholarship in Education

*Established in honor of Twanna Caddell Powell. Since a large majority of students in the School of Education are female, the donor has expressed a strong desire to give preference to students that are male, of good character, in good standing with the school, and who have expressed intent to teach in the public school system after graduation.*

**Jackson M. Boone**

**Isaac T. Russell**

## Velma Wright Irons Memorial Scholarship

*This scholarship is presented annually as a memorial to a beloved teacher and the wife of Samford professor, Dr. George V. Irons. The award is given to an education major who has strong goals towards pursuing a career in education.*

**Sofia M. Annett**

## ACADEMIC HONORS

### Honors (GPA 3.5-3.74)

**Maria Benitez**

**Rachel Blackmon**

**Megan Brown**

**Ella Bush**

**Gabrielle Cheramie**

**Anna Clark**

**Madeleine Dally**

**Lily Dart**

**Macey Fitzmartin**

**Molly Glenn**

**Anna-Kate Holton**

**Anna Howard**

**Peyton Hull**

**Emilie Irwin**

**Alayna Jiles**

**Caroline Kopecky**

**Mary Leuenberger**

**Rouqiah Maflahi**

**Helen Marlin**

**Serina McCormick**

**Adeline Moore**

**Lily Navarre**

**Oharah Neese**

**Molly New**

**Keely Owens**

**Brennan Paulus**

**Mckenzie Pirkle**

**Sadie Saxton**

**Chelsea Smith**

**Kennedy Smith**

**Anna Strong**

**Jordan Sweeny**

**Olivia Trimmier**

**Hallie Williams**

**Hannelore Wind**

### Highest Honors (GPA 3.75-4.0)

Sofia Annett  
Brianna Baughman  
Madeline Bayles  
Ava Berry  
Elaina Blankenship  
Joy Bozeman  
Sarah Carden  
Jaden Chatman  
Lucy Childs  
Madison Comans  
Mckenna Connelly  
Georgia Cooley  
Avery Crawford  
Jacob Crooks  
Naomi Crowe  
Megan Cruise  
Emma Dodd  
Georgia Durieux

Anna Gannon  
Sarah Golden  
Rachel Grier  
Adelyn Gurley  
Kinley Hall  
Amy Herndon  
Madeline Hill  
Virginia Hopkins  
Elizabeth Jackson  
Hannah Jacoby  
Kirsten Jennings  
Gabriella Johnson  
Emmaline Johnston  
Latta Johnston  
Chloe Kelle  
Elizabeth Kerr  
Courtney Krueger  
Erin Lambert

Mikayla Lee  
Emily Logan  
Julie Long  
Piper Lowery  
Ava Maddux  
Madeline Malcom  
Olivia Mikul  
Taylor Miller  
Claire Mutert  
Lily Nicholson  
Lauren Parker  
Kathryn Peterson  
Trinity Phillips  
McKenzie Pilch  
Savannah Rodgers  
Isaac Russell  
Carrington Severson  
Hannah Sharpton

Erin Shaylor  
Caroline Sisk  
Haley Skinner  
Ann Stephens  
Adeline Sylvester  
Madison Tarifa  
Madeline Turner  
Thomas Vaccaro  
Abigail Weaver  
Sarah Weldon  
Katelyn Weyhe  
Julia Wiers  
Ashlynn Wilbanks  
Alexander Williams  
Meredith Willingham  
Anslee Wrather  
Sophia Wright  
Margaret Yenser